

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKEF010

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096757

Applicant: Lee Majors
Alaska Clean Seas
Pouch 340022
Prudhoe Bay, Alaska 99734

Dates of Proposed Activity: February 12, 2014 through December 31, 2018

Proposed Action Title/Type: Oil Spill Response Training in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) (2884.01).

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Lee Majors with Alaska Clean Seas (ACS), has requested to renew a Right-of-Way for access and landing by helicopter on lands and waterways within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) land for conducting oil spill response training exercises.

Alaska Clean Seas (ACS) is an oil spill response organization for the North Slope of Alaska and the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. This application is for occasional and irregular access to NPR-A lands for the purpose of conducting oil spill response training exercises. No related structures or facilities are requested. The primary areas of activities include the coastline of the Chukchi Sea, coastline of the Beaufort Sea and areas inland, near the coast, identical to onshore petroleum production. Maps of ACS's planned activities are located in the ACS Technical Manual, Volume 2 at <http://www.alaskacleanseas.org/tech-manual/>.

Training is conducted on an ad hoc basis, as timing permits and need demands. It occurs primarily in the summer months. Personnel conducting the training can number from 5-20. Access to training areas will be mostly by boat or from existing road infrastructure. Remote sites may be accessed by helicopter. Helicopter deployment of personnel and response equipment will be infrequent. No field camps are anticipated. Fuel will be used for operating small hydraulic power units, small generators, small pumps, boats and other equipment as necessary. Equipment containing fuel that is deployed on the tundra will have secondary containment under the equipment. Training will mostly consist of deploying boom and skimming systems to simulate protection of Priority Protection Sites as indicated on the maps contained within the ACS Technical Manual. Individual training exercises are usually no more than one day in length. No specific consultation has been conducted with the local communities, however, the member company contingency plans and the ACS Technical Manual went through a public review process. Village Response Teams and other spill response teams that participate in this training employ local residents.

Maps of the area are located in the ACS Technical Manual, Volume 2 at <http://www.alaskacleanseas.org/tech-manual/>.

