

UTILITY CORRIDOR
Resource Management Plan/
Environmental Impact Statement
RECORD OF DECISION

prepared by
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arctic District Office

January 11, 1991



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State Director, Alaska

Introduction

This document is the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Record of Decision prepared for the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). The Utility Corridor RMP is a long-term comprehensive land use plan developed to direct the BLM's management of a portion of the lands and minerals it administers in northern Alaska. The lands are shown on map 1.1, of the Proposed RMP (reproduced in this document for your convenience) and amount to approximately 6.1 million acres of BLM-administered surface, of which 5.8 million acres is BLM-administered mineral estate. The Utility Corridor RMP supersedes all previous land use planning decisions for this area, many of which are contained in a Management Framework Plan completed in 1979.

The Utility Corridor, established by Public Land Order (PLO) 5150, as amended, on December 30, 1971, is an essential component of the national domestic oil and gas transportation system. It provides a route to transport a significant portion of the nation's petroleum; the present and future importance of access to these resources cannot be overstated. In recognition of this fact, the Proposed RMP provides that the primary management direction and use of BLM-administered lands in the Utility Corridor is for energy transportation. Therefore, both the "Inner" and "Outer" Corridor, as shown on map 1.1 of the Proposed RMP, are designated as a Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) section 503 right-of-way corridor under 43 C.F.R. 2806.2.

The signing of this Record of Decision completes the initial phases of our land use planning process. However, the signing of this Record of Decision does not represent the end of the planning process. Planning is an on-going process of data collection, analysis and evaluation related to the prescribed uses of public lands that continues during plan implementation, and may eventually lead to amendment or revision of the plan.

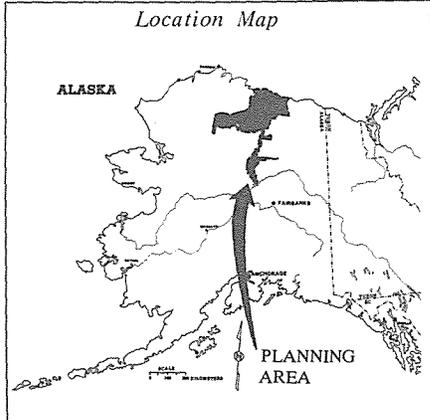
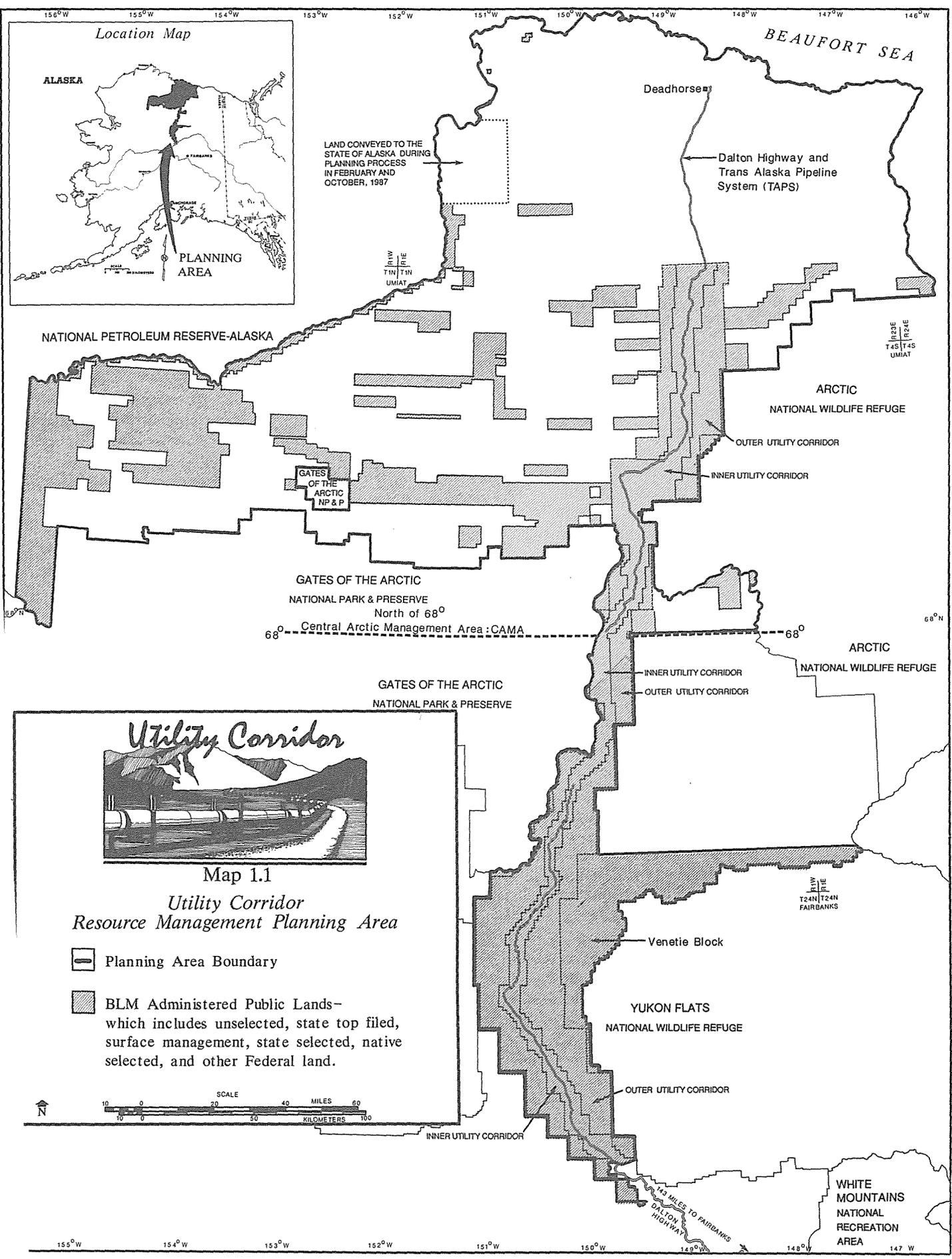
The planning process began with the determination of the scope of the issues to be addressed in the

