



**Environmental Assessment**  
**for Renaissance Umiat, LLC.**  
**EA# DOI-BLM-LLAK010-2012-0007-EA**

**Preparing Office: Arctic Field Office**

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Project Title/Type of Action: **Sundry Notice (3160-5)**

Serial/Lease/Case File Number: **Serial #AA081726**

Land Use Plans/Acts:

**Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated 2008**

Applicant: **Renaissance Umiat, LLC.**

Address: **3000 C Street, Suite 103  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503**

Date: **March 23, 2012**

Land Description:

**69° 22' 47.5"N 152° 10' 42.0"W NAD 83 Sec 5, T1S, R1W, Umiat Meridian**

**Glossary/Acronyms**

AAC.....Alaska Administrative Code  
ACEC.....Area of Critical Environmental Concern  
ADFG/ADF&G .....Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
AFO.....Arctic Field Office  
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.  
BLM.....Bureau of Land Management  
EA.....Environmental Assessment  
EFH.....Essential Fish Habitat  
EIS.....Environmental Impact Statement  
EO.....Executive Order  
ESA.....Endangered Species Act  
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.  
IAP.....Integrated Activity Plan  
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.  
NPRA- National Petroleum Reserve Alaska, formally named The Naval Petroleum Reserve #4(NPR-4) is an area of more than 23 million acres in the northernmost part of Alaska, and was established by executive order on February 27, 1923.  
NPRPA- The Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (PL 94-258), dated April 5, 1976, transferred jurisdiction of NPR-4 to the Secretary of the Interior and renamed it the NPR-A. This act authorized the Secretary to begin further petroleum exploration and closed the NPR-A to all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including mining and mineral leasing laws.  
NPR-4- The Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 was established by Executive Order 3797, dated February 27, 1923.  
USFWS (FWS) .....United States Fish & Wildlife Service

**Environmental Assessment  
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EA# DOI-BLM-LLAK010-2012-0007-EA**

**Chapter 1 Introduction**

Renaissance Umiat, LLC. has submitted a Sundry Notices and Reports on Wells to the Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of installing a temporary Met Station on the Seabee Pad at Umiat, Alaska for collecting meteorological information for a 1 year period. The timeframe for the requested use is March 26, 2012 through the life of the project at the current requested site, expected to be one year.

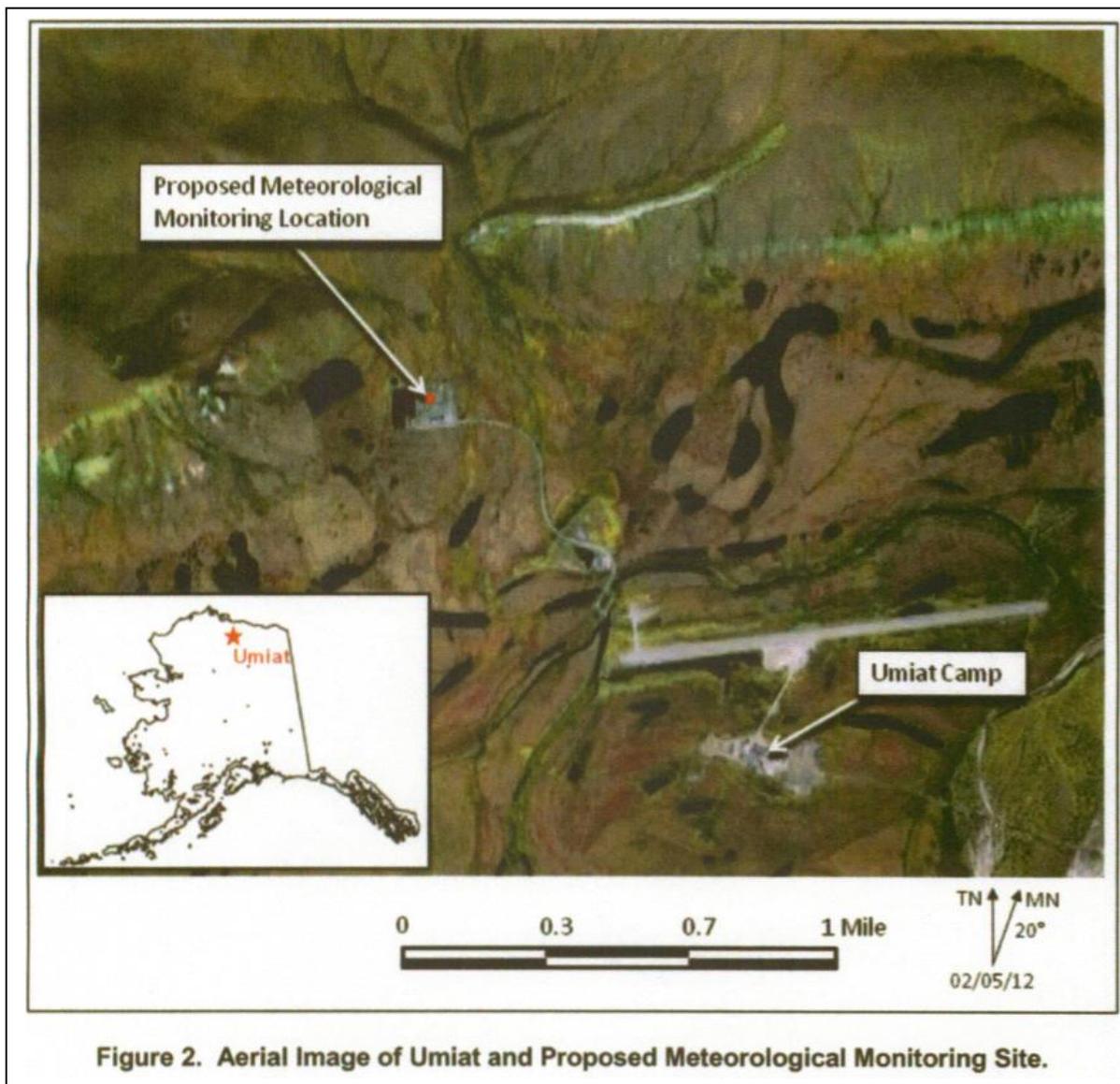


Figure 1: Applicant Map

## **1.1 Need for Action**

The need for action is established by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of FLPMA of 1976 (FLPMA) direction to respond to requests for authorizations and to grant authorizations to qualified individuals or agencies.

