



Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
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**Categorical Exclusion
Ungalik Airstrip Drum Spill Site
Site Characterization**

**Applicant: BLM Anchorage Field Office
Case File Number: FF-090986
AK-040-07-CX-022**



Location:

Section 12, Township 11 South, Range 11 West, Kateel River Meridian.

Prepared By:

Larry Beck
Environmental Protection Specialist
30 March, 2007

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-07-CX-022

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF-090986

Proposed Action Title/Types: Ungalik Airstrip Drum Spill Site Characterization

Location of Proposed Action: Sec 12, T 11 S, R 11 W, Kateel River Meridian.
Lat/Long: N64° 32' 52.0", W160° 47' 30.6 (NAD 27)

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to contract with a BLM hazmat response contractor to conduct a Site Characterization of the fuel drum spill at an abandoned, illegal airstrip on BLM managed land. The Site Characterization is required by Title 18 Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 75, Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Control. BLM needs to determine the full extent of vertical and horizontal contamination caused by leaking fuel drums to develop an appropriate response action at this remote site. The land is selected for conveyance to an Alaska Native Corporation.

The Site is an abandoned/unusable landing strip on a saddle between unnamed hilltops about 18 miles Northeast of Shaktoolik, AK. The presence of about 150 drums at the south end of the airstrip was first reported to BLM in 1993. The drums were removed in 2003-2004. An unknown amount of diesel fuel leaked from at least five drums before they were removed. During inspection in August 2006, staining, oil odor, and dead/distressed vegetation were present at three areas, each measuring about 20'x20', 10'x15', and 12'x12'.

The Contractor will mobilize to/from the site via the Anchorage Field Office contract helicopter on 16 & 17 August, 2007. A crew of three persons, including the BLM Project Inspector, will conduct soil sampling to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of the oil plume. Surface samples will be collected by hand tools. Subsurface samples will be collected by driving a hollow stem auger into the ground and bringing up core samples to determine depth of the plume. The auger will be driven by hand, sledge hammer, or electric jackhammer. The jackhammer would be powered by a small electric generator. Soil cuttings will be left on-site within the oil stained areas. Auger holes will be 1 ½ - 3 inch diameter and will be tamped closed or grouted with standard grout such as bentonite.

Applicant: BLM Anchorage Field Office

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan:

Management Framework Plan, Southwest Planning Area

Date Plan Approved: 25 November, 1981

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.5 H(3):

Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	_____	<u> X </u>
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	<u> X </u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	<u> X </u>

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|-----|---|-------|----------------------|
| 4. | Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |
| 5. | Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |
| 6. | Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |
| 7. | Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office. | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |
| 8. | Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |
| 9. | Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |
| 10. | Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |
| 11. | Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007). | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |
| 12. | Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> _____ |

I certify that none of the Departmental Extraordinary Circumstances listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Preparer(s): Larry Beck, Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: March 6, 2007

PART III – DECISION

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3) (2006). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed action is within a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 C.F.R. §1508.4 (2006).

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Authorized Official: Gary Reimer

Date: April 19, 2007