



Environmental Assessment
Permit Renewal Ivotuk Research Site
2010
DOI-BLM-LLAK0100-2010-0003-EA
Preparing Office: Arctic Field Office

Project Title/Type of Action: Permit Renewal Ivotuk Research Site

Case File Number: FF093850

Land Use Plans: The Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement approved 9/27/1989, Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Recommendations Final Environmental Impact Statement approved September 14, 1988

Applicant: CH2MHill Polar Services

Address: Mike McKibben
ARSLS Program Manager
CH2M HILL Polar Services
9191 S. Jamaica Street
Englewood, CO 80112

Date: May 7, 2010

Lands Involved : Sections 18 & 19, Township 11 South, Range 16 West, Umiat Meridian

GLOSSARY

ANILCA – The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act passed in 1980, modified and established designation of federal lands in Alaska for conservation and wilderness. These lands are managed by the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service.

Executive Order 11988 – Signed May 1977 was issued in order to avoid, to the extent possible, the long and short-term impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.

Executive Order 11990 – Signed May 1977 was issued for the protection of wetlands, and which directs federal agencies to “minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and enhance and preserve the natural and beneficial values of wetlands” when carrying out actions on federal lands.

FLPMA – The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 is a Public Law 94-579 passed by Congress October 21, 1976 that gave direction to the way in which the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management are managed.

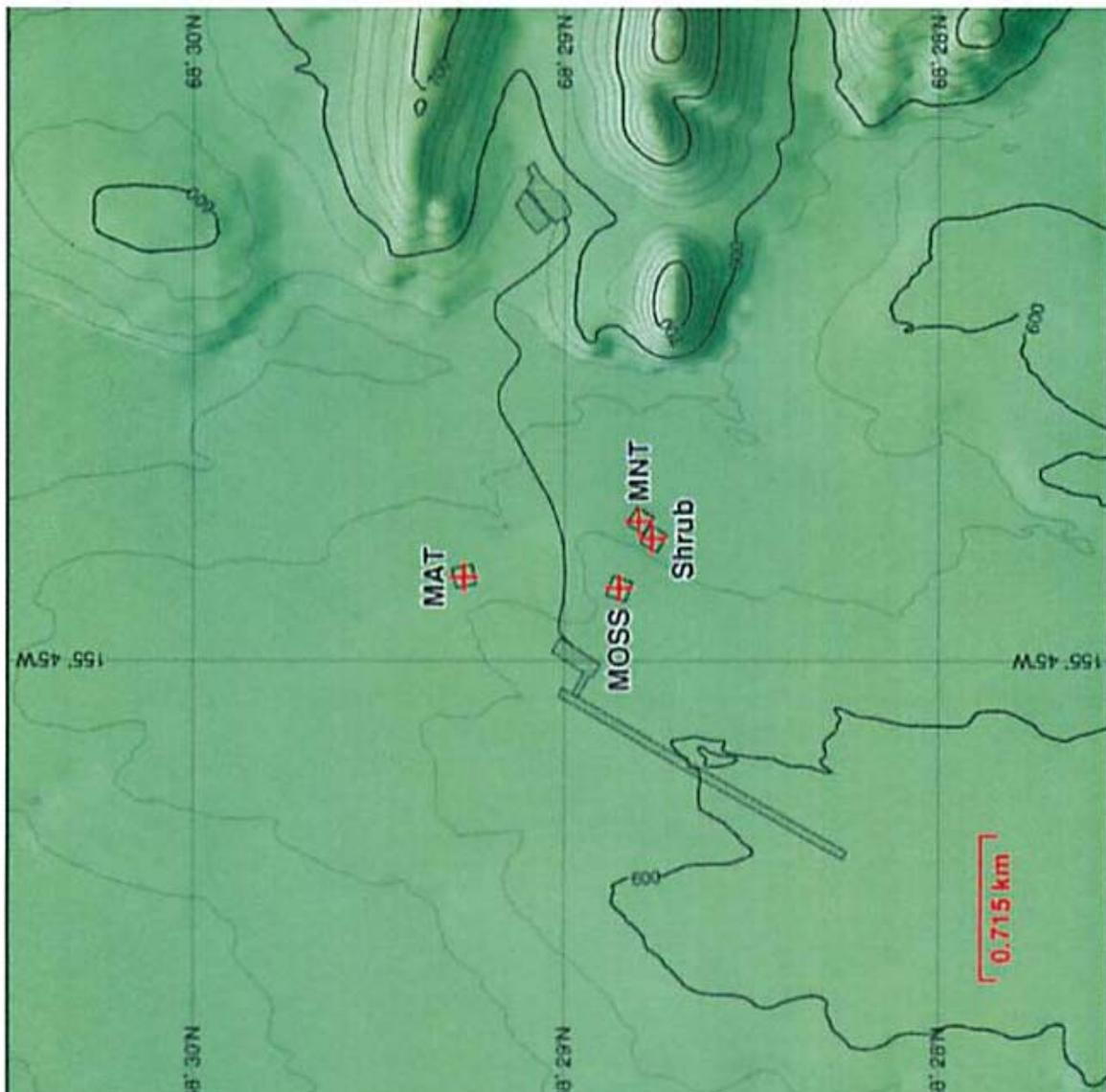
NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act. This law, passed in 1969, went into effect on January 1, 1970. It requires all Federal Agencies to disclose the environmental effects of their actions.