## **1.2 Purpose of Action**

The purpose for action is to provide access and use of public lands within the NPR-A in a manner that protects the natural resources of public lands and prevents unnecessary or undue degradation. The objective of the proposed action is to allow the applicant to collect meteorological data for future use relative to oil and gas development.

## **1.3 Laws, regulations, other EAs that influence this EA**

This EA will be based on the findings, management controls, and protective measures of the NE NPR-A Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (SIAP/EIS) and the 2008 NE NPR-A SIAP/EIS ROD, 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 the NE SIAP/EIS, associated RODs, National Petroleum Reserve Production Act (NPRPA), Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Endangered Species Act, Sustainable Fisheries Act, Executive Order (EO) 11988, EO 11990, and terms of the federal leases.

## **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. This EA will be based on the findings, management controls, and protective measures of the 2008 NE SIAP/EIS ROD, as well as other laws and regulations. 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)).

## **1.5 Scoping and Issues**

Public notification of the Environmental analysis was announced on February 29, 2012 in the NEPA Register on file at the Arctic Field Office Environmental Assessment web site. No public comments have been received through March 23, 2012. Development of the 2008 NE SIAP/EIS involved extensive input from other Federal agencies, the State, the NSB, thousands of individuals, and many institutions.

BLM guidelines include a list of issues that are addressed, where applicable, in NEPA assessments, (BLM 2008). 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**

<b>Resources/Environmental Considerations for Issues and Analysis</b>	<b>Determination</b>	<b>Basis of Determination (See Note )</b>
ACEC's	Not Present	
Air Quality	Minimally Impacted	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: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and BMP E-13
Environmental Justice	No Impact	Protection provided by: EO 12898
Fish	No impact	Protection provided by NE ROD ROPs A-4, A-5, B-1, B-2, C-3, C-4; ADF&G Fish Habitat Permits. Essential Fish Habitat finding: "Not likely to adversely affect".
Flood Plains/Wetlands and Riparian Zones	Minimal Impact	Protection provided by EO11988 and EO 11990 and by ROPS A-3-7, and C2,
Invasive, Non-native species	No Impact	.
Recreation	Minimal Impact	Protection provided by NE ROD ROPs A-1, A-5, C-3, C-4, F-1,I-1,
Socialcultural Systems	No Impact	
Subsistence	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by: ANILCA; ROP H-1
Threatened & Endangered Species Spectacled and Steller's eider	No Impact	Protection provided by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (J), Permit Stipulations A-1, A-2, A-4 – A-7, B-2, and L-1
Threatened & Endangered Species Polar Bear	No Impact	Protection provided by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (J), and Permit Stipulations A-1, A-2, A-4 – A-8, and L-1
Non threatened and endangered birds	Minimally impacted	Protection provided by Permit Stipulations A-1, A-2, A-4 – A-7, B-2, and L-1. Also project specific stipulation regarding installation of bird flight diverters.
Non threatened and endangered mammals	No Impact	.
Vegetation	No Impact	
Visual Resource Management	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by NE ROD ROPs A-1, A-3,A-4, A-5, A-6, C-2, C-3, C-4, F-1, I-1
Water Resources	Minimally impacted	Protection provided by ROPs A 3-5
Waste (Hazardous/Solid)	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by: SPCC Plan and NPDES permits; State of Alaska regulations 18 AAC 30, 60, 62, 63, 72, and 75; and by permit Stips
Wild & Scenic Rivers	Not Present	

**Table 1.1 Issues Considered in Evaluating Impacts**

<b>Resources/Environmental Considerations for Issues and Analysis</b>	<b>Determination</b>	<b>Basis of Determination (See Note )</b>												
Wilderness Characteristics and Wild Lands	Not Impacted													
<p><b>Key to Table 1.1:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>AAC- Alaska Administrative Code</td> <td>EO- Executive Order</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACEC- Area of Critical Environmental Concern</td> <td>EPA- Environmental Protection Agency</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADFG- Alaska Department of Fish and Game</td> <td>ESA- Endangered Species Act</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ANILCA- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act</td> <td>NPDES- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BLM – Bureau of Land Management</td> <td>ROP- Required Operating Procedure</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EFH – Essential Fish Habitat</td> <td>SPCC- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Potentially Affected:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Minimally Impacted:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Not Present:</b> 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.</p>			AAC- Alaska Administrative Code	EO- Executive Order	ACEC- Area of Critical Environmental Concern	EPA- Environmental Protection Agency	ADFG- Alaska Department of Fish and Game	ESA- Endangered Species Act	ANILCA- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act	NPDES- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	BLM – Bureau of Land Management	ROP- Required Operating Procedure	EFH – Essential Fish Habitat	SPCC- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures
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**Note:** Determination tiered from: 2008 NE IAP/EIS; and 2008 NE ROD, and laws and regulations as noted.

In summary, BLM resource specialists have identified the following issue for further evaluation in this EA: Non Threatened and Endangered Birds. While the impact is expected to be minimal, there is a need for protective measures as stated in section 3.1.

