# CSHB 2001 Testimony October 31, 2007

#### ConocoPhillips Alaska

**Kevin Mitchell** 

Vice President, Finance & Administration

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Vice President, Commercial Assets



# ConocoPhillips in Alaska Today



#### Alaska's Largest Producer

- 2006 oil production: 280,000 barrels of oil per day
- 2006 gas production: 145 million cubic feet per day

#### Alaska's Largest Lease Holder

- Interest in 1.7 million gross (federal) acres in the NPRA
- Nearly 2.6 million gross undeveloped acres in total outside of producing fields

#### Alaska's Leading Explorer

- 60 exploration wells since 1999, including 17 wells in NPRA
- Alaska's Largest Industry Community Supporter
  - 2006 > \$12 Million Contributions
  - 2007 > \$14 million (projected)

#### Alaska's Largest Royalty and Taxpayer

- 2006 taxes paid to government: \$2.3 billion
- 2006 royalties: \$730 million

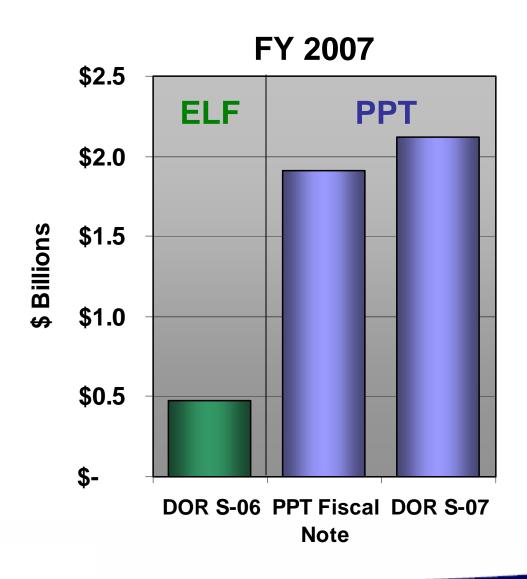


# **Summary Comment**

- Interest between state and industry should be aligned
- Too early to change PPT
- Tax changes will impact investment
  - Increased tax take
  - -Uncertainty with frequent tax changes
- Administrative provisions need careful thought



## Revenue Forecasts



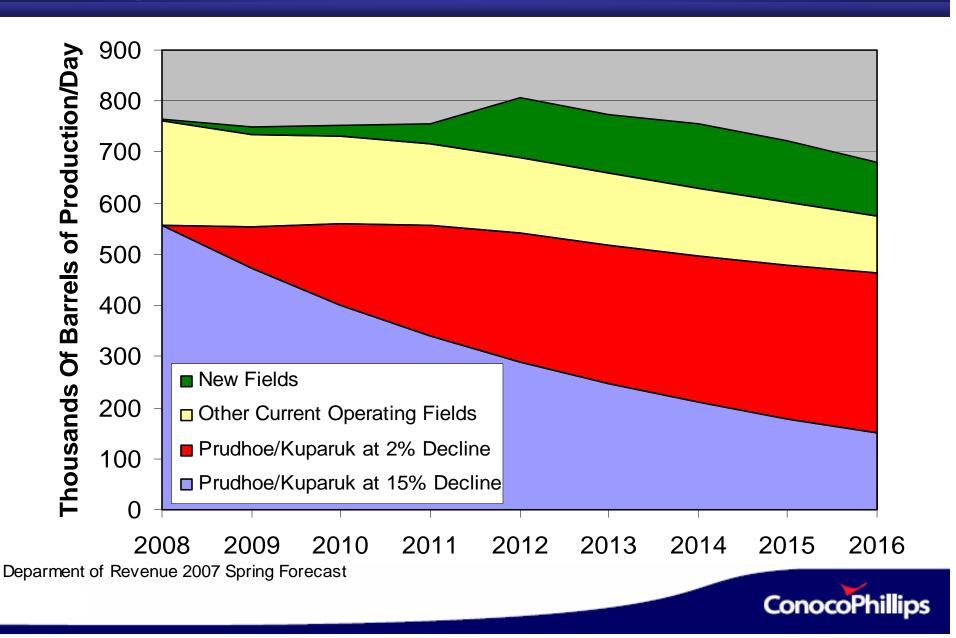
Revenues meeting targets despite forecasting uncertainty associated with:

