North Slope Science Initiative

Interim Report
Ken Taylor, Executive Director
June 15, 2006

Working through the FACA ethics rules for Special Government Employees (SGEs) appointed from industry involved several teleconferences and communications with the industry attorneys and the DOI Solicitors Office. Numerous examples of industry SGEs from DOI, NASA, DOE and EPA were provided to the industry attorneys. Understanding the divide between "matters of general applicability" and "particular matters involving specific parties" is critical to SGEs and was the focal point of the teleconferences.

Draft changes to the charters for the Oversight Group and the Science Technical Group to make them parallel to the 2005 Energy Policy Act were developed for Oversight Group approval.

New NSSI agency contacts for the U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the North Slope Borough were established. These include Carl Markon (USGS), Mark McNay (ADFG), and Noah Owen-Ashley (NSB).

Logistics for an NSSI cooperative research effort between Altarum Institute, University of Michigan, BLM and ConocoPhillips to investigate new water quality sampling techniques were completed. This project will be conducted July 30 through August 6 in the vicinity of the Alpine field.

Conferences

Geosciences, Technology and Natural Resources Conference, Anchorage
The 9th Bi-Annual Circumpolar Remote Sensing Symposium, Seward
Arctic Research Consortium of the United States Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

Meetings/Briefings

Presentation of North Slope Nearshore/Offshore Breakup Study, Dept. Environmental Conservation, Anchorage
USGS National Science Strategy Team, Anchorage (NSSI Briefing)
BLM Resource Advisory Committee, Juneau (NSSI briefing)

Issues for Oversight Group Discussion

Election of new Vice-Chair (non-federal)
Revisions to Oversight Group and Science Technical Group Charters
Structure, function and specific directions/priorities for the Science Technical Group