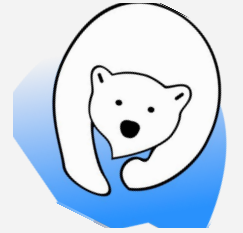




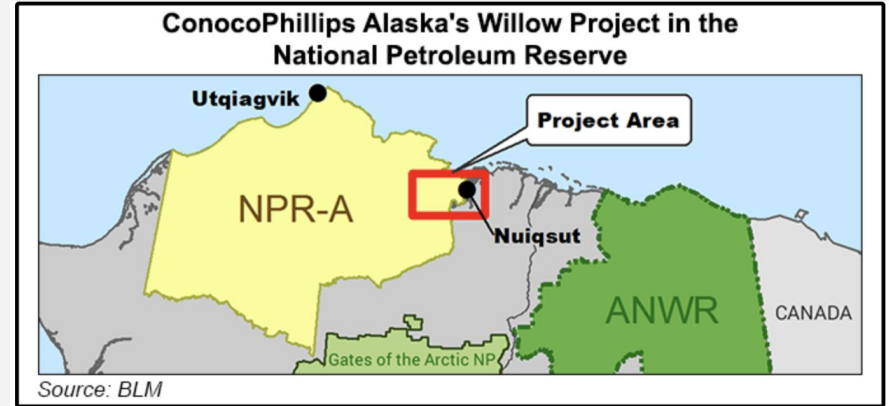
The Willow Project



Understanding The Willow Project and the Potential Effects on our
Environment

What is the Willow Project?

The Willow Project is a major oil drilling project located on Alaska's North Slope, an oil reserve roughly the size of Indiana. The project could potentially produce up to 180,000 barrels of oil a day. The onshore project was originally constructed to operate up to 5 drill pads for a total of 250 oil wells. However, since approved, they were only allowed to install 3 drill pads.



A Timeline: Willow's History



1999

ConocoPhillips acquired the first Willow area leases.

Project planning spanned five different presidential administrations.

2018

Began The Development Permitting Process.

Since 2018, the project has undergone five years of regulatory review and environmental analysis. This would include extensive baseline scientific studies.

2022

ConocoPhillips reliably meets all applicable environmental mandates

The Willow project meets requirements for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan, which was developed under the Obama-Biden administration.

2023

The three pad Willow project is approved.

The three core pads of Alternative E, represent a reduction in surface infrastructure and associated impacts, which addresses stakeholder comments and enables a practical way forward for the project.

Benefits of The Willow Project



- The project is projected to produce \$8 to \$17 billion dollars in revenue for the federal government and the state of Alaska.
- Willow will be built using materials primarily made and sourced in the U.S. and has the potential to create over 2,500 construction jobs and approximately 300 long-term jobs.
- The Project will also benefit energy security in America.

“While initially wary of any development on our lands, through open communication and transparency in planning and Iñupiat ingenuity, our relationship with the oil and gas industry has turned into a partnership. A partnership that has brought significant economic benefits to the region that would have otherwise been absent. The entities that represent the North Slope Iñupiat play an active role in oil and gas development projects that take place in our region.”

- Rex Rock Sr., President of the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC)

Cons to The Willow Project



- According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Willow Project could release 9.2 million tons of carbon pollution *each year*.
- A week after the projects approval, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a new report, noting that the world's governments are currently veering off track from their agreement to keep global average temperatures from rising 1.5 degrees Celsius. They also mentioned that “there is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.” Once we pass the 1.5 degree-tipping point, there will be devastating effects, including rising sea levels and extreme heat waves, that could lead to millions of deaths worldwide by the end of the century (Turrentine, 2023).
- The only way to prevent the tipping point from occurring is to stop burning fossil fuels.

My Recommendation

- Although there are pros to this project, the costs outweigh the benefits.
- Unfortunately, the project is already underway and construction has begun.
- At this point, more people need to be educated of the detrimental effects that this will have on our environment.
- People who are aware of the effects of this project should bring it to the media and urge others to contact their local representatives.
- If enough negative attention is gained, there is a chance they would pause the project or change the guidelines.

Citations

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