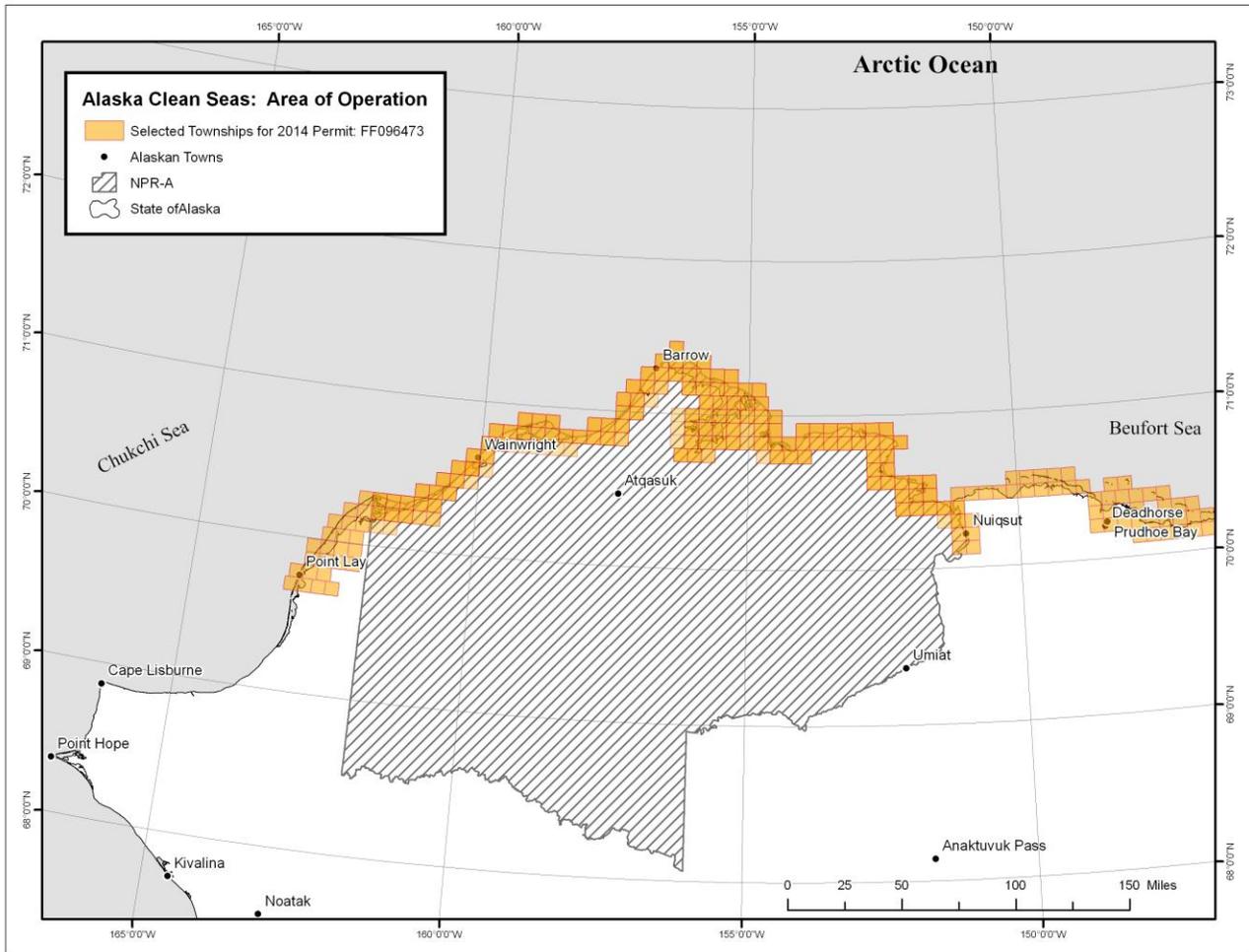


Figure1: Selected Townships for the proposed operating areas

Legal Description:

Meridian	Township	Range	Meridian	Township	Range	Meridian	Township	Range
Umiat	12 N	1 E	Umiat	14 N	3 W	Umiat	22 N	19 W
Umiat	13 N	1 E	Umiat	15 N	3 W	Umiat	19 N	20 W
Umiat	14 N	1 E	Umiat	16 N	3 W	Umiat	20 N	20 W
Umiat	12 N	2 E	Umiat	17 N	3 W	Umiat	21 N	20 W
Umiat	13 N	2 E	Umiat	18 N	3 W	Umiat	17 N	21 W
Umiat	14 N	2 E	Umiat	17 N	4 W	Umiat	18 N	21 W
Umiat	12 N	3 E	Umiat	18 N	4 W	Umiat	19 N	21 W

Umiat	9 N	4 E	Umiat	17 N	5 W	Umiat	20 N	21 W
Umiat	10 N	4 E	Umiat	18 N	5 W	Umiat	17 N	22 W
Umiat	11 N	4 E	Umiat	17 N	6 W	Umiat	18 N	22 W
Umiat	12 N	4 E	Umiat	18 N	6 W	Umiat	17 N	23 W
Umiat	13 N	4 E	Umiat	17 N	7 W	Umiat	18 N	23 W
Umiat	9 N	5 E	Umiat	18 N	7 W	Umiat	17 N	24 W
Umiat	10 N	5 E	Umiat	16 N	8 W	Umiat	17 N	25 W
Umiat	11 N	5 E	Umiat	17 N	8 W	Umiat	17 N	26 W
Umiat	13 N	5 E	Umiat	18 N	8 W	Umiat	18 N	26 W
Umiat	13 N	6 E	Umiat	16 N	9 W	Umiat	17 N	27 W
Umiat	13 N	7 E	Umiat	17 N	9 W	Umiat	18 N	27 W
Umiat	13 N	8 E	Umiat	16 N	10 W	Umiat	17 N	28 W
Umiat	14 N	8 E	Umiat	17 N	10 W	Umiat	18 N	28 W
Umiat	13 N	9 E	Umiat	18 N	10 W	Umiat	17 N	29 W
Umiat	14 N	9 E	Umiat	19 N	10 W	Umiat	16 N	30 W
Umiat	13 N	10 E	Umiat	17 N	11 W	Umiat	17 N	30 W
Umiat	14 N	10 E	Umiat	18 N	11 W	Umiat	15 N	31 W
Umiat	13 N	11 E	Umiat	19 N	11 W	Umiat	16 N	31 W
Umiat	14 N	11 E	Umiat	20 N	11 W	Umiat	14 N	32 W
Umiat	13 N	12 E	Umiat	21 N	11 W	Umiat	15 N	32 W
Umiat	14 N	12 E	Umiat	17 N	12 W	Umiat	13 N	33 W
Umiat	13 N	13 E	Umiat	18 N	12 W	Umiat	14 N	33 W
Umiat	10 N	14 E	Umiat	19 N	12 W	Umiat	12 N	34 W
Umiat	11 N	14 E	Umiat	20 N	12 W	Umiat	13 N	34 W
Umiat	12 N	14 E	Umiat	21 N	12 W	Umiat	10 N	35 W
Umiat	10 N	15 E	Umiat	17 N	13 W	Umiat	11 N	35 W
Umiat	11 N	15 E	Umiat	18 N	13 W	Umiat	12 N	35 W
Umiat	12 N	15 E	Umiat	19 N	13 W	Umiat	10 N	36 W
Umiat	13 N	15 E	Umiat	20 N	13 W	Umiat	11 N	36 W
Umiat	10 N	16 E	Umiat	21 N	13 W	Umiat	12 N	36 W
Umiat	12 N	16 E	Umiat	22 N	13 W	Umiat	10 N	37 W
Umiat	13 N	16 E	Umiat	17 N	14 W	Umiat	11 N	37 W
Umiat	9 N	17 E	Umiat	18 N	14 W	Umiat	10 N	38 W
Umiat	10 N	17 E	Umiat	19 N	14 W	Umiat	11 N	38 W
Umiat	11 N	17 E	Umiat	20 N	14 W	Umiat	10 N	39 W
Umiat	9 N	18 E	Umiat	21 N	14 W	Umiat	11 N	39 W
Umiat	10 N	18 E	Umiat	22 N	14 W	Umiat	9 N	40 W
Umiat	12 N	18 E	Umiat	16 N	15 W	Umiat	10 N	40 W
Umiat	9 N	19 E	Umiat	17 N	15 W	Umiat	11 N	40 W
Umiat	10 N	19 E	Umiat	18 N	15 W	Umiat	6 N	41 W
Umiat	11 N	19 E	Umiat	19 N	15 W	Umiat	7 N	41 W
Umiat	12 N	19 E	Umiat	20 N	15 W	Umiat	8 N	41 W

