

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

In reply refer to:
FF095706
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM- LLAKEF010-2010-00027-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Marwan A. Wartes
Geologist--North Slope Program Manager
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
3354 College Road
Fairbanks Alaska, 99709

Proposed Action Title/Type: Stratigraphic studies and geologic mapping in NPR-A

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to conduct stratigraphic studies and geologic mapping to update assessments of oil and gas potential in NPR-A. This action is consistent with BLM's 10 year activity plan and the work is part of a larger ongoing effort by the State of Alaska to understand the geology of the North Slope.

The project would involve reconnaissance flights and several landings in the Umiat Mountain area (see map) and uplands immediately west, from June 19 through July 3, 2010. Proposed sites include Shivugak Bluff, downstream from Umiat—landings on river bar (see map). The applicant would use a Bell Jet Ranger (B3) helicopter to transport five geologists from a base camp to field sites. Once on the ground, the geologists would work on foot and take short hikes for sampling and mapping.

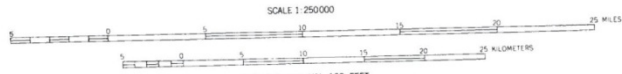
Campsite location has not been determined but is expected to be near Umiat. The crew might also use one or two spike camps to minimize helicopter use. They intend to use a contained Jet-A fuel dispensing system at or near a camp site for fuel storage. Fuel would be stored on state lands. Approximately 1,000 to 1,200 gallons of jet fuel would be stored for the project duration.

**2010 Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
Proposed area of interest for geological mapping and stratigraphic studies**



Possible UAF student spike camp

Area of Interest



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

Cropped from Umiat 1:250,000 Quadrangle

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents: the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated July 2008 and The National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska 105(c) Study Report of 1978. The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976.

Date June 18, 2010

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Reference

This proposed action meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, D.10,

This proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion 1.6 under 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215

“Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.”

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

Exceptions to Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The proposed action must be screened against the extraordinary circumstances found in 43 CFR 46.215 and listed below. Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

The proposed action will not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances listed below.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 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.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or		X

involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 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.		X
2.8 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.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 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).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

Date June 18, 2010

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office