



PRESS RELEASE

Communications Director
E. Colleen Bryan
ebryan@aidea.org
(907) 771-3024

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AIDEA Board Authorizes Pre-Development Permitting, Planning Budget for Section 1002 Area Oil & Gas Leases

(Anchorage) – Wednesday, June 23, 2021, the AIDEA Board passed Resolution G21-18, which authorizes AIDEA to spend up to \$1.5 million on pre-development permitting and planning work on its Section 1002 Area Oil & Gas Leases. Activities will support a phased, multi-year seismic acquisition program targeted to begin in 2022.

PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITY: [RFP # 21131, Section 1002 Area Oil and Gas Leases Project: Pre-Development Permitting Services](#) | Due: July 8, 2021

The non-wilderness Section 1002 Area of ANWR contains an estimated 7.6 billion barrels of recoverable oil and 7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Exploration, development, and production is predicted to generate 1,430 direct jobs and 6,350 indirect jobs annually and 2,480 direct jobs and 10,100 indirect jobs at peak employment. Establishing the permitting for a 3-D seismic data program starting in 2022 will support future exploration planning to reduce surface impacts and optimize field drilling efforts.

Assessments of Section 1002 Area's resource potential is based on 2-D seismic data undertaken by the US. Geological Survey (USGS) for a 1987 report. While the existing data is meaningful, it can be improved upon by detailed mapping of structural and stratigraphic prospects. "We can reliably enhance those early oil and gas resource estimates through responsible, carefully planned, low-impact 3-D seismic surveys," said **AIDEA Chairman Dana Pruhs**.

Processed data will be used to define the most prospective locations for recoverable petroleum resources. Properly sited drilling locations along with responsible efforts to prevent negative surface impacts will enhance AIDEA's compliance with the extensive regional, state and federal stipulations for a responsible exploration program that co-exists with regional conservation. "From seismic to drilling, significant advancements in technology have facilitated world-class environmental stewardship in Alaska's North Slope protecting the tundra, our waterways, and wildlife within Alaska's arctic ecosystem," said **AIDEA Executive Director Alan Weitzner**.

"Nowhere will you find better regulated oil fields, and every barrel produced in Alaska is one less that needs to be produced in regions that don't share our high standards." wrote **Edward Rexford Sr., president of the Native Village of Kaktovik** and **Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy** in a recent [Newsweek op-ed](#). Support for developing the Section 1002 Area comes from a wide cross-section of Alaskans, including the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (a non-profit coalition comprised of 24 entities including tribal councils, regional organizations, municipal governments, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations located in and around the 1002 Area), Governor Mike Dunleavy, Alaska's Legislature, and all members of Alaska's congressional delegation since 1980.

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the state. AIDEA's purpose is to promote, develop and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska. Since 1967, AIDEA has been responsible for directing more than \$3 billion in economic development in Alaska and has declared \$439.7 million in dividends to Alaska since 1997.

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