



PRESS RELEASE

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AIDEA Wins Additional Leases in ANWR 1002 Area

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) has acquired additional oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's Coastal Plain (1002 Area). This expands AIDEA's lease holdings in the 1002 Area. The 1002 Area was set aside decades ago for oil and gas development in federal law.

[Resource assessments prepared by ASRC Energy Services](#) state "the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) Coastal Plain is the most prospective unexplored onshore area in North America with reserve estimates ranging from 5.7 billion to nearly 16 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil*." (USGS, 1998) This builds on the federal government's earlier identification of 26 potential significant oil reservoirs from seismic data. [USGS Report No. 1778, \(1987\), Study of oil and gas resources in ANWR.](#)

AIDEA's Executive Director, Randy Ruaro, said "The oil and gas in ANWR represents billions of dollars a year in recurring revenue to the State of Alaska. Revenue that could be used for education, health care, and royalties that will grow the Permanent Fund and the dividend for all Alaskans."

Jobs and opportunities for Alaskans are also needed. Nearly one in three (33%) Alaskans have simply given up hope of finding a job and are no longer participating in the workforce. That statistic and the health and social ills Alaskans suffer as a result from living in poverty are not acceptable.

Further, production of oil and gas in Alaska is done under the highest, most rigorous and environmentally responsible standards in the world."

AIDEA's Chief Investment Officer, Geoff Johns stated, "This investment positions Alaska to benefit from future development opportunities while maintaining a disciplined, long-term approach. Projects on the North Slope demonstrate that resource development depends on infrastructure, market access, and sustained investment. AIDEA's role is to help, ensure Alaska is positioned to participate in those opportunities and we are proud that our Board recognizes and supports that."

"The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority continues to demonstrate its commitment to Alaska's future by securing additional oil and gas leases in the Arctic

National Wildlife Refuge. This acquisition reinforces Alaska's position as a global energy leader and helps ensure that the tremendous resource potential of ANWR remains available to support jobs, economic growth, and energy security for generations to come. I commend AIDEA for its steadfast leadership and dedication to responsible resource development that benefits all Alaskans," **said Alaska Governor, Mike Dunleavy.**

AIDEA is committed to ensuring the [voices of those who actually reside in the 1002 Area are heard](#) ([see video here](#)). Kaktovik is the only community in the area, and its residents have a direct and enduring stake in how these resources are developed.

George Kaleak, Sr, President, Native Village of Kaktovik said "Let me be clear Kaktovik relinquished its aboriginal rights under ANCSA in exchange for the promise of responsible economic opportunity on its own lands. Native Village of Kaktovik actively participated in the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Impact Statement and made sure that we added strong protections into that document to protect our homelands and subsistence resources, only to now face cultural claims from outside groups that disregard our efforts and sacrifice that extend into our homeland. Current ADF&G, USFWS, and PCMB data show the Porcupine Caribou Herd has calved predominantly farther east in Canada **for more than two decades**, meaning it no longer relies on the U.S. Coastal Plain as its primary calving ground. The Iñupiat of Kaktovik—who have lived within the Coastal Plain for millennia—maintain a stewardship-based relationship to the land and support AIDEA's new lease activity as a long-overdue step toward ensuring that policy decisions reflect current science and the rights of the only community residing within the Refuge. We will continue to stand against this cultural trespass by others!"

President of the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation, Charles Lampe said "I emphasize that the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) promised Alaska Native village corporations the ability to responsibly develop their lands to support long-term economic opportunity for our people. For decades, federal restrictions have prevented Kaktovik from accessing the very development pathways Congress intended, even as eNGOs (Environmental Non-Governmental Organization) continue to promote outdated claims about the Porcupine Caribou Herd that are contradicted by current data showing calving has shifted largely into Canada. AIDEA's new planned activities on the Coastal Plain represent a long-overdue step toward realizing the opportunities ANCSA envisioned and ensuring that Kaktovik can finally benefit from the responsible use of its lands, through jobs, contracts and oversight. Kaktovik stands together in our support of AIDEA's activities"

Nathan Gordon, Jr., Mayor of Kaktovik, stated "I too, emphasize that our community relinquished its aboriginal rights under ANCSA in exchange for the promise of responsible economic development that would sustain essential local services. The City depends heavily on North Slope Borough property tax revenue—derived largely from regional resource development—to fund basic municipal operations, infrastructure, and public safety, despite persistent outside noise that mischaracterizes both our needs and the realities of life in Kaktovik. Our community works closely with the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management to ensure that development proceeds with minimal impact to subsistence resources like the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Our community, through our tribe, worked hard on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure that our subsistence resources would be protected. We are excited about AIDEA's new lease

activity which offers a long-overdue opportunity to strengthen the tax base that supports the services our residents rely on while providing jobs for our people.”

"The North Slope Iñupiat have not wavered in our support for responsible onshore development within ANWR. This includes Kaktovik, the only community located within the refuge," **said Nagruk Harcharek, President of Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat.** "With the prospect of exploration and development, there's an opportunity for the local community to exercise self-determination on their homelands, helping shape the future of their homelands, while also providing economic opportunity for the local people. Without a local economy, there's a threat to the survival of the very community, and without the community, there is a threat to the loss of culture. Economy, community, and culture are intimately intertwined. When one is threatened, they are all threatened."

AIDEA Board Chair Bill Kendig said “The acquisition aligns with the authority’s statutory mission. AIDEA evaluates investments that can support economic development and provide long-term value to the state. And in this case, it’s doing so with the intent to produce income jobs for decades to come.”

AIDEA extends its appreciation to President Donald J. Trump for issuing [Executive Order 14153, 'Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential,'](#) which rescinded prior lease cancellations and restored leasing opportunities in the 1002 Area. The AIDEA is also grateful for the passage of subsequent [federal legislation requiring that future lease sales comply with the 2021 Record of Decision,](#) helping to ease prior restrictions and provide regulatory clarity for responsible resource development.

AIDEA will continue to advance explorations by performing 3D seismic surveys, gathering additional information, and considering development pathways and partnerships, to produce oil from ANWR.

About AIDEA:

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) 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 various means of financing and investment.

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Resources:

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



Frequently seen Caribou near oil development infrastructure on the North Slope.
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