



PRESS RELEASE

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Lawsuit Seeking to Stop Oil and Gas Development in ANWR Dismissed

AIDEA announces the Alaska District Court has ordered the dismissal of the lawsuit to block development of oil and gas in the Coastal Plain of ANWR on AIDEA leases. The plaintiffs and AIDEA agreed that the case should be voluntarily dismissed.

On February 10, 2026, the Alaska District Court entered an Order dismissing a lawsuit to stop development on AIDEA's leases in ANWR's Coastal Plain. AIDEA Executive Director Randy Ruaro described the action as removing another potential obstacle to responsible development in ANWR.

"Congress mandated and required the Department of Interior to lease, develop, produce and allow the transportation of oil and gas from the most prospective leases in the ANWR Coastal Plain. AIDEA holds several leases that experts believe hold billions of barrels of oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas," **said Ruaro**. "With a recent increase in the royalty rate in favor of the State of Alaska, ANWR could produce several billion dollars a year in revenue to the State. Development of ANWR and other natural resources (including other nearby leases on state land) can and should provide the revenue Alaska needs for education, healthcare, and to grow the permanent fund and the dividend for all Alaskans. Plus, providing good paying jobs for Alaskans and their families."

"This decision clears an obstacle in the way for responsible development to move forward as Congress intended," **said AIDEA Acting Board Chair Bill Kendig**. "AIDEA remains focused on creating economic opportunities for Alaskans while developing our resources lawfully and responsibly. AIDEA is committed to working collaboratively with local communities to ensure development in ANWR delivers meaningful benefits, respects local priorities, and creates lasting opportunities for current and future generations."

AIDEA will continue to push forward with development of ANWR and is working to engage with partners like Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation, the Native Village of Kaktovik, and the City of Kaktovik who represent Kaktovik, the only community located inside the boundaries of ANWR.

AIDEA's consultants estimate there are [likely billions of barrels of recoverable oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas on AIDEA's leases and in the Coastal Plain](https://bit.ly/1002potBen) (<https://bit.ly/1002potBen>). Additional information can be found in the [Arctic National Wildlife Refuge \(ANWR\) Coastal Plain Resources Report](https://bit.ly/ANWRresRpt) (<https://bit.ly/ANWRresRpt>).

About AIDEA

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AIDEA's mission is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska. AIDEA's continued partnership with the shipyard reflects its mission to promote sustainable development and long-term opportunities for Alaskans.

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