



Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Bag Service #21, Inuvik NT X0E 0T0
Tel: 867.777.2737 ♦ Fax: 867.777.2135
E-mail: info@irc.inuvialuit.com

PRESS RELEASE

IRC SEEKS PAUSE IN ALL OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE BEAUFORT SEA

INUVIK, NT (May 19, 2010) – Amid increasing concerns within the Inuvialuit community over the environmental risks associated with hydrocarbon exploration in the deeper waters of the Beaufort Sea, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Nellie Cournoyea, has requested a pause in all offshore hydrocarbon drilling activity in the Beaufort Sea until adequate measures have been undertaken to protect the region’s sensitive ecosystem.

In a letter sent jointly to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Chairman of the National Energy Board, IRC has requested a delay in the issuance of further Exploration Licenses (ELs) in the offshore Beaufort Sea and the temporary withholding of drilling approvals to companies currently holding ELs in this area.

“The health of the Beaufort Sea ecosystem is critical to the lives and culture of the Inuvialuit. Until government and industry have demonstrated their ability to:

- *Prevent an uncontrolled blow-out during all offshore drilling operations;*
- *Stop an uncontrolled blow-out in a timely and effective manner; and*
- *Contain and clean-up all hydrocarbons from an uncontrolled blow-out in a timely and effective manner,*

IRC cannot support any hydrocarbon drilling activities in those areas of the Beaufort Sea beyond land-fast ice zones.”

In their correspondence, IRC referred to the major avoidance and response shortcomings in the recent Gulf of Mexico blow-out and the additional risks associated with a much harsher climate and limited resource and equipment capability within the Beaufort Sea region. IRC also stressed the need for additional research into the impacts of hydrocarbon exploration on the Beaufort Sea ecosystem.

-30-

For further information, contact:

Peggy Jay
Communications Advisor
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Telephone: 867.777.2737
Email: pjay@irc.inuvialuit.com