Umiat	9 N	20 E	Umiat	21 N	15 W	Umiat	9 N	41 W
Umiat	10 N	20 E	Umiat	22 N	15 W	Umiat	10 N	41 W
Umiat	11 N	20 E	Umiat	23 N	15 W	Umiat	6 N	42 W
Umiat	9 N	21 E	Umiat	16 N	16 W	Umiat	7 N	42 W
Umiat	10 N	21 E	Umiat	17 N	16 W	Umiat	8 N	42 W
Umiat	11 N	21 E	Umiat	18 N	16 W	Umiat	9 N	42 W
Umiat	9 N	22 E	Umiat	19 N	16 W	Umiat	4 N	43 W
Umiat	10 N	22 E	Umiat	21 N	16 W	Umiat	5 N	43 W
Umiat	12 N	17 E	Umiat	22 N	16 W	Umiat	6 N	43 W
Umiat	12 N	1 W	Umiat	23 N	16 W	Umiat	7 N	43 W
Umiat	13 N	1 W	Umiat	16 N	17 W	Umiat	8 N	43 W
Umiat	14 N	1 W	Umiat	22 N	17 W	Umiat	4 N	44 W
Umiat	17 N	1 W	Umiat	23 N	17 W	Umiat	5 N	44 W
Umiat	14 N	2 W	Umiat	24 N	17 W	Umiat	6 N	44 W
Umiat	15 N	2 W	Umiat	21 N	18 W	Umiat	7 N	44 W
Umiat	16 N	2 W	Umiat	22 N	18 W	Umiat	4 N	45 W
Umiat	17 N	2 W	Umiat	23 N	18 W	Umiat	5 N	45 W
Umiat	18 N	2 W	Umiat	21 N	19 W	Umiat	4 N	46 W

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following planning document: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated November 2012 and associated Record of Decision dated February 2013.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, which allows for the authorization of uses consistent with the purposes of the Act.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The 2013 IAP/EIS Record of Decision for the NPR-A developed stipulations and best management practices applicable to all activities in NPR-A. The stipulations and best management practices applicable to the proposed action will be provided, along with project-specific mitigation, to the applicant and are entitled: “FF096473 Alaska Clean Seas ROW Stipulations 2014 - 2018”.

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. Specifically the proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 National Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 4(J.4) BLM Categorical Exclusions.

“Use of small sites for temporary field work camps where the sites will be restored to their natural or original condition within the same work season.”

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.

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); 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

D. Approval and Contact Information

I considered the proposed action and have determined that there is no potential for significant impacts.

/s/Lon Kelly
Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

March 21, 2014

Date

Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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