RMP in 1986. The Draft RMP/EIS was distributed for public review on August 28, 1987, for a 90-day review period, which ended on November 30, 1987. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS was signed on September 27, 1989, and made available to the public on November 24, 1989, for a 30-day protest period. The BLM Director received 14 timely protests, of which 12 were accepted for administrative review.

The Proposed RMP was prepared in accordance with the FLPMA, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), and the Department of the Interior, BLM planning regulations (43 C.F.R. 1600). The draft and final EISs were prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (40 C.F.R. 1500.) These regulations require the consideration of cumulative impacts--the total level of impacts that would arise from the implementation of management actions described in the Utility Corridor RMP.

An important cross-reference to our analysis is contained in the final EIS prepared for the Proposed RMP. The reader is directed to the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Trans-Alaska Gas System*, published in June, 1988, document number BLM-AK-PT-88-003-1792-910, chapter 4.7 for a detailed cumulative impact analysis, which was utilized in the analysis performed for the Proposed RMP.

Specific attention was given to analysis of and impacts to existing subsistence uses and resources. In the "Affected Environment" chapter, pages 3-28 through 3-31 describe the use occurring both inside and outside the planning area (for example, Anaktuvuk Pass, Nuiqsut, and Kaktovik, all areas that are outside of the planning area.) While not specifically stated in the text, based on the body of data on pages 3-28 through 3-31, the impact analysis that is contained in the "Environmental Consequences" chapter, extended outside the planning area and the reader of the RMP should bear this fact in mind.



LAND CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF ALASKA DURING PLANNING PROCESS IN FEBRUARY AND OCTOBER, 1987

Deadhorse

Dalton Highway and Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS)

NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

GATES OF THE ARCTIC NP & P

OUTER UTILITY CORRIDOR

INNER UTILITY CORRIDOR

GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE North of 68°

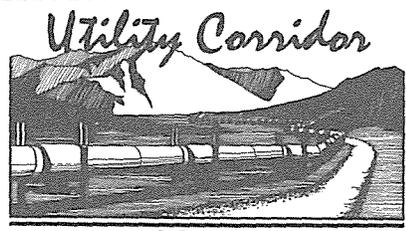
68° Central Arctic Management Area :CAMA

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

INNER UTILITY CORRIDOR

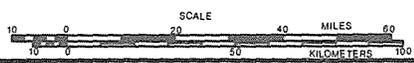
OUTER UTILITY CORRIDOR



Map 1.1

Utility Corridor Resource Management Planning Area

- Planning Area Boundary
- BLM Administered Public Lands— which includes unselected, state top filed, surface management, state selected, native selected, and other Federal land.



VENETIE T24N T24E FAIRBANKS

Venetie Block

YUKON FLATS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

OUTER UTILITY CORRIDOR

INNER UTILITY CORRIDOR

143 MILES TO FAIRBANKS DALTON HIGHWAY

WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Decision

The decision is hereby made to approve the Proposed Plan, as presented in Chapter 2 and Appendix N of the Proposed Utility Corridor RMP (September, 1989), with the exception of the State selection element. The Proposed Plan includes the wilderness recommendation identified in the ANILCA Section 1001 Report Findings and Recommendations .

During the 30-day protest period on the Utility Corridor RMP, 14 protests were filed. Ten of these protests objected to the amount of land proposed by the RMP to be made available for selection by the State of Alaska to, in part, settle the debt owed to the State under the terms of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1958. One protest, filed by the North Slope Borough, objected that the Proposed RMP excessively promoted recreational activities and was not conducive to maintenance of the Corridor as a transportation corridor. In response to this protest, the BLM Director found that the BLM Alaska State Director has balanced appropriately the many diverse resources and competing interests in the planning area. No change to the Proposed RMP was made as a result of the North Slope Borough protest. Two of the protests (Doyon, Limited and Mr. John Alfonsi) were dismissed by the BLM Director since the protestors did not meet the qualification requirements of 43 C.F.R. 1610.5-2.

The changes to State Selection decisions in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS (September, 1989) are:

(a) The Prospect unit, as identified on map 2.1 in the Proposed RMP, would not be made available for State Selection. However, as required by section 201(4)(b) of the ANILCA, the need for access to the Ambler Mining District is hereby recognized and will be provided upon application by the State of Alaska, and that Subsistence hearings under section 810 of the ANILCA may be required during the processing of the application. Additionally, the need for access to other State-owned lands to the west of the Prospect unit, is recognized and the BLM Alaska State Director will entertain an application for a right-of-way for access to these lands. As above, Subsistence hearings may be required during the processing of this application.

