



**Bureau of Land Management**

Anchorage Field Office

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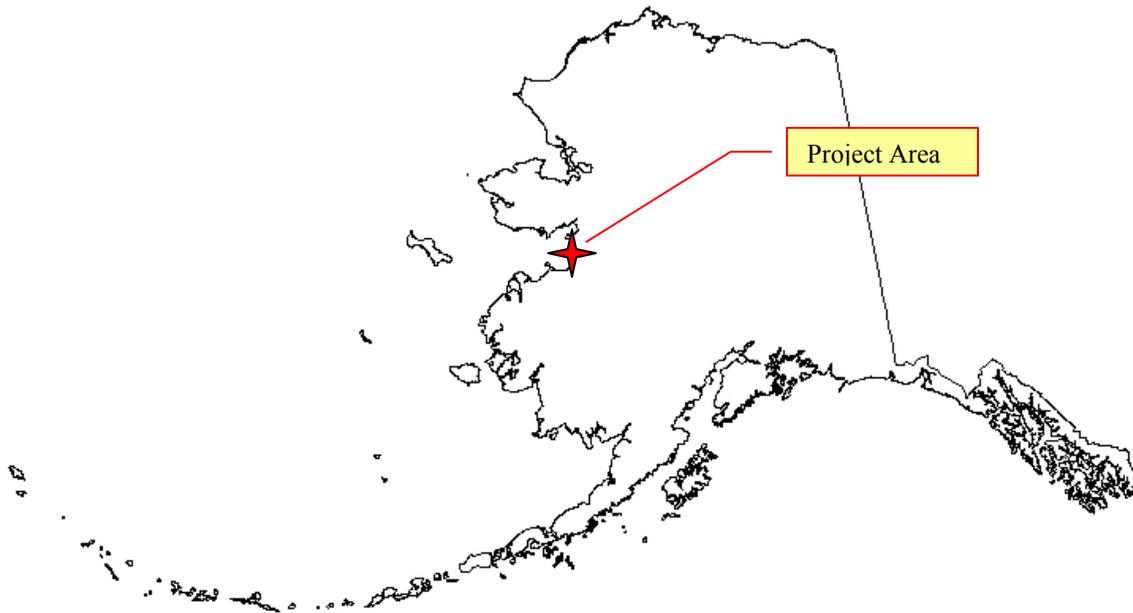
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**Categorical Exclusion  
Ungalik Airstrip Drum Spill Site  
2008 Site Characterization**

**Applicant: BLM Anchorage Field Office**

**Case File Number: FF-090986**

**AK-010-08-CX-032**



**Location:**

Section 12, Township 11 South, Range 11 West, Kateel River Meridian.

**Prepared By:**

Larry Beck

Environmental Protection Specialist

21 March, 2008

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

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CX No.: AK-010-08-CX-032

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF-090986

Proposed Action Title/Types: Ungalik Airstrip Drum Spill Site - 2008 Site Characterization

Location of Proposed Action: Sec 12, T 11 S, R 11 W, Kateel River Meridian.

Lat/Long: N64° 32' 52.0", W160° 47' 30.6 (NAD 27)

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to have a BLM hazmat contractor conduct additional investigation at the Ungalik Airstrip Drum Spill Site during summer 2008 to fully characterize the drum fuel spills there. The Site Characterization is required by Title 18 Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 75, Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Control.

The Site is an abandoned/unusable landing strip on a saddle between unnamed hilltops about 18 miles Northeast of Shaktoolik, AK. The land is a priority selection for conveyance to Alaska Native Corporations. The presence of about 150 drums at the south end of the airstrip was first reported to BLM in 1993. Drums were noted to be leaking in 1995. The drums were removed in 2003-2004. An unknown amount of diesel fuel leaked from at least five drums before they were removed. During inspection in August 2006, staining, oil odor, and dead/distressed vegetation were noted at three areas, each measuring about 20'x20', 10'x15', and 12'x12' respectively. A Site Characterization was conducted at the Site during 2007.

Characterization of the site in 2007 showed the spills are more extensive than first thought; did not fully delineate the vertical and lateral extent of the diesel fuel contamination. Potential or actual impact to groundwater was not ascertained. Based on data gathered before and during the 2007 site characterization, the plumes from up to 200 gallons of spilled diesel fuel extend to at least 6 feet below ground surface. The 2007 characterization report is available for public viewing at: [http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/hazardous\\_materials/ungalik\\_airstrip\\_drum.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/hazardous_materials/ungalik_airstrip_drum.html).

A drilling rig, such as a powered auger mounted on a crawler chassis (see photo below) will be needed to make a series of borings to delineate the actual lateral and vertical limits of the contamination from the three spill areas at the Site. The soil borings will be 4-8 inch diameter and will extend to variable depths; either to uncontaminated soil, groundwater, or refusal by bedrock or permafrost. Each boring will be backfilled with the cuttings. No water or other cutting fluids are used; there will be no surface run-off.

The BLM contractor may lodge at Unalakleet or Shaktoolik and commute daily to the Site by helicopter. The contractor may choose to set up a small camp at the Site instead of commuting to off-site lodging. The drill rig will be moved to the Site at the beginning of the field work, and from the Site at the end of the field work by helicopter sling load either from Shaktoolik (18 air miles) or a landing craft beached near the mouth of the Ungalik River (5 air miles). Traveling overland to the Site is not a viable option as the old trail across marsh/tundra is impassable. Fixed wing mob into the Site is also not an option as the airstrip is unusable. There will be four persons, including the BLM Project Inspector, at the Site for the field work. Seven days of on-site work with four Mob/Demob/Weather Delay days are estimated for this project. All solid wastes will be backhauled from the Site during demobilization.



Typical type of drill rig expected to be used for this project. The machine can be easily disassembled to major components for transport by sling load with a BA-350.

Applicant: BLM Anchorage Field Office

**PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

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This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan:

Management Framework Plan, Southwest Planning Area

Date Plan Approved: 25 November, 1981

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

**PART II - NEPA REVIEW**

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A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.5 H(3):

*Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.*

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies 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 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 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 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.

Preparer(s): Larry Beck, Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: March 21, 2008

**PART III – DECISION**

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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 contained in the hazmat response contract statement of work for the Ungalik Airstrip drum spill site characterization (see attachment A).

Authorized Official: /s/ Mike Zaidlicz Date: 6/02/2008