Pete Slaiby is Shell Oil’s vice president in Anchorage and is in charge of the effort to drill in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas of Alaska’s North Slope. With the Obama administration having lifted a moratorium on offshore drilling in the Arctic and elsewhere, Shell Oil has received preliminary permits to drill exploratory wells off the coast of Alaska as soon as next summer. The State of Alaska projects that as many as 50,000 jobs could be created in the region in the coming decades. Fewer than 10,000 people currently live in all of Arctic Alaska.

Credit: Jim Wilson/The New York Times

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