

Willow Timeline

August - October 2019: BLM publishes DEIS and provides a 45-day comment period, the shortest allowed by law. The Native Village of [Nuiqsut](#) and the [North Slope Borough](#) requests an extension of 45 days, due to the overlap of the comment period with fall whaling. BLM denies this request, and instead grants a shorter extension, setting a deadline that [continues to overlap](#) with fall whaling.

November 2019 – March 2020: [Concerns](#) about the impacts of the project, including to the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, necessitate a new project proposal and a new EIS.

March 20, 2020: BLM publishes the new draft EIS, just as communities on the North Slope and throughout the world are being told to stay at home in response to the initial days of the pandemic. BLM provides a 45-day comment period.

April 2020: BLM holds virtual public meetings “plagued by technological glitches and bandwidth constraints,” [effectively silencing Alaska Native voices](#). The Nuiqsut tribal administrator was [muted](#) during her testimony and a [significant number](#) of Nuiqsut residents tried to testify unsuccessfully. Kuukpik requests a 60-day extension, [explaining](#) that “it is simply not reasonable to ask the people of Nuiqsut to focus on oil and gas permitting when they have spent every single day of the comment period literally fearing for their lives.” ASRC and the Native Village of Nuiqsut also [request](#) an extension.

May 4, 2020: Representative Deb Haaland and other congressional representatives [request](#) Secretary of Interior Bernhardt to “suspend any further action on the Willow Master Development Plan” due to “the loss of irreplaceable ecological and cultural values” it would cause.

August - December 2020: FEIS and ROD published. Alaska Native and conservation groups challenge the decision in court and seek injunction to stop construction.

February 2021: The Alaska District Court [grants](#) an injunction pending appeal, finding that the landscape and subsistence hunting would be irreparably harmed once construction begins. The 9th Circuit [extended](#) the injunction, affirming that the project would cause irreparable harm.

June 2021: ConocoPhillips SVP for Global Operations, Nick Olds, tells investors that the company has identified up to an [additional](#) 3 billion barrels that it can access with Willow infrastructure, making it the next “great Alaska hub.”

August 2021: The Alaska District court finds that BLM [violated](#) NEPA and ESA and invalidates the permit approval.

September 2021: ConocoPhillips is [directly involved](#) in “supporting” BLM’s analysis and response to the court decision.

March 4, 2022: A gas release at Alpine [prompts](#) some Nuiqsut residents to evacuate. The community and its mayor are prevented from [asking questions](#) at meetings related to emergency. ConocoPhillips’ [incident report](#) blames the leak on a shallow gas zone that was previously undetected and indicates that thawing permafrost played a role in the severity of the leak.

July 2022: BLM releases a draft supplemental EIS and provide for a 45-day comment period. The Nuiqsut [City](#) and [Tribal](#) governments request an extension of the comment period, due to its overlap with critical subsistence harvesting. The Mayor of Nuiqsut [explains](#), "We're preparing to get our hunting done as the caribou migration comes through, it should be coming through in this area soon. ... You asked us for our subsistence timeline, we share them with you, and then you ram the Environmental Impact Statement down our throats in the heart of this time."

August 5, 2022: BLM commits to extending comment period for Nuiqsut and [reverses course](#) three days later, denying all requests to extend the comment period.

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