

Galbraith Lake Airport and Access Road

A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2013-0049CX

Case File Nos.: F-12632 and F-91217

Proposed Action Title/Type: Galbraith Lake Airport and Access Road Renewal

Location of Proposed Action: Galbraith Lake Airport is located at MP 275 of the Dalton Highway approximately 106 miles south of Prudhoe Bay and 355 miles northwest of Fairbanks, Alaska more particularly described as Secs. 14, 15, 22, 23 and 26, T. 11 S., R. 11 E., Umiat Meridian. USGS Quad Phillip Smith Mountains.

Description of Proposed Action: The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (SOA/DOTPF) proposes to renew their airport lease and road right-of-way for access to the airport for 20 years. The airport was constructed in 1974–75 to support the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the Dalton Highway. The site, generally unchanged since construction encompasses a 625 acre rectangle. The 625 acres is subdivided into seven (7) parcels described as Parcels A, B, C, D, E and Lots 1 and 2. Parcel A is reserved for BLM use and has a FWS bunkhouse and camp. The airport maintenance is provided by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company through a written agreement with the SOA/DOTPF. Lot 1 has been permitted to the Alaska Fish and Game, Lot 2 permitted to Richard Guthrie for a guiding business and Parcel E to the University of Alaska for research. The runway has a gravel surface measuring 5,200' x 150', and an unpaved apron 400' x 200'. The airport is lighted with medium intensity edge lighting, lighted wind cones, apron floodlighting and runway end identifier lights on both ends of the runway. Navaids include a non-direction beacon with DME which are privately owned and operated by Alyeska. VASI units and all navaids are owned and operated by Alyeska as well. Improvements onsite are a tower, fire building, storage, shop and fuel tank which holds 10,000 gallons of Jet B fuel (with proper secondary containment). The existing access road is gravel from the Dalton Highway to the airport measuring 100' wide by 1,100' long for a total of 23.01 acres. Primary use of the road occurs between April and October with intermittent use during the remaining months of the year. Users consist of DOT employees, Alyeska, Federal agencies, guides, hunters and the general public

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: January 11, 1991

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan, Appendix N — Lands and Realty Program (page N-8) 7. Process applications for land use authorizations from the general public, Federal and State agencies and research organizations on a case-by-case basis.

C. 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 1, or 516 DM 11.9.

11.9 E (Realty)

(9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

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.

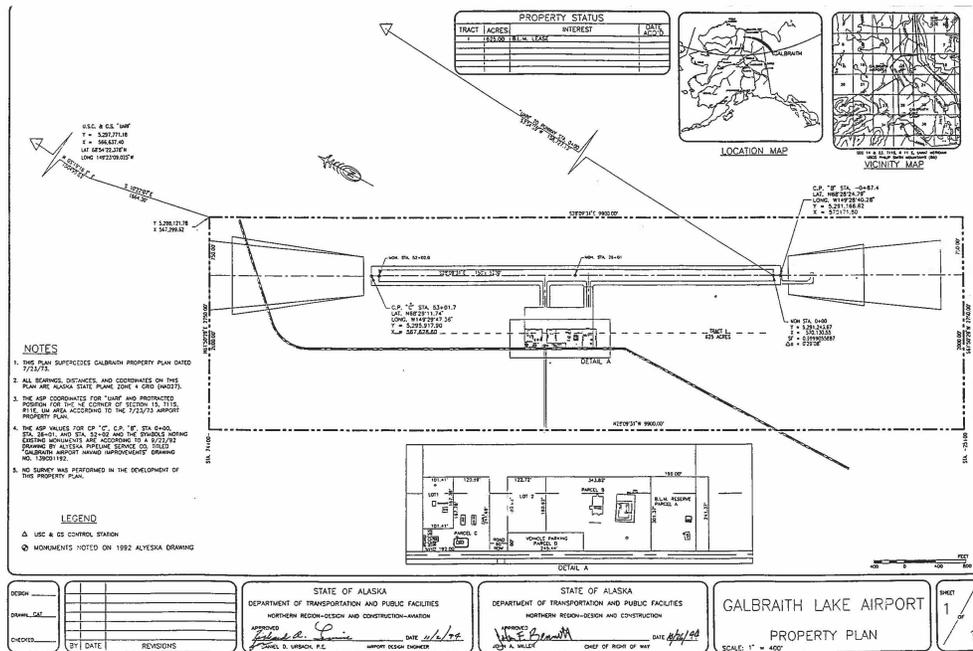


Figure 1. Galbraith Lake Airport and Access Road

D. Approval and Contact Information

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August 16, 2013
 Date

Contact Person

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