AA081832 et al
3160.00

Finding of No Significant Impact

Type of Action: Application for Permit to Drill, 3160-3
Right-of-way, 2884.01
Sundry Notice – Plug and Abandonment 3160-5

Serial Number: **AA081832, AA081833, AA091675 and FF096502**

Applicant: ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
P.O. Box 100360
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0360

District: Arctic Field Office

Planning Unit: National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A), Northeast Planning Area, Greater Moose's Tooth (GMT) Unit & Bear Tooth Unit (BTU)

Lands Involved: The lands are described as proposed drilling locations within lease tracts with associated access routes. The legal descriptions can be found in the referenced case files. The drill sites and plug and abandonment (P&A) sites are in the following locations:

Drill Sites (Umiat Meridian)

Well Name	Township	Range	Section
Cassin #1	12 North	1 West	28
Cassin #6	12 North	1 West	27

P&A Sites (Umiat Meridian)

Well Name	Township	Range	Section
Carbon 1	10 North	1 East	4
Moose's Tooth C	10 North	1 East	3
Scout 1	11 North	1 East	20

Environmental Assessment Summary:

The applicant, ConocoPhillips Alaska Incorporated (CPAI) proposes to conduct winter season oil and gas exploration drilling and plug and abandonment activities. The proposed action consists of drilling on up to two locations and plugging up to three wells on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The proposed action includes a combination of access methods (snow trails and ice roads) with all stationary work occurring on temporary ice pads. The proposal follows the drilling exploration design reviewed in the NPR-A Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (SIAP / EIS). The proposal was also prepared to be consistent with the stipulations and required operating procedures (ROPs) presented in the SIAP/EIS Record of Decision (ROD), signed July 16, 2008. The stipulations and ROPs in turn were prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to fulfill the decisions of the SIAP/EIS.

The EA evaluates the proposed action and incorporates, by reference, previous relevant studies and findings on exploration in the Northeast NPR-A, and the North Slope in general. On-the-ground inspections and discussions were jointly held with the applicant and BLM staff members who contributed to the EA. The applicant discussed its project proposal with local residents in local village meetings over the last year as noted in the EA (Table 1.4). The applicant has presented and discussed this project with the Subsistence Advisory Panel (SAP) as required by the ROD.

In addition to consideration of the direct and cumulative impacts of the proposed action and the mitigation measures from the ROD, the BLM also considered site-specific mitigation measures incorporated in other agency permits. Stipulations and restrictions developed by the various agency review processes and this EA include: the protection of polar bears and their habitat, analyzing water requirements from lakes in the region and restricting water removal from certain lakes, and the protection of fish habitat and water resources.

There are no ACECs or WSRS within the project area. Minimal impacts are expected to all other issues considered in the EA with the exception of Fish and Subsistence. These may be potentially affected. The potential impacts will be mitigated effectively by requirements of the NE NPR-A ROD and additional permit stipulations determined in Section 4.5 of the EA

The applicant has established a communication process with local, state, and federal governmental entities, local non-government groups, and local residents. The proposed action incorporates the recommendations of these groups to ensure that the program is technically feasible and environmentally sound. It is concluded that the stipulations and ROPs included by the Secretary of the Interior in the ROD for the Final SIAP/EIS for the Northeast NPR-A (2008), other agency permit requirements, North Slope techniques and procedures used by the applicant, and mitigation and monitoring measures incorporated into the applicant's exploration plan are adequate to assure protection of the environment, of subsistence resources, and access thereto.

As a result, no significant impacts are expected from this proposed action. Cumulative impacts have been described in this EA and it has been determined that no significant

cumulative effects will result from this action combined with the reasonable foreseeable effects of other past, present, and future oil and gas activities in the area.

Public Access to the Process

Notices of Staking were posted as required by Onshore Order No. 1 on July 17, 2012 in the Anchorage and Northern Field Offices of BLM. The project proposal was made available and EA development began in October 2012. An EA Index number was obtained from the Arctic Field Office EA logbook in late October. The EA was completed in December 2012. Information about the EA is available for review on the BLM website, https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do.

810 Compliance

The site-specific evaluation and finding completed to comply with Section 810 of ANILCA found no significant restrictions to subsistence use from this exploration plan beyond what has already been evaluated in the SIAP/EIS. The Subsistence Monitoring Plan is intended to resolve subsistence concerns at a very early stage, thereby reducing or eliminating subsistence conflicts. The Subsistence Advisory Panel has reviewed this program in detail and added no additional requirements.

Context and Intensity of Environmental Impacts

Based upon a review of the EA 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 in NPR-A and surrounding lands. The Proposed action would provide new benefits through economic development to the area and potentially energy resources for the Alaska and the Nation. Meanwhile, the mitigation measures and environmental protections would ensure that the Proposed Action would not add significantly to incremental impacts to NPR-A and surrounding lands.

Monitoring and Mitigation

BLM will monitor on the ground activities throughout the winter season. This will be accomplished through periodic on-site compliance inspections of all project components including drilling, camp construction, ice roads, snow trails, pads, and other facilities. If any instances of non-compliance are observed BLM will work with CPAI to remedy the problem. When winter activity ceases, BLM will continue to monitor the project area through periodic on-site inspections to ensure that all standards have been met and that the areas of operations are clean and free of debris.

Mitigation measures will be implemented as described in Section 4.4 and 4.5 of the EA.

Conclusion

The proposed action, as submitted by the applicant and mitigating measures reviewed in the environmental assessment (DOI-BLM-LLAK01000-2013-0001-EA), is found to have no significant impacts on the environment and will cause no undue or unnecessary degradation to the public lands. The action takes place in the winter season utilizing temporary structures of snow or ice. No permanent structures or facilities will result from the proposal. The impacts from the proposed action are short term and minimal. The action is found to be in conformance with existing land use plans for the area.
Cumulative impacts are evaluated in the EA and the effects of all other reasonably foreseeable past present and future activities in the area, combined with this project are not cumulatively significant.

The evaluation and finding done to comply with Section 810 of ANILCA found no significant restrictions to subsistence uses or resources.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Application for Permit to Drill (APD) and associated permits and right of way be approved as described in the applicant's Plan of Operations.
The preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not recommended.

Applications for Permits to Drill will be approved under the authority of 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 3160 (43 CFR 3160). The applicant shall be subject to applicable stipulations and ROPs from the SIAP/EIS ROD; lease stipulations, Project Specific requirements determined in the EA and the mitigating measures incorporated into the applicant's Plan of Operations, as well as regulations contained in 43 CFR 3160 through 3163, On Shore Orders, and Notices to Lessees.
Associated rights of way will we be approved under the authority of 43 CFR 2361.2.
The action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (NPRPA, P.L. 94-258).

APPROVED:

Lon Kelly 12/10/12

Lon Kelly — Date
Arctic Field Office Manager