

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF OIL & GAS

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

550 WEST 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SUITE 800  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3560

PHONE: (907) 269-8800  
FAX: (907) 269-8938

February 21, 2007

Phone: 269-8757

## SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

### COOK INLET AREAWIDE 2007 COMPETITIVE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Oil and Gas (DO&G) gives notice under AS 38.05.945(a)(4) that it will offer lands for competitive oil and gas leasing in the Cook Inlet Areawide 2007 (CI 2007) lease sale. Bid opening will begin at **9:00 a.m. on May 23, 2007** at the Wilda Marston Theater in the Loussac Public Library, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage.

The CI 2007 sale area encompasses approximately 4 million acres divided into 815 tracts ranging in gross area from 640 to 5,760 acres. The sale area consists of state owned uplands and tide and submerged lands lying between the cities of Houston to the north, Homer to the south, the Chugach and Kenai mountain ranges to the east, the Aleutian Range to the west and within Cook Inlet. The sale area is located entirely within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage. Activities resulting from this sale may affect the communities of Anchorage, Kenai, Palmer, Wasilla, Houston, Hope, Nikiski, Soldotna, Sterling, Ninilchik, Kasilof, Homer, Clam Gulch, Nikolaevsk and Anchor Point, as well as the villages of Knik, Tyonek and Salamatof.

DO&G has prepared a regional tract map that displays the location of all tracts within the sale area. The tract map shows generalized land ownership, existing leases and pending leases. The tract map does not show detailed leased areas, detailed land ownership or state selected land.

Only those lands within the sale area that as of February 1, 2007 have been conveyed to the state and are not covered by existing or pending leases will be considered available for leasing. Lands that are conveyed to the state or that become available for leasing after that date will be offered in Cook Inlet Areawide 2008, scheduled for May 2008. **Bidders are cautioned to independently verify state title to acreage within these tracts prior to bidding.**

The exact amount of net leaseable acreage in any tract will not be determined unless a bid is received for that tract. Following the sale, DNR will complete a comprehensive evaluation of the lands within the tracts that received bids to determine what lands are available for lease. This process may take several months to complete. Acreage not owned by the state, already subject to an oil and gas lease or pending lease, or clouded by title claims will be excluded from the lease.

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

### **Best Interest Finding and ACMP Consistency Determination**

CI 2007 is an exempt sale held under Alaska Statute(s) 38.05.180(d)(1) and 38.05.035(e)(6)(F). Under these provisions the commissioner may annually offer acreage for oil and gas lease that has been subject to a best interest finding issued within the previous 10 years, unless the DNR commissioner determines that new information has become available that justifies a supplement to the finding.

On January 20, 1999 the director of DO&G issued a written final finding and decision under AS 38.05.035(e) and (g) in support of a Cook Inlet Areawide lease sale. The finding set forth the facts, policies, and applicable laws upon which the director based his determination that oil and gas leasing in the Cook Inlet area will best serve the interests of the state. In addition, a final coastal zone consistency determination was made that a Cook Inlet lease sale is consistent with the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, and Alaska Coastal Management Programs (ACMP) under AS 46.40. DO&G issued supplements to the final finding on May 10, 2000 and February 18, 2004.

### **Supplement to the Cook Inlet Areawide Oil and Gas Lease Sale Best Interest Finding**

On September 21, 2006 DO&G issued a *Call for New Information* for the proposed Cook Inlet Areawide 2007 Oil and Gas Lease Sale, requesting any new information subsequent to the 1999 finding and 2000 and 2004 supplements. Based on the information received in response to the 2006 call for comments, DO&G issued a *Supplement to the Cook Inlet Areawide Oil and Gas Lease Sale Best Interest Finding* on February 21, 2007. The supplement is available on the Division's website and at the locations listed below. See the decision for appeal procedures and deadlines.

### **Mitigation Measures**

AS 38.05.035(e) and the departmental delegation of authority give the director of DO&G the authority to impose conditions or limitations, in addition to those imposed by law, to ensure that this disposal best serves the interests of the state. To meet this requirement, the director has adopted environmental and social mitigation measures that will be enforced throughout the duration of the lease, which may include limits on surface entry on the lease tracts. These mitigation measures are necessary to protect biological, cultural and archeological resources, and to mitigate social impacts of lease related activities. Enforcement will be imposed through approval of plans of operations, exploration and development, and other permits. DO&G will review these plans for consistency with the ACMP under 6 AAC 50. The lessee must obtain all the necessary permits and approvals otherwise required by law or regulation for the proposed activity. Additional restrictions may be imposed through the permitting process and the ACMP review process. Some proposed activities may also be subject to local land use regulations.

