



*Your Land.  
Your Voice.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 17, 2015**

Contact: Gwen Dobbs

Tel: 202-544-5205 or Email: [gwen@alaskawild.org](mailto:gwen@alaskawild.org)

### **Obama clears way for Shell to bore into oil-bearing zones**

WASHINGTON - Today, the Obama administration approved one of the modified permits for Shell Oil Company to drill into oil-bearing zones at one of the wells at the Burger Prospect, Burger J. The company remains limited to the top section of the Burger V well.

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

“President Obama and his administration have cleared the final hurdle for Shell to drill into oil-bearing zones this summer. This is yet another bad decision for our fragile Arctic Ocean and a risky one.

We can't trust Shell in our Arctic Ocean. Shell has already proven time and time again that it is incompetent and careless, illustrated by the gash that had to be repaired on the M/V Fennica – a key piece of equipment carrying the capping stack and one of two icebreakers in its armada. And as we all remember, Shell's mishaps in 2012 culminated with the Kulluk, its drilling rig, running aground near Sitkalidak Island, Alaska and ending its season in China as scrap metal.

This fight is not over and has just begun – we will continue to watch Shell and its operations. We must safeguard the Arctic and our nation's climate future. Science tells us that Arctic oil must stay in the ground, untouched to avoid adding to the already dire impacts of climate change. Key species like the walrus are already impacted by the disappearance of Arctic ice.”

###



[www.AlaskaWild.org](http://www.AlaskaWild.org)

122 C St NW, Ste 240, Washington, DC 20001 \* Tel: 202-544-5205 \* Fax: 202-544-5197