

**A. Background****BLM Office:** Arctic Field Office LLAKF010**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** FF096775

**Applicant:** ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.  
P.O. Box 100360  
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0360

**Dates of Proposed Activity:** Current – December 2024**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Weather Station ROW (288401)

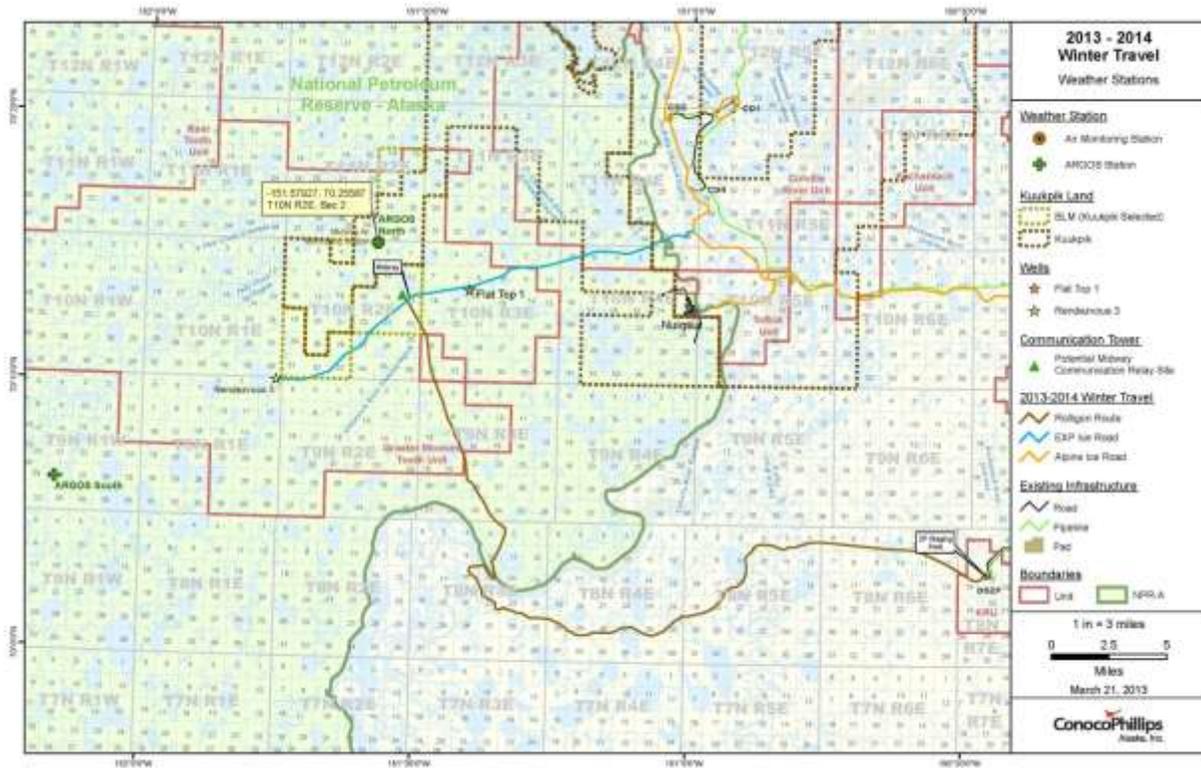
**Description of Proposed Action:** ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) is requesting a Right-of-Way (ROW) grant for the continued use of a parcel of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). In 2001 CPAI installed two remote weather stations, ARGNW1 (aka ARGOS North) and ARGSW1 (aka ARGOS South) within the NPR-A. The land on which ARGNW1 is located has been conveyed out of federal ownership and the BLM no longer has the authority to manage the site. The BLM informally authorized access to the sites in 2001, but did not issue an authorization for the placement of the weather stations or continued access. The proposed action would authorize a ROW to CPAI for access and the continued use of the ARGSW1/ARGOS South site.

Through a satellite uplink, the weather stations electronically transmit critical data such as soil temperature, snow depth, and soil condition to support tundra travel. CPAI collects soil temperature data from the weather station to study the soil freezing status and ability of the soil to support a load in the form of tundra travel. Data collected from the stations may be used by CPAI for all aspects of planning and operation in the geographical zone.

