

# Summary of Tax Credits under AS 43.55 – The Alaska Oil and Gas Production Tax

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## Disclaimer:

**This summary is intended as an informational guide only. The State of Alaska makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of this summary. To be certain of the current statutes and regulations, refer to the official printed version of the statutes and regulations. This information only relates to tax credits in effect on January 1, 2013.**

The Alaska Department of Revenue Tax Division (Division) offers many different production tax credits under AS 43.55. Below is a brief summary of the tax credits that the Division administers. Please note: there are other credits that the Department of Natural Resources or other sections of the Tax Division may offer that may be applied against royalty or rental payments, the production tax liability levied by AS 43.55, or the corporate income tax under AS 43.20 that are not included in this summary; please see the relevant Department or section for more information on those credits.

## Education Tax Credit under AS 43.55.019

The education credit is a tiered credit based on cash contributions made to qualified educational and vocational entities or programs<sup>1</sup> outlined under AS 43.55.019(a). The credit is allowed for oil and gas producers against the tax due under this chapter for cash contributions to qualifying programs or entities. The credit was increased in 2010 for the period January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2013 and in 2011 the increase was extended through December 31, 2020.

Effective 1/1/2011 – 12/31/2020<sup>2</sup>, the credit is limited to 50 percent of contributions of not more than \$100,000; 100 percent of the next \$200,000 of contributions; and 50 percent of the amount of contributions that exceed \$300,000.<sup>3</sup> A contribution claimed as a credit under this section may not be the basis for a credit claimed under another provision of this title; and when combined with contributions that are the basis for credits taken during the taxpayer's tax year under AS [21.96.070](#), [21.96.075](#), AS [43.20.014](#), AS [43.56.018](#), AS [43.65.018](#), AS [43.75.018](#), or AS [43.77.045](#), may not result in the total amount of credits exceeding \$5,000,000 in a single calendar year for an affiliated group.<sup>4</sup>

Effective 1/1/2021, the credit is limited to 50 percent of contributions of not more than \$100,000; and 100 percent of the next \$100,000 of contributions. A contribution claimed as a credit under this section may not be the basis for a credit claimed under another provision of this title; and when combined with contributions that are the basis for credits taken during the taxpayer's tax year under AS [21.96.070](#), [21.96.075](#), AS [43.20.014](#), AS [43.56.018](#), AS [43.65.018](#), AS [43.75.018](#), or AS [43.77.045](#), may not result in the total amount of credits exceeding \$150,000.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Effective July 1, 2011, cash contributions for qualified athletic tournaments, Alaska Native culture programs, or coastal ecosystem learning centers also qualify. SB 84, (ch. 7, SLA 2010)

<sup>2</sup> Original change took place in 2010 with the passing of SB 236 (ch. 29, SLA 2010) and the sunset provision was extended for the increased credit amount through 12/31/2020 through the passage of SB 84.

<sup>3</sup> AS 43.55.019(b)

<sup>4</sup> AS 43.55.019(d)(2)

<sup>5</sup> These are delayed amendments per SB 236

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## Uses of Credit

This credit may be applied against any tax levied by 43.55. The credit is NOT transferable, is NOT available to be issued as a certificate, and may not reduce a person's tax liability below zero for any tax year. An unused credit or portion of a credit not used under this section for a tax year may not be sold, traded, transferred, or applied in a subsequent tax year.<sup>6</sup>

## Pertinent Statutes and Regulations

AS 43.55.019; no regulations at this time

## Qualified Capital Expenditures (QCE) Credit under AS 43.55.023(a)

The QCE credit is a 20% credit based on Qualified Capital Expenditures, as defined by AS 43.55.023(o).<sup>7</sup> The QCEs must also be allowable Lease Expenditures under AS 43.55.165. If the expenditures are incurred in connection with geological or geophysical exploration or an exploration well under AS 43.55.023(a)(2), then there are also certain data requirements<sup>8</sup> that must be met with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

## Uses of Credit

Half of this credit may be applied<sup>9</sup> directly against a producer's tax liability in the year it was incurred by taking the total credit allowed for the year and applying it equally against the liability for each month of the year.<sup>10</sup> This credit may also be requested as a tax credit certificate<sup>11</sup>, but no more frequently than once per calendar quarter<sup>12</sup>. To receive a credit certificate, an application<sup>13</sup> must be submitted to the Department of Revenue (DOR) with all relevant backup required under regulation<sup>14</sup> after the expenditures have been incurred.<sup>15</sup> The DOR has until the later of 120 days from the date that the application is received by the Department or 120 days from March 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the expenditures were incurred<sup>16</sup> to grant or deny the application. Credits for expenditures incurred North of 68 degrees North latitude (North Slope), are issued as two equal certificates – one available in the year issued and the other available in the calendar year following the calendar year in which it was issued.<sup>17</sup> Credits for expenditures south of 68 degrees North latitude, including "middle earth"<sup>18</sup> and Cook Inlet, may be