**1.6 Public Involvement**

Public notification of the Environmental analysis was announced on February 29, 2012 in the NEPA register on file at the Arctic Field Office Environmental Assessment web site

**Chapter 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action**

**2.1 Introduction**

This chapter both describes the alternatives (potential actions) and compares the alternatives in terms of their environmental impacts (from Section 1.5) and their achievement of objectives (from Section 1.2).

**2.2 Description of Alternatives**

**2.2.1 Alternative A: No Action**

Under No Action, the BLM would not issue an authorization to Renaissance Umiat, LLC.

Current land management situation and activities would continue but access and activities related to those requested by the proponent would not occur.

See Chapter III (Affected Environment) of the NE SIAP/EIS for a more detailed profile of the current environmental situation at the sites.

**2.2.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action**

The proposed action as submitted by the applicant is that of temporary placement of a Met Station on the Seabee pad at Umiat, Alaska for collecting meteorological information for a 1 year period. On site there would be an approximately 43’ tower with a 2.5’ by 2.5’ concrete tower base and a 6’ by 8’ shelter for the weather station.

Equipment Detail	Dimensions (L x W x H)	Weight (lbs)
(2) 10' tower sections	1.0' x 1.0' x 9.75'	80
9' top section	1.0' x 1.0' x 9.75'	30
tower base	1' x 1' x 0.5'	20
guy wire bracket	1' x 1' x 0.5'	15
work platform	1.0' x 1.0' x 2.0'	20
Tower safety wire kit	NA	20
1/4" Guy Wire	NA	20
(3) Large Tumbuckles	NA	20
1/4" Ferrules	NA	10
1/4" cable clamps	NA	10
Liquidtite conduit	2' x 2' x 2'	20
(5) V-Blocks	2' x 3' x 2'	9,000
(1) Tower Concrete Base	2.5' x 0.5' x 1'	375
015ARM Pyranometer mount arm	3' x 0.5' x 0.5'	10
Aspirator 100325 w/o RH	3' x 1' x 0.5'	30
Aspirator 100325 w/ RH	3' x 1' x 0.5'	30
Aspirator Fans 100173-G2	2' x 1' x 0.5'	20
RMYoung 05305	2' x 0.5' x 1.5'	5
RMYoung mounting arm	4' x 1' x 0.5'	5
SAF5350-A Mast Mount Antenna	2' x 0.5' x 0.5'	20
Enviro Building	6' x 8' x 8'	1,500
Global TE 54W TEG, shipping	4' x 3' x 3'	30
175W Solar Panels	5' x 4' x 1.5'	50
Batteries- Full River 12V 250Ah sealed gel cell	1' x 1' x 2'	320
(14) Propane Tank (Reconditioned 100lb, filled)	3.75' x 1.5' x 1.5'	2,520
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14,180</b>