(b) A portion of the Coldfoot unit, as identified in the RMP as the "Coldfoot Development Node" (see map 2.4, Proposed RMP, page 2-17, reproduced here for your convenience) would be made available for State Selection. The remainder of the Coldfoot unit would not be made available for State selection. Should access be required to State-owned lands east of the Coldfoot development node, the BLM Alaska State Director will entertain an application for a right-of-way for access to these lands. Subsistence hearings under section 810 of the ANILCA may be required during the processing of this application.

The Proposed RMP recognizes the need for certain acreages within T. 28 N., R. 12 W., Secs. 15 and 16, Fairbanks Meridian, along the Dalton Highway and above the Slate Creek floodplain for use by federal agencies to facilitate their management responsibilities within the area (e.g., administrative sites, campgrounds and related facilities). This ROD authorizes, pending further site analysis and cooperative planning, up to 100 acres for these purposes in the node.

As proposed in the RMP, lands would be made available for State selection in the Sagavanirktok and "Gas Arctic" units and south of Yukon River. We conclude that subsistence uses in these units will not be significantly restricted and, therefore, hearings under section 810 of the ANILCA are not required.

Finally, one protest filed by American Rivers, Inc. concerned the identification and protection of potential wild and scenic rivers. While no change to the Proposed RMP was made as a result of this protest, a clarification of the BLM's legal responsibilities under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (WSRA) is given below.

The BLM Director, after a careful review and consideration of Sections 101(d) and 1326 (b) of the ANILCA, and the complexity and uncertainty of management responsibilities associated with the questions of navigability and State and Native land selections, has concluded that, pending further congressional action, no further wild and scenic river studies will be conducted by BLM in Alaska at this time.

However, it is important to note that Section 2 of the WSRA provides the opportunity for States to initiate statutory protection of rivers, and to petition the Secretary of the Interior to designate rivers into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. If the State of Alaska chooses to pursue such designation for any rivers located within the Utility Corridor planning area the BLM is committed to assist them with the planning, evaluation and designation processes.

The special values associated with rivers identified by this plan will be taken into account during BLM's ongoing management pursuant to the provisions of FLPMA.

None of these changes require additional public review and comment. This Record of Decision constitutes the final Bureau action on approving the Proposed Utility Corridor RMP/Final EIS. Any person adversely affected by a decision of a BLM officer to implement some portion of an RMP may appeal such action to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. 4.400, at the time the action is proposed for implementation.

Wilderness Study Areas

As mandated by Congress in Sections 1001 and 1004 of the ANILCA, BLM conducted an interdisciplinary study and made recommendations on the wilderness values of the Central Arctic Management Area. The resulting document entitled

the *ANILCA Section 1001 Report Findings and Recommendations* found that the 41,000 acre upper Nigu River area was suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (see map 2.8 on page 2-31 of the Proposed RMP). This recommendation was incorporated by reference into the Proposed Plan. This 41,000-acre tract will be managed to preserve its wilderness values up and to such time that Congress acts on BLM's recommendations. Should Congress designate this area as wilderness, BLM will continue to manage it as such. The balance of the CAMA lands, determined to be non-suitable for inclusion, will be managed according to the management prescriptions in the Proposed Plan.