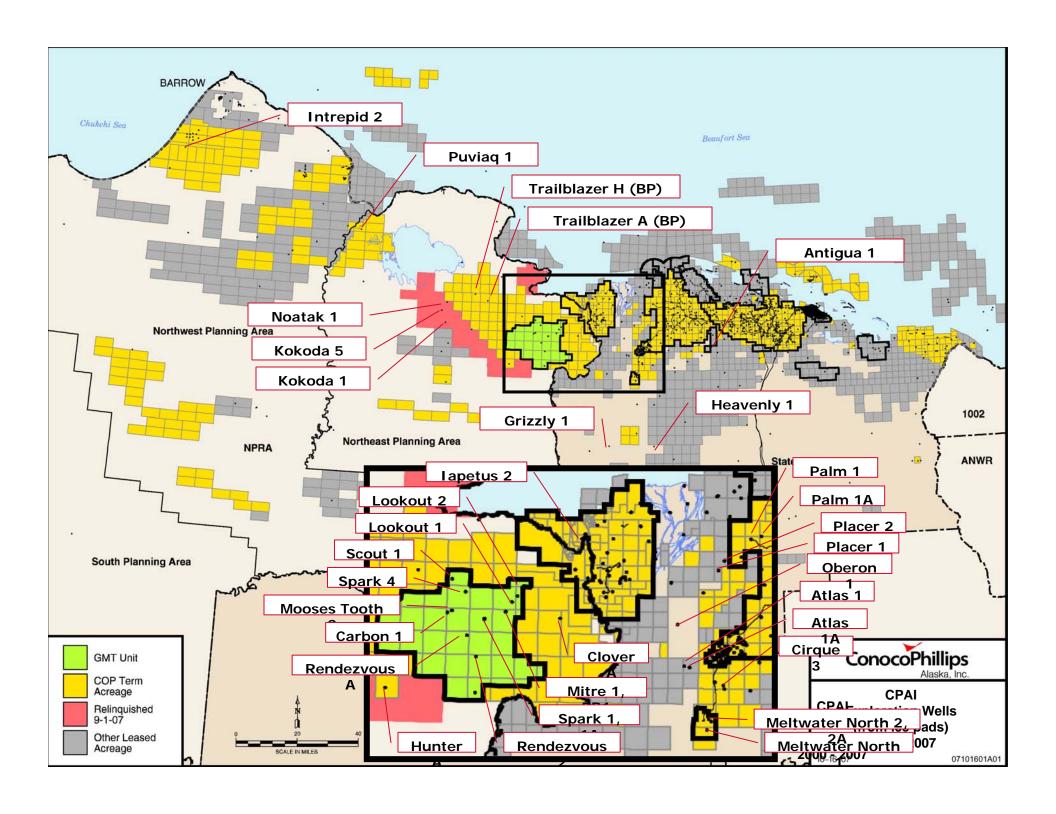
- Price
- Production
- Operating costs
- Capital costs