**Figure 6. Inventory List for Meteorological Monitoring Station**

Figure 2 from Application

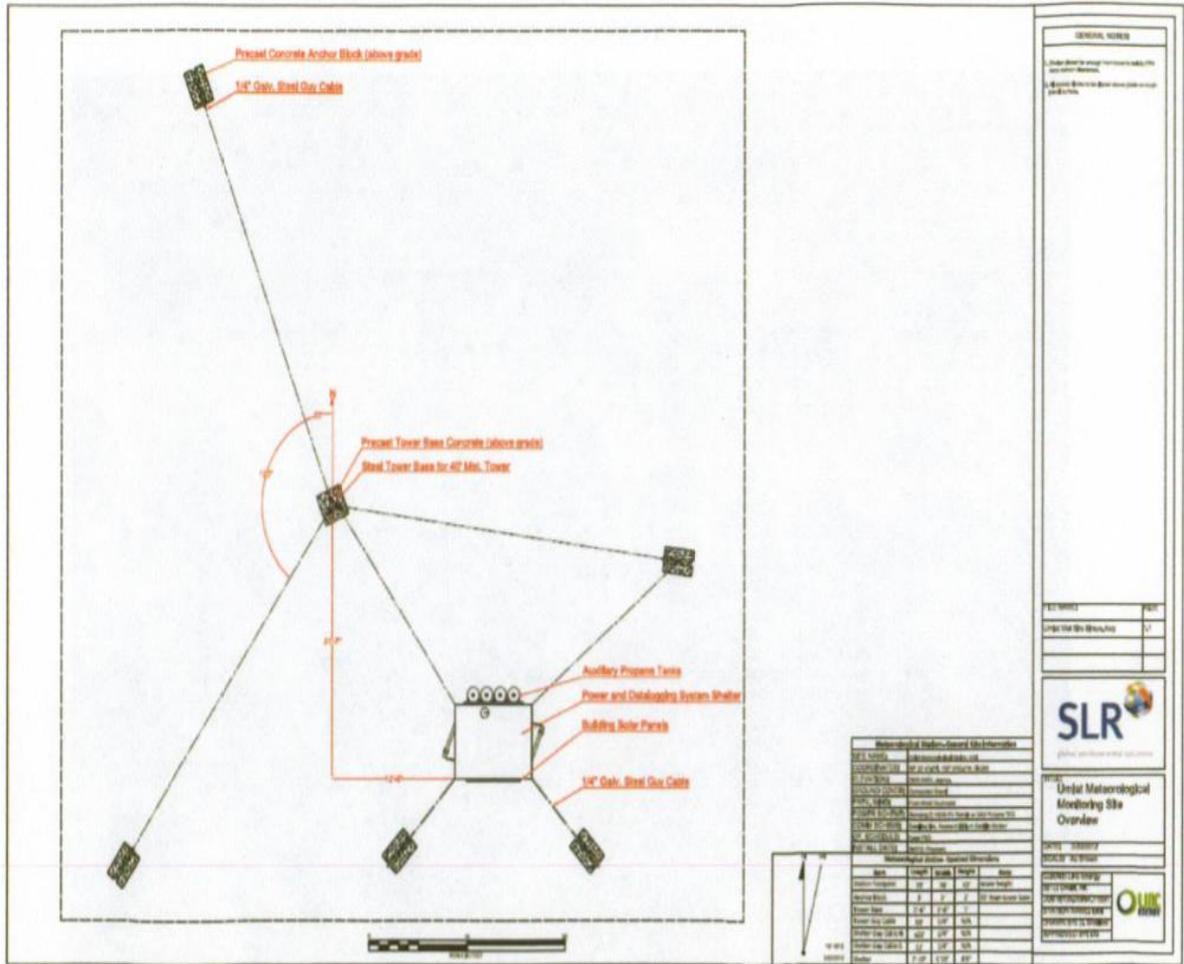


Figure 4. Layout of Meteorological Monitoring Station

Figure 3 From Application

The meteorological monitoring station would collect the following parameters in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency and Alaska Department of Environmental Compliance PSD requirements and guidance:

- Wind Speed (m/s, at 10-meters)
- Wind Direction (degrees, at 10-meters)
- Wind Direction Standard Deviation, Sigma Theta (degrees)
- Air Temperature (degree C, at 2 meters and 10 meters above ground level)
- Vertical Temperature Difference, (degree C)
- Incoming Solar Radiation ( $W/m^2$ )
- Relative humidity (%)
- Barometric pressure (millibars)

The disassembled meteorological monitoring station would be flown to Umiat via a DC-6 aircraft and offloaded using a front-end loader or forklift. The components would be hauled

to the Seabee gravel pad using the existing road from the Umiat runway to the Seabee Pad. The 70' by 70' footprint would have the snow removed using a front-end loader with a bucket leaving 6 to 12 inches of snow. The snow would be removed down to the gravel by hand to clear for the structure.

The installation of the meteorological monitoring station would be done by a crew of 2 to 4 people working for 5 to 7 days. Crews would stay either at the Marsh Creek Camp or at the UIC camp at Umiat. Transportation in and out of Umiat would be via fixed-wing aircraft. Installation crews would return 2-4 weeks after initial installation to perform diagnostic checks of the meteorological monitoring station to insure it is working properly. A follow up visit would take place about 6 months from the initial installation for additional diagnostic checks.

After collecting data for a year, the weather station would be moved to a new location in the Umiat area or removed from Umiat completely via a DC-6 aircraft.

### **2.3 Conformance**

The proposed action is in conformance with the: NE IAP/EISs and associated RODs, Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Endangered Species Act, Executive Order (EO) 11988, EO 11990, and terms of the federal leases.

In the IAP/EIS, the BLM evaluated the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of winter exploration in the NPR-A. These analyses concluded that the stipulations and ROPs provided adequate protection for surface resources and subsistence activities in both planning areas. In each of the associated RODs, several changes were made to those protective measures to address new data, new regulations, and new public concerns.

## **Chapter 3 Affected Environment**

Environmental characteristics of the general project area have been extensively described in the 2008 NE NPR-A IAP/EIS (Vol. 1, Chapter 3), to which this analysis is tiered, with some site-specific features described below.

### **3.1 Issue Non Threatened and Endangered Birds**

Previous studies have determined that there are many nesting passerine and shorebird species in the vicinity of the proposed project area. It is well known that many bird species are killed or injured by collisions with support wires and towers (see <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/currentbirdissues/hazards/towers/tower.html> for a detailed listing of publications) thus protective measures are needed for the duration of the time that the project employs wires to support the meteorological station.

## **Chapter 4 Environmental Impacts**

Because the proposed activities are not substantially different from those previously evaluated, and because no significant new scientific information or analyses have been developed since the most recent related evaluation (2008 NE SIAP/EIS), this NEPA analysis will focus on impacts due to the project-specific/site-specific differences of the proposed action.

### **4.1 Direct and Indirect Effects**

The proposed action is built on experience gained from decades of similar operations on the North Slope. This EA is tiered from the 2008 NE IAP/EIS and its ROD. Related discussion of impacts is found in: 2008 NE 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.

#### **Issue Non Threatened and Endangered Birds**

In order to adequately protect birds using the project area BLM requires that Renaissance Umiat, LLC. will submit a plan for attaching bird diverters to the support wires of the Met Station for BLM's approval and then attach the approved types of diverters in the manner approved by BLM. The diverters will be in place by May 1, 2012 and will remain in place for the duration of the time that the Met Station is in place.

##### **4.1.1.No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative the ROW for the installation of a temporary Met Station on the Seabee Pad at Umiat would not be granted. As this proposal is for work needed for future production activity, this would be detrimental to possible production activities.

### **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 10 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.

Work Camp facilities associated with the Umiat legacy well response work are occupying a portion of the SeaBee pad in March and April, 2012; and possibly again February through April 2013. 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.

### **4.3 Mitigation and Monitoring**

The stipulations (Appendix A) for the proposed action are a subset of the 2008 NE NPR-A SIAP/EIS ROD, and project specific stipulations developed in the NEPA process.

#### **Project Specific Mitigation**

Renaissance Umiat, LLC. must submit a plan for attaching bird diverters to the support wires of the Met Station for BLMs approval and then attach the approved types of diverters in the manner approved by BLM. The diverters will be in place by May 1, 2012 and will remain in place for the duration of the time that the Met Station is in place.

### **4.4 Summary of Environmental Consequences**

The potential issue identified in the evaluation of the proposed action for this EA was Non Threatened and Endangered Birds. 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 Non Threatened and Endangered Birds. Likewise, the analysis also found that mitigation measures would adequately reduce any adverse effects to Non Threatened and Endangered Birds which would also be short term and localized. The proposed action would not contribute to significant cumulative effects to Non Threatened and Endangered Birds 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.