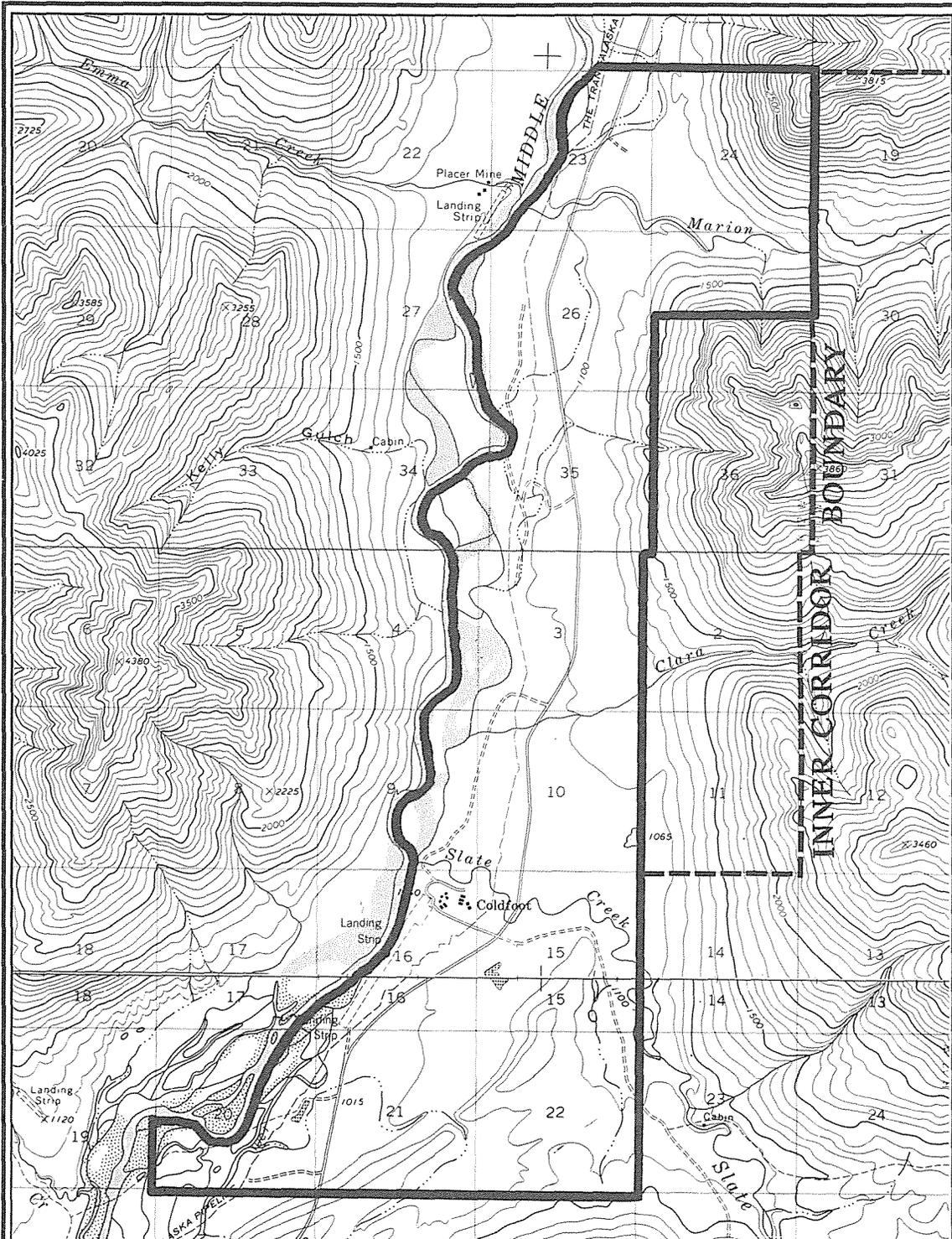
Special Management Areas

The Utility Corridor RMP establishes five recreation management areas (Dalton Highway, Dalton Corridor, Oolamnagavik-Colville, the Central Arctic Management Area, and Nigu Wilderness and Iteriak ACEC). Details concerning these areas are found on pages 2-26 and 2-27 of the Proposed RMP. (See map 2.7 in the Proposed RMP.)

The Proposed RMP also establishes 13 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) as noted on the table below. One ACEC, Toolik Lake, is also designated as a Research Natural Area, in order to protect on-going and future research activities. (See map 2.10 in the Proposed RMP for locations of all ACECs.)

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

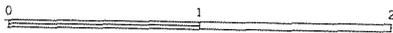
ACEC Name	Size in Acres	Resources
1. Galbraith Lake	56,000	Cultural, rare or sensitive plants, scenic values, lambing areas
2. Ivishak River	3,800	Fishery, cultural
3. Jim River	200,000	Fishery, recreation, cultural
4. Kanuti Hot Springs	40	Hot Spring
5. Nigu-Iteriak	64,000	Geology, cultural
6. Nugget Creek	3,300	Lambing areas, mineral lick
7. Poss Mountain	8,000	Lambing areas, mineral lick
8. Sagwon Bluffs	42,200	Peregrine Falcons
9. Slope Mountain	5,100	Lambing areas, mineral lick, cultural
10. Snowden Mountain	28,000	Lambing areas, mineral lick
11. Sukakpak Mountain	3,500	Scenic, geology
12. Toolik Lake RNA	82,800	Research activities, cultural
13. West Fork Atigun River	8,500	Lambing areas, mineral lick



BOUNDARY MAP
Map sheets Wiseman A1 and B1

Scale in Miles

Within Tps. 28 and 29 N., R12 W.
Fairbanks Meridian



COLDFOOT DEVELOPMENT NODE



Map 2.4

It should be noted that in the ACEC-specific prescriptions concerning altitude restrictions the term "BLM-authorized land use activities" means those projects, operations or other actions that require a specific written authorization by the BLM. Dependent upon the nature of the activity, the specific language of the prescription may be modified.

Because of the environmental protection afforded these sites by the requirements and stipulations of applicable agreements and grants of rights-of-way, ACEC prescriptions will not pose additional permitting or stipulation requirements for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, the proposed Trans-Alaska Gas Transportation System, or the proposed Trans-Alaska Gas System.

The Proposed Plan and Alternatives Considered

Five alternatives were considered and analyzed in detail in the Draft RMP/EIS (August, 1987). The Proposed Plan is described in the Proposed Utility Corridor RMP/Final EIS (September, 1989). It and other alternatives considered are summarized as follows:

The Proposed Plan

This alternative emphasizes a balance of resource uses. The Proposed Plan outlines a program of intensive land management toward the development of the multiple use resource opportunities while providing for energy transportation.

Alternative A

This alternative is a continuation of current management practices. It is the "no action" alternative, as required by the CEQ regulations.

Alternative B

This alternative represents a program of environmental protection and enhancement. It reflects these goals by seeking to limit actions which could have negative effects on BLM-managed lands and on adjacent Conservation System Units. The actions proposed under this alternative also emphasize wilderness recommendations. This alternative, as required by

the CEQ regulations, is identified as the "environmental preferable alternative," however, it does not fully meet the decision criteria as noted in the "Management Considerations" section on page 6 of this document.

Alternative C

This alternative would provide economic development opportunities for the planning area. It opens as much public land as possible to the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws. It also provides at least as many opportunities for development of recreational facilities as are found in the Proposed Plan.

Alternative D

Under this alternative, all PLOs withdrawing the Utility Corridor lands from State selection would be revoked. The BLM would not take any other major actions and would wait for an appropriate period of time for selections or exchanges in the area to take place. Once a stable pattern of federal land ownership has emerged, the BLM would begin a new land use plan to address existing public needs. Interim management would be identical to alternative A.

