



121 W. FIREWEED SUITE 120 | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA | 99503 | 907.563.9229 | ALASKAMINERS.ORG

April 1, 2026

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Alaska Region  
Office of Leasing and Plans  
3801 Centerpoint Dr., Ste. 500  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
*Submitted via regulations.gov*

Re: Request for Information and Interest: Commercial Leasing for Outer Continental Shelf Minerals Offshore Alaska (BOEM-2025-0318)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Request for Information and Interest: Commercial Leasing for Outer Continental Shelf Minerals Offshore Alaska.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. AMA's more than 1,400 members come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Alaska's miners are individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

AMA members explore and develop on federal, state, and private lands across Alaska. The process from staking mining claims to baseline studies, permitting, construction, operation, and closure is done in compliance with all statutes and regulations and with extensive community and stakeholder engagement. Should commercial leasing of offshore areas move forward, AMA encourages the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) to implement a process that encourages meaningful engagement and input from neighboring communities, just as is done with onshore mining projects. The ability for the nearest Alaskans to be able to provide input is not only the right thing to do, but it demonstrably enhances development proposals and creates a long-term partnership between industry and communities.

Historically, mining companies have explored in seabed areas in the Nome/Seward Peninsula area, from immediately offshore to further than three miles out. At this time, AMA does not have knowledge of other prospective mineral areas offshore from Alaska. AMA encourages collaboration with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (ADDGS) to identify areas that may show high potential.



A final recommendation from AMA is that BOEM encourage other agencies within the U.S. Department of Interior to evaluate the onshore areas within the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska for mineral potential and open the entire reserve to mineral entry. It is quite possible that vast mineral development opportunities exist in the NPR-A and the United States should encourage private investment to identify and advance them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DSK", is positioned above the typed name.

Deantha Skibinski  
Executive Director