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**Obama administration approves Shell's risky and dirty Arctic drilling plans**

WASHINGTON – Today, after reviewing additional public comments on the revised exploration plan, the [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management \(BOEM\) approved](#) Shell's 2015 Chukchi Sea drilling plans with conditions.

**Statement by Cindy Shogan, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:**

“The Interior Department has continually paved the way for Shell to drill this summer and today's hasty decision is no different. The Obama administration has greenlighted Shell's risky and dirty Arctic Ocean drilling plans – coming to this latest decision only weeks after opening Shell's plans for public comment.

We can't trust Shell with America's Arctic. As we all remember, Shell's mishaps in 2012 culminated with its drilling rig running aground near Sitkalidak Island, Alaska. Events such as these demonstrated to the nation that drilling in the Arctic is reckless and irresponsible and that no oil company should develop there.

Shell's 2015 plans are even riskier and dirtier this time around. The oil giant plans for this summer include deploying an armada of ships like the Noble Discoverer, which caught fire and violated the Clean Air Act during operations in 2012, and Transocean's Polar Pioneer, which is owned by the same company that operated Deepwater Horizon. Shell also has no problem with risking the health and well-being of the Arctic Ocean's wildlife. Shell has estimated that noise from development alone will harass up to 2,582 bowhead whales, 2,581 gray whales and 50,433 ringed seals.

The Interior Department still has the opportunity to stop Shell's reckless and dirty plans and take America's Arctic Ocean off the table for good.”

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