FAA

### **5.2 List of Preparers**

Dave Yokel, Wildlife Biologist

Michael Kunz, Archaeologist

Susan Flora, Environmental Scientist

Richard Kemnitz, Hydrologist

Donna Wixon, Natural Resource Specialist

Debbie Nigro, Wildlife Biologist

Matthew Whitman, Fish Biologist

Stacey Fritz, Anthropologist/Subsistence Specialist

Roger Sayre, NEPA Specialist

### **ANILCA Requirements**

#### **Section 810 Subsistence Evaluation**

This action is not likely to cause any significant restriction to the subsistence resources of the area.

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## APPENDIX A: BLM Arctic Field Office Stipulations/Required Operating Procedures

### Stipulations and Required Operating Procedures

#### Waste Prevention, Handling, Disposal, Spills, Air Quality, and Public Health and Safety:

##### *A-1 Required Operating Procedure*

Objective: Protect the health and safety of oil field workers and the general public by disposing of solid waste and garbage in accordance with applicable Federal, state, and local law and regulations.

Requirement/Standard: Areas of operation shall be left clean of all debris.

##### *A-2 Required Operating Procedure*

Objective: Minimize impacts on the environment from non-hazardous and hazardous waste generation. Encourage continuous environmental improvement. Protect the health and safety of oil field workers and the general public. Avoid human-caused changes in predator populations.

Requirement/Standard: Lessees/permittees shall prepare and implement a comprehensive waste management plan for all phases of exploration and development, including seismic activities. The plan shall be submitted to the AO for approval, in consultation with Federal, state, and NSB regulatory and resource agencies, as appropriate (based on agency legal authority and jurisdictional responsibility), as part of a plan of operations or other similar permit application. Management decisions affecting waste generation shall be addressed in the following order of priority: 1) Prevention and reduction, 2) recycling, 3) treatment, and 4) disposal. The plan shall consider and take into account the following requirements:

a. Methods to avoid attracting wildlife to food and garbage. All feasible precautions shall be taken to avoid attracting wildlife to food and garbage. (A list of approved precautions, specific to the type of permitted use, can be obtained from the AO.)

b. Disposal of putrescible waste. Requirements prohibit the burial of garbage. Lessees and permitted users shall have a written procedure to ensure that the handling and disposal of putrescible waste will be accomplished in a manner that prevents the attraction of wildlife. All putrescible waste shall be incinerated, backhauled, or composted in a manner approved by the AO. All solid waste, including incinerator ash, shall be disposed of in an approved waste-disposal facility in accordance with USEPA and ADEC regulations and procedures. The burial of human waste is prohibited except as authorized by the AO.

c. Disposal of pumpable waste products. Except as specifically provided, the BLM requires that all pumpable solid, liquid, and sludge waste be disposed of by injection in accordance with USEPA, ADEC, and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission regulations and procedures. On-pad temporary muds and cuttings storage, as approved by ADEC, will be allowed as necessary to facilitate annular injection and/or backhaul operations.

d. Disposal of wastewater and domestic wastewater. The BLM prohibits wastewater

discharges or disposal of domestic wastewater into bodies of fresh, estuarine, and marine water, including wetlands, unless authorized by a NPDES or state permit.

### ***A-3 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Minimize pollution through effective hazardous-materials contingency planning.

Requirement/Standard: For oil- and gas-related activities, a Hazardous Materials Emergency Contingency Plan shall be prepared and implemented before transportation, storage, or use of fuel or hazardous substances. The plan shall include a set of procedures to ensure prompt response, notification, and cleanup in the event of a hazardous substance spill or threat of a release. Procedures applicable to fuel and hazardous substances handling (associated with transportation vehicles) shall consist of Best Management Practices (BMPs) if approved by the AO. The plan shall include a list of resources available for response (e.g., heavy-equipment operators, spill-cleanup materials or companies), and names and phone numbers of Federal, state, and NSB contacts. Other Federal and state regulations may apply and require additional planning requirements. All appropriate staff shall be instructed regarding these procedures. In addition contingency plans related to facilities developed for oil production shall include requirements to:

- a. provide refresher spill-response training to NSB and local community spill-response teams on a yearly basis,
- b. plan and conduct a major spill-response field-deployment drill annually,
- c. prior to production and as required by law, develop spill prevention and response contingency plans and participate in development and maintenance of the North Slope Subarea Contingency Plan for Oil and Hazardous Substances Discharges/Releases for the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska operating area. Planning shall include development and funding of detailed (e.g., 1:26,000 scale) environmental sensitivity index maps for the lessee's operating area and areas outside the lessee's operating area that could be affected by their activities. (The specific area to be mapped shall be defined in the lease agreement and approved by the AO in consultation with appropriate resource agencies). Maps shall be completed in paper copy and geographic information system format in conformance with the latest version of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Sensitivity Index Guidelines. Draft and final products shall be peer reviewed and approved by the AO in consultation with appropriate Federal, state, and NSB resource and regulatory agencies.

### ***A-4 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Minimize the impact of contaminants on fish, wildlife, and the environment, including wetlands, marshes and marine waters, as a result of fuel, crude oil, and other liquid chemical spills. Protect subsistence resources and subsistence activities. Protect public health and safety.

