

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
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In reply refer to:
FF095712
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2010-0034-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Lynn DeGeorge
700 G Street
P.O. Box 100360
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0360

Proposed Action Title/Type: Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Summer Studies.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc (CPAI), has requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a helicopter on lands within the northeast National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A), to conduct studies in support of future development.

ConocoPhillips proposes to conduct the following field based tasks: surveying activities, cultural clearance activities, hydrologic monitoring and pipeline/road route studies. The surveying activity would include walking of the proposed routes. Helicopter tours are anticipated with Nuiqsut residents and agency representatives in late July and mid to late August. Hydrologic studies would be conducted on the Ublutuoch River, near the clover Material Source and several minor drainages between the currently proposed CD5 location and the proposed GMT2 pad. Typically the surveyors and engineers are dropped off early in the morning by helicopter to work, and then picked up later in the day. A maximum of four to five individuals would participate in data collection activities and tours due to helicopter limitations. There are no proposed field camps or fuel sites. Proposed equipment includes: helicopter, surveying equipment, lathe and stream gages.

Proposed Schedule:

June 21 – 28

Stake GMT 2 Road & pad – 9 landings & 9 take offs in 8 days

June 28 – July 5

Remove Old Stakes – 9 landings & 9 take offs in 8 days

July 6 – 11

Walk route 7 landings & 7 take offs in 6 days

June 28 -- Every 2 weeks

Clover Material Source Hydrological Monitoring until water no longer flows in drainage. 1 takeoff and landing each monitoring event. Two to three monitoring events are anticipated.

Stake Clover Material Site – 9 landings & 9 take offs in 7 days, combined with one hydrological monitoring event.

August –

Cultural resource clearance work would require only one helicopter take off and landing. On ground activities would occur in the vicinity of the GMT 2 pad. The cultural clearance activities have been completed for other project components.

Location:

Township	Range	Section
9 North	2 East	4, 5
10 North	2 East	11,12,14,15, 22, 23, 27, 28, 32-34
10 North	3 East	1, 6
10 North	4 East	6
11 North	3 East	26-29, 31-33

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 Alpine Satellite Development Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement dated September 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 “FF095712 ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. GMT 1 & 2 Summer Stipulations 2010.”

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

Date June 22, 2010

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		X

of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
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 June 22, 2010