



**NATIONAL  
OCEAN  
INDUSTRIES  
ASSOCIATION**

1120 G Street, NW  
Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel 202-347-6900  
Fax 202-347-8650  
[www.noia.org](http://www.noia.org)

November 17, 2015

Lauren Boldrick  
Project Manager  
BOEM  
Alaska OCS Region  
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500  
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Comments on the Scope of the Liberty DPP EIS

Dear Ms. Boldrick:

The National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) offers the following comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Liberty Development and Production Plan (DPP) in the Beaufort Sea Planning Area.

NOIA is the only national trade association representing all segments of the offshore industry with an interest in the exploration and production of both traditional and renewable energy resources on the U.S. OCS. The NOIA membership comprises approximately 300 companies engaged in a variety of business activities, including production, drilling, engineering, marine and air transport, offshore construction, equipment manufacture and supply, telecommunications, finance and insurance, and renewable energy.

The proposed Liberty project holds much promise for the future energy development so important to Alaska and the United States. In addition, the project has a firm basis in safety and many of the potential impacts have been studied prior to the initiation of this particular EIS. In general, offshore oil and natural gas development in the Beaufort (and Chukchi) Seas has the benefit of extensive baseline and environmental studies conducted by industry and BOEM over the last several years. The EIS should take advantage of the body of work that has already been done.

The scoping process should also recognize the economic importance that the oil and gas provided by this facility would have on the local Alaskan communities, the State of Alaska and the rest of the United States. Even in these times of low oil prices, the oil and gas sector remains a strong source of jobs, economic activity and revenue to local, state and federal government.

This project has the potential of becoming a major source of new light oil with an estimated 80 – 130 million barrels of recoverable oil. With the recent cancellation of the Beaufort and Chukchi lease sales, it is feasible that this project may yield the only offshore production in the area in the foreseeable future. This oil could be used to offset the declining production on the North Slope and provide a new

source of oil for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the economic benefits associated with re-fueling that pipeline.

Finally, NOIA strongly supports the safe and responsible development of oil and gas offshore Alaska. We urge BOEM to expeditiously prepare this EIS through a streamlined and efficient scoping process that provides opportunity for public comment and is limited to the scoping of the actual proposed project.

Thank you for considering NOIA's comments.

Sincerely,



Nicolette Nye  
V.P., Communications & Industry Affairs