June 2014

Paglagivsi!

The Oil and Gas Technical Report is the culmination of years of work by the North Slope Borough and its stakeholders to develop a guide for future development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). This report provides a way forward to promote responsible development of oil and gas resources while protecting the subsistence way of life.

The NPR-A includes about 38 percent of the North Slope Borough. Our ancestors used this land for thousands of years, and we expect our descendants will use it for thousands more. The land and adjacent waters provide the food we eat, and the continued success of our communities will depend on a healthy environment and a vibrant economy. Lessons learned during the almost four decades of oil and gas development on the North Slope will help provide a road map for future development in the NPR-A.

As part of this project, the Borough held meetings in NPR-A communities and Anchorage, and it sponsored the 2007 Oil and Gas Forum in Barrow. Information from the project meetings and the forum guided the development of the Oil and Gas Technical Report. After receiving comments on the Public Review Draft, the Borough amended the report and developed a response to comments document.

This report identifies issues of importance to Borough residents and ways to address those issues. Most of the recommendations will require a collaborative approach that involves the Borough, its residents, industry, and state and federal agencies. Any changes to the Borough’s zoning and land use code will involve ample opportunities for public involvement. The Borough intends to play a strong role in finding solutions that promote responsible development while at the same time protect the food security of its residents.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Brower
Mayor