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# **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

# **BREAKFAST MEETING**

Thursday, October 20, 2016

- Call to order Jeanine St. John, RDC Secretary
- 2. Self Introductions
- 3. Head Table Introductions
  - Staff Report Marleanna Hall, Executive Director
- 5. Program and Keynote Speaker:

# Gearing up for 2017

Bill O'Leary, President, Alaska Railroad Corporation

Next Meeting Thursday, November 3: TBA Dena'ina Convention Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Sign up for RDC e-news online! This breakfast packet and presentation may be found online at:











TOURISM

FISHERIES

OIL & GAS

MINING

FORESTRY



### Founded 1975

Executive Director Marleanna Hall

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# **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

October 17, 2016

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs 5275 Leesburg Pike MS: BPHC Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

RE: Comments on Draft Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy Docket No. FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0165

To Whom It May Concern:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) to withdraw the Draft Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compensatory Mitigation Policy (Draft Policy).

RDC is an Alaskan, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

This unnecessary application of voluntary compensatory mitigation policy will only create additional confusion and uncertainty for project proponents, potentially resulting in delayed operations and increased costs at best. At worst, this Draft Policy could prevent projects from moving forward at all. In a state in critical need of infrastructure, this proposal will negatively impact rural and urban development, furthering the unfavorable circumstances many Alaska communities endure.

The Draft Policy raises a number of concerns, most notably the assertion made that the USFWS has authority to <u>require</u> compensatory mitigation resulting in a 'net gain' or 'no net loss' under the ESA. The ESA and its implementing regulations do not require or recommend USFWS enforce compensatory mitigation measures and in fact clearly state as much in the ESA Section 7 Consultation Handbook, which reads: "the objective of incidental take analysis under section 7 is minimization, *not* mitigation." The USFWS must ensure that an action is not likely to jeopardize or cause adverse modification and may prescribe measures to minimize — not "mitigate" or "fully compensate" for — the impact of the authorized incidental take.

The Draft Policy acknowledges "the Service's authority to require compensatory mitigation under the ESA is limited and differs under Sections 7 and 10" and the Service's "authority to require a 'net gain' in the status of listed or at-risk species has little or no application under the ESA." Nonetheless, the Draft Policy goes on to offer guidelines with the end goal of "net gain" or "no net loss" compensatory mitigation under the ESA. This paradox distorts the USFWS intent for how the Draft Policy would be implemented and suggests that the USFWS would unlawfully require "net gain" or "no net loss" compensatory mitigation of project applicants.

While the USFWS acknowledges that impacts may be voluntarily mitigated under the ESA, the Draft Policy is structured and written as though it will be used by the USFWS to *mandate* compensatory mitigation to achieve "net benefit" or "no net impact" results.

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 907-276-0700 • resources@akrdc.org • akrdc.org RDC is concerned that while "voluntary mitigation" is implied, a very possible result of the Draft Policy is that project applicants will be compelled into agreeing to compensatory mitigation that is not legally required under the ESA for fear that approval of their projects will be substantially delayed or effectively denied if compensatory mitigation is not included as part of their proposal.

The Draft Policy also places a strong priority on compensatory mitigation that occurs in advance of impacts. Project proponents cannot reasonably be expected to implement compensatory mitigation in advance of incidental take authorization or development of the proposed project. Requiring mitigation to be implemented before impacts occur would greatly increase timing uncertainty for development proponents and in some cases may contribute to projects not moving forward at all. Moreover, requiring compensatory mitigation be accomplished in advance of impacts will only serve to discourage applicants from proposing voluntary mitigation as part of their projects.

Lastly, the Draft Policy's reference of climate change projections lacks adequate scientific evidence and is flawed by relying on modeling that cannot meaningfully predict how climate change will impact species and habitat in specific areas and how mitigation may result in specific benefits in those areas. It is not prudent for the USFWS to rely on speculative climate change projections over lengthy periods of time to accurately predict effects in specific areas and upon specific species. The current state of the science and modeling of climate change impacts cannot provide reliable predictions of how a particular species may respond to climate change and how mitigation efforts might benefit species affected by climate change. RDC requests that the USFWS not rely on speculative climate change projections in the development of mitigation efforts in any future Draft Policy.

