

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
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In reply refer to:
FF095739
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2010-0046-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: General Communications Inc.
2550 Denali Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, AK 99503-2751

Proposed Action Title/Type: Preliminary Survey in NPR-A

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, General Communications Inc. (GCI) proposes to conduct a preliminary site survey and assessment at five locations within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, beginning on approximately September 13, 2010. GCI plans to charter a helicopter to travel from either Prudhoe or Barrow to each of the five remote sites located between the communities of Nuiqsut and Barrow (see Figure 1). Three to four people with minimal gear will land at each of the sites and assess the site to determine the suitability of the site for potential tower and support structure construction. If the site is not suitable, a second or third site located within a one mile radius of the initial site may be identified. The following week a two or three man survey crew will travel to each of the selected sites in order to collect accurate location and topographic information for future design work. It is anticipated the survey crew will be in the field for about five days. The total number of anticipated helicopter landings per each site is four. The survey work is anticipated to occur during September and possibly extend into October. Exact schedule is contingent upon weather and receipt of permits. No field camps will be required for the site surveys. Work will be based out of Barrow or Prudhoe Bay. Fuel will be acquired in Prudhoe Bay or Barrow and will not be staged on any of the remote sites for the site survey work.

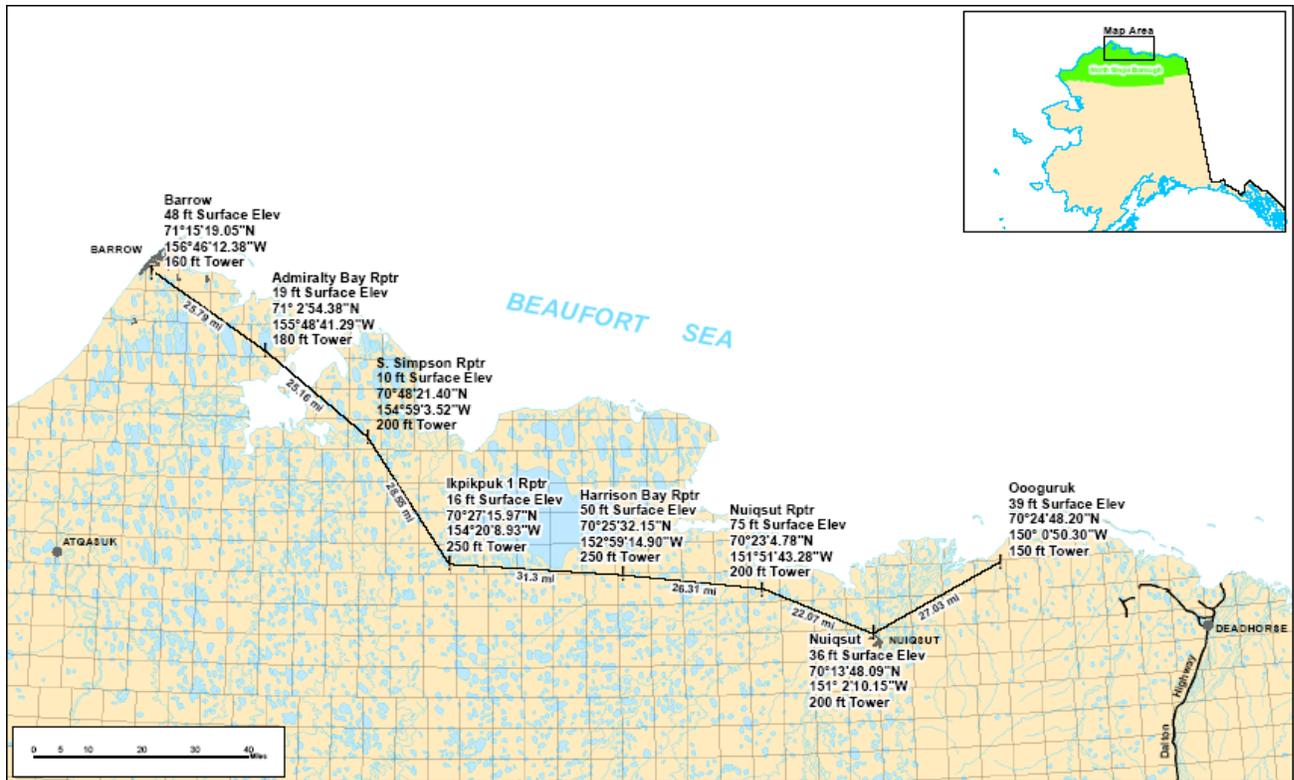


Figure 1. Proposed Survey Locations in the NPR-A

Locations (All within Umiat Meridian)

Site Name	Township	Range	Principle Section	Comment
Oooguruk	12 North	8 East	12	No BLM Managed Land
Nuiqsut	10 North	4 East	11	No BLM Managed Land
Nuiqsut Rptr	12 North	1 East	22	
1 Mile Radius			14-16, 21,23,26-28	
Harrison Bay Rptr	12 North	4 West	6	
1 Mile Radius	12 North	5 West	1,12	
	13 North	5 West	36	
	13 North	4 West	31,32	
	12 North	4 West	5,7,8	
Ikpikpuk 1 Rptr	13 North	10 West	25	
1 Mile Radius	13 North	10 West	23,24,26,35,36	
	13 North	9 West	19,30,31	
S. Simpson Rptr	17 North	12 West	22	
1 Mile Radius			14-16, 21,23, 26-28	
Admiralty Bay	20 North	15 West	34	
1 Mile Radius	20 North	15 West	26-28,33,35	

	19 North	15 West	2-4	
Barrow	22 North	18 West	17	No BLM Managed Land

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) 2008. 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 “FF095739 GCI Permit Stipulations.”

Date: **September 10, 2010**

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

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);		X

floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		
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

Date: Sept 10, 2010

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