

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA
NPR-A WORKING GROUP**

CHARTER

- 1. Official Designation:** The Working Group is designated the NPR-A Working Group.
- 2. Objectives and Scope of Activity:**

The objective of the working group is to ensure that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land managers, and other federal, State, and local agencies engage in a continuing dialogue with North Slope residents in order to:

- Understand North Slope resident's economic, subsistence, and other local concerns in activities in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska;
- Gather scientific and traditional ecological knowledge related to key issues that arise during implementation of BLM planning documents;
- Provide recommendations to BLM from local residents and institutions, along with recommendations of other permitting agencies with relevant expertise on an ongoing basis;

The Working Group will consist of representatives of North Slope local governments, Native corporations, and tribal entities as well as a non-voting representative of the State of Alaska. The Working Group is expected to exist into the foreseeable future.

- 3. Official to Whom the Working Group Reports:** The Working Group reports to the Authorized Officer of the Bureau of Land Management. For purposes of the NPR-A Working Group, the Authorized Officer is defined as the Field Manager, Arctic Field Office, or his/her designated representative.
- 4. Support Services:** Subject to availability of funds, administrative support for the activities of the working group will be provided by the BLM. The BLM will work to secure long-term funding to support the activities of the working group. It is anticipated that BLM will develop contracts or agreements to provide support for the working group such as meeting space, audio-visual support, telecommunications support, travel, lodging and meals for participants. The contracts may also provide for working with the group membership and Authorized Officer to create the agenda; typing minutes and notes; and, providing other information requested by the Working Group on an as-needed basis.
- 5. Duties of the Working Group:** The Working Group will perform the following duties:
 - Discuss local concerns relevant to implementation of BLM planning decisions with the BLM and other entities working on the North Slope;
 - Review scientific research or monitoring projects in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and provide recommendations on ways to maximize the value of research and monitoring to local residents and institutions while mitigating impacts to industry, as well as to federal, State, and local regulators;

- Identify and discuss recommendations by local residents and institutions regarding areas where additional protection of surface values should be considered; and,
- Identify and discuss recommendations by local residents and institutions regarding potential amendments to BLM planning documents.

6. Estimated Operating Costs: Annual operating costs for the Working Group are estimated at \$90,000, which includes a half person-year of staff support.

7. Meetings: Subject to the availability of funds, the Working Group will convene at a single location at least once each year at the call of the Chair or Authorized Officer. In addition to face-to-face meetings, the Chair and/or Authorized Officer may conduct meetings electronically. The frequency of electronic meetings is expected to be about five per year during the first year of operation under this charter. Whenever the full Working Group is invited to face-to-face or electronic meetings, those meetings will be open to the public and will be announced on the BLM-Alaska web site at least one week in advance.

8. Quorum: A quorum to conduct official business will consist of a majority of the designated North Slope representatives (10 representatives) plus a Bureau of Land Management representative. For the purposes of establishing a quorum, a designated alternate filling in for a representative will count as a representative.

9. Membership: The Working Group's voting membership is as follows:

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, North Slope Borough, and the Inupiaq Community of the Arctic Slope: These three entities will each designate a representative and an alternate representative to the Working Group using an appropriate form provided by BLM.

ANCSA Village Corporations for Wainwright, Atkasuk, Barrow and Nuiqsut: These four entities will each designate a representative and an alternate representative to the Working Group using an appropriate form provided by BLM.

Federally Recognized Tribal Governments for Wainwright, Atkasuk, Barrow and Nuiqsut: These four entities will each designate a representative and an alternate representative to the Working Group using an appropriate form provided by BLM.

Municipal Governments (if any) for Wainwright, Atkasuk, Barrow and Nuiqsut: These four entities will each designate a representative and an alternate representative to the Working Group using an appropriate form provided by BLM.

The communities of Point Hope, Point Lay, Anaktuvuk Pass, and Kaktovik: These four communities will each designate a single representative and a single alternate representative to the Working Group using an appropriate form provided by BLM.

The State of Alaska: The State will appoint one member to the Working Group using a process chosen by the State. The State member will be non-voting.

- 10. Terms of Office:** The representatives serve at the pleasure of their appointing organization or community. There are no term limits, and the appointing organization or organizations may appoint a replacement at any time through submission of the appropriate form as described in paragraph 8.
- 11. Meeting Attendance:** Working Group members agree to attend face-to-face meetings and teleconferences if possible. When members cannot attend they can either have their alternate attend in their stead, or they may appoint a substitute in writing. Substitutes may participate in discussions but may not vote regarding the operations of the Working Group.
- 12. Officers:** The Working Group members will nominate and elect a chair and vice-chair initially. The chair will normally serve a term of two years, and will be replaced by the vice chair after that time. The principal duties of the chair are conducting face-to-face meetings and dealing with the AO on identifying issues for consideration by the Working Group.
- 13. Authority:** The Working Group is established pursuant to the 2013 Record of Decision for the Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.