

Alpine Satellite Development Plan

National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska

Volume 3, January 2004

BLM Releases Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the Alpine Satellite Development Plan (ASDP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to examine ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.'s (CPAI) proposed action to develop five satellite oil accumulations in the northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and the Colville River Delta. The BLM developed the DEIS with cooperating agencies—U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the State of Alaska. This EIS examines the potential impacts of CPAI's proposed development plan and evaluates a range of alternatives.

Meetings are scheduled to provide opportunities for the public to comment on the DEIS. BLM will accept comments through March 1, 2004.

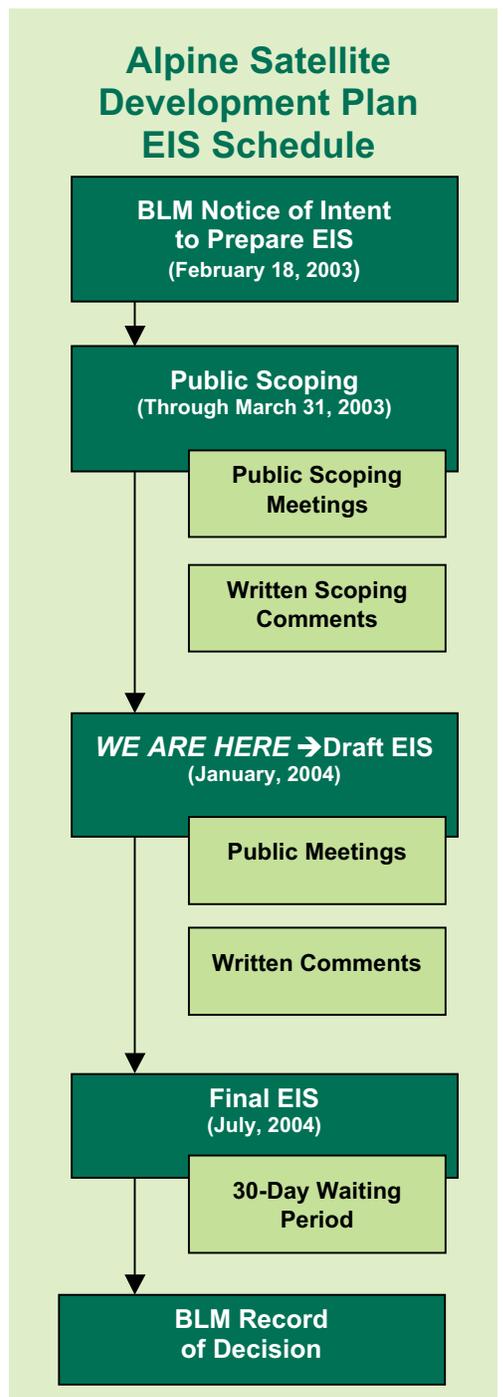
The Proposed Action and Alternatives

CPAI's proposed development plan includes the five satellite drilling pads—two in the Colville River Delta (one on State of Alaska land and one on land owned by the Native corporation for the village of Nuiqsut—Kuukpik Corporation); one on land owned by Kuukpik Corporation within NPR-A; and two on federal lands administered by BLM within NPR-A. CPAI proposes to place 20-30 wells on each pad and to transport the unprocessed, three-phase (oil, gas, and water) product to the Alpine Central Processing Facility for processing and shipment through existing pipelines to market.

Alternatives

The DEIS evaluates a range of alternatives, each developed around a "theme" that shaped the alternative. The themes of the alternatives, which cover the full range of reasonable development scenarios, are noted below. See page 2 and 3 for more details.

- Alternative A—Consists of the Applicant's Proposed Action
- Alternative B—Conforms strictly to stipulations in BLM's 1998 plan
- Alternative C—Provides alternative access routes to the satellite drilling pads
- Alternative D—Provides for entirely roadless development
- Alternative E—Is the No Action alternative



The federal Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency for the Alpine Satellite Development Plan EIS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and the State of Alaska are cooperating agencies.



The No Action Alternative enables the public and decision makers to compare the magnitude of environmental effects of the action alternatives. BLM's preferred alternative has not been identified in the DEIS, but will be identified after consideration of public comments on the DEIS and alternatives.