Permafrost – The term in geology refers to soil that is frozen. The temperature of which is at or below the freezing point of water.

**Environmental Assessment
for Permit Renewal Ivotuk Research Site
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Chapter 1 Introduction

CH2MHill Polar Services (CH2MHill) has requested a 3 three year renewal of a permit for climate monitoring activity at Ivotuk, Alaska.



1.1 Need for Action

Changes in the Arctic climate can result in the potential thawing of the permafrost and a subsequent loss of the stored carbon to the atmosphere. The need for this project is to allow the applicant to continue their climate related studies. If this action is not undertaken, the applicant would be forced to collect weather data at another location, and years of long term data collection at the Ivotuk site would no longer be relevant to these studies.

1.2 Purpose of Action

The objective of the project is to collect current meteorological data and regularly updated camera images online which would be advantageous for North Slope aviation. Carbon flux cycling, gas exchange, and meteorological data would be collected, archived, and relayed to researcher's home institutions.

1.3 Laws, regulations, other NEPA documentation that influence this EA.

This EA will be based on the findings, management controls, and protective measures of the original Environmental Assessment written for the project (EA AK-023-2003-024), The Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement (UCFEIS) approved 9/27/1989, The Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Recommendations Final Environmental Impact Statement (CAMAWRFEIS), as well as other laws and regulations. The action, as proposed, is consistent with the objectives outlined in these documents and not in conflict with other resources in the area. The proposed use is in conformance with current policy of the Arctic Field Office, BLM.

The proposed action is in conformance with Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Endangered Species Act, Executive Order (EO) 11988, and EO 11990.

1.4 Decision to be made

The BLM must conduct a project-specific NEPA analysis and determine whether the proposed project should be approved, rejected, or approved with modifications, and if additional mitigation is needed. The scope of this EA includes analysis that enables the BLM to select among alternatives that meet the purpose and need, and are within the BLM's jurisdiction (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1506.1(a) (2)).

This EA has been prepared to meet requirements of NEPA, and to support U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision-making on permits required to construct and implement the proposed project. The scope of this EA includes

analysis of the effects of the proposed activity and alternatives.

Impacts of this type of activity have been evaluated in the referenced planning documents.

1.5 Scoping and Issues

Public notification of the Environmental analysis was announced in the NEPA register on file at the Arctic Field Office Environmental Assessment web site beginning **12 February 2010**. No public comments or inquiries were received through May 5, 2010.

BLM guidelines include a list of issues that are addressed, where applicable, in NEPA documents (BLM, 2004, Appendix 1). Some elements are not present in the project area and are, therefore, not discussed further. A summary listing of related issues considered by AFO Field Staff is provided in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Issues Considered in Evaluating Impacts

