

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Anchorage Field Office  
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**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Groundwater Production Well  
Environmental Assessment # DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0044-EA  
Case File #'s AA-092450 and AA-092451**

**PROJECT NAME:**

Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility Groundwater Testing, Observation and Production Wells

**PROJECT PROPONENT:**

Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility

**PROJECT OVERVIEW AND ALTERNATIVES:**

The Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) is proposing to construct and operate a new high production water well that ties into the existing 42-inch water main along the east side of Elmore Road, on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Campbell Tract Facility. A key advantage to this location is the ability to tie directly into existing infrastructure at the recently completed Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) facility located in the northwest corner of Campbell Tract near the junction of Elmore Road and the Campbell Tract access road. The project is to be implemented in two distinct phases: Phase I – install one temporary test well and two observation wells; and Phase 2 – install a permanent high-capacity production well and well house facility.

Consideration was given to siting the proposed project at other locations on Campbell Tract Facility, including the Campbell Creek Science Center and at the BLM Administrative Offices. These locations were not analyzed in detail because of the increased need for infrastructure (e.g., connection to the existing water distribution system; natural gas, 3-phase power), access for operations and maintenance, and additional disturbance that would be associated with construction and operation of a facility in these locations.

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

The Proposed Action is for AWWU to construct and operate a temporary exploratory test well and two observation wells (one of which would be located on federal land) and a permanent groundwater production well and well house facility. Phase I is planned for summer/fall 2011 and Phase II is planned to begin in 2012. All activities are scheduled for completion by 2013.

**NO ACTION:**

The No Action Alternative is to not construct the wells.

**ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:**

An EA (attached) was prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and BLM requirements.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI):**

I have reviewed the EA (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0044-EA) and other relevant environmental documentation. I have determined that the Proposed Action without mitigating measures will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

**LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:**

The Proposed Action has been analyzed as required by Secretarial Order 3310. The lands involved have been found to contain no wilderness characteristics.

**RATIONALE FOR NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FINDING:**

Through the analysis conducted in the EA, no significant impacts to human health, safety, or the environment have been identified. Both beneficial and adverse impacts from implementing the proposed action have been considered. The proposed action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in Section 101 (a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Further and based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, it is my determination that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

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Matthew S. Varner  
Field Manager, Acting

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Date