

Public Law 98-366  
98th Congress

An Act

July 17, 1984

[H.R. 5740]

Entitled, the "Barrow Gas Field Transfer Act of 1984".

Barrow Gas  
Field Transfer  
Act of 1984.  
Alaska.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. The following may be cited as the "Barrow Gas Field Transfer Act of 1984".

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter "the Secretary") shall convey to the North Slope Borough the subsurface estate held by the United States to the Barrow gas fields and the Walakpa gas discovery site, related support facilities, other lands, interests, and funds in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement, including appendix numbered 1, between the Secretary of the Interior and the North Slope Borough dated September 22, 1983 (hereinafter "the NSB Agreement"), on file with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which is hereby incorporated into this Act.

Research and  
development.

(b) Upon conveyance, the North Slope Borough is authorized, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to explore for, develop, and produce fluid hydrocarbons within the lands and interests granted: *Provided*, That section 301(a) of the NSB Agreement shall not reduce revenues which would otherwise be shared with the State of Alaska under the provisions of Public Law 96-514 by providing for the disposition of gas at less than the value referred to in section 301(d) of the NSB Agreement or as a result of the crediting provisions of section 301(a)(3) of the NSB Agreement.

94 Stat. 2957.

49 USC app. 1671  
note.

(c) The Barrow gas fields and related support facilities shall continue to be exempt from the Pipeline Safety Act, title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and all other rules and regulations governing the design, construction, and operation of gas pipelines, wells, and related facilities.

42 USC 4321  
note.

Fish and fishing.  
Wildlife.  
Cultural  
programs.  
Historic  
preservation.

(d) The provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act shall apply to any land conveyance under section 203(b) of the NSB Agreement. During the NEPA process, the North Slope Borough shall consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the National Park Service concerning the fish, wildlife, cultural, and historic values of the area to be selected. The Secretary is authorized to approve or deny the selection. If denied, the North Slope Borough shall be entitled to identify an alternative site, which shall be subject to the review process set forth in this section.

42 USC 6504.

(e) The North Slope Borough shall not make a selection under section 203(b) of the NSB Agreement in areas designated by the Congress or the Secretary under section 104(b) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 for the protection of surface values, as depicted on the map set forth on page 125 of the "Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska" dated February 1983, or

within the boundaries of the Kasegaluk Lagoon Potential Natural Landmark as identified in study report numbered 2 prepared pursuant to section 105(c) of that Act, or within any area withdrawn or designated for study pursuant to section 604 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

42 USC 6505.

16 USC 1276.

(f) Notwithstanding the time limit specified in the NSB Agreement, the North Slope Borough shall have ten years from the date of this Act to make its selection under section 203(b) of the NSB Agreement. If, within ninety days of the expiration of the ten-year period, or after the expiration of such period, the Secretary denies any selection, the North Slope Borough shall select an alternative site within ninety days of such denial. If an alternative site is denied, the selection and review process in this subsection shall be repeated until a site is approved by the Secretary.

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of the NSB Agreement, the North Slope Borough shall obtain the right to divert, use, appropriate, or possess water solely through compliance with applicable laws of the United States and the State of Alaska.

Water.

(h) Notwithstanding any provision of the NSB Agreement, the right of the North Slope Borough to exploit gas and entrained liquid hydrocarbons from Federal test wells in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska shall not apply to test wells in areas designated by the Congress or the Secretary under section 104(b) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 for the protection of surface values, as depicted on the map set forth on page 125 of the "Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska" dated February 1983, or within the boundaries of the Kasegaluk Lagoon Potential Natural Landmark as identified in study report numbered 2 prepared pursuant to section 105(c) of that Act, or within any area withdrawn or designated for study pursuant to section 604 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

42 USC 6504.

42 USC 6505.

16 USC 1276.

(i) The Secretary shall process any application submitted by the North Slope Borough under section 203(d) of the NSB Agreement for a right-of-way which crosses, in whole or in part, any lands within any area designated by the Congress or the Secretary under section 104(b) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 for the protection of surface values, as depicted on the map set forth on page 125 of the "Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska" dated February 1983, or within the boundaries of the Kasegaluk Lagoon Potential Natural Landmark as identified in study report numbered 2 prepared pursuant to section 105(c) of that Act, or within any area withdrawn or designated for study pursuant to section 604 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, under the provisions of title XI of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. In processing any such application for a right-of-way which crosses, in whole or in part, any lands within any area designated by the Congress or the Secretary under section 104(b) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976, the protection of the values and the continuation of the uses specified in section 104(b) of that Act shall be considered to be the purposes for which the area was established.