Resources/Environmental Considerations for Issues and Analysis	Determination	Basis of Determination (See Note)
Air Quality	No Impact	Protection provided by: State of Alaska Air Non-Point and Mobile Program and regulations (18 AAC 50)
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	No Impact	Protection provided by: Stipulations V. A and B
Subsistence	No Impact	Protection provided by: Stipulations VII.A, B, and C; and IX.A
Environmental Justice	No Impact	Protection provided by: EO 12898
Waste (Hazardous/Solid)	No Impact	Protections provided by: Protections provided by State of Alaska 18 AAC 30, 60, 62, 63, 72, and 75;
Water Resources	No Impact	Protections provided by: Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulation II.
Threatened & Endangered Species: Spectacled and Steller's eiders	Not Present	Protection provided by: Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, ROP A-4, A-5, E-9
Threatened & Endangered Species: Polar Bear	Not Present	Protection provided by: Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, ROP A-4, A-5, A-8, C-1
Fish	No Impact	Protection provided by: Stipulations II A and B; VIII A.; and XI B. EFH finding <i>no effect</i> .
non-T&E birds	No Impact	Protection provided by: Stipulations III.A and B, XI.A, and XII.A, B and C.
non-T&E mammals	No Impact	Protection provided by: Stipulations III.A and C, VII.D, and XII.A, B and E.
Recreation	No Impact	Protection provided by: IV, VIIA, VIII.A, XIA,B

Visual Resource Management	No Impact	Protection provided by: IV, VIIA, VIII.A, XIA,B
Wild & Scenic Rivers	Not Present	
Wilderness	Potentially Affected	Protection provided by: Permit Specific Stipulation #1, IV, VIIA, VIII.A, XIA,B
Notes:		
1. Determination tiered from: USDOI BLM Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan); The Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Recommendations Final Environmental Impact Statement and laws and regulations as noted.		
Key to Table 1.1:		
EFH – Essential Fish Habitat		
Potentially Affected: The proposed action or alternative could result in potential impacts to resource or issues to the level that additional mitigation may be required, or there is a need to evaluate potentially significant issues.		
Minimally Impacted: Resources or issues would not be affected to a degree requiring further analysis because either the expected impacts from the proposed action and alternative would be minimal, or standard protections (e.g., ROPs and Stipulations from overriding BLM plans or other legal protections) would reduce impacts. Minimally impacted resources or issues will not be analyzed further in this EA.		
Not Present: Resources or issues are not expected to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives because activities would occur at a different time or place. Resource or issues not present will not be analyzed further in the EA.		

In summary, BLM resource specialists have identified the following issues for further evaluation in this EA: 1) Wilderness Values

Chapter 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the alternatives (proposed action and no action) and compares the alternatives in terms of their environmental impacts (from Section 1.6) and their achievement of objectives (from Section 1.3).

2.2 Description of Alternatives

2.2.1 Alternative A: No Action

Under No Action, the Bureau of Land Management would not renew CH2MHill's permit at Ivotuk. The current situation as described below would continue.

See Chapter III (Affected Environment) UCFEIS and CAMAWRFEIS for a more detailed profile of the current environmental situation.

Currently, CH2MHill has equipment at the site to include: a 4 meter meteorological weather station/tower with an associated tripod of 1.5 meters off the northeast end of the airstrip; an 8 ft wide × 18 ft long × 8 ft tall panelized building that houses a generator, battery bank,

system controllers, fuel tanks and fuel containment.

Also on site is a hybrid power system. The station is capable of providing a year-round power and broadband communications hub for an autonomous instrument platform located at the Ivotuk field research site on Alaska's north slope (68.5N 155.75W). When operating, carbon flux cycling, gas exchange, and meteorological data are collected, archived, and relayed to researchers' home institutions. The StarBand satellite system serves as a gateway to the Internet with a capacity to handle 50 MB of data uplink per day. An 802.11g wireless local area network extends this Internet access to research towers and camps in the local area of the power shelter. A free Freewave radio link serves as a long range data channel to one tower. It previously connected other researcher's instrument towers to the satellite communications hub further expanding the utility and economic viability of the site. When operating a Webcamis capable of providing images useful in assessing visibility and cloud height. Despite its remote location, Ivotuk's airstrip keeps it logistically accessible.

The no action alternative would prevent the applicants from providing this service. The site and equipment would not be used for weather monitoring, and the equipment would degrade over time. The No Action Alternative is inconsistent with the existing management policy of the Fairbanks District Office, but its analysis is required by NEPA

2.2.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action

The proposed action as submitted by the applicant is to renew the permit to the site and to resume conducting research. The availability of current meteorological data and regularly updated camera images online is highly advantageous for North Slope aviation. Due to lack of funding the site was serviced and closed in 2008. CH2MHill proposes to reactivate the station in 2010 and seek out clients interested in the data that they are able to collect. If funded, they propose to investigate the site in April 2010 with a June 2010 remedial site visit. This would allow them to prepare the system in advance of the research team's arrival. In August or September 2010 the proponent proposes to refuel the generator tanks for a year of unattended operation. Re-activation of the system in 2010 would allow for continued environmental monitoring of one of the most comprehensive data sets available on Alaskan tundra environment. In addition to fulfilling the immediate requirements of the science project, it also would serve as a testing and development platform for technology necessary for the support of arctic research.