Too early to change



## Significance of Future Investment





# Alaska's Leading Explorer

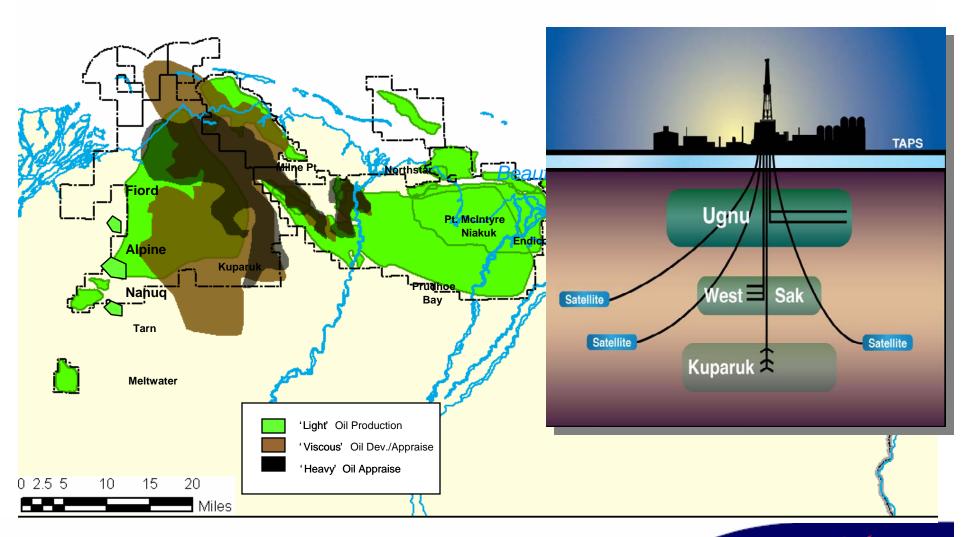


Exploration Site – Winter Typically January - April

**Exploration Site - Summer** 

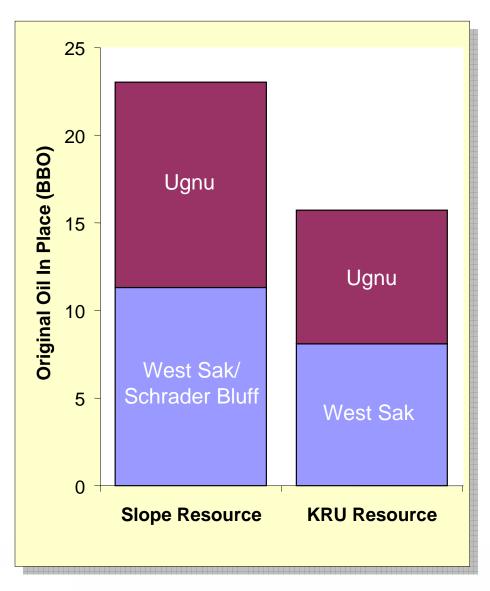


# North Slope Heavy Oil Fields





## North Slope Heavy Oil Resources







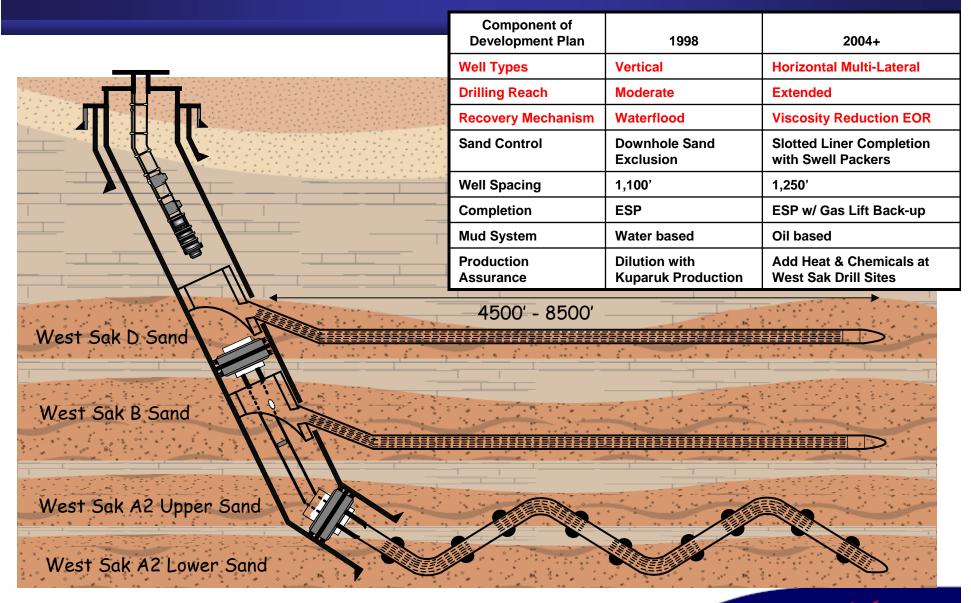
19 API Crude

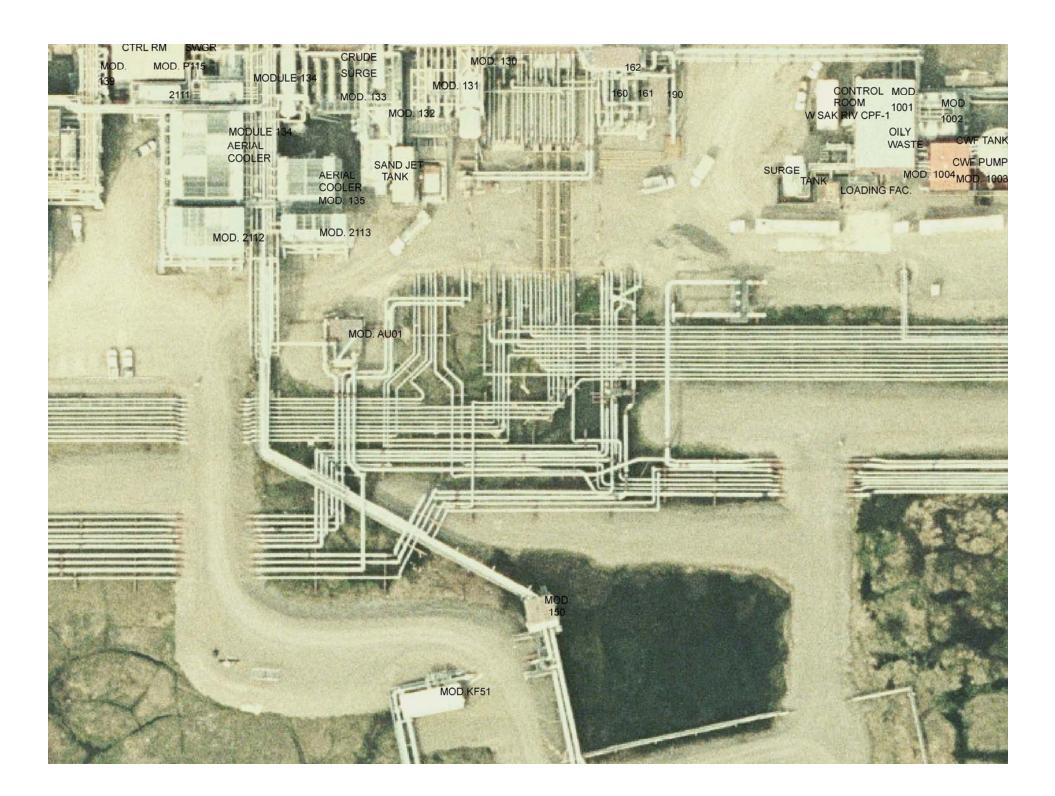
10 API Crude

- Shallow reservoirs (3,000 to 4,500')
- 1,800' of permafrost
- "Cold" Temperature (40° to 90° F)
- High viscosities for given API gravities (10's to 1000's cp)
- Low rates and recovery factors



## West Sak Tri-Lateral Producer





# **Project Analysis**

	Finni	za's	Prudhoe/Kuparuk Projects														
	Field A		1		2		3		4		5		6		Totals		
Legacy Field																	
Satellite																	
Stand Alone																	
Heavy Oil																	
Reserves (MMB)	80			56		60		53		19		18		52		258	MMB
Ownership	Exis	ting		Exis	sting	Exi	sting	Ex	isting	Exi	sting	Exi	sting	Exi	sting		
Capital (\$/B)	\$	11		\$	11	\$	15	\$	16	\$	21	\$	19	\$	16	\$3	.9 B
Expense (\$/B)	\$	7	Ī	\$	6	\$	7	\$	5	\$	8	\$	5	\$	11	\$1	.8 B
Production Start	hypoth	etical		20	10	20	010	2	010	20	)12	20	)12	20	)13		

Future investments are progressively more expensive to build and operate



## Committee Substitute

- Gross on top of a Net
- Transitional Investment Expenditure (TIE)
   Credits
- Exclusion of legitimate costs
- Administrative Issues



# Progressivity

- When applied to Gross
  - Gross penalizes new projects at higher cost levels
  - Gross ignores impact of rising costs over time
  - Progressivity on gross could cause premature field shut in
  - Administration's consultants have testified that the net application of progressivity is most desirable

Progressivity should be applied on a net basis



# High Cost Projects' Economics Challenged under Gross Progressivity

Capital Cost = \$10/BBL

Capital Cost = \$30/BBL

Economic Project