RDC acknowledges that the Draft Policy represents the USFWS's attempt to implement the recent Executive Office and Department of Interior mitigation policies in the context of the USFWS's responsibility to administer the ESA. However, new policy directives apply only to the extent they are consistent with existing laws adopted by Congress. If Congress had intended to require that every impact to listed species be completely offset (or result in a net gain), it would have written such a requirement into the ESA. If the Service or the President desires such a result, the only solution is for Congress to amend the ESA to provide that authority to the Executive Branch. For this reason, RDC again urges the Draft Policy be withdrawn.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Kati Capozzi **Communications & Projects Manager** 



# 2016 Fall Convention & Trade Show Register today at www.alaskaminers.org

Mining specific Short Courses.

- Two tracks of Technical Sessions.
- The largest resource development trade show in Alaska.
- MSHA Underground and Surface Refresher classes.
- Annual AMA Banquet: a fun filled evening of celebration, recognition, and laughter.
- Central downtown location that's within walking

distance to hotels, restaurants, and shopping.



Sponsorship opportunities and vendor space available!



AMA is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than i 800 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kerai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. We look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal limestone sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

The Alaska Miners Association
Annual Convention and Trade Show Banquet presents the

# George Schmidt Memorial Raffle & Silent Auction

to Benefit Alaska Resource Education Grand prize drawing: Thursday, November 5, 2015



# **Prize Donation Form**

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# **ANILCA TRAINING**

Anyone who wants to understand Alaska and its future must understand ANILCA... the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980



November 14-15, 2016, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm BLM Campbell Creek Science Center 5600 Science Center Drive, Anchorage, Alaska

# **Two-Day Course includes:**

- Summary of Alaska's land history from Territorial days to present
- Context of ANILCA's passage including major constituents, issues of the day, and the "Great Compromise"
- Overview of the ANILCA statute
- Key access provisions of ANILCA, including access for traditional activities, subsistence, inholdings, and transportation & utility systems
- Subsistence on federal lands
- Wilderness reviews and management
- ANILCA implementation, including federal land planning
- Case Studies

Presenters: Federal agency representatives and others with extensive ANILCA experience.

**Materials included:** Printed and electronic copies of ANILCA & Amendments; presentation documents; Alaska in Maps - A Thematic Atlas; and portable USB drive with relevant laws, regulations and other supporting documents. Discussion sessions on ANILCA issues take place both days during lunch – lunch, coffee, and continental breakfast provided.

**Recommended for:** Federal agencies with ANILCA implementation responsibilities, state and local land and resource managers, Native corporations, rural residents and inholders, as well as community leaders, policy makers, consultants, the academic community and the interested public.

**Objective:** A greater understanding of ANILCA and its influence on conservation policy, business opportunities, resource development, and public land management in Alaska.

Cost: General Registration \$575

Young Professionals (40 and under) \$400\* Students \$200\*

\* Discounts for Young Professional and Students not available to federal employees.

Working lunch: Discussion sessions on ANILCA issues take place both days during lunch – lunch, coffee, and continental breakfast provided.

**Registration** closes one week in advance, unless already full. 35 participants minimum; 55 participants maximum.

# To Register, go to the Institute of the North website:

### www.institutenorth.org

**Course questions?** Contact Roger Pearson, ANILCA Training organizer and moderator, at <u>rpearson@institutenorth.org</u>

**Registration and logistical questions?** Contact Nils Andreassen at 907-786-6324, or nandreassen@institutenorth.org



Presented by the Institute of the North 1675 C. Street, Suite 106 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 www.institutenorth.org





The APICC Annual Meeting will be November 18, 2016

Keynote speaker, Bruce Tulgan, author of several books, including "Not Everyone Gets a Trophy: How to Manage the Millennials" and "Bridging the Soft Skills Gap: How to Teach the Missing Basics to Today's Young Talent, "will be speaking. He is also the author of "The 27 Challenges Managers Face," and the best-selling "It's Okay to Be the Boss."

We'll be hearing from Angel H. Bermudez, principal and founder of Strategic Philanthropic Innovations; Ed Flanagan, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Employment and Training Division; and Renah Wolzinger, Workforce Credentials Coalition.

There will be lots of time to network, and as always, we'll have time to hear from our non-profit partners. Find out what APICC is doing to promote workforce development in Alaska.

# Sponsors & Exhibitors Include:







Technical College











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# Nominations open through December 2nd

The Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards were established as annual awards to encourage and give recognition to outstanding achievements related to ocean sciences, education and resource management in Alaska.

# Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards

To be awarded at the Alaska Marine Gala ~ February 11, 2017

# Walter J. & Ermalee Hickel's Lifetime Achievement Award

# Stewardship and Sustainability Award

# Marine Research Award

Marine Science Outreach Award

Hoffman - Greene Ocean Youth Award



THE ALASKA

For information please contact oceanawards@alaskasealife.org

### Walter J. & Ermalee Hickel's Lifetime Achievement Award

\$500 cash prize

Sponsored by: Governor Walter J. and Ermalee Hickel

Awarded to an individual or institution that has made an exceptional contribution to management of Alaska's coastal and ocean resources over a period of 20 or more years.