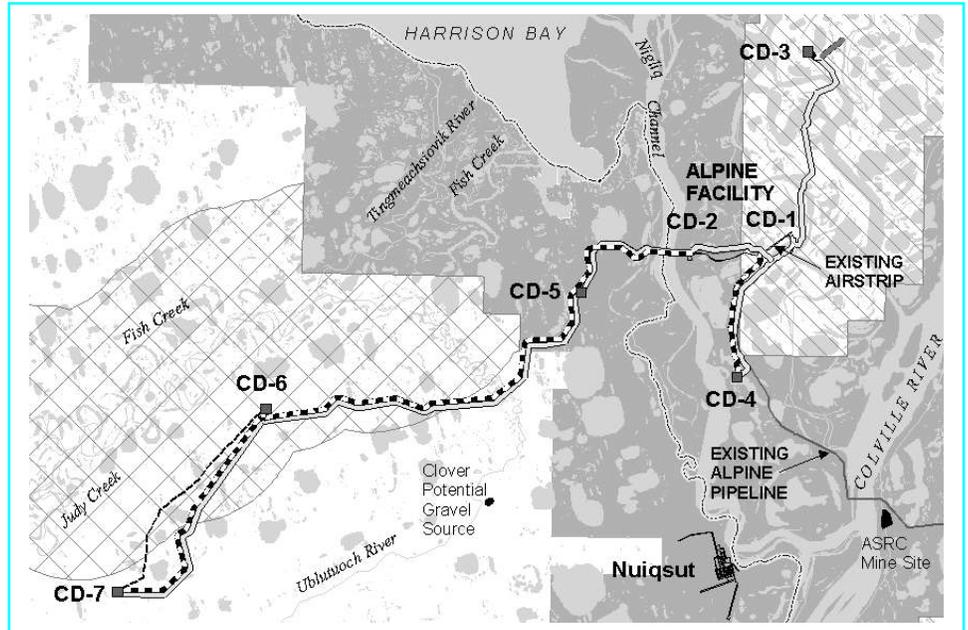
Also included in the DEIS is an analysis of hypothetical full-field development (FFD) for an 890,000-acre area Plan Area. Though FFD is not proposed at this time, BLM considers it highly likely that development besides that currently proposed by CPAI will occur in this area over the next 20 years. As a result, the DEIS evaluates and analyzes alternative development options for potential future development. This approach gives the public and decision makers a comprehensive overview of proposed and potential future development in the area. An agency preferred alternative or Record of Decision would not be developed for FFD. Decisions on future proposals for developments in the area would be addressed through additional NEPA analysis incorporated by reference to the final EIS.

Analysis in the EIS

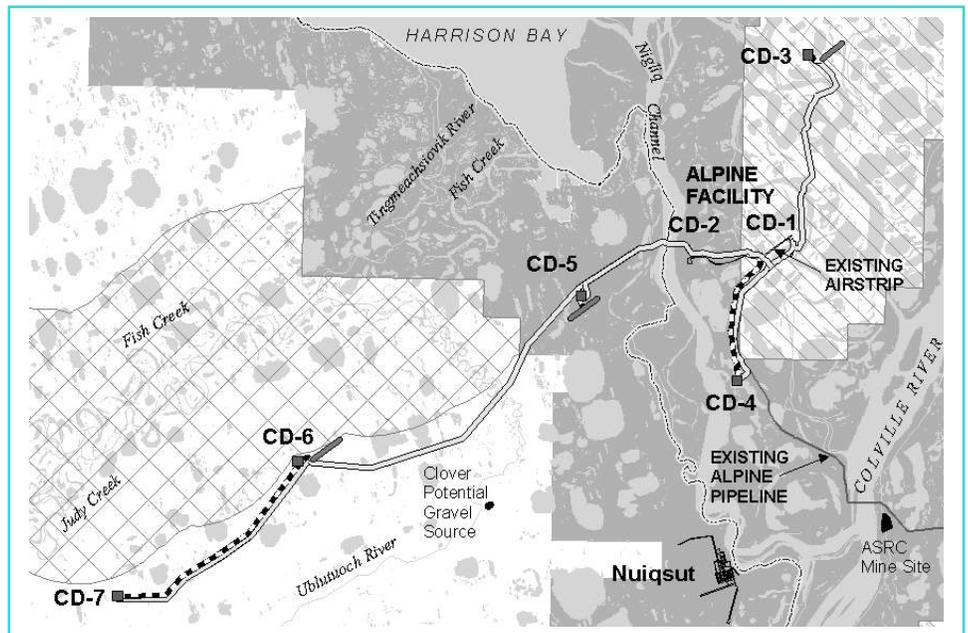
The DEIS analyzes issues identified through public scoping comments and discussions with tribes (the Native Village of Nuiqsut, the Native Village of Barrow, and the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope), the North Slope Borough, the local government of Nuiqsut, and other agencies. Among the many questions addressed in the DEIS are:

