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November 17, 2025

Alaska trade groups: Ending NPR-A restrictions clears the way for expanded energy development in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Today, trade organizations representing thousands of Alaskans applaud the Trump Administration’s move to rescind the special rule that placed significant portions of the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) off limits to future exploration and development. The decision comes after an extensive review process and public comment period in which numerous Alaska leaders, stakeholders, businesses and trade organizations voiced strong support for the change.

“This decision represents a return to proactive and pragmatic management of Alaska’s critical oil and gas resources,” said Steve Wackowski, president and CEO of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association. “By rescinding these restrictive rules, the administration has again reaffirmed that Alaska will continue to play a significant role in American energy dominance, and that responsible development and environmental stewardship can continue to coexist in Alaska.”

The Biden Administration’s 2024 rule restricted development in a large portion of the NPR-A, a move that was widely criticized by North Slope stakeholders and Alaska’s business community for creating uncertainty and limiting economic opportunities in an area that was specifically set aside for energy development. The rescission restores access to one of America’s largest untapped energy resources, adding momentum to planned exploration activities in the area and development that is already underway.

In addition to the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, the reversal was supported by multiple organizations, including the Resource Development Council for Alaska, the Alaska Support Industry Alliance, and the Alaska Chamber, all of which submitted formal comments during the Bureau of Land Management’s public comment period.

“We applaud the administration for listening to Alaskans and recognizing the importance of the NPR-A to our state’s economic future,” said Kati Capozzi, president and CEO of the Alaska Chamber. “This decision will help create and preserve thousands of jobs and billions in potential revenue while maintaining Alaska’s role as a critical and reliable contributor to American energy security.”

Connor Hajdukovich, interim executive director of the Resource Development Council, noted that the decision brings federal policy back in line with the NPR-A’s intended purpose. “The NPR-A was specifically designated for responsible energy development. This decision honors that original intent while ensuring proper environmental safeguards remain in place.”

The administration's action is expected to provide greater regulatory certainty for existing operators and potential new explorers on Alaska's North Slope while supporting the long-term operation of critical national infrastructure like the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS).

"Alaska's energy industry remains vital to our state's economic health," said Rebecca Logan, CEO of the Alaska Support Industry Alliance. "This policy change acknowledges the reality that we can protect our natural environment while creating opportunities for Alaska's oil and gas workforce that provides the highest paying jobs in the state." Industry leaders emphasized that development in the NPR-A will continue to adhere to stringent environmental standards and best practices that have characterized Alaska's resource development for decades.

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