**Notice to Bidders:** The Cook Inlet beluga whale, the presence of which is known throughout the Cook Inlet Areawide oil and gas lease sale area, is listed as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and has been classified a Species of Concern by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The NMFS is currently reviewing the status of this population to determine the need for listing under the Endangered Species Act and is expected to issue a decision in April 2007. If the beluga whale becomes listed, ADNR would impose additional mitigation measures or restrictions on relevant tracts to minimize impacts to the beluga whale in accordance with the law.

ADNR will notify all interested parties of additional mitigation measures or restrictions, should those become necessary, as soon as possible.

### **Tract Deletions and Deferrals**

There is an appeal pending within Tracts 284, 285, and 287. The DNR commissioner may withdraw or defer these tracts at any time prior to the sale. Note: These tracts received bids in the 2006 sale and are pending adjudication.

The state reserves the right to withdraw any acreage or tract from the sale at any time before the issuance of a lease.

### **Bid Submission**

Bids must be received by DO&G no later than 4:00 p.m. May 21, 2007.

### **Bidding Method**

The bidding method for all tracts will be cash bonus bidding with a minimum bid of **ten dollars (\$10) per acre. Bids for less than the minimum bid will be rejected.**

Note: Under 11 AAC 82.445, a bid will not be considered unless supported by the bid deposit and the information required in the "Instructions to Bidders", unless any omission is determined by the commissioner or his designee to be immaterial or due to excusable inadvertence, and the omission is corrected within one week following receipt of a notice of deficiency.

### **Length of Lease:**

Leases for tracts 11-13, 15-17, 33, 34, 36-46, 62, 63, 65-69, 72, 91-95, 97, 98, 133-137, 140, 163-171, 174, 200, 276, 279-281, 283-287, 289, 342, 345-354, 357, 360, 361, 396, 397, 399-403, 414, 415, 418, 420, 421, 425, 428, 429, 476-484, 487, 490 and 735 will have a primary term of **seven (7) years**.

All other tracts will have a primary term of **five (5) years**.

### **Royalty Rate:**

All leases will have a fixed royalty rate of **twelve and one half percent (12 1/2%)**.

### **Lease Form**

Leases will be executed on Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Form # DOG 200604.

### **Rental**

Annual rental will be \$1.00 per acre for the first year, \$1.50 per acre for the second year, \$2.00 per acre for the third year, \$2.50 per acre for the fourth year, and \$3.00 per acre for the fifth and following years.

### **Bonding**

Before beginning lease operations, an oil and gas lease bond of a minimum of \$10,000 per operation is required under 11 AAC 83.160. In the alternative, a statewide oil and gas lease bond of a minimum of \$500,000 for operations conducted on more than one lease may be filed. These

bonding provisions do not affect the commissioner's authority to require additional unusual-risk bonds as may be necessary. In addition, the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) requires a bond of at least \$100,000 for a single well or a bond of at least \$200,000 to cover wells statewide before drilling operations will be permitted by AOGCC (20 AAC 25.025). Additional bonding may be required under 11 AAC 82.465, 11 AAC 82.600, 11 AAC 83.390 and 11 AAC 96.060.

### **Sale Information**

Copies of the final finding are available for public review at the following locations: the public libraries in Palmer, Wasilla, Kenai, Ninilchik, Homer, Soldotna, Anchor Point and Seldovia, the Loussac Public Library in Anchorage; the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Planning Department Offices in Palmer; the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Planning Department offices in Soldotna; and the Municipal Clerk's Office of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA). Complete details regarding the Cook Inlet 2007 sale, including the following documents, are on the DO&G's Webpage at <http://www.dog.dnr.state.ak.us/>:

- Sale Announcement
- Mitigation Measures
- Instructions to Bidders with estimated tract acreage figures (Attachment A)
- Bid Form
- 1999 Final Finding; 2000 and 2004 Supplements
- February 21, 2007 Supplement to the Cook Inlet Areawide Oil and Gas Lease Sale Best Interest Finding
- Regional Tract Map

Copies of these documents, as well as other information, are available by contacting Melinda Furley, Division of Oil and Gas, 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 800, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3560; by calling during regular office hours at (907) 269-8814; or by email to [melinda\\_furley@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:melinda_furley@dnr.state.ak.us).

### **Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance**

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



Kevin Banks,  
Acting Director