Mitigation

Measures necessary to avoid adverse impacts were built into the selected alternative wherever possible. These measures are presented in the form of (1) stipulations to be incorporated in future land use authorizations (e.g., leases or permits), (2) stipulations to govern project development, and (3) closures to protect key resources. In some cases, the need for site-specific review to aid in the development or refinement of mitigation measures has been identified. Also, some portions of the plan identify a need for monitoring of management actions to, in part, identify any additional mitigation measures that may be necessary. Finally, the environmental analysis that will be conducted for implementation actions may identify other practical means to avoid or reduce environmental impacts at specific locations.

Appendices K and L of the Proposed RMP contain a list of those mitigation measures of types (1) and (2) noted above. The effectiveness of these mitigation measures can be gauged by comparison of the detailed impacts listed in the main body of Chapter 4 of the EIS with the "unavoidable

adverse impacts" listed at the end of the chapter. These impacts are those remaining after application of the mitigation measures in these two appendices to the actions contained in the Proposed RMP.

All mitigation measures proposed for, and contained within, the Proposed Plan alternative, as modified, are hereby adopted. Given the criteria contained in the "Management Considerations" section of this Record of Decision, all practical means of avoiding or reducing environmental harm have been adopted.

ANILCA Section 810 Summary

The Proposed Plan will not cause a significant restriction to subsistence uses, resources, and needs in the Utility Corridor. There are potential limitations to subsistence users and resources under some of the development scenarios; however, approved mitigation measures addressing those limits will be implemented based on project-specific environmental and planning analyses.

There were 8 subsistence hearings held in conjunction with the Draft Utility Corridor RMP/EIS.

Management Considerations

The decision to choose the Proposed Plan, as modified by the results of the protest resolution process, is based on seven factors:

- 1.) effectiveness in resolution of the planning issues,
- 2.) conformance with the guidance established by the planning criteria,
- 3.) conformance with the legislative mandates of the ANILCA,
- 4.) avoidance of unnecessary impacts to the human environment,
- 5.) responsiveness to input received from public land users, other federal and State land management agencies, Native corporations, as well as State and local governments,
- 6.) the environmental analysis for the alternatives in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, and
- 7.) management direction contained in PLO 5150. (The Assistant Secretary of the

Interior, on December 28, 1971 ordered that "subject to valid existing rights, the following described lands are hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws . . . and reserved as a utility and transportation corridor . . . in aid of programs for the U.S. Government and the State of Alaska." [emphasis added.]

The selected RMP represents a balanced management strategy which achieves the multiple use mandates of the FLPMA, while fulfilling resource-specific requirements of legislation, such as the Threatened and Endangered Species Act, and the ANILCA, as well as the PLOs that affect the planning area.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Proposed RMP will provide the framework for making specific management decisions in the Utility Corridor planning area. However, the RMP/EIS will be continually monitored during this period to determine if (1) actions are consistent with current policy, (2) original assumptions and analyses were correct, (3) mitigation measures are effective and necessary, and (4) conditions or circumstances have changed significantly. Results of plan monitoring will guide plan maintenance as well as help detect the need for plan amendment or revision.

Priorities for implementation of management decisions are contingent upon program funding levels established through the budget process.

Public Involvement

As noted in the "Introduction" to this document, public involvement has been sought throughout the planning and decision making process. For a detailed documentation of public participation, please see Chapter 5 of the Proposed Utility Corridor RMP/Final EIS.

Additional opportunities for public involvement throughout the implementation of the RMP will exist. Public input will be sought during the preparation of future environmental documents for specific RMP implementation actions. Public comments will also be requested through Northern Advisory Council meetings, special purpose public

meetings or hearings, ANILCA Section 810 Subsistence hearings, as appropriate, as well as during any plan amendment that may, in the future, be required.

The BLM intends to pursue our concept of cooperative planning among various land owners and land management agencies of lands within this planning area. The Bureau wishes to cooperate with appropriate organizations in other land use planning activities for this area.

Consistency

The Proposed Utility Corridor RMP/Final EIS is consistent with the plans, programs, and policies of other federal agencies and of State and local governments.

Public Availability

For further information regarding the implementation of the Utility Corridor RMP, please contact the BLM's Arctic District Office at 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844. Review copies of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are available at all Bureau offices in Alaska as well as local public libraries in Alaska.

Appendix L

Summer and Winter Stipulations for Authorized Actions

Introduction

The following is a description of standard stipulations applied as appropriate on authorized activities within the study area. Application of these stipulations is part of the recommendations for the protection of the resource values as outlined in this Final RMP/EIS.

Summer Stipulations

1. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arctic District Manager, or his delegate, is the Authorized Officer (AO).
2. A letter of non-objection will be required from the State of Alaska and/or the appropriate Native Corporations before entry onto any state or Native selected land.
3. The Permittee must notify BLM immediately of any changes or modifications in plans covering field operations.
4. The Permittee will conduct an environmental briefing of all employees, contractors, and subcontractors, including pilots, which will cover these stipulations. A copy of these stipulations shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the crew quarters.
5. No historic site, archeological site or paleontological resource shall be disturbed in any manner, nor shall any item be removed. Any site discovered during the course of field operations will be reported promptly to the Authorized Officer (AO) and in the completion report (Stipulation #14).
6. All operations must not impede rural residents from pursuing their traditional subsistence activities (ANILCA, PL 96-487).
7. The Permittee will be financially responsible for any fire caused by field operations which get out of control.
8. Harassment of peregrine falcons, as defined in Section 17.3 of Part 17, Title 50, CFR of the Endangered Species Act, and harassment of eagles, as defined in Section 22.3, Part 22, Title 50 CFR, will not be permitted.

