



**Bureau of Land Management**

Anchorage Field Office  
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Anchorage, AK 99507  
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**Categorical Exclusion  
Fort Richardson Fish Hatchery Water Pipeline  
Right-of-Way Renewal**

**Applicant: State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game  
Case File Number: AA-41791  
AK-040-06-CX-007**

**Location:**

Seward Meridian  
SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 6, T 13 N., R. 2 W.  
and  
E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 1, T. 13 N., R. 3 W.

**Prepared By:**

Dorothy Bonds  
Realty Specialist  
November 3, 2005

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

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CX No.: AK-040-06-CX-007

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-41791

Proposed Action Title/Types:

Fort Richardson Fish Hatchery Water Pipeline,  
Right-of-Way Renewal

Location of Proposed Action:

SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 6, Township 13 North, Range 2 West  
and E<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 1, Township 13 North, Range 3 West  
USGS 1:63,360 Quad – Anchorage A-8

Description of Proposed Action:

The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, has applied for a renewal of their right-of-way grant for a well field located within the boundaries of Fort Richardson. The water wells supply the water to operate the fish hatchery. The well field includes: eleven buried water pipelines and wells described as:

Wells A, B and C are 8-inch diameter shallow water wells;  
Wells D, E, F, G, I and J are 10-inch diameter shallow water wells.  
ADF&G completed a slight modification of the wells to enhance their productivity and operation. Well H was replaced to include Wells K and N. The depth of these new wells remain shallow with a 10-inch diameter.

There is also one 6-inch diameter underground water pipeline approximately 4,800 feet long within a 15 foot wide right-of-way, 7½ feet on each side of the centerline, and one 18-inch diameter underground water pipeline of approximately 1,200 feet long within a 15 foot wide right-of-way, 7½ feet on each side of the centerline, which connects the manifold building and fish hatchery facilities.

BLM granted the right-of-way for 25 years on August 24, 1981, expiring on August 24, 2006. The hatchery operations at Fort Richardson are expected to continue for the next five years. However, due to increase demand for hatchery stocked sport fishing opportunities, hatchery production is expected to expand in the region. ADF&G is currently studying the best way to implement the expanded production. The increase in production will involve new hatchery construction, and this may or may not take place on the current site at Fort Richardson. Future operations may require an undertaking of new construction on the existing site, or may be moved to a new site. Until ADF&G has completed further analysis involving the operation of the hatchery this grant renewal will be for a period of 5 years to avoid unauthorized of the area after August 2006, extending the life of the grant to August 24, 2011, at which point the grant may be renewed if necessary. No additional rights would be conveyed beyond those granted by the

original authorization. However, a rehabilitation plan will be necessary if current operation at the existing site is no longer needed.

Applicant (if any): State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game

### **PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

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This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan. Date Plan Approved: March 1980

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks: In the Management Framework Plan, Objective L-1 and L-2 state that BLM will “satisfy state and local government needs...for land as they arise” and “satisfy needs for rights-of-way.” As this is a right-of-way for a state government need, this action is in conformance with the plan.

**PART II - NEPA REVIEW**

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- A. Categorical Exclusion Review.  
This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4. E.(9), Renewals and assignments of leases, permits or rights-of-ways where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.
- B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.  
The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents MUST BE PREPARED for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)
- |   | 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 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].   | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 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.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant   |     |          |

- |   | YES | NO       |
|---|-----|----------|
| impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.   | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 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).   | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 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). | ___ | <u>X</u> |

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:

Preparer(s): Dorothy Bonds Date: December 8, 2005

### **PART III – DECISION**

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I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:

Authorized Official: Gary Reimer Date: March 22, 2006  
Field Office Manager