

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In reply refer to:
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PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01000-2009-0011-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska
CEPOA-EN-CW-ER
P.O. Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898

Proposed Action: Winter testing at Umiat Lake to determine the distribution of submerged or buried metal debris and drums.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Alaska has requested authorization for a National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) permit, in support of a possible removal action in the summer of 2009. The applicant proposes to use the lands for determining the distribution of submerged or buried metallic debris and drums in Umiat Lake. Previous investigations have located drums submerged in the lake and scattered along the shoreline, and patches of suspected petroleum sheen have been observed on the lake's surface.

The proposed action will determine the appropriate level of work required for the removal action. Field personnel will use snow machines with headlamps and headlights and low-ground-pressure-tracked vehicles to access the project site, pull instrumentation on sleds and conduct the survey. The proposed survey on the surface of the still-frozen lake would use ground-penetrating radar and magnetometry instrumentation to locate the positions of submerged and buried drums, and to map the depth of the lake.

The survey operations would be staged from established facilities at Umiat, and no camps or other structures would be constructed. No water would be withdrawn from the lake, and no fill would be needed. The proposed work is planned to take place during the month of April, 2009.

Location:

Sections 2,3, 4, 9 & 10, Township 1 South, Range 1 West, Umiat Meridian

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents: the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2008 and the Colville River Special Area Management Plan. The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with required operating procedures and stipulations from the Record of Decisions for the above documents.

Date March 29, 2009

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

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.6

“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 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Date March 29, 2009

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