Requirement/Standard: Before initiating any oil and gas or related activity or operation, including field research/surveys and/or seismic operations, lessees/permittees shall develop a comprehensive spill prevention and response contingency plan per 40 CFR § 112 (Oil Pollution Act). The plan shall consider and take into account the following requirements:

- a. On-site Clean-up Materials. Sufficient oil-spill-cleanup materials (absorbents, containment devices, etc...) shall be stored at all fueling points and vehicle-maintenance

areas and shall be carried by field crews on all overland moves, seismic work trains, and similar overland moves by heavy equipment.

b. Storage Containers. Fuel and other petroleum products and other liquid chemicals shall be stored in proper containers at approved locations. Except during overland moves and seismic operations, fuel, other petroleum products, and other liquid chemicals designated by the AO that in total exceed 1,320 gallons shall be stored within an impermeable lined and diked area or within approved alternate storage containers, such as over packs, capable of containing 110% of the stored volume. In areas within 500 feet of water bodies, fuel containers are to be stored within appropriate containment.

c. Liner Materials. Liner material shall be compatible with the stored product and capable of remaining impermeable during typical weather extremes expected throughout the storage period.

d. Permanent Fueling Stations. Permanent fueling stations shall be lined or have impermeable protection to prevent fuel migration to the environment from overfills and spills.

e. Proper Identification of Containers. All fuel containers, including barrels and propane tanks, shall be marked with the responsible party's name, product type, and year filled or purchased.

f. Notice of Reportable Spills. Notice of any reportable spill (as required by 40 CFR § 300.125 and 18 AAC § 75.300) shall be given to the AO as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after occurrence.

g. Identification of Oil Pans (“*duck ponds*”). All oil pans shall be marked with the responsible party’s name.

#### ***A-5 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Minimize the impact of contaminants from refueling operations on fish, wildlife and the environment.

Requirement/Standard: Refueling of equipment within 500 feet of the active floodplain of any water body is prohibited. Fuel storage stations shall be located at least 500 feet from any water body with the exception of small caches (up to 210 gallons) for motor boats, float planes, ski planes, and small equipment, e.g. portable generators and water pumps, will be permitted. The AO may allow storage and operations at areas closer than the stated distances if properly designed to account for local hydrologic conditions.

#### ***A-6 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Minimize the impact on fish, wildlife, and the environment from contaminants associated with the exploratory drilling process.

Requirement/Standard: Surface discharge of reserve-pit fluids is prohibited.

#### ***A-7 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Minimize the impacts to the environment of disposal of produced fluids recovered during the development phase on fish, wildlife, and the environment.

Requirement/Standard: Discharge of produced water in upland areas and marine waters is prohibited.

***A-8 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Minimize conflicts resulting from interaction between humans and bears during leasing and associated activities.

Requirement/Standard: Oil and gas lessees and their contractors and subcontractors will, as a part of preparation of lease operation planning, prepare and implement bear-interaction plans to minimize conflicts between bears and humans. These plans shall include measures to:

- a. Minimize attraction of bears to the drill sites.
- b. Organize layout of buildings and work areas to minimize human/bear interactions.
- c. Warn personnel of bears near or on drill sites and identify proper procedures to be followed.
- d. Establish procedures, if authorized, to discourage bears from approaching the drill site.
- e. Provide contingencies in the event bears do not leave the site or cannot be discouraged by authorized personnel.
- f. Discuss proper storage and disposal of materials that may be toxic to bears.
- g. Provide a systematic record of bears on the site and in the immediate area.
- h. Encourage lessee/permittee to participate and comply with the Incidental Take Program under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

**Water Use for Permitted Activities:*****B-1 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Maintain populations of, and adequate habitat for, fish and invertebrates.

Requirement/Standard: Water withdrawal from rivers and streams during winter is prohibited.

***B-2 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Maintain natural hydrologic regimes in soils surrounding lakes and ponds, and maintain populations of, and adequate habitat for, fish and invertebrates, and waterfowl.

Requirement/Standard: Water withdrawal from lakes may be authorized on a site-specific basis depending on water volume, and depth, and fish population and species diversification.

Current water withdrawal requirements specify:

- a. Lakes that are  $\geq 7$  feet with sensitive fish (any fish except ninespine stickleback or Alaska blackfish), water available for withdrawal is limited to 15% of calculated volume deeper than 7 feet; lakes that are between 5 and 7 feet with sensitive fish, water available for withdrawal would be calculated on a case by case basis.
- b. Lakes that are  $\geq 5$  feet with only non-sensitive fish (i.e., ninespine stickleback or Alaska blackfish), water available for withdrawal is limited to 30% of calculated volume deeper than 5 feet.
- c. Any lake with no fish present, regardless of depth, water available for withdrawal is up to 35% as specified within the permit.
- d. A water-monitoring plan may be required to assess draw down and water quality changes before, during, and after pumping any fishbearing lake or lake of special concern.
- e. The removal of naturally grounded ice may be authorized from lakes and shallow rivers on a site-specific basis depending upon its size, water volume, and depth, and fish

population and species diversification.

f. Removed ice aggregate shall be included in the 15% or 30% withdrawal limits-- whichever is the appropriate case—unless otherwise approved.

g. Any water intake structures in fish bearing or non-fish bearing waters shall be designed, operated, and maintained to prevent fish entrapment, entrainment, or injury. Note: All water withdrawal equipment must be equipped and must utilize fish screening devices approved by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR).

h. 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.

## **Winter Overland Moves and Seismic Work:**

### ***C-1 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Protect grizzly bear, polar bear, and marine mammal denning and/or birthing locations.

Requirement/Standard:

**a.** Cross-country use of heavy equipment and seismic activities is prohibited within ½ mile of occupied grizzly bear dens identified by the ADFG unless alternative protective measures are approved by the AO in consultation with the ADFG.

**b.** Cross-country use of heavy equipment and seismic activities is prohibited within 1 mile of known or observed polar bear dens or seal birthing lairs. Operators shall consult with the USFWS and/or NOAA Fisheries, as appropriate, before initiating activities in coastal habitat between October 30 and April 15.

### ***C-2 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Protect stream banks, minimize compaction of soils, and minimize the breakage, abrasion, compaction, or displacement of vegetation.

