Opening Alaska’s coastal plain to oil, natural gas production could increase US energy security, American Petroleum Institute says

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The American Petroleum Institute recently issued a statement in response to the Department of the Interior’s announcement that it would release a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the leasing program proposed for the 1002 Area (coastal plain) of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

“The coastal plain is a small portion of ANWR that has been identified for oil and natural gas exploration and the potential for safe and environmentally responsible energy development in this area is incredibly large and a key part of a long-term vision for U.S. energy security,” API Director of Upstream and Industry Operations Erik Milito said. “Responsible access to the Arctic region is in our national security interest, with other nations like Russia, Canada, and Norway already actively exploring the area.”

A recent U.S. Energy Information Administration report found that natural gas and oil development in the coastal plain could strengthen U.S. energy security, API noted.

A 2005 review by the U.S. Geological Survey found that the 1002 Area contains an estimated 10.4 billion barrels of oil. At peak production, the 1002 Area could provide up to 1.45 million barrels of oil per day.
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