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<sup>6</sup> AS 43.55.019(e)

<sup>7</sup> Definition of a QCE was re-lettered as a revisers edit to AS 43.55.023(o) after HB 280 passed in 2010

<sup>8</sup> The data requirements are outlined in AS 43.55.025(f)(2)

<sup>9</sup> AS 43.55.023(a)(1), no more than half the credit may be applied for in a single calendar year

<sup>10</sup> Per AS 43.55.020(a)(1)

<sup>11</sup> Under AS 43.55.023(d) or (m)

<sup>12</sup> Per 15 AAC 55.320(a)(1)

<sup>13</sup> Form 0405-330 located on the tax division website at <http://www.tax.alaska.gov//programs/programs/forms/index.aspx?60650>

<sup>14</sup> See 15 AAC 55.320 and 345 for filing requirements

<sup>15</sup> See regulation for "When cost is incurred" under 15 AAC 55.290

<sup>16</sup> Per AS 43.55.023(d)

<sup>17</sup> AS 43.55.023(d)

<sup>18</sup> "Middle Earth" is a term commonly used to describe the land south of 68 degrees North latitude and outside of the Cook Inlet sedimentary basin

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issued as one certificate all available in the year it was issued.<sup>19</sup> If the credit is issued as a certificate, the credit certificate may then be sold or transferred to another company, applied to tax liability under AS 43.55.011(e)<sup>20</sup>, or if all requirements are met under AS 43.55.028, redeemed for cash from the State by the original applicant. The credit may not be used to reduce a person's tax liability below zero for any tax year.<sup>21</sup>

## Pertinent Statutes and Regulations

AS 43.55.023; AS 43.55.165-170; 15 AAC 55.250-290; 15 AAC 55.305-381; 15 AAC 55.900

## Carried-Forward Annual Loss Credit under AS 43.55.023(b)

The carried-forward annual loss credit is 25% of a producer or explorer's adjusted lease expenditures<sup>22</sup> that were not deductible in calculating production tax values for that calendar year under AS 43.55.160<sup>23</sup>. This credit may also be requested as a tax credit certificate<sup>24</sup>, but not earlier than January 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the loss was incurred<sup>25</sup>.

## Uses of Credit

This credit may be applied directly against a producer's tax liability in the year following the year it was incurred by taking the total credit allowed for the year and applying it equally against the liability for each month of the year.<sup>26</sup> This credit may also be requested as a tax credit certificate<sup>27</sup>. To receive a credit certificate, an application<sup>28</sup> must be submitted to the Department of Revenue (DOR) with all relevant backup required under regulation<sup>29</sup> after the expenditures have been incurred.<sup>30</sup> The DOR has until the later of 120 days from the date that the application is received by the Department or 120 days from March 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the expenditures were incurred<sup>31</sup> to grant or deny the application. Credits for expenditures incurred North of 68 degrees North latitude (North Slope), are issued as two equal certificates – one available in the year issued and the other available in the calendar year following the calendar year in which it was issued.<sup>32</sup> Credits for expenditures south of 68 degrees North latitude, including "middle earth" and Cook Inlet, may be issued as one certificate all of which is available in the year it

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<sup>19</sup> AS 43.55.023(m)

<sup>20</sup> 15 AAC 55.381(b) allows for the credit certificate under this section to be applied against a single monthly installment payment

<sup>21</sup> No credit or portion of credit may be used to reduce a person's tax liability under AS 43.55.011(e) for any calendar year below zero. See; 43.55.023(c); 43.55.025(f) and (g); and 43.55.025(i)

<sup>22</sup> Under AS 43.55.165 and 170

<sup>23</sup> For an explorer with a zero GVPP, this calculation is 25% of their adjusted lease expenditures

<sup>24</sup> Under AS 43.55.023(d) or (m)

<sup>25</sup> Per 15 AAC 55.320(a)(2)

<sup>26</sup> Per AS 43.55.020(a)(1)

