



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

In reply refer to:
FF095706
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2011-0030-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Marwan A. Wartes
Geologist-North Slope Program Manager
Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
3354 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99509

Proposed Action: Stratigraphic Studies and Geologic Mapping in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) (2984.01).

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant Marwan A. Wartes, with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, has requested authorization for access and landing by a Jet Ranger B-3 helicopter and access to lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A) in support of Stratigraphic Studies and Geologic Mapping. The proposed activity is part of a larger ongoing state effort to understand the geology of northern Alaska.

While most of the activity would take place on state and native lands, work would take place on the western bank of the Colville River on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). They are requesting to conduct the work between July 22nd and August 8th, 2011. They anticipate one landing at each outcrop with a total of 20 landings principally along the well exposed bluffs of the Colville River and smaller tributaries. For the entire project there would be 6 or 7 people participating including the helicopter pilot. However, for the activity on BLM managed lands they anticipate a group of 3. The group would camp at Umiat on state lands.

Mr. Wartes has requested additional sites, see figure 2. Of these sites only 1 is on lands that are managed by BLM and this site has been selected by the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC). Mr. Wartes has provided a copy of a nonobjection statement from ASRC.

Depending on the weather Mr. Wartes estimates using 1500 gallons of Jet-A fuel. However, the fuel storage and refueling would not take place on BLM managed lands. The site visits would be accessed by helicopter with hiking from landing locations. Similar activities by the applicant were analyzed in DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-00227-CX.

**2011 Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
Proposed area of interest for geological mapping and stratigraphic studies**

