

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## National Park Service

[NPS-AKRO-GAAR]

**Availability of Record of Decision  
Selecting a Route for the Ambler  
Mining District Industrial Access Road  
Through the Kobuk National Preserve,  
Alaska; Terms and Conditions  
Accompanying That Decision, and  
Final Environmental and Economic  
Analysis of the Impacts of Proposed  
Routes Within the Preserve**

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by law, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) have jointly agreed upon a route for the issuance of the right-of-way across the Western (Kobuk River) unit of the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve for the proposed Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road, based on the Final Environmental and Economic Analysis.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) established the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve (Preserve). Section 201(4) of that Act also required that the Secretary of the Interior permit access for surface transportation from the Dalton Highway to the Ambler Mining District through the Preserve, and for the Secretaries of the Interior and Transportation to jointly agree upon the route. The Act further required the two Secretaries to prepare an Environmental and Economic Analysis (EEA) for the purpose of determining the most desirable route for the right-of-way through the Preserve, in lieu of an Environmental Impact Statement, and exempted the EEA from judicial review. The EEA and related activities were to be triggered by the filing of an application for such a right-of-way.

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), a public corporation of the State of Alaska, has applied for a right-of-way for an industrial access road through the Preserve. The proposed route is 26 miles within the Preserve and 211 miles in total (the Northern Alignment). The EEA also analyzed an alternative route that is 18 miles within the Preserve and 228 miles in total (the Southern Alignment).

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), prepared the EEA. A draft of the document was

issued for public comment on August 23, 2019, for a comment period that originally extended through October 7, 2019. Based on feedback from the public, this was extended until October 29, 2019. NPS also attended 12 public meetings sponsored by BLM, one in Fairbanks, one in Washington, DC, and 10 in rural Alaska communities possibly impacted by the road.

NPS received slightly under 3,000 comments. The NPS analyzed all pieces of correspondence received during the comment period when preparing the final EEA. The comments assisted in identifying sections of the draft EEA, including proposed terms and conditions, that required refinement and revision. It also aided in organizing, clarifying, and addressing technical information within the final EEA.

The Record of Decision (ROD), informed by the EEA, determined the Northern Alignment to be the most economically feasible and prudent alternative with less severe impacts allowing for construction, operation, maintenance, and reclamation of the private industrial access road. The selected route would impact fewer wetlands, would have less adverse impacts on fish, subsistence, wild and scenic rivers and would have greater economic feasibility.

Due to the need for the overall road to traverse land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the need for other federal permits, including a Clean Water Act section 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the full project is subject to NEPA, with BLM and USACE jointly undertaking that analysis. The subsistence impact analysis required by ANILCA Section 810 is found in the BLM/USACE joint ROD (JROD), as are the results of consultations required under other applicable laws. The JROD determined that the Northern Alignment was the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative and would not be contrary to the public interest. Full details are in the final DOI/DOT ROD and EEA, including required permit terms and conditions, which are available at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Ambler>.

This is a final decision.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 410hh(4); 43 CFR 36.13(a).

**George Wallace,**

*Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Office of Natural Resources Revenue

[Docket No. ONRR-2011-0012; DS63644000 DRT000000.CH7000 201D1113RT]

**Major Portion Prices and Due Date for  
Additional Royalty Payments on Indian  
Gas Production in Designated Areas  
That Are Not Associated With an Index  
Zone**

AGENCY: Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the regulations governing valuation of gas produced from Indian leases, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) is publishing this notice in the **Federal Register** to notify industry of ONRR's determination of the major portion prices applicable to calendar year 2018 and the date by which a lessee must pay any additional royalties due under major portion pricing.

**DATES:** The due date to pay additional royalties based on the major portion prices is October 5, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

*Calculation of Prices Information:* Robert Sudar, Manager, Market & Spatial Analytics, ONRR, at (303) 231-3511, or email to [Robert.Sudar@onrr.gov](mailto:Robert.Sudar@onrr.gov); mailing address—Office of Natural Resources Revenue, P.O. Box 25165, MS 64310B, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165.

*Reporting Information:* Lee-Ann Martin, Program Manager, Reference & Reporting Management, ONRR, at (303) 231-3313, or email to [Leeann.Martin@onrr.gov](mailto:Leeann.Martin@onrr.gov); mailing address—Office of Natural Resources Revenue, P.O. Box 25165, MS 63300B, Denver, Colorado 80225-0165.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Minerals Management Service (MMS), published a final rule titled "Amendments to Gas Valuation Regulations for Indian Leases," which became effective January 1, 2000, 64 FR 43506, (Aug. 10, 1999). Those gas valuation regulations apply to all Indian (Tribal or allotted) oil and gas leases except for leases on the Osage Indian Reservation. Secretarial Order 3299, as amended on August 29, 2011, created ONRR and delegated to it the "royalty and revenue management function of the Minerals Management Service."

The regulations require ONRR to publish major portion prices for each designated area that is not associated with an index zone for each production month, as well as the due date to submit any additional royalty payments. 30