



PRESS RELEASE

AIDEA Office of Communications & External Affairs
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AIDEA Visits and Works with Kaktovik

KAKTOVIK, Alaska — Members of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority Board, staff, and support contractors accepted an invitation from the community of Kaktovik to visit and meet with community, Tribal leaders and residents and to further discussion about AIDEA's Section 1002 Area of the Coastal Plain leases and development program.

Their visit on Tuesday provided an opportunity to see Kaktovik, meet with residents, and hear directly from the only community located within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It also provided an opportunity to discuss the potential economic benefits of responsible development in the 1002 Area. Existing resource assessments and reports indicate the Coastal Plain may contain billions of barrels of technically recoverable oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas, resources that could generate long-term revenue for Alaska while supporting jobs, public services and economic opportunity.

During the visit, AIDEA representatives had the honor of witnessing firsthand the cultural tradition of Kaktovik's first whale harvest of the year, an important part of community life that reflects generations of knowledge, stewardship and connection to the land and sea. For those who attended, it was an opportunity of a lifetime and an experience they will cherish forever.

Development of the Section 1002 Area of the Coastal Plain would fulfill the promise made to Alaska in 1980, when the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act set aside the Coastal Plain for future oil and gas exploration and development. Development could provide hundreds of millions of dollars a year to the state's treasury for education, health care, public safety and other essential services, while strengthening the Permanent Fund and supporting dividend opportunities for Alaskans. It also could create good-paying jobs and expand economic activity for not only Kaktovik but for the entire North Slope and across the state.

“Responsible development can provide real opportunities for our community and for Alaska,” **said Nathan Gordon, Jr., Mayor, City of Kaktovik.** “We want to make sure local residents are heard as decisions are made about jobs, investment and the future of the 1002 Area.”

“Kaktovik is the community most directly connected to the 1002 Area – this is our homelands - and our voices must be part of any discussion about its future,” **said Charles Lampe, Former President of and current Board Member of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation.** “We appreciate AIDEA coming to our community, listening to residents and taking the time to understand our perspective.”

“Too often, people outside our region speak about the Section 1002 Area of the Coastal Plain without hearing from the community that lives here,” **said Matthew Rexford, Native Village of Kaktovik Tribal Administrator.** “Kaktovik’s voice is essential to this conversation, and we appreciate AIDEA making the effort to come here and listen.”

“Our people have lived with and cared for this land for generations,” **said Edward Rexford, Sr., Former President of Native Village of Kaktovik and current Council Member.** “Decisions about the Coastal Plain should include the traditional knowledge and lived experience of the people of Kaktovik.”

“We were pleased to welcome AIDEA to Kaktovik and share our community’s culture during whaling and our perspective,” **said Annie Tikluk, Board Member of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation.** “Local voices matter, and Kaktovik deserves to be heard.”

AIDEA believes local perspectives must be part of decisions affecting the Coastal Plain. While outside environmental organizations and Tribes located far from the Section 1002 Area of the Coastal Plain continue to speak about the area, Kaktovik residents and Tribal leaders live with the realities, responsibilities and opportunities tied to the 1002 Area.

Bill Kendig, AIDEA Board Chairman said “AIDEA’s Board remains committed to listening to Alaskans and advancing responsible development that strengthens communities and supports Alaska’s long-term economic future.”

AIDEA’s work begins with listening to Alaskans most directly connected to the land and the opportunity,” **said AIDEA Executive Director Randy Ruaro.** “The residents of Kaktovik have traditional knowledge of the area that is important to hear and understand. Their voices should be central to the discussion about the future of the 1002 Area.”

Kaktovik voices also have been shared through public testimony before the AIDEA Board. [Video of Kaktovik leaders and other testimony](#) includes comments from community members about the importance of being heard in decisions about the Section 1002 Area of the Coastal Plain.