2010 Recipient: Senator Ted Stevens and Dr.Vera Alexander

2011 Recipient: Dr. Clarence Pautzke

EARSTON AND

2012 Recipient: Caleb Pungowiyi

2013 Recipient: Clement V.Tillion

2014 Recipient: Stan Stephens

2015 Recipient: Al Burch

2016 Recipient: Captain Ed Page

## Stewardship and Sustainability Award

Sponsored by: Jason Brune

Awarded to an industry initiative that demonstrates the highest commitment to sustainability of ocean resources.

2010 Recipient: The Marine Conservation Alliance

- 2011 Recipient: Shell Alaska Venture
- 2012 Recipient: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- 2013 Recipient: Holland America Line
- 2014 Recipient: Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center
- 2015 Recipient: Alyeska Pipeline's Vessel of Opportunity Program

2016 Recipient: SeaShare

### **Marine Research Award**

\$500 cash prize

Sponsored by: Drs. Clarence Pautzke and Maureen McCrae

Awarded to a scientist, team of scientists or an institution that is acknowledged by peers to have made an original breakthrough contribution or a career spanning achievement in any field of scientific knowledge about Alaska's oceans.

2010 Recipient: Dr. Gordon Kruse

- 2011 Recipient: Dr. Jeremy Mathis
- 2012 Recipient: Jan Straley

2013 Recipient: Drs. Katrin Ilken, Brenda Konar, Russ Hopcroft and Bodhil Bluhm

2014 Recipient: Dr.Tom Weingartner

- 2015 Recipient: Drs. Jacqueline Grebmeier and Lee Cooper
- 2016 Recipient: Gunnar Knapp

## Marine Science Outreach Award

(Formerly Ocean Literacy and Ocean Media Awards) \$500 cash prize Sponsored by: Alaska Ocean Observing System

Awarded to a person, team or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to ocean literacy via formal or informal education, media or other communications about Alaska's marine ecosystems.

### Ocean Literacy

2010 Recipient: Kenai Fjords Tours Marine Science Explorer Program 2011 Recipient: Elizabeth Trowbridge - CACS 2012 Recipient: Kurt Byers & Sea Grant Staff

2013 Recipient: Bonita Nelson

### <u>Ocean Media</u>

2010 Recipient: Elizabeth Arnold 2011 Recipient: Marine Conservation Alliance 2012 Recipient: Deborah Mercy

2013 Recipient: Thomas Litwin and Lawrence Hott

Marine Science Outreach

2014 Recipient: Laurie "Poppy" Benson 2015 Recipient: Benjamin Carney 2016 Recipient: Susan Saupe

### Hoffman-Greene Ocean Youth Award

\$500 cash prize Sponsored by: Dale Hoffman

Awarded to an individual or team of Alaskan youth ages 12-19 who has displayed a dedication to promoting the understanding and stewardship of Alaska's oceans.

2013 Recipient: Ahmaogak Sweeney 2014 Recipient: Pribilof Student Marine Research Student Team 2015 Recipient: Alisa Aist

2016 Recipient: Sofia Astaburuaga Larenas

### - On Occasion -Ocean Ambassador Award

The Ocean Ambassador Award was created to recognize an individual or organization that has made outstanding contributions in promoting public awareness and appreciation of Alaska's oceans, coasts, and marine ecosystems.

2015 Recipient: Ray Troll 2016 Recipient: Arliss Sturgulewski



# ALASKA OCEAN LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION

The eighth annual Alaska Ocean Leadership Awards will be presented as a part of the 2017 Alaska Marine Gala. These awards are established as annual awards to encourage and give recognition to outstanding achievements related to ocean sciences, education and management.

### Nomination open through December 2nd Please indicate which award you are nominating for:

Walter J. & Ermalee Hickel's Lifetime Achievement Award
Stewardship and Sustainability Award
Hoffman-Greene Ocean Youth Award
Marine Research Award
Marine Science Outreach Award

Nominee's Name:

**Title/Organization:** 

Address:

Phone Number:

Nominee's E-mail:

Why does this person or institution exemplify the characteristics of this award? (Include work history, achievements and character traits as applicable)

Briefly describe the impact the nominee has made on the marine community:

Nominator's Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	
Please return this n	omination form via e-mail to oceanawards@alaskasealife org_via fax to

Please return this nomination form via e-mail to <u>oceanawards@alaskasealife.org</u> , via fax to (907) 224-6360 or by mail to Alaska SeaLife Center, P.O. Box 1329, Seward, AK 99664. For more information, see our web site at www.alaskasealife.org



**RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL** Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

# SPONSOR & EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES

The 37th Annual Alaska Resources Conference will provide timely updates on new projects, address key opportunities and challenges, and consider the implications of state and federal policies on Alaska's oil and gas, mining, fishing, tourism, and forest industries.