Requirement/Standard:

**a.** Ground operations shall be allowed only when frost and snow cover are at sufficient depths to protect the tundra. Ground operations shall cease when the spring snowmelt begins (approximately May 5 in the foothills area where elevations reach or exceed 500 feet and approximately May 15 in the northern coastal areas). The exact dates will be determined by the AO.

**b.** Only low-ground-pressure vehicles shall be used for on-the-ground activities off ice roads or pads. A list of approved vehicles can be obtained from the AO. Limited use of tractors equipped with wide tracks or “shoes” will be allowed to pull trailers, sleighs or other equipment with approved undercarriage. Note: This provision does not include the use of heavy equipment such as front-end loaders and similar equipment required during ice road construction.

**c.** Bulldozing of tundra mat and vegetation, trails, or seismic lines is prohibited; however, on existing trails, seismic lines or camps, clearing of drifted snow is allowed to the extent that the tundra mat is not disturbed.

**d.** To reduce the possibility of ruts, vehicles shall avoid using the same trails for multiple trips unless necessitated by serious safety or superseding environmental concern. This

provision does not apply to hardened snow trails for use by low-ground-pressure vehicles such as Rolligons.

e. The location of winter ice roads shall be designed and located to minimize compaction of soils and the breakage, abrasion, compaction, or displacement of vegetation. Offsets may be required to avoid using the same route or track in the subsequent year.

f.. Motorized ground-vehicle use within the CRSA associated with overland moves, seismic work, and any similar use of heavy equipment shall be minimized within the Colville River Raptor, Passerine, and Moose Area from April 15 through August 5, with the exception that use will be minimized in the vicinity of gyrfalcon nests beginning March 15. Such use will remain ½ mile away from known raptor nesting sites, unless authorized by the AO.

### ***C-3 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Maintain natural spring runoff patterns and fish passage, avoid flooding, prevent streambed sedimentation and scour, protect water quality and protect stream banks.

Requirement/Standard: Crossing of waterway courses shall be made using a low-angle approach. Snow and ice bridges shall be removed, breached, or slotted before spring breakup. Ramps and bridges shall be substantially free of soil and debris. Except at approved crossings, operators are encouraged to travel a minimum of 100 feet from known overwintering fish streams and lakes.

### ***C-4 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Avoid additional freeze-down of deep-water pools harboring over-wintering fish and invertebrates used by fish.

Requirement/Standard: Travel up and down streambeds 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.

## **Use of Aircraft for Permitted Activities:**

### ***F-1 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Minimize the effects of low-flying aircraft on wildlife, traditional subsistence activities, and local communities.

Requirement/Standard: The lessee shall ensure that aircraft used for permitted activities maintain altitudes according to the following guidelines (Note: This ROP is not intended to restrict flights necessary to survey wildlife to gain information necessary to meet the stated objective of the stipulations and ROPs. However, flights necessary to gain this information will be restricted to the minimum necessary to collect such data):

a. Aircraft shall maintain an altitude of at least 1,500 feet 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 the BLM necessary to plan flight routes when routes may go near falcon nests.

b. Aircraft shall maintain an altitude of at least 1,000 feet 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. The AO will consult directly with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in annually defining caribou winter ranges.

c. Land user shall submit an aircraft use plan as part of an oil and gas exploration or development proposal. The plan shall address strategies to minimize impacts to subsistence hunting and associated activities, including but not limited to the number of flights, type of aircraft, and flight altitudes and routes, and shall also include a plan to monitor flights. Proposed aircraft use plans should be reviewed by appropriate Federal, state, and Borough agencies. Consultations with these same agencies will be required if unacceptable disturbance is identified by subsistence users. Adjustments, including possible suspension of all flights, may be required by the AO if resulting disturbance is determined to be unacceptable. The number of takeoffs and landings to support oil and gas operations with necessary materials and supplies should be limited to the maximum extent possible. During the design of proposed oil and gas facilities, larger landing strips and storage areas should be considered so as to allow larger aircraft to be employed, resulting in fewer flights to the facility.

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. e. Aircraft used for permitted activities shall maintain an altitude of at least 2,000 feet AGL (except for takeoffs and landings) over the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Habitat Area (Map 1) from May 20 through August 20, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. Aircraft use (including fixed wing and helicopter) by oil and gas lessees in the Goose Molting Area (Map 2) should be minimized from May 20 through August 20, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices.

### **Subsistence Consultation for Permitted Activities:**

#### ***H-1 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Provide opportunities for participation in planning and decision making to prevent unreasonable conflicts between subsistence uses and oil and gas and related activities.

Requirement/Standard: Lessee/permittee shall consult directly with affected communities using the following guidelines:

a. Before submitting an application to the BLM, the applicant shall consult with directly affected subsistence communities, the NSB, and the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska Subsistence Advisory Panel to discuss the siting, timing and methods of their proposed operations to help discover local traditional and scientific knowledge, resulting in measures that minimize impacts to subsistence uses. Through this consultation, the applicant shall make every reasonable effort, including such mechanisms as conflict avoidance agreements and mitigating measures, to ensure that proposed activities will not result in unreasonable interference with subsistence activities.

b. The applicant shall submit documentation of consultation efforts as part of its operations plan. Applicants should submit the proposed plan of operations to provide an adequate time

for review and comment by the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska Subsistence Advisory Panel and to allow time for formal Government-to- Government consultation with Native Tribal governments. The applicant shall submit documentation of its consultation efforts and a written plan that shows how its activities, in combination with other activities in the area, will be scheduled and located to prevent unreasonable conflicts with subsistence activities. Operations plans must include a discussion of the potential effects of the proposed operation, and the proposed operation in combination with other existing or reasonably foreseeable operations.

c. A subsistence plan addressing the following items must be submitted:

1. A detailed description of the activity(ies) to take place (including the use of aircraft).
2. A description of how the lessee/permittee will minimize and/or deal with any potential impacts identified by the AO during the consultation process.

