



## Policy Alert: Development of Alaska

*Updated 24 January 2025*

**Action:** Executive Order “[Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential](#)”

**What it does:** The Order rescinds a large number of Biden Administration actions on resource development in Alaska, including relating to oil and gas drilling, especially in the [Arctic National Wildlife Refuge \(ANWR\)](#), restoring policies of the first Trump Administration. It establishes a policy to expedite permitting and leasing for natural resource projects and prioritize liquefied natural gas (LNG), including LNG transportation to other US states and allied nations in the Pacific.

### Key Insights

- In early 2021, the first Trump Administration held a sale for leasing rights on the coastal plain of ANWR. A state corporation, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority, [won](#) the leases, which the Biden Administration cancelled. Those cancellations have now been revoked.
- A second lease sale, supposed to have been conducted in 2024, will likely now occur.
- The Order intends to advance development of the [Alaska LNG project](#) 800-mile pipeline from the North Slope to its terminal and liquefaction facility at Nikiski, southwest of Anchorage.

- Despite the Order, environmentalists and Native communities are [likely](#) to continue or begin lawsuits alleging violations of permitting rules and other arguments (including a possible First Amendment challenge on revocation of a Native sacred site designation in ANWR).
- The Order advances the process, but litigation will likely continue to delay actual leasing, drilling, and construction of the pipeline. This applies as well to the [Willow Project](#), which the Biden Administration [approved](#), which is also subject to [litigation](#).

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