



Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
6881 Abbott Loop Road
Anchorage, AK 99507
<http://www.anchorage.ak.blm.gov>

**Categorical Exclusion
Minimum Impact Permit Weather Repeater**

Applicant:
Northern Dynasty Mines, Inc.
Case File Number: AA-87541
AK-040-07-CX-033



Location:
SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 36, T. 5 S., R., 26 N., Seward Meridian

Prepared By:
Shirley Rackley
Realty Specialist
July 2, 2007

**Case File No.: AA-87541
AK-040-07-CX-033**

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

CX No.: AK-040-07-CX-033

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-87541

Proposed Action Title/Types: Minimum Impact Permit for Weather Repeater Site

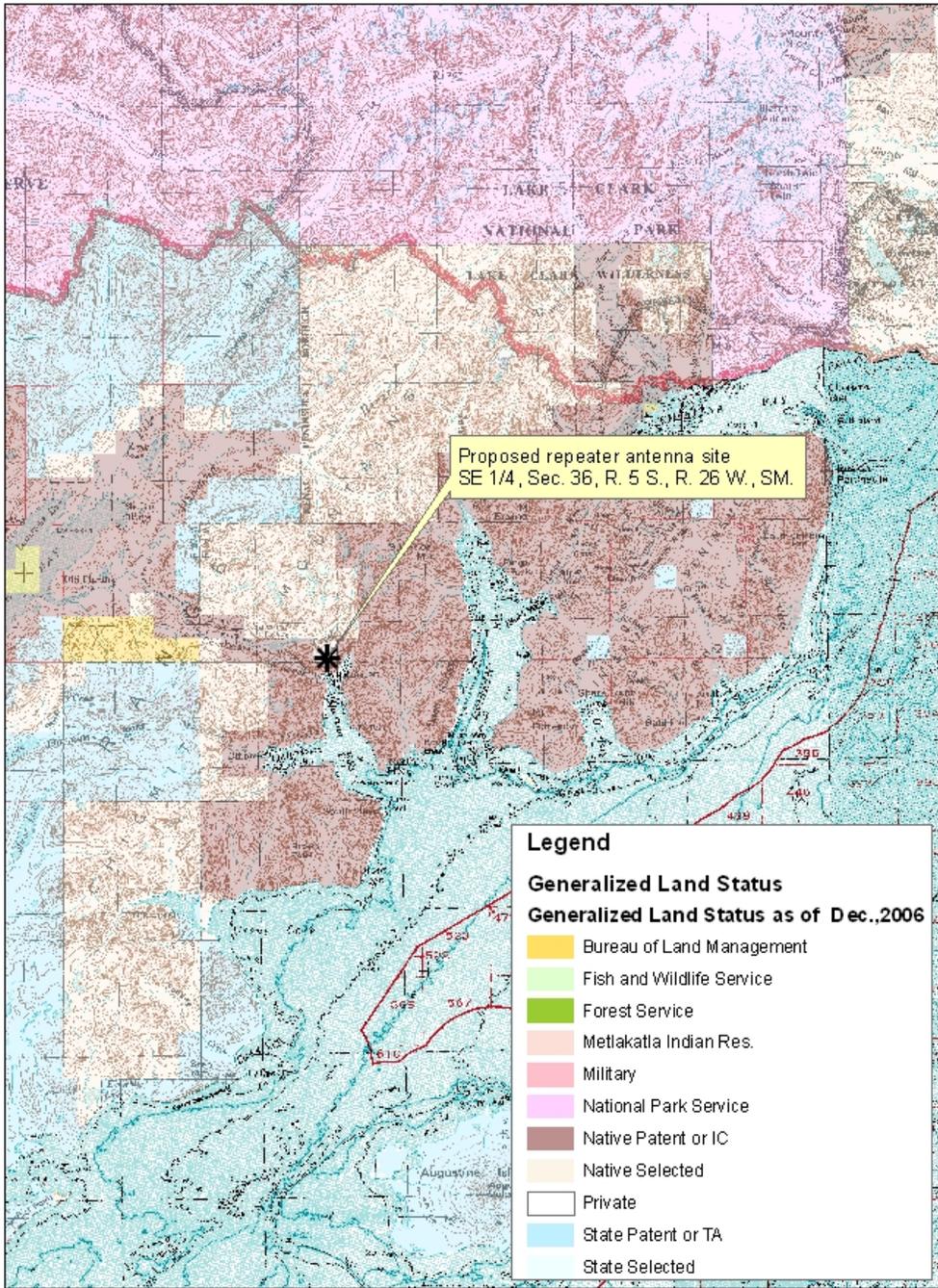
Location of Proposed Action: SE¹/₄, Sec. 36, R. 5 S., R., 26 W., Seward Meridian; the lands are Native Selected, AA-037846.

Description of Proposed Action:

Northern Dynasty Mines Inc. proposes to install a radio repeater antenna on top of a mountain in the Iliamna area for three (3) years to collect meteorological data. The repeater antenna is four (4) feet tall and will have three (3) guy-wires extending out approximately four (4) feet. The unit includes a battery box with two batteries. A hand auger will be used to dig the holes for the guy-wire anchors. Access will be by helicopter from their main base camp. No vehicles will be necessary to complete this project or to maintain it.

The antenna will be located on the top of an unnamed mountain, at the head of Iliamna Bay. There will be no removal of vegetation, the guy-wire anchor holes will be filled upon termination of permit and the land brought back to its original condition.

Applicant: Northern Dynasty Mines, Inc.
3201 C Street, Suite 604
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Management Framework Plan, South Central Planning Area

Date Plan Approved: March 1980

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

Remarks: This action meets Lands Objective number L-1 "Satisfy state and local government needs as well as public and/or private demonstrated needs for the lands as they arise."

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under:

516 DM 2, Appendix 1, ¶ 1.6:

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

or 516 DM 11.5, ¶ E(19):

Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that an environmental document MUST BE PREPARED for actions, which may:

	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	_____	<u> X </u>

	11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	_____	_____
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	_____X
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____X
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	_____X
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	_____X
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
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
9.	Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	_____	_____X
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	_____	_____X
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
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	_____	_____X

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and Executive Order 13112).

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

Remarks: None

Preparer(s): Shirley Rackley

Date: Friday, July 06, 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.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: The holes left from the guy-wire anchors will be filled in and the surface restored to original condition. The land's use shall be subject to appropriate stipulations attached to the grant.

Authorized Official: Mike Zaidlicz Date: July 12, 2007