

# PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-AKF010-2013-0008-CX

**Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management**

**Applicant:**

ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.  
Lynn DeGeorge  
P.O. Box 100360  
Anchorage, AK 99510-0360

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** 2984.01 (AK012)

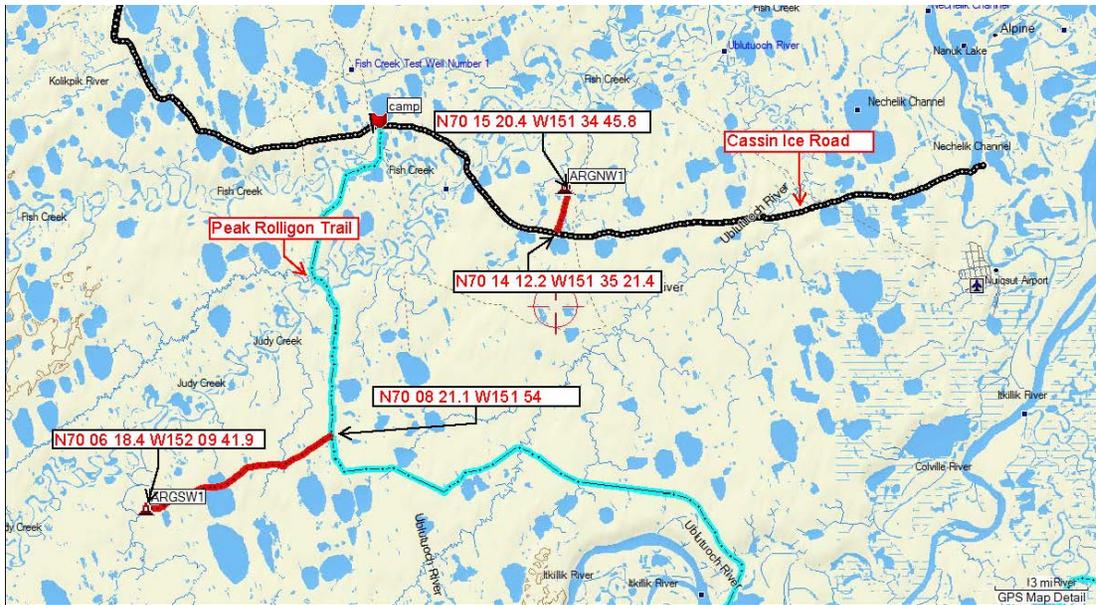
**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Access to weather stations in the NPR-A

**Description of Proposed Action:**

ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) has requested approval to access weather stations (ARGSW1, ARGSE2, ARGNE2, and ARGNW1) in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A). ARGNW1 and ARGNE2 are located on land that has been transferred to Kuukpik Corporation. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) does not authorize use on private lands therefore we would only grant access to ARGSW1 and ARGSE2. This may require several trips between March 10th and breakup (late April/early May). Winter access is preferred as they would be accessible via rolligon. Access in the summer would require a helicopter which would be costly and create a greater impact to the community. Access to the sites would be from this winter's established snow trail or ice road. Access to ARGSW1 and ARGSE2 is approximately 6.6 miles west of the Peak Rolligon trail from DS-2P to the Cassin Midway Camp. Access is needed to perform operations and maintenance activities. Time spent at each location would be less than a day and any overnight stay would be at an already approved site.

**Location of Proposed Action:**

ARGSW1 Section 28, Township 9 North, Range 1 West, Umiat Meridian  
ARGSW1 Section 28, Township 9 North, Range 1 West, Umiat Meridian  
ARGSW1 Section 28, Township 9 North, Range 1 West, Umiat Meridian  
ARGNE2 Section 2, Township 10 North, Range 2 East, Umiat Meridian (Not BLM managed land)



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**Figure 1. Applicant Submitted Map**

## Part I: Land Use Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2012 and Record of Decision (ROD) 2013.

The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be required to abide by stipulations attached to their winter Right of Way Grant BLM serial number FF096502.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date March 7, 2013

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

## Part II: NEPA Review and Discussion

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.

| <b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>   | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 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         |

Date March 7, 2013

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