<sup>27</sup> Under AS 43.55.023(d) or (m)

<sup>28</sup> Form 0405-330 located on the tax division website at <http://www.tax.alaska.gov//programs/programs/forms/index.aspx?60650>

<sup>29</sup> See 15 AAC 55.320 and 345 for filing requirements

<sup>30</sup> See regulation for "When cost is incurred" under 15 AAC 55.290

<sup>31</sup> Per AS 43.55.023(d)

<sup>32</sup> AS 43.55.023(d)

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was issued.<sup>33</sup> If the credit is issued as a certificate, the credit certificate may then be transferred to another company, applied to a tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e)<sup>34</sup>, or redeemed for cash from the State by the original applicant if all requirements are met under AS 43.55.028.

## Pertinent Statutes and Regulations

AS 43.55.023; AS 43.55.165-170; 15 AAC 55.250-290; 15 AAC 55.305-381; 15 AAC 55.900

## Transitional Investment Expenditure (“TIE”) Credit under AS43.55.023(i)

The TIE credit is a 20% credit for qualified capital expenditures incurred between April 1, 2001, and March 31, 2006. The credit may not exceed 1/10 of the AS 43.55.023(a) QCE credit taken from the period April 1, 2006, through December 31, 2007, and may only be taken by a company that did not have commercial production before January 1, 2008.

### Uses of Credit

This credit may be applied against a tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e), but not for any calendar year after 2013.<sup>35</sup> The credit is NOT transferable, is NOT available to be issued as a certificate, and may not be used to reduce a person’s tax liability below zero for any tax year. An application form<sup>36</sup> must be submitted with the annual return for the year that the credit is applied with all applicable backup.

## Well Lease Expenditure Credit under AS 43.55.023(j)

The Well Lease Expenditure credit is a 40% credit based on Well Lease Expenditures incurred south of 68 degrees North latitude, which includes “middle earth” and Cook Inlet, after June 30, 2010. The Well Lease Expenditures must also be allowable lease expenditures under AS 43.55.165, qualified capital expenditures under AS 43.55.023(o), and intangible drilling and development costs<sup>37</sup> authorized under 26 U.S.C. (Internal Revenue Code). If the expenditures are incurred in connection with geological or geophysical exploration or an exploration well under AS 43.55.023(j)(2), then there are also certain data requirements<sup>38</sup> that must be met with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

### Uses of Credit

This credit may be applied directly against a tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e) in the year it was incurred by taking the total credit allowed for the year and applying it equally against the liability

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<sup>33</sup> AS 43.55.023(m)

<sup>34</sup> 15 AAC 55.381(b) allows for the credit certificate under this section to be applied against a single monthly installment payment.

<sup>35</sup> AS 43.55.023(i)(3)(A)

<sup>36</sup> Form 0405-330

<sup>37</sup> AS 43.55.023(n)

<sup>38</sup> The data requirements are outlined in AS 43.55.025(f)(2)

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for each month of the year<sup>39</sup>. This credit may also be requested as a tax credit certificate<sup>40</sup>, but no more frequently than once per calendar quarter.<sup>41</sup> To receive a credit certificate, an application<sup>42</sup> must be submitted to the Department of Revenue (DOR) with all relevant backup required under regulation<sup>43</sup> after the expenditures have been incurred.<sup>44</sup> The DOR has until the later of 120 days from the date that the application is received by the Department or 120 days from March 31<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the expenditures were incurred<sup>45</sup> to grant or deny the application. This credit is issued as one certificate available in the year it was issued<sup>46</sup>. If the credit is issued as a certificate, the credit certificate may then be transferred to another company, applied to a tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e)<sup>47</sup>, or redeemed for cash from the State by the original applicant if all requirements are met under AS 43.55.028.

## **Pertinent Statutes and Regulations**

AS 43.55.023; AS 43.55.165-170; 15 AAC 55.250-290; 15 AAC 55.305-381; 15 AAC 55.900

## **Additional Nontransferable Tax Credits (aka the “Middle Earth Credit” and “Small producer Credit”) under AS 43.55.024(a) and (c)**

Under AS 43.55.024(a), a prorated credit up to \$6,000,000 may be applied against a producer’s tax liability levied by AS 43.55.011(e) for a calendar year for oil and gas produced outside of Cook Inlet and south of 68 degrees North latitude<sup>48</sup> aka “middle earth”<sup>49</sup>. This credit may not be taken after the later of 2016 or after the 9<sup>th</sup> calendar year after the calendar year in which the producer first had commercial production before May 1, 2016<sup>50</sup> from at least one lease or property in “middle earth”.

