

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Office: Alaska State Office

Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-AK-0000-2015-0002-DNA

Casefile/Project Number: AA094001

Proposed Action Title/Type: Oil and Gas Lease Sale in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A)

Location/Legal Description: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), in Alaska's North Slope

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

To implement the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan (NPR-A IAP) Record of Decision (ROD) signed February 21, 2013, and President Obama's direction in May, 2011 to conduct annual lease sales in the NPR-A, BLM proposes to hold an oil and gas lease sale on November 18, 2015 for lands in the NPR-A planning area (see Map attached at the end of this DNA). Tracts to be offered in the lease sale are all within areas available for leasing by the Secretary of the Interior in the 2013 ROD.

A total of 143 tracts or approximately 1.41 million acres will be offered in the 2015 NPR-A oil and gas lease sale, all located within the approximately 11.8 million acres made available for oil and gas leasing under the ROD. Currently there are 212 authorized oil and gas leases totaling 1,799,633 acres in the NPR-A. Approximately 11 million acres, including approximately 3.1 million acres within the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area, are not available for oil and gas leasing under the 2013 ROD; none of these lands are being offered in the lease sale.

BLM developed and adopted in the 2013 ROD several Best Management Practices (BMPs) and lease stipulations to ensure that oil and gas operations are conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the land, resources, land uses, and users. BMPs and lease stipulations (see Appendix A of the ROD) will be incorporated into lease terms associated with the proposed action. In addition, the ROD committed to studies and monitoring efforts to further protect surface resources.

The Record of Decision for the "Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Alpine Satellite Development Plan for the Proposed Greater Mooses Tooth One Development Project" (GMT1) of February, 2015 allowed for the establishment of a Regional Mitigation Strategy (RMS) to be completed by October 2016 for the Northeast NPR-A. Once completed, the RMS will be used to provide additional resource considerations that lead to selection of tracts made available for any future lease sales in the region.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name:

- National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (2012) and Record of Decision (2013)
- Colville River Special Area Management Plan and associated Environmental Assessment, and Decision Record (July 2008) and the September 17, 2013 update.

(These documents are available online at <https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=5251&dctmId=0b0003e8800fbba3>)

Date Approved:

- December 19, 2012 (NPR-A IAP) and February 21, 2013 (ROD)
- July 2008 (Colville River Special Area Management Plan); September 27, 2013 (Colville River Special Area Management Plan update)

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is provided for in the ROD. The ROD and LUPs provide the basis for current management of the NPR-A planning area.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

- NPR-A IAP/EIS (December 2012) and ROD (February 2013)
- Colville River Special Area Management Plan and associated Environmental Assessment, and Decision Record (July 2008) September 27, 2013 (Colville River Special Area Management Plan update)

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. a. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The current proposal is part of the preferred alternative previously analyzed in the NPR-A plan. The ROD authorized multiple oil and gas lease sales for the land BLM is offering in the 2015 lease sale. This proposed lease sale will be the second within NPR-A under the 2013 ROD.

1. b. Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? If there are any differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Yes. The proposed lease sale is within the same analysis area analyzed in the NPR-A IAP/EIS.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The NPR-A IAP/EIS analyzed a broad range of alternatives for the entire NPR-A planning area, including alternatives that closed various areas to leasing. Each alternative included a wide range of stipulations and BMPs to protect surface resources and address a wide variety of environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-Sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The existing analysis and conclusions are adequate as provided for within the 2012 NPR-A IAP/EIS and the 2013 ROD. There are no new information or circumstances that would substantially change the analysis for the proposed lease sale.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in existing NEPA documents?

Yes. The direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of this proposed action are similar and essentially unchanged from those identified in the multiple sale analysis in the NPR-A IAP/EIS, both from a quantitative and qualitative standpoint. BLM monitoring of activities in the NPR-A since the completion of the IAP indicate that impacts are consistent with those that were anticipated and analyzed.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. The NPR-A IAP/ involved extensive public participation and specifically addressed multiple oil and gas lease sales, including the area proposed to be made available for leasing in the 2015 lease sale. BLM has also issued two Federal Register notices pertaining to the proposed lease sale, on May 28, 2015 and a Federal Register notice announcing the 2015 sale.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

| Name | Title | Resource Represented |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wayne Svejnoha | Chief, Energy and Minerals Branch | Oil and Gas |
| Carol Taylor | Chief, Mineral Law | Oil and Gas |
| Bridget Psarianos | Planning and Environmental Specialist | Planning |

Note: Refer to the NPR-A IAP/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original planning documents.

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plans and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

/s/ Gina A. Kendall

10/8/2015

Prepared by Gina A. Kendall, Mineral Law Specialist

Date

/s/ Bud C. Cribley

10/8/2015

Approved by Bud C. Cribley, Alaska State Director

Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.

Map 1: NPR-A Proposed Sale Lease Tracts

