

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS

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## NOTICE OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE PRELIMINARY FINDING UNDER AS 38.05.133(f) PROPOSED HOLITNA BASIN EXPLORATION LICENSE

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Oil & Gas (DO&G), gives notice under AS 38.05.945(a)(3)(A) that it has issued the preliminary best interest finding under AS 38.05.133(f) for a proposed Holitna Basin Exploration License for gas only.

Before this offering can take place, the commissioner of DNR is required to make a final written finding that the offering is in the best interests of the state. To facilitate this, DO&G has collected public and agency comments, socio-economic and environmental information in order to consider the potential effects of this proposed offering. This information was then used to prepare this preliminary written finding. This preliminary finding establishes the scope of the administrative review for the proposed offering; considers and discusses certain important facts and issues determined to be material as required by AS 38.05.133(f); and sets out the law, regulations and applicable policies upon which the commissioner bases his final determination. The finding also includes proposed mitigation measures considered necessary to minimize possible adverse impacts of the proposed offering.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

DO&G invites the public to comment on any aspect of the proposed gas-only exploration license, including the preliminary best interest finding or any proposed term or condition. Comments should be mailed to the Division of Oil and Gas; 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 800; Anchorage, AK 99501. Attention: Jonne Slemons, Oil & Gas Permitting/BIF Manager; Fax 907-269-3484; e-mail [jonne\\_slemons@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:jonne_slemons@dnr.state.ak.us).

**Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. September 30, 2005** to be considered in the final best interest finding.

### **OFFERING AREA DESCRIPTION**

The State of Alaska is proposing to offer a gas only exploration license on approximately 26,880 acres within six townships, in the Seward Meridian, near Sleetmute. The proposed license area is bounded on the south by the northern township line of Township 15N, on the north by the northern township line of Township 18N, and between Ranges 41W and 43W. Only lands for which the state owns the subsurface estate will be included in the license.

DO&G will hold public meetings in September, 2005. The exact meeting dates, times and locations will be advertised in a separate public notice.

### **FINAL BEST INTEREST FINDING**

DO&G anticipates making the final finding available to the public in November 2005. If a decision is made to award the exploration license, it will be awarded to Holitna Energy Co., LLC. Only those persons whom the final written finding affects, and who have meaningfully participated in the best interest finding process, through written comment or oral testimony presented at a public hearing, are eligible to file an administrative appeal or request for reconsideration of the final decision by the commissioner. Further, only those persons who have exhausted their administrative rights by requesting reconsideration have standing to appeal the best interest finding to the Superior Court.

Copies of the Preliminary Best Interest Finding are available for review at the library at the Jack Egnaty Sr. School, George Willis School, Gusty Michael School, Aniak Public Library, and the offices of the

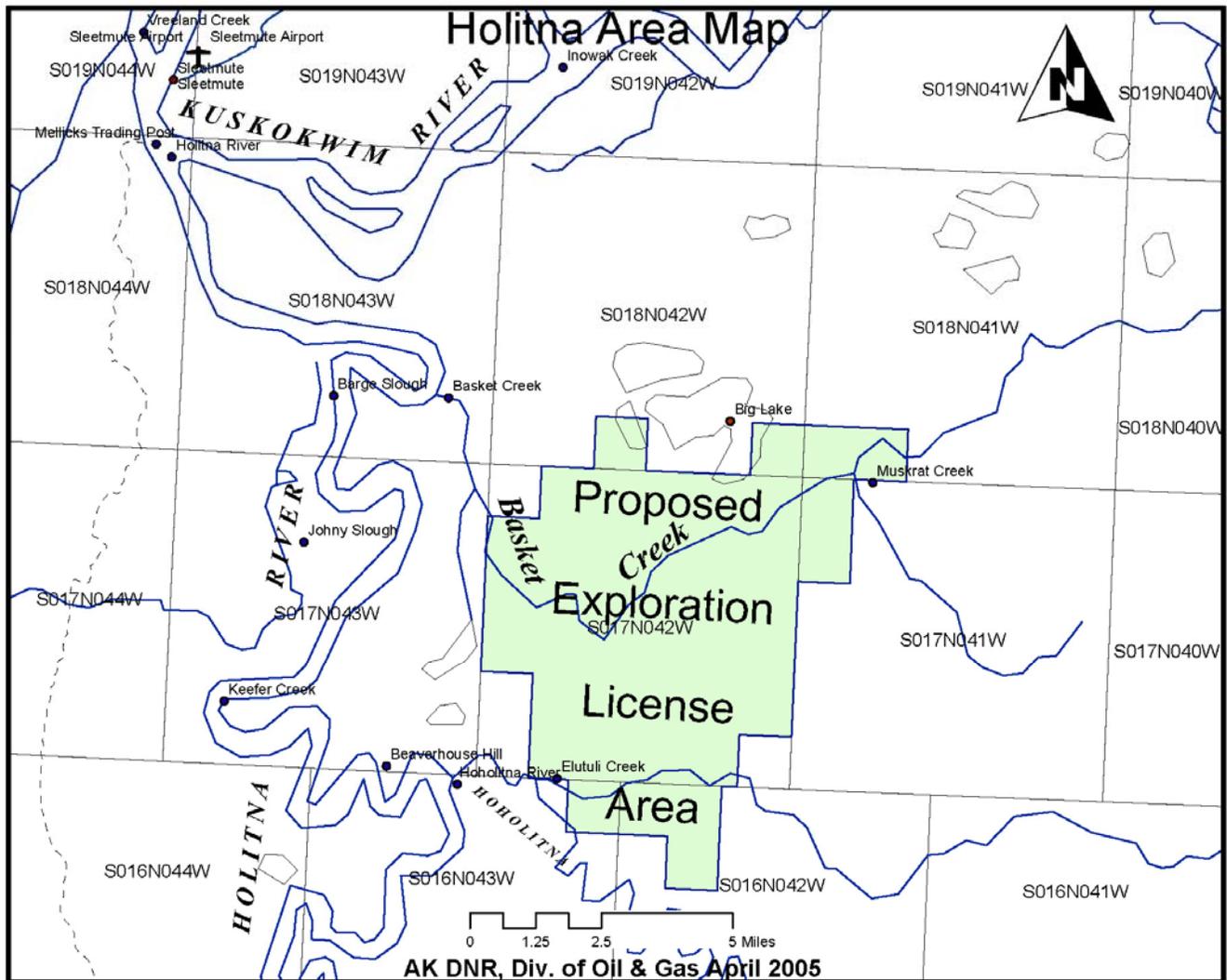
*“Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans.”*

Kuskokwim Native Association, Sleetmute Traditional Council, Nagamut Ltd. Village Corporation, Red Devil Traditional Council, Village of Stony River and Calista Corporation. The Preliminary Best Interest Finding is also available in electronic format at <http://www.dog.dnr.state.ak.us/oil/> .

The State of Alaska, DNR, DO&G complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990. This publication will be made available in alternative communication formats upon request. Please contact Anna Motschenbacher at (907) 269-8814 to make any necessary arrangements.



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