Marginal To
Uneconomic
Project

40% of Tax Paid
Comes From Gross
Progressivity

100% of Tax Paid Comes From Gross Progressivity

Cases Run At \$60 WTI Flat Real, Gross Progressivity of .225% per \$1 above \$50/BBL Gross Wellwhead Value



## **TIE Credits**

- An incentive to continue investment in Alaska
  - Producer has to spend twice the capital spent over the last five years to get the credit
- Use or Lose
  - PPT sunset clause erases all TIE credit remaining in 2013
- Soften the impact of tax changes



## **Exclusions and Deductions**

- Topping plant exclusion
- Driver for unscheduled maintenance exclusion was a specific event
  - Impractical and difficult to administer
  - Increases potential for dispute and litigation
  - Possible unintended consequences

Exclusions and Deductions language needs careful and thorough consideration



# Unplanned Maintenance



## "Other" Information

#### Section 27 (page 20) – **AS 43.55.030(f)** reads:

 "The department may require a producer, ....to file monthly reports, as applicable ..(8) other records and information the department considers necessary for administration of this chapter."

#### Implications:

- This statement is too broad, and
- Reporting data should be specified
- Could be compelled to give data that compromises our competitive position



## Statute of Limitations

#### Section 29 (Page 22) - **AS 43.55.075** reads:

 "...the amount of tax imposed by this chapter must be assessed within six years after the latest return was filed."

#### Implications:

- It's in the best interest of the state and the taxpayers to have audits completed in a timely manner
- Under proposed bill, first audit does not need to be completed before 2011 PPT review
- Amended returns due to decisions by regulatory agency, court, IRS or other body are compelled to be filed, however, the draft legislation reopens the entire return rather than just the items amended by these decisions



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