Certain activities will be restricted, as described below, within specific radii of peregrine falcon nest sites during the time period specified:

- a. Within one mile of nest sites:
 - i) Maintain a minimum aircraft altitude of 1,500 feet above nest level from April 15 to August 31.
 - ii) All ground level activity is prohibited from April 15 through August 31.
- b. Within two miles of nest sites activities having high noise levels are prohibited from April 15 through August 31.

If peregrine falcons are encountered in cliff areas during permitted activities, leave the area and follow the restrictions listed above. Any site discovered during the course of field operations will be reported promptly to the AO and in the completion report (Stipulation #14). If the field party needs to revisit an area with a potential nest site, please contact the Arctic District Wildlife Biologist at 474-2315 for more information.

9. No feeding, chasing or buzzing by aircraft of any wildlife.

10. The Permittee shall protect all survey monuments, witness corners, and reference monuments against destruction, obliteration, or damage. Any damaged, destroyed, or obliterated monuments and corners shall be reestablished to the original exact location at the permittee's expense. A record of the reestablishment shall be submitted to the AO.
11. The Permittee shall hold the United States harmless against and from all demands, claims, or liabilities of any nature arising directly or indirectly from any operation on the land.
12. The following data will be submitted to the Division of Minerals (985), Mineral Assessment Branch, Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Ave., #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599:
 - a. A location map of all field sampling sites at a scale of 1:250,000 or larger.
 - b. Quality legible copies of all original observations and recordings, including descriptions of rock and hydrocarbon samples taken, keyed to the location map required in (a).
 - c. Results of all analyses conducted on rock and hydrocarbon samples, including, but not limited to, geochemical techniques, reservoir and source rock property determinations, and paleontologic and palynologic information.

Data required in (a) and (b) will be submitted within 30 days after the last day of permitted use. Data required in (c) will be submitted within 30 days of completion of analyses or within one year of completion of the permitted activity, whichever comes first. All data submitted which is clearly marked as proprietary or confidential will be kept confidential according to the standards and conditions set forth in BLM Manual Section 1273 (copies available upon request). All third party requests for access to such data will be referred to the Permittee.

There will be no publication of or public access to the data or derived interpretations or conclusions without the express written consent of the Permittee.

The Permittee will be reimbursed for reproduction of data at a rate consistent with prevailing local commercial rates for such services.

13. The Bureau of Land Management, through the AO, reserves the right to impose closure of any area to operators in periods when fire danger or other dangers to natural resources are severe.
14. Upon program completion or within 30 days of cessation of operations or the program, a final summary report shall be submitted to the District Manager, Arctic District Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709.

The data shall include:

- a. A description of all work performed.
 - b. Charts, maps or plats depicting the areas and blocks in which the exploration was conducted and specifically identifying the lines of geophysical traverses.
 - c. The dates on which the actual exploration was conducted.
 - d. A statement that all terms and conditions have been complied with, or that corrective measures shall be taken to rehabilitate the lands or other resources.
15. All fuel containers must be marked with the operator's name, date purchased and contents. No fuel storage or refueling of equipment shall be allowed within the flood plain of a river or lake.
 16. All refuse, fuel, food tins, human wastes and debris must be recovered from the public lands to approved collection sites. Garbage and human wastes may not be buried.

17. The foregoing provisions do not relieve the contractor or his subcontractor of any responsibilities or provisions required by any applicable laws or regulations.

Winter - Seismic Stipulations

In the performance of any operations under a Notice of Intent or Permit for geophysical exploration in the Arctic District Area, the applicant known here as the "Permittee" shall comply with the following stipulations:

General

1. The BLM Arctic District Manager or his delegate is the Authorized Officer (AO) for this permitted activity.
2. Communication regarding sections 1 through 5 of this attachment shall be addressed to:

Arctic District Manager
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
(907) 474-2302.

3. The Authorized Officer or his designated Field Representative may issue temporary suspension orders for any activity if operations are in non-compliance with these stipulations.
4. Requests to resume suspended activities shall be made directly to the Authorized Officer when the non-compliance has been corrected.
5. In matters of disagreement between the Authorized Officer and the Permittee, appeals may be made directly to the BLM State Director.
6. This permit is not valid for seismic exploration until the Authorized Officer receives detailed descriptions and plats of proposed shot lines (scale at least 1:250,000) and principal contacts, including field representatives, are identified by both parties.
7. As a condition of this permit, the Government of the United States of America reserves access to all geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information collected by the Permittee pursuant to this permit. The Division of Minerals, Chief Branch of Mineral Assessment, shall act on the Government's behalf in accordance with Section 6.
8. The Permittee may be requested by the Authorized Officer to furnish quarters and transportation for designated field representatives or observers to inspect operations.

Environmental

1. Permittee will conduct an environmental briefing for all employees, contractors, and subcontractors which will cover the stipulations attached to the permit.
2. All operations will be conducted in such a manner as not to cause damage or disturbance to any fish or wildlife and subsistence resources. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. No seismic vehicle operations within one-half mile of any denning barren ground grizzly (in the upland area) or any denning polar bear (near the sea coast or in the lower reaches of major rivers or estuaries).
 - b. No chasing by vehicles or buzzing by aircraft of any wildlife. Particular attention will be given to not disturbing caribou.
 - c. Operators shall prohibit their employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors and their employees, while on duty or living at any camp or mobile camp, from feeding wild animals or birds or from

leaving garbage or other potentially edible items which would attract wild animals or birds. Garbage will be kept in covered containers while waiting incineration.

