

**Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Central Yukon Field Office**

1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
(907) 474-2200

Categorical Exclusion

Campsite for Material Pit Crew in support of maintenance of Dalton Highway

Applicant: HC Contractors Case File Number: F-96441

DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0031-CX



Location:

Sec. 17, T. 31 N., R. 10 W., Fairbanks Meridian,
containing approximately 0.55 acre

Prepared By:

Central Yukon Field Office

August 2012

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. Background

The proposed campsite is located with an authorized material site F-93020 which was originally permitted on November 9, 2000 and expired on December 31, 2010. The State of Alaska submitted a renewal request which was permitted on July 15, 2011.

BLM Office: Central Yukon Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No: F-96441

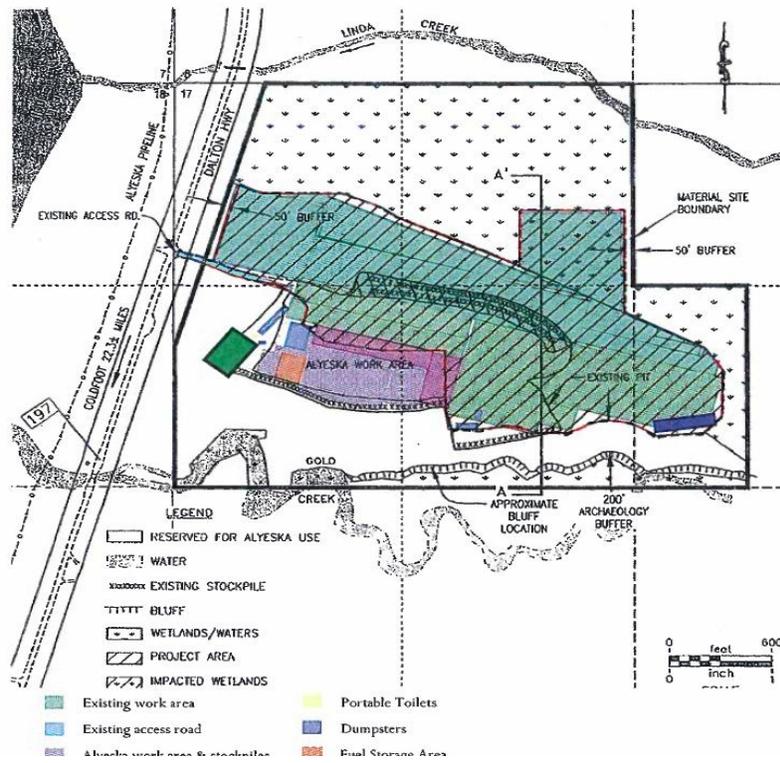
Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0031-CX

Proposed Action Title/Types: HC Contractors proposes to provide a campsite for their pit crew while working the material site in support of maintenance for the Dalton Highway from May 15, 2012 through September 30, 2014.

Location of Proposed Action: Sec. 17, T. 31 N., R. 10 W., Fairbanks Meridian, containing approximately 0.55 acre, depicted on USGS Quad Chandalar C-6.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant proposes to establish a campsite comprised of 10-15 trailers to be used as living quarters, project office and laboratory in the existing material pit at Mile Post 197 (Gold Creek Material Site). The subject area is approximately 80' x 300' in size (.55 acre) and is depicted on the map below in the lower left hand corner (small dark green square). The living quarters are for use by the pit crew workers for material site, F-93020. Only 20 campers (trailers) are allowed onsite at one time per a stipulation in the material permit. Also within the camp area are two portable toilets, an 80 KW generator to supply electricity, a 500 gallon water tank, personal vehicles, tents, and an internet dish and supporting pole. The portable toilets are pumped weekly by Horizon Services and the water is obtained from Coldfoot with 250 gallon plastic containers. They propose to occupy this camp area from May 15, 2012 through September 30, 2014. Note: this camp is already onsite and unauthorized.

Dumpsters for refuse and tanks for fuel are located off the camping area.



Applicant (if any): HC Contractors, Incorporated

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

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUPs:

Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan approved January 11, 1991.

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan because it is specifically provided for in the following planning decision (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Appendix N Lands Program Objectives (page N 7- 9)

- 7. Process applications for land use authorizations from the general public, Federal and State agencies and research organizations on a case-by-case basis.

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 which provides:

11.9 J (Other)

- (4) Use of small sites for temporary field work camps where the sites will be restored to their natural or original condition within the same season.

D. Extraordinary Circumstances

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

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	_____	_____ X
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.	_____	_____ X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	_____ X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____ X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	_____ X
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.	_____	_____ X

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 affects 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 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>

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects 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.

F. Signature

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 CFR § 1610.8(a)(3). 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 CFR §1508.4.

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

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations: (See Attached Appendices)

Authorized Official: Nichelle W. Jacobson Date: October 2, 2012
Field Manager, CYFO

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Central Yukon Field Office
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DECISION RECORD

**Mineral Exploration, Sediment Sampling, Geologic Mapping and Drilling
F-96441
DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0031-CX**

Decision:

It is my decision to authorize a short term permit, case file number F-96441 to establish a campsite for material pit crew in support of maintenance for the Dalton Highway from May 15, 2012 through September 30, 2014, to HC Contractors. Mitigation measures, stipulations and conditions are attached.

Proposed Action:

The permit will be authorized under the authority of Sec. 302 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761).

Rationale for the Decision:

1. This action is consistent with the principles of BLM and State plans for this area.
2. There are no anticipated impacts to cultural resources. See attachment.
3. The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. See attachment.
4. There are no significant risks to existing boundaries and monumentation. See attachment.
5. A wilderness characteristic determination was completed and the action will not significantly impair wilderness characteristics. See attachment.

The proposed action is in conformance with the approved Bureau of Land Management Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan approved January 1991. The project has been considered in the context of public health and safety and consistency with regards to Federal, State, and local laws.

Appeal Procedures

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be

filed in the Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision.

/s/ Nichelle W. Jacobson
Nichelle W. Jacobson
Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

October 2, 2012
Date

Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review and decision, contact Robin Walthour, Realty Specialist, Central Yukon Field Office at (907) 474-2304.