- How will the air, water, and soils be impacted by oil development? What protective measures can be adopted to protect these resources?
- What will be the impact on caribou, birds, fish, and other animal

ASDP EIS Alternatives



Alternative A—Applicant's Proposed Action

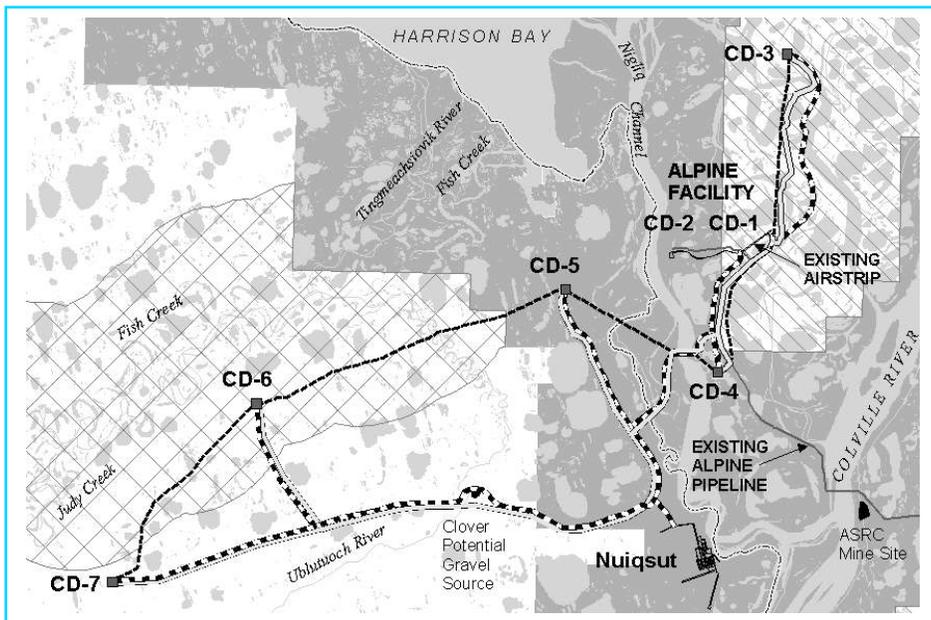


Alternative B—Conforms strictly to stipulations in BLM's 1998 plan

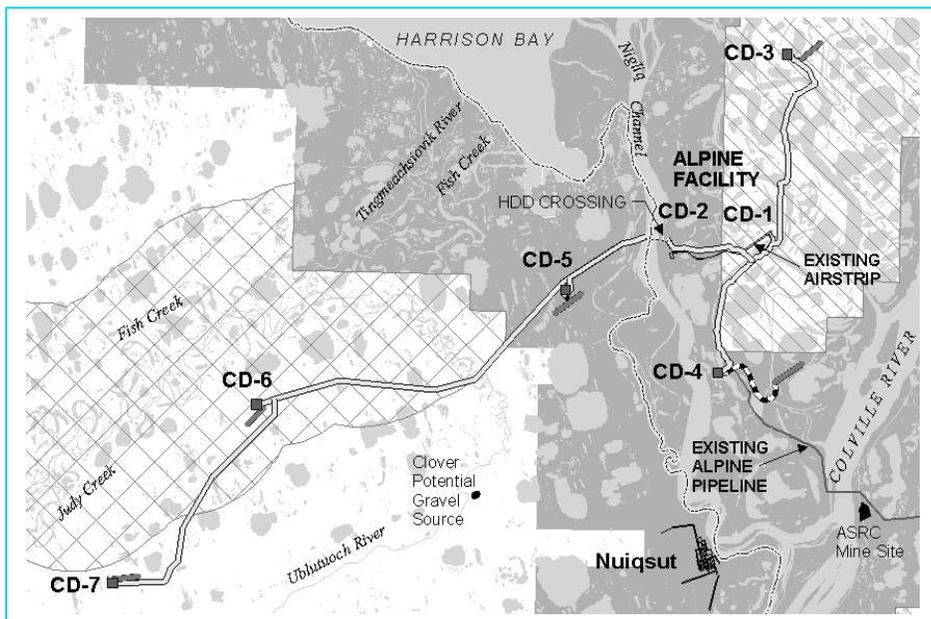
Note: For all alternatives shown, CD-1 and CD-2 are existing facilities; proposed facilities include CD-3 through CD-7.

Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Proposed Access Road | Northeast NPR-A Planning Area |
| Proposed Pipeline Route | 3-Mile Fish Creek Buffer |
| Proposed Airstrip | State Land |
| Proposed Overhead Powerline | Native Land |
| Existing Infrastructure | |



Alternative C—Provides alternate access routes to the satellite drilling pads.



Alternative D—Provides for entirely roadless development.

EPA Permitting Decision

EPA potentially has a permitting decision to make on the disposal of wastewater from camps. The alternatives presented in the DEIS discuss the use of a general or an individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Questions can be directed to Cindi Godsey at (907) 271-6561 or toll free at 1 (800) 781-0983. Comments should be submitted in writing to:

Cindi Godsey
EPA, 222 West 7th Avenue, Box 19
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

populations and distributions? How will they be impacted by construction, roads and pads, pipelines, air and ground traffic, and oil spills? How can development be designed and the facilities operated to minimize impacts?

- How will development impact the human community? What will be the impacts on the important subsistence activities of local residents? What will be the economic impacts locally and for the state and nation?

The EIS provides analysis of existing conditions of the affected environment (DEIS Section 3) and the potential environmental consequences that would result from implementation of the proposed action and alternatives (DEIS Section 4). The analysis is detailed and complex. Readers are encouraged to obtain a copy of the DEIS and provide feedback.

Subsistence Impacts

Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) requires BLM to evaluate the effects of plans presented in this DEIS on subsistence activities in the area of the proposed action and alternatives and to hold public hearings if it finds that any alternative may significantly restrict subsistence activities. The analysis of environmental consequences indicates the proposed action and two alternatives may significantly restrict subsistence activities. In addition, all alternatives may significantly restrict subsistence in the cumulative case. Therefore, the BLM is holding public hearings on subsistence in the North Slope communities of Nuiqsut, Barrow, Atkasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass (see Public Meeting Schedule, page 4).



Bureau of Land Management
Division of Resources, Lands, and Planning
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

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Meetings:

Barrow--February 9, 2004
NSB Assembly Chambers
Open House 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Public Hearing 7 pm to 9 pm.

Nuiqsut—February 10, 2004
Kisik Community Center
Open House 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Public Hearing 7 pm to 9 pm.

Atqasuk—February 12, 2004
Village Community Center
Open House 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Public Hearing 7 pm to 9 pm.

Anaktuvuk Pass, February 17, 2004
Village Community Center
Open House 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Public Hearing 7 pm to 9 pm.

Fairbanks, February 18, 2004
Noel Wien Public Library
Open House 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Public Hearing 7 pm to 9 pm.

Anchorage, February 23, 2004
Wilda Marston Theater, Z.J. Loussac
Library
Open House 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Public Hearing 7 pm to 9 pm.



For More Information

The DEIS is available in either hard copy or on compact disk at the following addresses—

ENTRIX Project Office

3701 E. Tudor Road, Suite 208
Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone: 907-563-0438, **Fax:** 907-563-0439

BLM Public Room

222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

BLM Public Room

1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Draft EIS Available for review at these locations—

ARLIS/Alaska Resources Library
3150 C Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Anchorage Municipal Libraries
Z.J. Loussac Library
3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503-6093

Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
Public Information Center
550 W. 7th Avenue Suite 1260
Anchorage, AK 99501

Fairbanks North Star Borough
Public Library
1215 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4313

Trapper School Community Library
PO Box 167
Nuiqsut, AK

Tuzzy Consortium Library
5421 North Star Street
P.O. Box 749
Barrow, AK 99727

The entire document can be reviewed at the project web
site at: www.alpine-satellites-eis.com