



news release

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CANADA URGES THE UNITED STATES TO PROTECT
NORTHEAST ARCTIC COASTAL PLAIN

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Tom McMillan, Minister of the Environment and the Honourable William McKnight, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, announced that bilateral consultations took place today with officials of the United States Government on a potential development in the Northeast Arctic coastal plain in Alaska.

During the consultations Canada urged that oil and gas development in the area not be permitted, that the wilderness status of these lands be enhanced, and that protected areas on both sides of the border be twinned in recognition of the regional and international significance of the wildlife they sustain.

The consultations centered on a draft U.S. environmental impact statement which proposes oil and gas development in the northeast Arctic coastal plain in Alaska. The U.S. delegation was headed by William Horn, Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Canadian delegation was headed by Lorette Goulet, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment Canada, and representatives of the Departments of External Affairs, Environment, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Energy, Mines and Resources and the Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration, together with officials of the Governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and representatives of the Council of Yukon Indians, D ne-Metis and the Inuvialuit, and the Canadian Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

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