



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In reply refer to:
FF095556
2984.01 (AKF012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01000-2009-0032-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: University of Alaska-Fairbanks
Dr. Mary Beth Leigh
Institute of Arctic Biology
902 North Koyukuk Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7000

Proposed Action: Perform Summer Lake Studies at Qalluuraq Lake.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, University of Alaska-Fairbanks Dr. Mary Beth Leigh, has requested authorization to conduct summer lake studies at Qalluuraq Lake. Qalluuraq Lake is located near the village of Atqasuk in the Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The field activities proposed are:

1. Acquire Samples (~50 cc volumes) of lake mud from the lake
2. Acquire Samples of lake water (~50 cc volumes) from the lake
3. Acquire a core (~2-5/8" internal diameter) of the sediments present in the lake to determine the age of the lake.
4. Acquire samples of methane gas bubbling from the lake bottom.

Dr. Leigh currently has a permit to conduct similar studies in the winter/spring of 2009 and 2010. The spring of 2009 trip took place in May without incident. The summer work is needed to test the lake when there is open water as opposed to their winter/spring work at which time the lake is ice covered. The summer proposal would take place approximately July 7th to the 14th. The work will be conducted via All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and a slightly different route than the winter trips. The ATV will only travel on a trail used regularly by residents of Atqasuk. The applicant expects to have four ATVs on the trail each trip. There will be one trip out to the lake site and one trip back from the lake site each day. A small boat will be used at the lake to conduct studies.

There will be six UAF personal working on the project the summer project. The crew will be accompanied by Atqasuk residents to act as guides and serve as polar bear watch. The crew will be

flown commercially from Barrow to Atqasuk. Personnel will be staying at the village of Atqasuk. There will be no fuel stored on BLM lands.

Location:

Sections 2,11,12,13,14,24, Township 12 North, Range 22 West, Umiat Meridian

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated 1/22/2004. The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled "FF095556 University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Dr. Mary Beth Leigh Summer Lake Studies 2009 Stipulations".

Date July 10, 2009

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215

"Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities."

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

Date July 10, 2009

/d/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office