

1 in subparagraph (B)(i) has no effect on the ob-
2 ligations of the lessee under either of the result-
3 ing leases, including obligations relating to op-
4 erations, production, or other circumstances
5 (other than payment of rentals or royalties).

6 “(3) AUTHORITY TO MANAGE FEDERALLY
7 OWNED SURFACE ESTATE.—Nothing in this sub-
8 section limits the authority of the Secretary of the
9 Interior to manage the federally-owned surface es-
10 tate within the Reserve.”.

11 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 104 of the
12 Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42
13 U.S.C. 6504) is amended—

14 (1) by striking subsection (a); and

15 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d)
16 as subsections (a) through (c), respectively.

17 **SEC. 318. NORTH SLOPE SCIENCE INITIATIVE.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-
20 rior shall establish a long-term initiative to be known
21 as the “North Slope Science Initiative” (referred to
22 in this section as the “Initiative”).

23 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Initiative
24 shall be to implement efforts to coordinate collection
25 of scientific data that will provide a better under-

1 standing of the terrestrial, aquatic, and marine eco-
2 systems of the North Slope of Alaska.

3 (b) OBJECTIVES.—To ensure that the Initiative is
4 conducted through a comprehensive science strategy and
5 implementation plan, the Initiative shall, at a minimum—

6 (1) identify and prioritize information needs for
7 inventory, monitoring, and research activities to ad-
8 dress the individual and cumulative effects of past,
9 ongoing, and anticipated development activities and
10 environmental change on the North Slope;

11 (2) develop an understanding of information
12 needs for regulatory and land management agencies,
13 local governments, and the public;

14 (3) focus on prioritization of pressing natural
15 resource management and ecosystem information
16 needs, coordination, and cooperation among agencies
17 and organizations;

18 (4) coordinate ongoing and future inventory,
19 monitoring, and research activities to minimize du-
20 plication of effort, share financial resources and ex-
21 pertise, and assure the collection of quality informa-
22 tion;

23 (5) identify priority needs not addressed by
24 agency science programs in effect on the date of en-

1 actment of this Act and develop a funding strategy
2 to meet those needs;

3 (6) provide a consistent approach to high cal-
4 iber science, including inventory, monitoring, and re-
5 search;

6 (7) maintain and improve public and agency ac-
7 cess to—

8 (A) accumulated and ongoing research;
9 and

10 (B) contemporary and traditional local
11 knowledge; and

12 (8) ensure through appropriate peer review that
13 the science conducted by participating agencies and
14 organizations is of the highest technical quality.

15 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure comprehensive
17 collection of scientific data, in carrying out the Ini-
18 tiative, the Secretary shall consult and coordinate
19 with Federal, State, and local agencies that have re-
20 sponsibilities for land and resource management
21 across the North Slope.

22 (2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Sec-
23 retary shall enter into cooperative agreements with
24 the State of Alaska, the North Slope Borough, the
25 Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and other Fed-

1 eral agencies as appropriate to coordinate efforts,
2 share resources, and fund projects under this sec-
3 tion.

4 (d) SCIENCE TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Initiative shall include a
6 panel to provide advice on proposed inventory, moni-
7 toring, and research functions.

8 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—The panel described in
9 paragraph (1) shall consist of a representative group
10 of not more than 15 scientists and technical experts
11 from diverse professions and interests, including the
12 oil and gas industry, subsistence users, Native Alas-
13 kan entities, conservation organizations, wildlife
14 management organizations, and academia, as deter-
15 mined by the Secretary.

16 (e) REPORTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date
17 of enactment of this section and each year thereafter, the
18 Secretary shall publish a report that describes the studies
19 and findings of the Initiative.

20 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
22 essary to carry out this section.