Congress mandated leasing, development, production and transportation of oil and gas from the Section 1002 Area of the Coastal Plain in 2017. After years of federal delay and unlawful administrative actions that attempted to stop Alaska's lawful access to these resources, AIDEA is working to restore progress and protect Alaska's economic interests.

AIDEA works for Alaska by advancing responsible resource development, supporting local engagement and pursuing long-term investment opportunities that benefit Alaskans.

About AIDEA

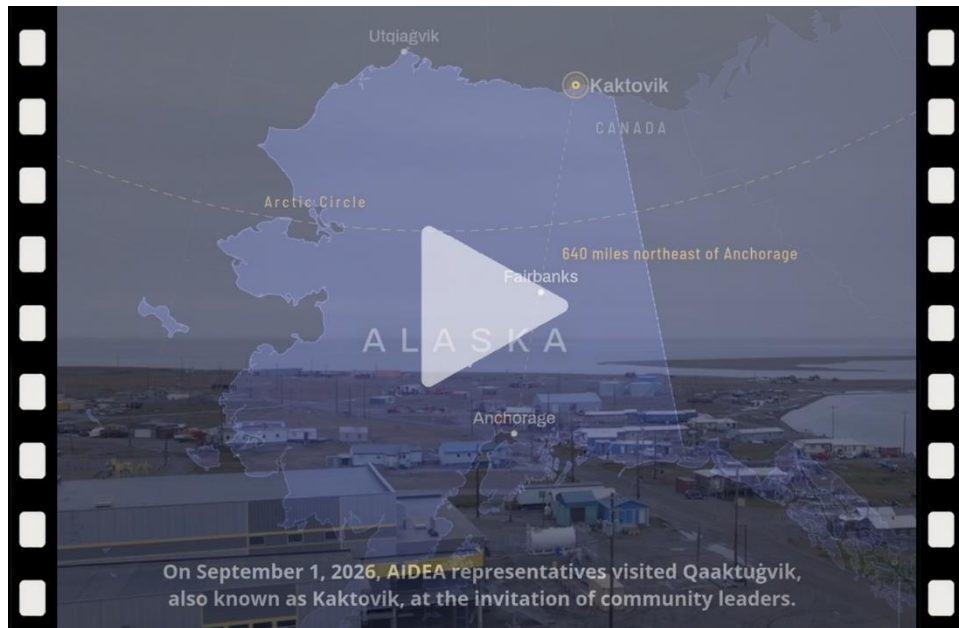
[The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority](#) is an independently governed public corporation of the State of Alaska established by the Legislature in 1967 to promote, develop, and advance economic growth and diversification in Alaska by providing financing and investment tools that support economic development, job creation, infrastructure, and responsible resource development.

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The group paused for a photo while on their tour of the community with Kaktovik Mayor Nathan Gordon, Jr.

Pictured from left to right are Kelvin Goode AIDEA Infrastructure Development Senior Finance Officer, Nathan Gordon, Jr. Mayor of Kaktovik, Robyn Reyes, AIDEA Engagement and Communications Specialist, Albert Fogle, AIDEA Board Vice Chairman, Bill Kendig, AIDEA Board Chairman, Geoff Johns, AIDEA Chief Investment Officer, and Randy Eledge, AIDEA Board Member. Not pictured, but very much a part of the team, were Teresa Imm, Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation Contractor and Inuuteq Stotts, ASRC Energy Services Stakeholder and Community Coordinator.



[Video of AIDEA in Kaktovik](#) September 1, 2026



[Video of Kaktovik Leaders and Other Testimony - AIDEA Board Meeting 05-13-2026](#)

Informative resources:

- 05-14-2026 Press Release [AIDEA Board Approves Major Investment to Advance ANWR Coastal Plain Development](#)

- [USGS Report No. 1778, \(1987\), Study of oil and gas resources in ANWR](#)
- [Estimated Revenue and Jobs in Section 1002 Area Leases of the ANWR](#)
- [ASRC Report on Coastal Plain Resources](#)