- d. Aircraft shall maintain 1,000 foot altitude (except for take off and landings) over designated caribou concentration areas (i.e., winter and summer ranges, insect relief areas, etc.) during the specific time period designated unless doing so would endanger human life or be an unsafe flying practice.
3. All operations shall be conducted with due regard for good resource management and in such a manner as not to block any stream or drainage system, to change the character or course of a stream, or to cause the pollution or siltation of any stream or lake.
4. All activities shall be conducted so as to avoid or minimize disturbance to vegetation.
5. Seismic operations are to begin only after the seasonal frost in the tundra and underlying mineral soils has reached a depth of 12 inches, and the average snow cover is a depth of 6 inches.
6. Seismic operations will cease when the spring melt of snow begins; approximately May 5 in the foothill areas exceeding 300 feet in elevation; approximately 15 May in the northern coastal areas. The cut-off date will be determined by the Authorized Officer.
7. To prevent surface disturbance, tracked vehicles will not execute tight turns by locking one track.
8. Cultural Resources:
 - a. The Antiquities Act of June 8, 1906, (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 431-433) prohibits the appropriation, excavation, injury or destruction of any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any other object of antiquity, situated on lands owned or controlled by the United States.
 - b. No historic site, archeological site or camp, either active or abandoned, shall be disturbed in any manner nor shall any item be removed. Should such sites be discovered during the course of field operations, the Authorized Officer will be promptly notified.
9. All operations must not impede rural residents from pursuing their traditional subsistence activities (ANILCA, PL 96-487).

Operational

1. Exploration activities will employ low ground pressure vehicles of the rolligon, ARDCO, Trackmaster, Nodwell or of a similar type. The limited use of tractors, equipped with wide tracks or "shoes," will be allowed to pull the camp and fuel trailers. Any exceptions to this stipulation will require the written approval of the Authorized Officer.
2. Crossing of waterway courses shall be made using a low angle approach in order not to disrupt the naturally occurring stream or lake banks.
 - a. Alteration of the banks of a watercourse is prohibited.
 - b. If snow ramps or snow bridges are utilized at watercourse crossings for bank protection, shall be substantially free of soil and/or debris. Snow bridges shall be removed or breached immediately after use or before spring breakup.
 - c. Equipment shall not enter open-water areas of watercourses.
 - d. To avoid additional freezedown of deep water pools harboring overwintering fish, watercourses shall be crossed at shallow riffle areas from point bar to point bar whenever possible.

Compaction or removal of the insulating snow cover from the deep-water pool areas of rivers known to harbor overwintering fish shall be avoided.

3. No bulldozing of tundra areas, trails, or seismic lines will be allowed. This stipulation, however, does not prohibit the clearing of drifted snow along a trail or seismic line nor in a camp, to the extent that the tundra mat is not disturbed. Also, it does not prohibit the clearing of snow on a lake or river ice surface in order to prepare an aircraft runway.
4. Camps will be situated on gravel bars, sand, or other durable lands. Where leveling of trailers or modules is required and the surface has a vegetative mat, leveling will be accomplished with blocking rather than leveling with a bulldozer.
5. Camps will not be located on frozen lakes or on river ice. The location of camps on river sand or gravel bars is allowed and, where feasible, encouraged.
6. The contractor shall protect all survey monuments, witness corners and reference monuments against destruction, obliteration or damage. He shall, at his expense, re-establish damaged, destroyed or obliterated monuments and corners in their original exact position. A record of the re-establishment shall be submitted to the Authorized Officer.
7. Water Quality: all parties shall comply with applicable "Water Quality Standards" of the State of Alaska as approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - a. Waste water shall receive treatment conforming to federal requirements for secondary treatment if Arctic-tested package treatment facilities are used.
 - b. If chemical recirculating sewage facilities are employed, they shall be kept separate from the gray wash and kitchen waste water. Gray wash water and kitchen waste water may be filtered to remove the solids and the liquid discharged to the land surface. All solids and sludges shall be incinerated.
8. Air Quality: emissions from equipment and burning materials shall be held within Federal and State air quality standards.
9. Solid Waste
 - a. A solid waste management plan must be approved by Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) prior to initiating field work (Ref. PL 94-580). If approved by the DEC, all combustible solid waste, including cartons and used lubricating oils will be incinerated or returned to the base of operations for approved disposal. All non-combustible solid waste, including fuel drums, will be returned to the base of operations for approved disposal. There will be no burial of garbage or bulldozing of any area for the burial of anything.
 - b. Seismic lines shall be left clean of all foreign debris. This shall include, but is not limited to, wire, lathe, pin flags and reflectors.
10. Fuel Handling and Storage
 - a. A hazardous liquid spill control and contingency plan for each geophysical party will be submitted to the Authorized Officer prior to beginning operations (40 CFR 112).
 - b. Oil spills will be incinerated in approved receptacles but not on lake or river ice.
 - c. Although fuels may be off-loaded from aircraft on the ice, there will be no storage of fuels on lake or river ice, even on a temporary basis. This applies to any activity on any river or lake.
 - d. All fuel spills will be cleaned up immediately, taking precedence over all other matters, except the health and safety of personnel. Spills will be cleaned up utilizing absorbent pads or other approved methods. As soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours, notice of any such discharge as defined in Alaska Statute Title 18, Chapter 75, Article 2, will be given to:
 - i) The Authorized Officer in Fairbanks.
 - ii) Such other Federal and State officials as are required by law to be given such notice.

