



Governor Michael J. Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

January 17, 2019

Commissioner Hollis French  
Alaska Oil and Gas Commission  
333 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Via Email: [hollis.french@alaska.gov](mailto:hollis.french@alaska.gov)

Re: Notice of Charges and Right to Public Hearing under AS 31.05.007(d)

Dear Commissioner French:

I am writing to notify you of the potential grounds for your removal from office for cause, and your right to be publicly heard, in person or by counsel, in your own defense as put forth in Alaska Statute 31.05.007(d). The grounds for your potential removal from the AOGCC are neglect of duty and misconduct in office. Please indicate whether or not you wish to proceed with a public hearing in writing, as indicated below, no later than the close of business on Friday, January 18, 2019. If you do not respond by the deadline, we will assume you do not want a hearing and will act on the charges.

AS 31.05.007(d) requires that an AOGCC commissioner be provided a copy of the charges that form the basis for a commissioner's removal from office. The charges against you are as follows:

1. Chronic, unexcused absenteeism. You are chronically absent from your office without submitting a leave slip, and without consulting your fellow commissioners. In the roughly two years you have been a Commissioner, receiving a yearly salary of \$145,000 from the taxpayers of Alaska, you have typically only been at work 3.5 to 4 hours a day, despite an AOGCC policy that states that the work week is 37.5 hours. The public has a reasonable expectation that agency heads will set a good example, perform the work they are paid to do, and be present. In your absence, Commissioners Foerster and Seamount have to do your work. Commissioners need to be in the office in order to do their jobs, and if not present, need to keep their fellow commissioners informed. This is necessary to the efficient function of the AOGCC. Your chronic absences are a disservice to the public and harmful to the government's reputation.

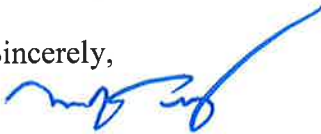
2. Browbeating fellow commissioners. Your pervasive refusal to set aside your disagreements with AOGCC majority decisions regarding the scope and extent of AOGCC's jurisdiction has disrupted the Commission. Disagreement and dissent come with the job, and are integral to democratic government. However, browbeating fellow commissioners after a quorum has decided the issue, to such an extent that it becomes pervasive, undermines the Commission's focus on other critical tasks.
3. Publicly undermining the work of the AOGCC. You have undermined AOGCC by publicly promoting views contrary to the Commission's stated position. In so doing you have placed your personal views above those of the agency, damaging AOGCC's credibility.
4. Security breaches. You have breached critical AOGCC security protocols. Most significantly, you disclosed confidential information to the press regarding the location of, and means of accessing, secured data on the KIC test well.
5. Failure to perform routine AOGCC work. When present at work, you have openly expressed disinterest in, and refused to perform, job-related tasks. While at the office, you have pursued non-work-related interests.

Alaskans reasonably expect, and have the right to, commissioners, agency heads, and other high-ranking officials that perform the work they are paid to do, and who do not actively undermine agencies they represent. I believe that your conduct, as described herein, falls well short of these standards.

As stated above, please respond to this letter by the close of business on January 18, 2019, stating whether you wish to proceed with a public hearing. Should you elect to proceed with a public hearing, the hearing will begin February 6, 2019, and will not exceed three days in length (with each side afforded equal time). Upon receipt of your notice that you want a hearing, this office will immediately provide the particulars.

Please address all communications in response to this letter to Chief Assistant Attorney General John Ptacin at Alaska Department of Law – Civil Division, 1031 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501. You may email Mr. Ptacin at [john.ptacin@alaska.gov](mailto:john.ptacin@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,



Michael J. Dunleavy  
Governor