3. A detailed description of the monitoring effort to take place, including process, procedures, personnel involved and points of contact both at the work site and in the local community.

4. Communication elements to provide information on how the applicant will keep potentially affected individuals and communities up-to-date on the progress of the activities and locations of possible, short-term conflicts (if any) with subsistence activities.

Communication methods could include holding community meetings, open house meetings, workshops, newsletters, radio and television announcements, etc.

5. Procedures necessary to facilitate access by subsistence users to conduct their activities. In the event that no agreement is reached between the parties, the AO shall consult with the directly involved parties and determine which activities will occur, including the timeframes. During development, monitoring plans must be established for new permanent facilities, including pipelines, to assess an appropriate range of potential effects on resources and subsistence as determined on a case-by-case basis given the nature and location of the facilities. The scope, intensity, and duration of such plans will be established in consultation with the AO and Subsistence Advisory Panel. Permittees that propose barging facilities, equipment, supplies, or other materials to NPR-A in support of oil and gas activities in the planning area shall notify, confer, and coordinate with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, the appropriate local community whaling captains' associations, and the NSB to minimize impacts from the proposed barging on subsistence whaling activities.

### **Orientation Programs Associated with Permitted Activities:**

#### ***I-1 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Minimize cultural and resource conflicts.

Requirement/Standard: All personnel involved in oil and gas and related activities shall be provided information concerning applicable stipulations, ROPs, standards, and specific types of environmental, social, traditional, and cultural concerns that relate to the region. The lessee/permittee shall ensure that all personnel involved in permitted activities shall attend an orientation program at least once a year. The proposed orientation program shall be submitted to the AO for review and approval and should:

- a. provide sufficient detail to notify personnel of applicable stipulations and ROPs as well as inform individuals working on the project of specific types of environmental, social,

traditional and cultural concerns that relate to the region.

b. Address the importance of not disturbing archaeological and biological resources and habitats, including endangered species, fisheries, bird colonies, and marine mammals, and provide guidance on how to avoid disturbance.

c. Include guidance on the preparation, production, and distribution of information cards on endangered and/or threatened species.

d. Be designed to increase sensitivity and understanding of personnel to community values, customs, and lifestyles in areas in which personnel will be operating.

e. Include information concerning avoidance of conflicts with subsistence, commercial fishing activities, and pertinent mitigation.

f. Include information for aircraft personnel concerning subsistence activities and areas/seasons that are particularly sensitive to disturbance by low-flying aircraft. Of special concern is aircraft use near traditional subsistence cabins and campsites, flights during spring goose hunting and fall caribou and moose hunting seasons, and flights near North Slope communities.

g. Provide that individual training is transferable from one facility to another except for elements of the training specific to a particular site.

h. Include on-site records of all personnel who attend the program for so long as the site is active, though not to exceed the 5 most recent years of operations. This record shall include the name and dates(s) of attendance of each attendee.

i. Include a module discussing bear interaction plans to minimize conflicts between bears and humans.

j. Provide a copy of 43 CFR 3163 regarding Non-Compliance Assessment and Penalties to on-site personnel.

k. Include training designed to ensure strict compliance with local and corporate drug and alcohol policies. This training should be offered to the NSB Health Department for review and comment.

l. Include training developed to train employees on how to prevent transmission of communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases, to the local communities. This training should be offered to the NSB Health Department for review and comment.

### **Summer Vehicle Tundra Access:**

#### ***L-1 Required Operating Procedure***

Objective: Protect stream banks and water quality; minimize compaction and displacement of soils; minimize the breakage, abrasion, compaction, or displacement of vegetation; protect cultural and paleontological resources; maintain populations of, and adequate habitat for birds, fish, and caribou and other terrestrial mammals; and minimize impacts to subsistence activities. Requirement/Standard: On a case-by-case basis, BLM may permit lowground-pressure vehicles to travel off of gravel pads and roads during times other than those identified in ROP C-2a. Permission for such use would only be granted after an applicant has:

- a. Submitted studies satisfactory to the AO of the impacts on soils and vegetation of the

specific low-ground-pressure vehicles to be used. These studies should reflect use of such vehicles under conditions similar to those of the route proposed for use and should demonstrate that the proposed use would have no more than minimal impacts to soils and vegetation.

b. Submitted surveys satisfactory to the AO of subsistence uses of the area as well as of the soils, vegetation, hydrology, wildlife and fish (and their habitats), paleontological and archaeological resources, and other resources as required by the AO.

c. Designed and/or modified the use proposal to minimize impacts to the AO's satisfaction. Design steps to achieve the objectives and based upon the studies and surveys may include, but not be limited to, timing restrictions (generally it is considered inadvisable to conduct tundra travel prior to August 1 to protect ground-nesting birds), shifting of work to winter, rerouting, and not proceeding when certain wildlife are present or subsistence activities are occurring. At the discretion of the AO, the plan for summer tundra vehicle access may be included as part of the spill prevention and response contingency plan required by 40 CFR 112 (Oil Pollution Act) and ROP A-4.

***Finding of No Significant Impact***

Type of Action: Sundry Notice Approval

Serial Number: AA081726

Environmental Assessment Number: DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-0007-EA

Applicant: Renaissance Umiat, LLC.

Address: 3000 C Street, Suite 103  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

District: Arctic Field Office

Planning Unit: Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated  
Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated 2008

Lands Involved: 69° 22' 47.5"N 152° 10' 42.0"W NAD 83 Sec 5, T1S, R1W, 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 Renaissance Umiat, LLC. to collect meteorological data for future use relative to oil and gas development.

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:**

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/s/Lon Kelly  
Arctic Field Office Manager

Date: March 23, 2012