Once reactivated, the platform would require monitoring and troubleshooting. The majority of which would be done remotely. Mechanical failures would necessitate an on-site visit for repairs. CH2MHill would send an expert out annually to run extensive tests on all the systems, maintain the equipment, and refuel the tanks for the diesel generators. This is typically done in August.

Access to the site would be by aircraft and no vehicles associated with the project would be allowed on any tundra surface. The permit would be valid for three years.

Chapter 3 Affected Environment

The affected environment for the area of the Proposed Action is discussed in the following documents: (1) The Western Arctic Resource Management Plan Management Situation Analysis Chapter 3, evaluated 1/19/1990, (2) The Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved 1/11/1991, (3) The Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement approved 9/27/1989. The proposed site at Ivotuk is currently used by the BLM, researchers, and hunters and for subsistence use. There is an airstrip on site. Surrounding lands have been tentatively approved for transfer to the State of Alaska or have been selected by the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation.

The airstrip at Ivotuk was constructed starting the winter of 1978 in support of the drilling by Husky Oil NPR Operations Inc. of the Lisburne Test Well No.1. An apron/storage area, 300 feet wide and 600 feet long was connected to the all-season airstrip by a 400 foot long 100 foot wide taxiway near the northeastern end of the airstrip. An all-season access road, 1.7 miles long was constructed to connect the airstrip apron and the drilling pad for the Lisburne Test Well No. 1.

The BLM has been using the Ivotuk site since 1982 as a field camp to conduct field work and education activities in the area. BLM has constructed a cabin within a fenced in area and two outhouses at the site. CH2MHill (formerly known as VECO) established the weather station in 2003.

The chapter follows the issues brought forth in Chapter 1.

3.1 Wilderness Values

The wilderness values are described in The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Section 1001 Report, Finding and Recommendations, December 1988. The Central Arctic Management Area (CAMA) Wilderness Recommendations Final Environmental Impact Statement describes lands that were recommended to Congress as having Wilderness potential. To date Congress has not acted on the recommendation and the BLM manages the lands as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Ivotuk falls within the WSA. The proposed action is allowable as “Monitoring Devices” (H-8550-1 Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review, p. 39 item 3) as long as activity is undertaken in minimal approach and the equipment is “substantially unnoticeable.” The proposed action meets this

requirement if it remains in the current location. It should be noted that the lands associated with the proposed action are scheduled to be conveyed during summer 2010.

Chapter 4 Environmental Consequences

This section provides the evaluation of direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed action and no action alternatives.

4.1 Direct and Indirect Effects

The analyses in this EA are based on experience, observations, and studies from decades of similar operations on the North Slope. This EA is tiered from the 2004 NW IAP/EIS and its ROD. Related discussions of impacts are found in: 2004 NW NPR-A IAP/EIS, Vol. 2, Chapter 4.6 (Environmental Consequences of Alternative D, the preferred alternative).

Issues specifically identified in Section 1.5 for further analysis in this EA are discussed below. The affects of the proposed action would be short term and localized.

4.1.1 Wilderness Values

4.1.1.1 No Action Alternative

The potential for impact to wilderness values would be minimal under the no action alternative, because there would be no change from the current management situation. The existing climate measurement structures would remain at the Ivotuk airstrip, but they would be unused. If the infrastructure was not used, the structures could degrade and result in a negative impact.

4.1.1.2 Proposed Action

The proposed action would not result in any impacts to wilderness values. The existing climate measurement structures would remain at the Ivotuk airstrip, and they would be used for climate data gather under renewal the existing permit. There would be no additional impacts from construction or overland moves. Equipment and infrastructure would be maintained.

4.2 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental addition of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. Each action may be individually minor by itself, but when added to others could become significant over a period of time.