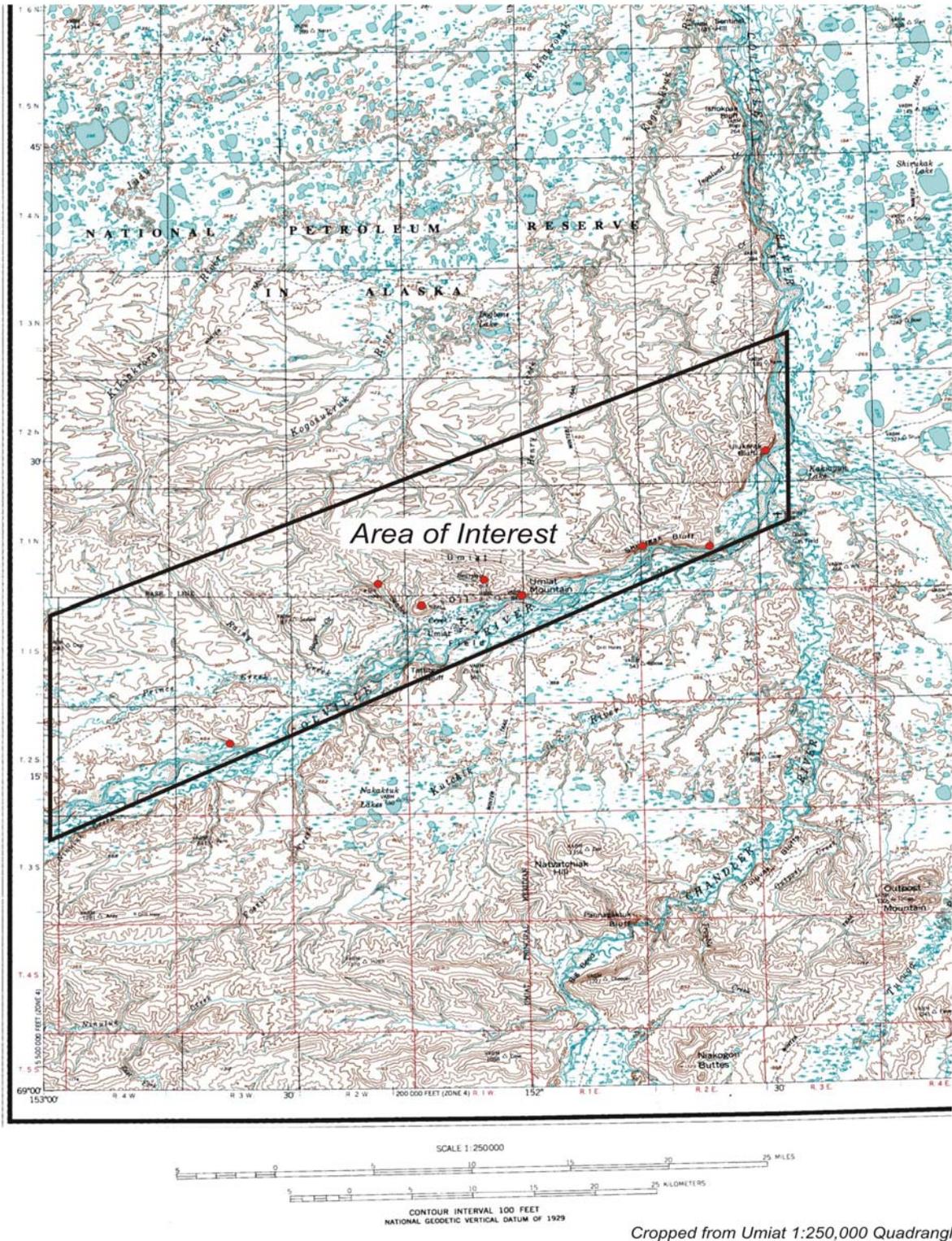


Figure 1. Map provided by applicant

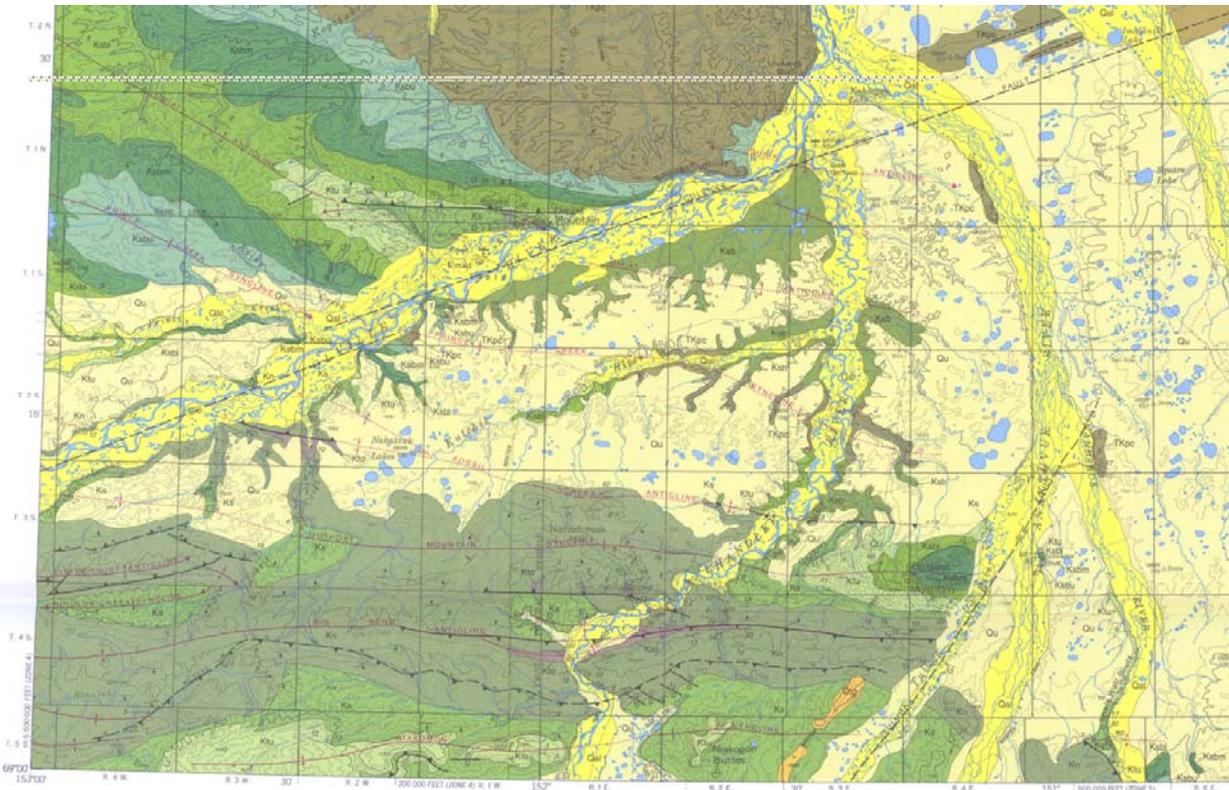


Figure 2 Updated Applicant Submitted Map

Legal Description (All Umiat Meridian):

Township	Range	Area of Interest Sections		Particular Points of Interest Sections
3 North	3 East	19, 20, 29-32	ASRC Selected	
3 North	2 East	25, 26, 33-36		
2 North	2 West	25, 35, 36		
2 North	1 West	21-36		
2 North	1 East	1, 2, 8-36		
2 North	2 East	1-36	Excluding Private Land	
2 North	3 East	5-8, 17-20, 29-32	Excluding Private Land	30
1 North	4 West	25, 26, 33-36		
1 North	3 West	13-15, 19-36		
1 North	2 West	1-4, 7-36		35
1 North	1 West	1-36		27, 34
1 North	1 East	1-36	Excluding Private Land	
1 North	2 East	1-24, 27-32	Excluding Private Land	19, 22

1 North	3 East	5-8, 17-20	No BLM Managed Land		
1 North	4 East		No BLM Managed Land	Point on Private Land	
1 South	5 West	1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, 36			
1 South	4 West	1-36			
1 South	3 West	1-36			
1 South	2 West	1-36	Excluding Private Land		
				Point on Private Land	
1 South	1 West	1-22, 29, 30	Excluding Private Land	1, 6	
				Point on Private Land	
1 South	1 East	2-10, 17, 18	Excluding Private Land		
2 South	5 West	1, 2, 11-14, 23-26, 35, 36	Excluding Private Land		
2 South	4 West	1-35. 22-35	Excluding Private Land		
2 South	3 West	1-22, 29, 30	Excluding Private Land	9	
2 South	2 West	3-9, 18	No BLM Managed Land		
				Point on Private Land	
2 South	5 East		No BLM Managed Land	Point on Private Land	
3 South	5 West	1, 2, 11, 12	No BLM Managed Land		
3 South	4 West	4-8, 18	No BLM Managed Land		
				Point on Private Land	
3 South	2 East		No BLM Managed Land	Point on Private Land	
3 South	4 East		No BLM Managed Land	Point on Private Land	
3 South	5 East	29,-32,	ASRC Selected	30	
4 South	5 East	1,2,34-36	No BLM Managed Land	Point on Private Land	
5 South	6 East		No BLM Managed Land	Point on Private Land	

Updated Information

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated July 2008, and Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska IAP/EIS dated 1/22/2004. The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled "FF095706 Marwan Wartes ADNR Summer 2011 Stipulations."

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

Date July 22, 2011

Part II: NEPA Review and Decision

Categorical Exclusion Review

This proposed action meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, D.10,

This proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion 1.6 under 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215

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

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

The proposed action will not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances listed below.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X

2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

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

Date July 22, 2011