Tax credits under AS 43.55.024(c), also known as the “small producer credit”, may be applied for a calendar year in which the producer’s tax liability exceeds zero against a producer’s tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e) for a producer whose average amount of oil and gas produced a day and taxable under AS 43.55.011(e) is less than 100,000 BTU equivalent barrels a day. If a producer's average taxable production is more than 50,000 and less than 100,000 BTU equivalent barrels per day, a

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<sup>39</sup> Per AS 43.55.020(a)(1)

<sup>40</sup> Under AS 43.55.023(d) or (m)

<sup>41</sup> Per 15 AAC 55.320(a)(1)

<sup>42</sup> Form 0405-330 located on the tax division website at

<http://www.tax.alaska.gov//programs/programs/forms/index.aspx?60650>

<sup>43</sup> See 15 AAC 55.320 and 345 for filing requirements

<sup>44</sup> See regulation for “When cost is incurred” under 15 AAC 55.290

<sup>45</sup> Per AS 43.55.023(d)

<sup>46</sup> AS 43.55.023(m)

<sup>47</sup> 15 AAC 55.381(b) allows for the credit certificate under this section to be applied against a single monthly installment payment.

<sup>48</sup> AS 43.55.024(a)

<sup>49</sup> “Middle Earth” is phrase commonly used to describe the land south of 68 degrees North latitude and outside of Cook Inlet

<sup>50</sup> AS 43.55.024(b)

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producer may apply a prorated portion of the \$12,000,000 credit for the calendar year.<sup>51</sup> A producer may not take a tax credit under (c) of this section after the later of 2016; or if the producer did not have commercial oil or gas production from a lease or property in the state before April 1, 2006, the ninth calendar year after the calendar year during which the producer first has commercial oil or gas production before May 1, 2016, from at least one lease or property in the state.<sup>52</sup>

## Uses of Credit

These credits may be applied against a tax levied by AS 43.55.011(e). The credits are NOT transferable and are NOT available to be issued as a certificate. An unused tax credit or portion of a tax credit under this section may not be carried forward for use in a later calendar year.<sup>53</sup> The credit may not be used to reduce a tax liability for any calendar year below zero.<sup>54</sup> For a calendar year during which two or more producers that qualify under AS 43.55.024(e) are succeeded through merger, acquisition, or a similar transaction by a single producer that qualifies under AS 43.55.024(e), they are each only allowed a portion of the credit.<sup>55</sup>

## Alternative Tax Credit for Oil and Gas Exploration under AS43.55.025(a)(1)-(4)

Depending on the type of exploration (seismic vs. exploration well) and the location of the project a company may receive a 30% or 40% credit under AS 43.55.025. For a qualifying exploration well that is bottom holed more than 3 miles from a preexisting well, other than in Cook Inlet, and pre-approved by the commissioner of natural resources before the project commences<sup>56</sup> a company may receive a 30% credit.<sup>57</sup> For a qualifying exploration well that is more than 25 miles outside an existing unit, or 10 miles outside of a unit in Cook Inlet, a company may receive a 30% credit.<sup>58</sup> For a qualifying exploration well that is both more than 3 miles from a preexisting well and 25 miles from a unit, other than in Cook Inlet, a company may receive a 40% credit.<sup>59</sup> For a qualifying seismic project outside a unit, a company may receive a 40% credit.<sup>60</sup> To qualify for any credits under this section the company must submit required data sets to the Department of Natural Resources. A credit application<sup>61</sup> must be completed and received by the Department of Revenue

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<sup>51</sup> AS 43.55.024(c)(2)

<sup>52</sup> AS 43.55.024(d)

<sup>53</sup> AS 43.55.024(h)

<sup>54</sup> AS 43.55.024(g)

<sup>55</sup> 15 AAC 55.335(b)

<sup>56</sup> AS 43.55.025(c)(2)

<sup>57</sup> AS 43.55.025(a)(1) and (c)

<sup>58</sup> AS 43.55.025(a)(2) and (d)

<sup>59</sup> AS 43.55.025(a)(3), (c), and (d)

<sup>60</sup> AS 43.55.025(a)(4) and (e)

<sup>61</sup> Form 0405-310

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within six months of the completion of the exploration activity.<sup>62</sup> The application must be either submitted by a single applicant that holds a 100% interest in the project and incurred 100% of the expenditures or submitted by a designated joint applicant on behalf of and signed by all partners.<sup>63</sup> All credit requests under this section are audited before a certificate is issued and a tax credit certificate is always issued. These credits are only for work performed before July 1, 2016.