The event will also feature the latest forecasts and updates on Alaska's resource development industries, as well as how companies are navigating the current economy.

Over 1,000 people are expected to register and attend Alaska's most established and highest profile resource development forum of the year. Attendees will include decision-makers from across all resource industries, support sectors, Native corporations, federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as educators and students.

# ALASKA RESOURCES CONFERENCE

# Event Sponsorship & Exhibit Opportunities

# Platinum Sponsor \$5,000

- Ten individual registrations to the conference (Up to \$4,750 value)
- Half-page space in the conference program\*
- Sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the Resource Review newsletter
- Display of your company logo on screens at the conference\*\*
  - \* Due Monday, October 31st, send to resources@akrdc.org. Dimensions: 7.25"w x 4.5"h.

# Cosponsor \$3,000

- Six individual registrations to the conference (Up to \$2,850 value)
- Quarter-page space in the conference program\*
- Sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the Resource Review newsletter
- Display of your company logo on screens at the conference\*\*
  \*Due Monday, October 31st, send to resources@akrdc.org. Dimensions: 3.5"w x 4.5"h.

# General Sponsor \$2,000

- Four registrations to the conference (Up to \$1,900 value)
- Sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the Resource Review newsletter
- Display of your company logo on screens at the conference\*\*

# Underwriter \$1,250

- Two registrations to the conference (Up to \$950 value)
- Sponsor recognition in all conference communications and the Resource Review newsletter
- Display of your company logo on screens at the conference\*\*

\*\*Logos due to resources@akrdc.org by November 4th

# Exhibitor \$1,200 (Member), \$1,500 (Non-member) SOLD OUT LAST FIVE YEARS!

- Exhibit space at the conference\*
- Includes one conference registration (Up to \$475 value)
- Recognition on program insert
  - \* Reserve early as space is limited. Exhibit hall sells out quickly.

# Return sponsorship form by November 4th to be listed in official program.



# **Specialty Sponsorship Opportunities**

### All specialty sponsorships receive special recognition and display of company logo!

Sponsorship and Exhibitor payment options are also available online at akrdc.org.

### Luncheon Sponsor (Wednesday or Thursday) \$6,000 each SOLD OUT!

Largest attraction of the conference featuring keynote speakers and networking lunch.

### Eye-Opener Breakfast (Wednesday or Thursday) \$5,000 each ONE REMAINING!

Every attendee's first stop! A warm buffet with a wide variety of breakfast fare.

### Morning Breaks (Wednesday or Thursday) \$5,000 each SOLD OUT!

The conference stops for these popular breaks. Advertise your company with our specially-designed breaks!

### Wednesday Afternoon Break \$5,000 SOLD OUT!

Network at an old-fashioned ice cream social event - a big crowd pleaser! Your logo displayed during the break.

### Thursday Send-Off Toast \$4,000 SOLD OUT!

Champagne and sparkling cider provide an elegant conclusion to Alaska's premier conference on resource development. Sponsor is welcome to deliver closing toast.

### Centerpiece Sponsor \$2,500 SOLD OUT!

Personalized arrangements provided by the sponsor at each table.

### Espresso Cart Sponsor \$3,500 SOLD OUT!

A big hit among conference attendees with lattes, mochas, and specialty teas. Your company logo on every cup!

### **Charging Station Sponsor \$3,500**

A high visibility stop during the conference for attendees needing to charge their phones and tablets.

### **RDC Grand Raffle**

Donate a prize of your choice for the popular drawing held at the close of the conference.

Please fill out the following information and email to resources@akrdc.org or fax to (907) 276-3887. RDC will send an invoice or gladly accept credit card payments. Questions? Call (907) 276-0700.

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Thank you for your support and participation! Your generous sponsorship sustains RDC and its work on issues important to you and your business.



# WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

7:00 a.m.	Registration/Check-in/Exhibits Open Eye-Opener Breakfast in Exhibit Area Sponsored by Wells Fargo
8:00	Opening Remarks Eric Fjelstad, RDC President, and Managing Partner, Perkins Coie LLP
	Alaska Economic Trends: 2017 Outlook Neal Fried, Economist, Alaska Department of Labor
	Alaska Industry 2016 Year in Review and 2017 Outlook Oil & Gas: Kara Moriarty, President and CEO, Alaska Oil and Gas Association Fisheries: Glenn Reed, President, Pacific Seafood Processors Association Forestry: John Sturgeon, President, Koncor Forest Products Mining: Karen Matthias, Executive Director, Council of Alaska Producers Tourism: Carol Fraser, Regional Director, Sales and Marketing, Aspen Hotels
10:00	Networking Break – Sponsored by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
10:30	North Slope Update: Opportunities and Challenges Scott Jepsen, Vice President, External Affairs and Transportation, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
	Prudhoe Bay: Alaska's Past, Present, and Future Janet Weiss, Alaska Regional President, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
11:30	Networking Break
Noon	Keynote Luncheon: Sponsored by Northrim Bank The Science Economy: How The Fusion of Technology and Energy Will Impact Our Future Gianni Kovacevic, Executive Chairman, Copper Bank, Author of <i>My Electrician Drives A Porsche?</i>
1:30 p.m.	Exploring A New Path Forward for Alaska LNG Governor Bill Walker <i>(Invited)</i> Keith Meyer, President, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
	The Booming Business of Cruising: Can Alaska Compete? Ralph Samuels, Vice President, Government and Community Relations – Alaska, Holland America Group
3:00	Networking Break – Sponsored by Colville, Inc.
3:30	Arctic OCS: Critical Opportunity for Arctic Communities, Alaska, and America Rex Rock, President, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation David Holt, President, Consumer Energy Alliance
4:30	VIP Networking Reception - Hosted by ExxonMobil open to conference registrants and speakers



# THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

7:00 a.m.	Exhibits Open Eye-Opener Breakfast in Exhibit Area – Sponsorship Available
8:00	What Does it Take to Build a Healthy and Sustainable Economy? Joe Beedle, Chairman of the Board, Northrim Bank
	A Rising Tide in Mining – What Alaska Can Do For New Investment Andy Cole, Executive Director, U.S. Operations, Barrick Gold Corporation Other panelists to be announced soon
10:00	Networking Break - Sponsored by Stoel Rives LLP
10:30	The Regs Just Keep on Comin' Ryan Steen, Partner, Stoel Rives LLP
11:30	Networking Break
Noon	Keynote Luncheon: Sponsored by Holland America Line Facing the Future With Confidence Michelle Anderson, President, Ahtna, Inc. Aaron Schutt, President and CEO, Doyon Limited
1:30 p.m.	Light at the End of the Tunnel? New Resource Plays and Activities Pat Foley, Manager, Land and External Affairs, Caelus Energy Alaska, LLC David Wilkins, Senior Vice President for Alaska, Hilcorp Alaska LLC Mike Mason, President and CEO, Great Bear Petroleum

3:00 Grand Raffle Drawing Send-off Champagne Toast – Sponsored by AlaskaACT

Agenda as of October 18 and is subject to change. Please check akrdc.org for updates.











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### **UNDERWRITERS**

ABR, Inc. AIDEA Air Liquide America LP Alaska Railroad Corporation Alaska USA Federal Credit Union Anchorage Sand & Gravel Armstrong Oil and Gas Company Associated General Contractors of Alaska **Brice Companies Brilliant Media Strategies Bristol Bay Native Corporation** Coeur Alaska - Kensington Gold Mine Conam Construction Company Crowley Denali Drilling, Inc.. exp Energy Services, Inc. First National Bank Alaska Flowline Alaska, Inc. Glacier Oil and Gas Global Diving & Salvage, Inc. **Golder Associates** Granite Construction Company Hawk Consultants LLC IBEW Local 1547 Key Bank Koncor Forest Products The McDowell Group, Inc. Michael Baker International Millrock Resources, Inc. NANA WorleyParsons NC Machinery/NC Power Systems Northrim Benefits Group North Star Equipment Services Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants. Inc. Pacific Seafood Processors Association Petro Star Inc. Port of Anchorage Price Gregory International Quantum Spatial, Inc. Resource Data Inc. SAExploration Shell Exploration & Production SLR International Corporation Sourdough Express Stantec Consulting Taku Engineering, LLC TerraSond Limited Tower Hill Mines, Inc. **Udelhoven Oilfield System Services** Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation Univar Alaska Vitus Energy, LLC The Wilson Agency Winchester Alaska, Inc. YUIT COMMS