- e. Ample oil spill cleanup materials (absorbents) will be carried by each seismic crew and stored at all fueling points and vehicle maintenance areas.
- f. Storage and Handling
 - i) State and Federal safety standards for fuel handling will be followed.
 - ii) Drip basins or absorbent diapers will be placed under all non dry-disconnect-type fuel line couplings.
- 11. All fuel containers used, including barrels and propane tanks, must be marked with Permittee's name, fuel type, and purchase date (e.g., GSI, Hydraulic Fluid, 1983).
- 12. Field parties will keep daily records of seismic lines completed, fuel haul and camp move routes, and campsites utilized.
- 13. The foregoing provisions do not relieve the contractor or his subcontractors of any responsibilities or provisions required by any applicable laws or regulations.
- 14. A copy of these stipulations shall be posted in a conspicuous place in each camp site established for the purpose of geophysical exploration with NPR-A.
- 15. More than one Permittee may be approved to conduct geophysical activities in the same area within NPR-A or other public lands. In such a case, it is incumbent upon the Permittees to resolve any conflicts in their activities. The Authorized Officer will curtail all activities within certain areas if resolution cannot be achieved by the Permittees.

Notice of Completion

- 1. A final summary report shall be submitted to the Authorized Officer within 30 days of completion or cessation of operations. This report shall include:
 - a. Program completion date.
 - b. Field effort in crew weeks.
 - c. Line miles of surveys completed.
 - d. Summary of incidents or accidents (including reported oil spills).
 - e. Location map on 1:250,000 scale showing location of lines actually shot, campsites utilized, and routes used for fuel hauls and camp moves.
- 2. The Authorized Officer shall receive copies of Permittee's notification to the BLM Alaska Chief, Division of Minerals, in order to demonstrate satisfaction of permit stipulations 1.6 and Permit Attachment 1.

Bonding

Permittee must file with the Authorized Officer evidence of bonding. A rider to either a \$50,000 nationwide or \$25,000 state-wide bond shall pertain to the NPR-A and Arctic Resource Area seismic activities. This bonding requirement shall apply separately to each seismic train.

Geophysical Data

- 1. Inspection, selection, and submission of geophysical information and data:

- a. The Permittee shall notify the BLM Alaska Chief, Division of Mineral Assessment (CDM), immediately, in writing, of the acquisition, processing, reprocessing, or interpretation of any geophysical information or data collected under this permit.
 - b. All such data and information collected by the Permittee shall be available for inspection by the CDM. At any time within five years after receiving a notice of the acquisition, processing, reprocessing, or interpretation of any geophysical information and data, the CDM may select all or part of the geophysical information.
 - c. If the CDM decides to keep all or a portion of the geophysical information and data, he shall notify the Permittee, in writing, of his decision.
 - d. In the event that geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, or interpreted geophysical information is transferred from the Permittee to a third party, or from a third party to another third party, the transferor shall, in writing, so notify the CDM and shall require the receiving third party, in writing, to abide by the obligations of the Permittee as specified in this section as a condition precedent to the transfer of information or data.
 - e. Each submission of geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information, shall contain, unless otherwise specified by the CDM, the following:
 - i) An accurate and complete record of each geophysical survey conducted under the permit, including digital location data and final location maps of all survey stations.
 - ii) All seismic data developed under a permit presented in a format and of a quality suitable for processing.
 - iii) Processed geophysical information derived from seismic data with extraneous signals and interference removed, presented in a format and of a quality suitable for interpretive evaluation, reflecting state-of-the-art processing techniques.
 - iv) Other geophysical data, processed geophysical information, reprocessed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information obtained from, but not limited to, vibroseis logs, gravity and magnetic surveys, and special studies such as refraction and velocity surveys.
2. Reimbursement to Permittees:
- a. After the delivery of geophysical data, processed geophysical information, and reprocessed geophysical information selected by the CDM, and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement and a determination that the requested reimbursement is proper, the Permittee or third party shall be reimbursed for the cost of reproducing the selected information and data at the Permittee's or third party's lowest rate or at the lowest commercial rate established in the area, whichever is less.
 - b. The Permittee shall not be reimbursed for the cost of any interpretations performed or reproductions thereof submitted.
3. Disclosure of information and data to the public:
- a. The CDM may only make information and data submitted by a Permittee available in accordance with the requirements of and subject to the limitations of the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552) and the implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 2).
 - b. No information or data, determined by the CDM to be exempt from public disclosure, shall be provided to any affected State, or be made available to the executive of any affected local government or to the public, unless the Permittee and all persons to whom such Permittee has sold the information or data under promise of confidentiality agree to such an action.
4. Disclosure to independent contractors

- a. The CDM reserves the right to disclose any information or data acquired from a Permittee to an independent contractor or agent for the purpose of reproducing, processing, reprocessing or interpreting such information or data. The CDM shall notify the Permittee who provided the information or data of intent to disclose the information or data to such independent contractor or agent.
- b. Prior to any such disclosure, the contractor or agent shall be required to execute a written commitment not to transfer or to otherwise disclose any information or data to anyone without the expressed consent of the CDM. The contractor or agent shall be liable for any unauthorized use by or disclosure of information or data to third parties.

5. Communication:

All correspondence regarding the data requirements of this section shall be addressed to:

Division of Minerals
Chief, Branch of Mineral Assessment
6881 Abbott Loop Road
Anchorage, AK 99507