



News

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News Release No. 07-03
Date: 11/17/2006

BLM-Alaska to Develop Supplemental Plan for Northeast NPR-A

Anchorage—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced today it will develop a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to address cumulative impacts of oil and gas activities in the Northeast portion of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The official starting date will be announced soon through a Notice of Intent which will be published in the *Federal Register*.

The U.S. District court for the District of Alaska issued a decision on September 25, 2006, that the Northeast NPR-A Amended Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (AIAP/EIS) failed to adequately address cumulative impacts. This decision vacated the BLM's January 2006 Record of Decision for that AIAP/EIS, which opened lands that had been closed to oil and gas leasing or were under a No Surface Activity restriction in the 4.6 million-acre Northeast NPR-A. The plan also established performance-based stipulations and Required Operating Procedures to increase flexibility in protecting important surface resources.

“We are also pleased that the North Slope Borough has expressed an interest in participating with the BLM as a Cooperating Agency during the preparation of the supplemental plan,” said Julia Dougan, Acting State Director for BLM-Alaska.

In response to the court order, the BLM intends to develop a supplemental plan that will use previous data and study results as a knowledge base. Additional information and analysis will allow the BLM to complete a plan that provides for sound management of this portion of the NPR-A.

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