A five percent credit for exploration expenditures performed before July 1, 2003 is available for seismic exploration performed outside the boundaries of an existing production unit if the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources determines public distribution of the seismic information is in the best interest of the State.<sup>64</sup>

## Uses of Credit

The credit itself may be applied against a producer's tax liability in the year in which it was incurred and also before the tax credit certificate is issued.<sup>65</sup> The credit certificate may be transferred, applied to tax liability,<sup>66</sup> or cashed out with the State under AS 43.55.028 by the original applicant.

## Pertinent Statutes and Regulations

AS 43.55.025; 15 AAC 55.305-381

## Alternative Tax Credit for Oil and Gas Exploration under AS43.55.025(a)(5) – aka the “Jack-up Rig Credit”

Signed into effect May 20, 2010<sup>67</sup>, AS 43.55.025(a)(5) and (l) were added to AS 43.55.025 to provide tax credits for a jack-up rig in Cook Inlet applicable to work performed after March 31, 2010. These sections added credits of 100% of qualifying exploration expenditures up to \$25 million for the first well, 90% of qualifying exploration expenditures up to \$22.5 million for the second well, and 80% of qualifying exploration expenditures up to \$20 million for the third well incurred for exploratory drilling with a jack-up rig in Cook Inlet. The three wells must be drilled by unaffiliated parties, use the same jack-up rig, and penetrate and evaluate a prospect in the pre-Tertiary zone. The latter determination is made by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

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<sup>62</sup> The completion date of an exploration well is defined under 15 AAC 55.900(b)(10) and the completion date of a seismic project is generally the date that the initial processing of the seismic data has been completed.

<sup>63</sup> 15 AAC 55.355(a) and 15 AAC 55.356

<sup>64</sup> AS 43.55.025(k)

<sup>65</sup> 15 AAC 55.370(c)

<sup>66</sup> 15 AAC 55.381(b) allows for the credit certificate under this section to be applied against a single monthly installment payment

<sup>67</sup> Senate Bill 309, (Ch. 15 SLA 2010)

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## Uses of Credit

The credit itself may be applied against a producer’s tax liability in the year in which it was incurred and also before the certificate is issued.<sup>68</sup> The credit certificate may be transferred, applied to tax liability,<sup>69</sup> or cashed out with the State under AS 43.55.028 by the original applicant.

## Pertinent Statutes and Regulations

AS 43.55.025; 15 AAC 305-381

## Alternative Tax Credit for Oil and Gas Exploration under AS 43.55.025(a)(6)&(7) – aka the “Frontier Basin Credits”

Effective January 1, 2013<sup>70</sup>, AS 43.55.025(a)(6), (a)(7), (n) and (o) were added to the statute to provide tax credits for exploration wells and seismic projects performed after June 30, 2012 and before July 1, 2016, in certain “Frontier Basins” described in AS 43.55.025(p). These sections added credits of 80% of qualifying exploration expenditures up to \$25 million for the first two wells in any single basin and 75% of qualifying seismic exploration expenditures up to \$7.5 million for the first seismic project in each basin. Many requirements must be met with the Department of Natural Resources to qualify for the credits, including pre-qualifications.

## Uses of Credit

The credit itself may be applied against a producer’s tax liability in the year in which it was incurred and also before the certificate is issued.<sup>71</sup> The credit certificate may be transferred, applied to tax liability,<sup>72</sup> or cashed out with the State under AS 43.55.028 by the original applicant.

## Pertinent Statutes and Regulations

AS 43.55.025; 15 AAC 305-381

## Contact Information

For additional information about the Department of Revenue Tax Credits and how to apply, please contact Destin Greeley at (907) 269-6642. For additional information regarding the data required to be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources for credits relating to exploration expenditures, please contact Heather Ann Heusser at (907) 269-0137.

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<sup>68</sup> 15 AAC 55.370(c)

<sup>69</sup> 15 AAC 55.381(b) allows for the credit certificate under this section to be applied against a single monthly installment payment

<sup>70</sup> Section 46 of SB 23

<sup>71</sup> 15 AAC 55.370(c)

<sup>72</sup> 15 AAC 55.381(b) allows for the credit certificate under this section to be applied against a single monthly installment payment