The time frame for the proposed action for the project area is 1977 (designation of NPR-A) to 10 years into the future, assuming that the relatively low level of activity and management would remain at about the same level as present. Due to the limited scope and intensity of the proposed action the geographic area would be limited within 1 mile of the proposed use area. Additional past, present, and future activities in the area include recreation, subsistence, and research and monitoring. While the level of such activities may increase slightly within the next 10 years, there are no development proposals that would substantially add to the current levels. The incremental addition of the proposed action would be short-term and highly localized and would not add to increased cumulative effects.

The proposed action is not anticipated to result in cumulative impacts due to the remoteness of the portion of the area where the activity would occur, the low impact levels associated with the activity.

4.2.1 Wilderness Values

The proposed action would not increase activity at the site from what has occurred since the permit was originally issued in 2004.

4.3 Mitigation and Monitoring

The stipulations (Appendix A) for the proposed action are a subset of the Arctic Field Office Non Oil & Gas Permit Stipulations along with project specific stipulations related to issues presented.

4.4 Summary of Environmental Consequences

The potential issues that were identified in the evaluation of the proposed action for this EA were wilderness values. The analysis found that impacts would be short term and localized and that mitigation measures in Appendix A would adequately reduce any adverse effects to wilderness values in the area. Likewise, the analysis also found that mitigation measures would adequately reduce any adverse effects to wilderness values, which would also be short term and localized. The proposed action would not contribute to significant cumulative effects to wilderness values in the proposed project areas.

Chapter 5 Consultation and Coordination

5.1 Agencies, Organization, Persons Consulted

Public notification of the Environmental analysis will be on file at the Arctic Field Office and available on the Arctic Field Office Environmental Assessment web site.

5.2 List of Preparers

Dave Yokel, Wildlife Biologist
Michael Kunz, Archaeologist
Susan Flora, Environmental Scientist
Mike Worley, Realty Specialist
Richard Kemnitz, Hydrologist
Donna Wixon, Natural Resource Specialist
Debbie Nigro, Wildlife Biologist
Matthew Whitman, Fisheries Biologist
Stacie McIntosh, Anthropologist/Subsistence Specialist
Roger Sayre, NEPA Specialist

ANILCA Requirements

Section 810 Subsistence Evaluation: FINDING: This proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable and significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources or in the distribution of harvestable resources, and no reasonably foreseeable limitations on harvester access will result from the proposed action.

Appendix A

CH2MHill FF093850 Permit Specific Stipulations

1. All structures will be painted so as to blend into the natural environment. All colors are to be pre-approved by the Authorized Officer.
2. Precise geographic positions of all research sites associated with this authorization shall be submitted to the Authorized Officer. These locations can be noted by Latitude and Longitude or Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates.
3. A summary of the previous field season's activities shall be submitted to the Authorized Officer by December 31st of each year during the authorized period. The summary shall include the approximate number of times each site was visited, by how many people, and at what time period. This summary shall also include any changes to the type of collection taking place and any proposed site additions.
4. A copy of published results from the data acquired will be submitted to the Authorized Officer upon Permit expiration or renewal.
5. If the operator deems that chemicals should be placed into use, he must first notify the Authorized Officer as to the quantities, uses, storage, transport, and disposal of all identified hazardous materials. Estimated quantities of chemicals should be provided; sources of the estimate must be included. Include in the descriptions a summary and the location of each plan required by State or Federal authorities to reduce wastes, to prevent releases of hazardous materials to the environment, to notify employees and the public of risks, to control unanticipated releases, and to remove or manage residual hazardous materials after the termination of the authorization, so they present no significant risk to human health or the environment and no significant liability to the Federal taxpayer.

ARCTIC FIELD OFFICE NON OIL AND GAS PERMIT STIPULATIONS

[This is a subset of the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision Required Operating Procedures, the Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision Required Operating Procedures, Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, The Colville River Special Area Management Plan, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and Record of Decision approved 5/1983.

I. AUTHORIZED OFFICER

The Authorized Officer (AO) is the Manager, Arctic Field Office.

II. AIR & WATER

- A. All operations shall comply with applicable Air and Water Quality Standards of the State of Alaska.
- B. Grey wash water and kitchen waste water may be filtered to remove the solids and the liquid discharged to the land surface, provided the disposal area is a minimum of 100 feet from any water body or stream.

WINTER ONLY:

- C. Water withdrawal from rivers and streams during winter is prohibited.
- D. Compaction of snow cover or snow removal from fish-bearing water bodies shall be prohibited except at approved ice road crossings, water pumping stations on lakes or areas of grounded ice.

