



Coastal_Plain_Seismic_EA, BLM_AK <blm_ak_coastal_plain_seismic_ea@blm.gov>

[EXTERNAL] Comments regarding proposed seismic exploration in Arctic Refuge

1 message

Debbie Miller <debbiesmiller@hotmail.com>

Tue, Aug 14, 2018 at 11:16 AM

To: "blm_ak_coastal_plain_seismic_ea@blm.gov" <blm_ak_coastal_plain_seismic_ea@blm.gov>

Cc: "arctic_refuge@fws.gov" <arctic_refuge@fws.gov>, "steve_berendzen@fws.gov" <steve_berendzen@fws.gov>

Dear BLM reviewers,

I understand that you are considering a 3-D seismic exploration plan that would take place, beginning in December, across the entire coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge.

I urge you to conduct a full EIS and proper analysis, along with public meetings, regarding this proposed application. If this is too costly, then I urge you to immediately deny this permit request by private companies that have other investment opportunities. Just say no, and save taxpayers some money. There is a good legal reason to do so.

While the 2017 tax bill approved oil and gas leasing on 800,000 acres of the coastal plain over several years, there is nothing in this legislation that authorizes 3-D seismic exploration, involving every square mile of the 1.5 million acre 1002 area. This industrial activity involves as many as 300 people, heavy equipment, and associated loud noise that puts denning polar bears at grave risk -- a threatened species. Every acre of the 1002 area would be impacted given the nature of 3-D seismic work, the booming noise, and the dense grid lines.

There is no specific legal authority to conduct this kind of seismic activity in the Arctic Refuge — such a proposal is not compatible with the purposes why the Arctic Refuge was established. The widespread disruption to wildlife and the likely long-term damage to the tundra should negate this proposal.

First and foremost, this is a wildlife refuge. America's greatest.

It's also important to recognize that climate change has dramatically altered the season that allows seismic crews to work on the North Slope. Given the hilly topography in the arctic foothills, wind, and warmer temperatures, it may be extremely difficult, costly, if not impossible, to conduct seismic activity safely with adequate snow cover. In recent decades, there have been dramatic swings in temperature so that even if the coastal plain is covered with six inches of snow, it might melt off within days, very suddenly in mid-winter. Ground temperatures during the winter are also rising.

Climate change must be taken into serious consideration, as well as the wildlife impacts from all the noise, disruption and pollution.

As stewards of our national public lands, the USFWS and BLM are charged with protecting the values of the Arctic Refuge. Please act accordingly and deny this 3-D seismic permit.

Sincerely,

Debbie S. Miller

www.debbiemilleralaska.com

415-373-2236