

UAF Seismic Site Renewal at Coldfoot

A. Background

BLM Office:Central Yukon Field Office

Case File No.: F-93996

Proposed Action Title/Type: Renewal of seismic station and upgrade of data quality at Coldfoot.

Location of Proposed Action: Mile post 174 on the Dalton Highway more particularly described as within NE¼, Sec. 28, T. 28 N., R. 12 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska, containing approximately 0.10 acre.

Description of Proposed Action:The University of Alaska at Fairbanks proposes to renew their existing seismic station and upgrade their data quality near Coldfoot Alaska for ten (10) years. The site is southeast of an existing mineral material source commonly identified as OMS 98.0-2. The unit is powered by wind and solar charged batteries. The batteries are valve regulated, recombinant lead/acid non-spillable batteries that are exempt from the DOT requirements. A SDS was submitted with the application and is on file. The wind/solar structure is a custom built 4 x 4 x 5 fiberglass hut with two seismometers in a vault made from a 95 gallon fiberglass drum buried and coupled to bedrock with concrete. To upgrade data quality they also propose to add a shallow borehole next to the existing seismic vault. The borehole would be 3m-5m deep and 20cm in diameter. It will be drilled using a small portable coring machine, and the hole will be cased with PVC pipe. The borehole will house their broadband seismometer while the existing vault will continue to house the datalogger and strong motion instrument. Additional improvements would be to install a small barometer/thermometer instrument, add one or two additional solar panels on a swingset-style mount near the existing hut. They would maintain the current foot trail to the station from the parking area. The entire footprint is approximately 130 square feet.

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 RMP, Appendix N — Lands and Realty Program (Page N-8)

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)

(13) Amendments to the existing rights-of-way, such as the upgrading of existing facilities, which entail no additional disturbance outside the right-of-way boundary. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment.

The Categorical Exclusion proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

D. Approval and Contact Information

/s/ Gary M. Foreman for Nichelle W. Jacobson Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	April 18, 2014 Date
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Contact Person

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