III. AIRCRAFT

- A. Hazing of wildlife by aircraft is prohibited. Pursuit of running wildlife is hazing. If wildlife begin to run as an aircraft approaches, the aircraft is too close and must break away.
- B. Aircraft shall maintain an altitude of at least 1,500 above ground level (AGL) when within ½ mile of cliffs identified as raptor nesting sites from April 15 through August 15 and within ½ mile of known gyrfalcon nest sites from March 15 to August 15, unless doing so would

endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. Permittees shall obtain information from BLM necessary to plan flight routes when routes may go near falcon nests.

- C. Aircraft shall maintain an altitude of at least 1,000 ft AGL (except for takeoffs and landings) over caribou winter ranges from December 1 through May 1, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. Caribou wintering areas will be defined annually by the AO.
- D. Use of aircraft, especially rotary wing aircraft, near known subsistence camps and cabins or during sensitive subsistence hunting periods (spring goose hunting and fall caribou and moose hunting) should be kept to a minimum.

IV. CAMPS

- 1. The Permittee accepts responsibility for their campsite conditions and will be liable for identified rehabilitation activities.

V. CULTURAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- A. In accordance with the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa), the removal or disturbance of archeological or historic artifacts is prohibited. The excavation, disturbance, collection, or purchase of historical, recent, ethnological, or archaeological specimens or artifacts is prohibited. Such items include both prehistoric stone tools and sites, as well as historic log cabins, remnants of such structures, refuse dumps, and other such features. The disturbance, excavation and collection of vertebrate paleontological (fossil) remains is also prohibited.
- B. Any cultural or Paleontological resource discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, situated on lands owned or controlled by the United States shall be promptly reported to the AO. Discoveries must be left in place allowing an examination by BLM cultural or paleontological specialists.

VI. FIRE

- A. The BLM, through the AO, reserves the right to impose closure of any area to operators in periods when fire danger or other dangers to natural resources are severe.
- B. The authorized user shall be financially responsible for any damage done by a wildfire caused by its operations. Costs associated with wildfires include but are not limited to; Damage to natural resources and costs associated with any suppression action taken on the fire.

VII. OPERATIONS

- A. It is the responsibility of the authorized user to ensure that all individuals brought to the project area under its auspices adhere to these stipulations. Authorized users of the planning area shall provide all employees, contractors, subcontractors, and clients with a briefing regarding stipulations applicable to the lease and/or permit.
- B. A copy of applicable stipulations will be posted in a conspicuous place in each work site and campsite.
- C. The provisions of this permit do not relieve the Permittee of any responsibilities or obligations required by the State of Alaska Game and Fish laws or regulations, or other applicable regulations related to this permit.
- D. Report to BLM the taking of bears or other wildlife in defense of life or property.
- E. The authorized user shall protect all survey monuments and be responsible for survey costs if remonumentation is required as a result of the user's actions.
- F. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coast and Geodetic benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments.
- G. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of any of the above, the Permittee shall promptly report the incident, in writing, to the Authorized Officer and the respective installing agency, if known. Where General Land Office or Bureau of Land Management right-of-way monuments or references are obliterated during operations, the Permittee shall secure the services of a registered land surveyor or a Bureau Cadastral surveyor to restore the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of Public Lands of the United States, latest edition. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monuments, the Permittee shall be responsible for survey costs.

VIII. STREAMS

- A. All operations shall be conducted with due regard for good resource management and in such a manner as not to block any stream, or drainage system, or change the character or course of a stream, or cause the pollution or siltation of any stream or lake.

Winter Only

- B. Travel up and down streambeds in winter is prohibited unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no additional impacts from such travel to over-wintering fish or the invertebrates they

rely on. Rivers and streams shall be crossed at shallow riffles from point bar to point bar whenever possible.

IX. SUBSISTENCE

- A. The permittee will take no action that interferes with subsistence activities of rural users or restricts the reasonable access of subsistence users to refuge lands. This may include but is not limited to disturbance of wildlife and their movements near subsistence hunters, and damage to cabins, trails, traditional campsites or caches used by subsistence users.

X. VEGETATION

- A. All activities shall be conducted to avoid or minimize disturbance to vegetation. The clearing of vegetation for camps or aircraft landing areas is prohibited.