42 USC 6504.

42 USC 6505.

16 USC 1276.

16 USC 3161.

42 USC 6504.

(j) Nothing in this Act or in the NSB Agreement shall be construed as amending the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act or as amending or repealing any other

16 USC 3101  
note.

16 USC 3102.

Ukpeagvik  
Inupiat  
Corporation.

provision of law applicable to any conservation system unit, as that term is defined in section 102(4) of that Act.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior shall convey to Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (hereinafter "UIC"), subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest held by the United States to sand and gravel underlying the surface estate owned by UIC in the Barrow gas fields and Walakpa gas discovery site, upon execution of an easement agreement with the North Slope Borough, satisfactory to the North Slope Borough, in consideration for the conveyance to UIC of such sand and gravel, providing for easements, for all purposes associated with operation, maintenance, development, production, generation, or transportation of energy, including the transmission of electricity, from the Barrow gas fields, the Walakpa discovery site, or from any other source of energy chosen by the North Slope Borough, to supply energy to Barrow, Wainwright, and Atkasook, and providing such easements when and where required as determined by the North Slope Borough during the life of such fields or other energy sources.

SEC. 4. (a) Section 102 of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6502) is amended by adding "and the North Slope Borough" immediately after "Alaska Natives", by deleting "and" immediately after "responsibilities under this Act.", and by replacing the period following "Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act" with ", and (4) grant such rights-of-way to the North Slope Borough, under the provisions of title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 or section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended, as may be necessary to permit the North Slope Borough to provide energy supplies to villages on the North Slope."

(b) Section 104(e) of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6504(e)) is repealed effective October 1, 1984.

SEC. 5. (a) In consideration for the relinquishment of rights that Arctic Slope Regional Corporation has under section 1431(o) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Public Law 96-487, 94 Stat. 2371, 2541, to the subsurface resources in the Barrow gas fields and the Walakpa gas discovery site conveyed to the North Slope Borough and Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation pursuant to sections 2 and 3 of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation are authorized to exchange lands and interests as set forth in the separate agreement between the Secretary and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation dated January 24, 1984 (hereinafter "the ASRC Agreement"), on file with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. The specific terms, conditions, and covenants of the ASRC Agreement are hereby incorporated into this Act and ratified, as to the rights, duties, and obligations of the United States and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and as to the rights and interests of the North Slope Borough, as a matter of Federal law.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 4 of the ASRC Agreement, in lieu of the additional 69,120 acres of subsurface estate to be identified by ASRC pursuant to said paragraph 4, ASRC shall identify for conveyance or relinquishment to the United States, as appropriate, the 101,272 acres of subsurface estate beneath the surface estate of the lands described in subparagraphs 2 (a), (b) and (d) of the August 9, 1983 agreement between Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the United States of America.

43 USC 1761.

30 USC 185.

Arctic Slope  
Regional  
Corporation.

94 Stat. 2533.

(c) To the extent that any provision or interpretation of the NSB Agreement is inconsistent with the provisions of this section or the ASRC Agreement, the provisions of this section and of the ASRC Agreement shall prevail.

(d) All of the lands, or interest therein, conveyed to and received by Arctic Slope Regional Corporation pursuant to this section or the ASRC Agreement and pursuant to the August 9, 1983 agreement between Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the United States of America shall, in addition to other applicable authority, be deemed conveyed and received pursuant to exchanges under section 22(f) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1601, 1621(f)).

Arctic Slope  
Regional  
Corporation.

Approved July 17, 1984.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 5740:**

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-843 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):

June 18, considered and passed House.  
June 28, considered and passed Senate.