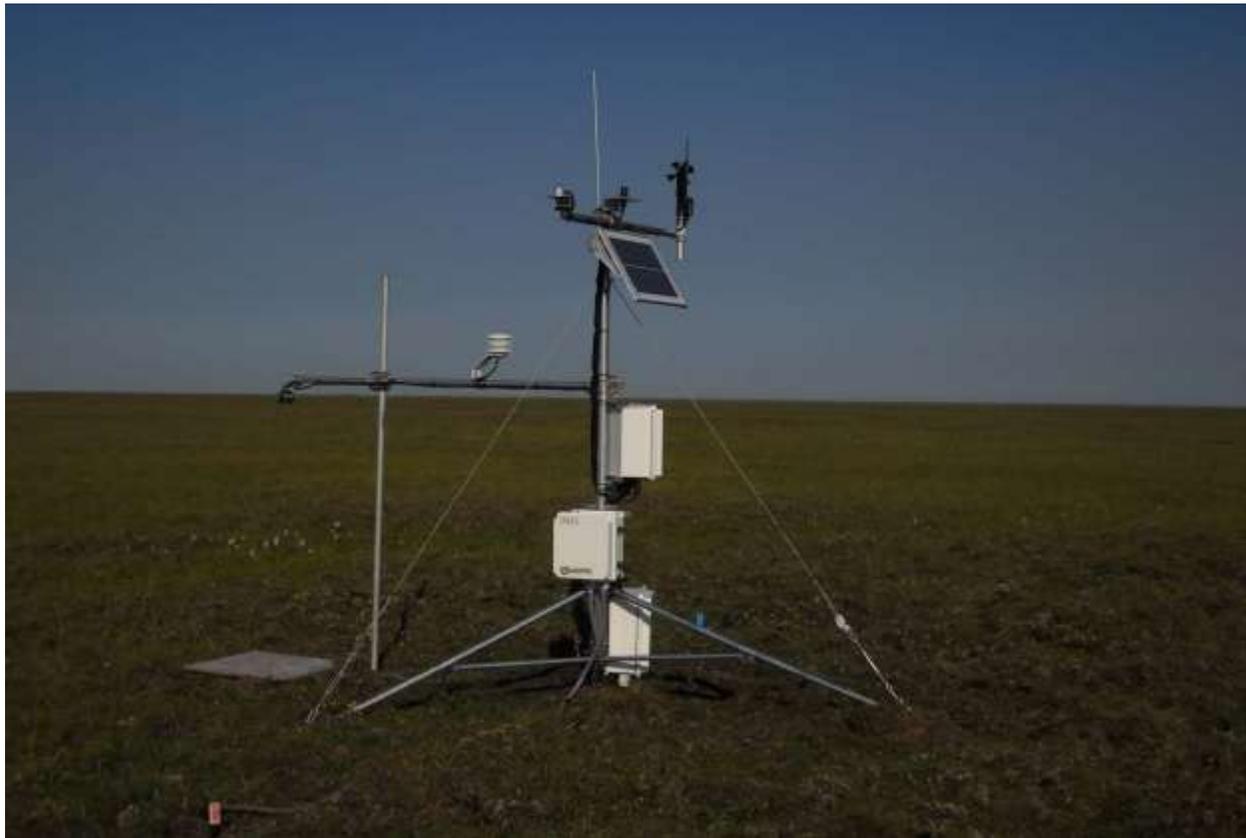
The ROW application was submitted to ensure that the weather stations meet current BLM authorization requirements. Since the weather station is currently in place, no new construction would take place. There would be a trip once a year via rolligon to conduct maintenance on the weather station. Typically, two people would make the trip, the rolligon driver and the equipment operator. The maintenance would be conducted in the winter to reduce the number of CPAI summer helicopter flights.

**Legal Description (Umiat Meridian):**

	Latitude	Longitude	Township	Range	Section	
ARGSW1	N70° 6.305	W152° 9.739	9 North	1 West	28 NWSW	BLM Managed Land
ARGNW1	N70° 15.339	W151° 34.768	10 North	2 East	2 & 3	Not BLM Managed Land



**Figure 1: Applicant map**



**Figure 2: Photograph of weather station**

## B. Land Use Plan Conformance Review

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 IAP/EIS Record of Decisions 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: “FF096775 ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. Weather Station Right of Way Stipulations”.

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 3 Departmental Categorical Exclusions.

**“Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.”**

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.

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.		
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.		<b>X</b>
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		<b>X</b>
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or		<b>X</b>

involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
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

April 14, 2014\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Donna Wixon  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Bureau of Land Management  
Arctic Field Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Phone: 907-474-2301  
Email: [dwixon@blm.gov](mailto:dwixon@blm.gov)