XI. WASTE

A. GARBAGE

1. Attracting wildlife to food and garbage is prohibited.
2. Burial of garbage is prohibited. Burial of human waste is prohibited except as authorized by the AO. [*Special Recreation Permit holders meet all requirements by following the guidelines in Leave No Trace, Alaska Tundra.*]
3. Areas of operation shall be left clean of all debris.

B. FUEL

1. Notice of any spill shall be given to the AO as soon as possible or to the BLM Arctic Field Office Hazmat Coordinator, Susan Flora (work/message 907-474-2303). Other Federal, State, and NSB entities shall be notified as required by law.
2. All spills shall be cleaned up immediately and to the satisfaction of the AO and all agencies with regulatory authority over spills, including the Alaska Department of Environmental Concerns (ADEC),(1800-478-9300) (Alaska Statute Title 18, Chapter 75, Article 2).
3. State and Federal safety standards for fuel handling will be followed.
4. All fuel containers, including barrels and propane tanks, shall be marked with Permittee's name, product type, and year filled or purchased (e.g. company Name, Fuel Type, 1993).
5. Sorbant pads will be stored and used at all fueling points and maintenance areas. Drip basins and/or sorbent pads will be placed under all non dry-disconnect-type fuel line couplings and valves.

6. Fuels shall not be stored on the active floodplain of any waterbody. Although fuels may be off-loaded from aircraft on ice, fuels shall not be stored on lake or river ice.
7. Refueling of equipment within 500 feet of the highest high water mark of any waterbody is prohibited with the exception of refueling motor boats, float planes, and ski planes. Small caches (up to 210 gallons) for motorboats float planes, ski planes, and small equipment, e.g. portable generators and water pumps, will be permitted.
8. Fuel, other petroleum products, and other liquid chemicals designated by the AO in **excess of 1,320 gallons** in storage capacity, shall be stored within an impermeable lined and diked area or within approved alternate storage containers such as overpacks, capable of containing 110 percent of the stored volume. The liner material shall be compatible with the stored product and capable of remaining impermeable during typical weather extremes expected throughout the storage period.

C. PESTICIDES

Use of pesticides without the specific authority of the AO is prohibited.

XII. WILDLIFE

- A. Chasing wildlife with ground vehicles is prohibited. Particular attention will be given to avoid disturbing caribou.
- B. The feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- C. Camp sites shall be located at least 500 meters from any known arctic peregrine falcon nest site.
- D. The cumulative number of authorized visits (defined as each day in which work is done within 500 meters of a nest site) to any cliff per nesting season (April 15 through August 15) by all authorized users shall be limited to three.
- E. Hunting and trapping by permittees is prohibited.

FF093850
2984.01

Finding of No Significant Impact

Type of Action: Permit Renewal Ivotuk Research Site

Serial Number: FF093850

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Applicant: CH2MHill Polar Services
Mike McKibben, ARSLS Program Manager

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Englewood, CO 80112

District: Arctic Field Office

Planning Unit: The Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement approved
9/27/1989, Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Recommendations
Final Environmental Impact Statement approved September 14, 1988

Lands Involved: Sections 18 & 19, Township 11 South, Range 16 West, Umiat Meridian

Context and Intensity of Environmental Impacts

Based upon a review of the EA prepared by the Arctic Field Office and the supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance as defined at 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. We reviewed the context of the proposed action and found that it would not result in any significant effects

to resources and values. The mitigation measures and environmental protections would ensure that the Proposed Action would not add significantly to incremental impacts.

The need for this project is to allow CH2MHill to continue their climate related studies. If this action is not undertaken, the applicant would be forced to collect weather data at another location, and years of long term data collection at the Iivotuk site would be no longer be relevant to these studies.

The following factors were considered in the EA to evaluate the significance of this proposal (40 CFR 1508.27): Beneficial and adverse impacts; effects on public health and safety; unique cultural or ecological areas within or near the project area: potentially controversial or uncertain effects; whether the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effect; cumulative effects; adverse impacts to important scientific, cultural or historical resources; effects to endangered or threatened species or habitat; or whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, local or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements:

Monitoring and Mitigation

BLM will monitor on the ground activities periodically. Mitigation measures will be implemented as described in the attached authorization stipulations.

APPROVED:

/s/Lon Kelly
Arctic Field Office Manager

5/7/2010

Date