

Decision Record - Memorandum

Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

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Table of Contents

1. AGDC / ASAP Temporary Use Permit	1
1.1. Compliance	1
1.2. Selected Action	1
1.3. Compliance with NEPA:	1
1.4. Public Involvement:	1
1.5. Rationale:	1
1.6. Appeal or Protest Opportunities:	2
1.7. Authorizing Official:	2
1.8. Contact Person	2

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Chapter 1. AGDC / ASAP Temporary Use Permit

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1.1. Compliance

The proposed action is in conformance with the Utility Corridor RMP, because it is clearly consistent with the following RMP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Appendix N Lands Program Objectives (page N 7- 9)

5. Make lands available to Federal and State agencies and research organizations for needed administrative and facilities support, and locate facilities development to minimize environmental impacts with emphasis given to previously disturbed sites.

7. Process applications for land use authorizations from the general public, federal and state agencies, and research organizations on a case by case basis.

1.2. Selected Action

It is my decision to approve the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation's (AGDC) plan to collect geotechnical data along the ASAP alignment for a study to delineate frost heave potential to support engineering activities for the Alaska Stand Alone Gas Pipeline (ASAP). A temporary use permit will be issued for this activity.

1.3. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 4, J.3, which states, "Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring."

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

1.4. Public Involvement:

Public notice for availability of DOI-BLM-AK-F03000-2013-0012-CX was posted on the BLM's NEPA website.

1.5. Rationale:

1. The action is categorically excluded and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.
2. The Proposed Action will not significantly restrict Essential Fish Habitat.
3. There are no anticipated impacts to Wilderness areas.
4. The Proposed Action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses.
5. There are no anticipated impacts to cultural resources.

1.6. Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision.

1.7. Authorizing Official:

/S/ Gary M. Foreman (for) – 8/9/13

Nichelle W Jacobson
Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

Date

1.8. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact.

Peggy M. Lenehan, Realty
Specialist
Central Yukon Field Office
1150 University Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907)474-2237