

**DECISION**  
**Alaska Pipeline Company (Enstar) Pipeline Renewal**  
**Categorical Exclusion**  
**Renewal**  
**Applicant: Alaska Pipeline Company**  
**Lease/Serial/Case File Numbers: A-051647**  
**Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0009-CX**

**Decision:**

It is my decision as Manager of the Bureau of Land management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office (AFO) to accept the proposed action as stated in the categorical exclusion (CX), to authorize under Section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 185) for the renewal of an existing natural gas pipeline to Alaska Pipeline Company from Anchorage Alaska to Kenai Peninsula.

**Rationale for the Decision:**

No significant impact will occur to resources as a result of implementing the proposed action. The proposed action is not expected to be controversial, does not establish a precedent, or represent a decision in principle about future considerations, nor is it related to any other proposed actions representing cumulatively significant impacts.

The proposed action is in conformance with the approved BLM Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan (RMP), approved March 2008. The project has been considered in the context of public health and safety and consistency with regards to Federal, State, and local laws.

The approval of the proposed action will ensure that BLM is in conformance with the RMP which states at I-1, Goal 2 "Provide a balance between land use (Right-of-Way, permits, leases and sales) and resource protection which best serves the public at large."

**ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:**

The proposed action will not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution of federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence user access.

**Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:**

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

**Compliance and Monitoring Plan:**

Compliance and monitoring would be handled by the AFO Lands Branch.

**Case File No: A-051647**  
**DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0009-CX**

*/s/ Douglas Ballou, Acting*

*Feb. 13, 2012*

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James M. Fincher, Field Manager  
Anchorage Field Manager

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Date



## U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

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**Categorical Exclusion**  
**Pipeline Right-of-Way Grant Renewal**  
Alaska Pipeline Company  
A-051647  
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0009-CX



**Location:**

**Bureau of Land Management Lands:**

T. 5 N., R. 8 W., sec. 8; T. 5 N., R. 11 W., sec. 28; T. 11 N., R. 3 W., sec. 10; T. 12 N., R. 3 W., sec. 3, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

**United States Fish and Wild Life Service Lands:**

T. 5 N., R. 7 W., secs. 5 and 6; T. 6 N., R. 6 W., secs. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20; T. 6 N., R. 7 W., secs. 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34; T. 7 N., R. 5 W., secs. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, 30; T. 7 N., R. 6 W., secs. 25, 35, and 36; T. 8 N., R. 4 W., secs. 4, 5, 8, 17, 18, 19, 30; T. 8 N., R. 5 W., secs. 25, 35, and 36; T. 9 N., R. 4 W., secs. 2, 10, 11, 15, 21, 22, 28, 33; T. 10 N., R. 4 W., secs. 24, 25, 35, and 36, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

**Prepared By:**

Anchorage Field Office  
November 2011

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

### A. Background

BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office      Lease/Serial/Case File No: A-051647

Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0009-CX

Proposed Action:

To issue a gas pipeline Right-of-Way grant renewal to Alaska Pipeline Company.

Location:

Bureau of Land Management Land:

T. 5 N., R. 8 W., sec. 8; T. 5 N., R. 11 W., sec. 28; T. 11 N., R. 3 W., sec. 10; T. 12 N., R. 3 W., sec. 3, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

United States Fish and Wild Life Service Lands:

T. 5 N., R. 7 W., secs. 5 and 6; T. 6 N., R. 6 W., secs. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20; T. 6 N., R. 7 W., secs. 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34; T. 7 N., R. 5 W., secs. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, 30; T. 7 N., R. 6 W., secs. 25, 35, and 36; T. 8 N., R. 4 W., secs. 4, 5, 8, 17, 18, 19, 30; T. 8 N., R. 5 W., secs. 25, 35, and 36; T. 9 N., R. 4 W., secs. 2, 10, 11, 15, 21, 22, 28, 33; T. 10 N., R. 4 W., secs. 24, 25, 35, and 36, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

The area described contains approximately 240.66 acres.

Description:

Alaska Pipeline Company (APC) has applied for the renewal of a Right-of-Way (ROW) grant for an existing 50 foot wide pipeline ROW. The application was submitted January 11, 2011, to replace an expired ROW grant, and to ensure APC is in compliance with requirements for owning and operating a gas pipeline on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Fish and Wildlife (USF&WS) lands. This action, if approved, would reauthorize the operation, maintenance, and termination of the existing natural gas pipeline, varying between 12” and 16” in diameter.

Applicant: Alaska Pipeline Company

### B. Land Use Plan Conformance 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan because it is specifically provided for in the following planning decisions: The proposed action is supported in Section I-2n: Rights-of-Way of the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan, which states:

“The BLM may issue rights-of-way for a variety of uses including but not limited to: roads, water pipelines, electric lines and communication sites under the authority of Title V of FLPMA. Oil and Gas pipelines are issued using the Mineral Leasing Act (1920). Stipulations developed during the proposal’s evaluation will include:

- Restoration, revegetation and curtailment of erosion along the right-of-way route;
- Compliance with air and water quality standards;
- Control or prevention of damage to the environment, public and private property and hazards to public health and safety;
- Protection of subsistence resources and the user’s access to those resources.
- Protection of the natural resources associated with public lands.
- Utilization of rights-of-way in common with respect to engineering and technological compatibility will be promoted.
- Coordination with the State and Local governments, tribal entities and interested groups and individuals takes place to the fullest extent possible.”

### **C. NEPA Compliance**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR §46.210 or United States Department of Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, and the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1, Appendix 4 p. 148 which provides:

- E. Realty: 9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

### **D. Extraordinary Circumstances**

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents must be prepared for actions which may:

1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.
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.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
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.
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.
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).
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).
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or 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).

This categorical exclusion is appropriate because there are no extraordinary circumstances that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR §46.215 are pertinent.

#### **E. Signature**

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).

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations: (See Attached)

Authorized Official:

*/s/ Douglas Ballou, Acting*

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Anchorage Field Manager

*Feb. 13, 2012*

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Date