

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKF010

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096777, FF096778, FF096779

Applicants: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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Dates of Proposed Activity: Current – December 2031

Proposed Action Title/Type: Access ROW (289007)

Description of Proposed Action: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Global Monitoring Division (GMD) has a withdrawal (PLO 7760) at Barrow Alaska to operate an atmospheric chemistry research observatory. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) also has land withdrawn under PLO 7760 on which they operate a geomagnetism observatory at Barrow Alaska. The United States Department of Energy operates an Atmospheric Radiation Measurement Program at Barrow, Alaska under a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant FF093215. Together, these three entities (NOAA, USGS & DOE) have formed the Barrow Users group to share information and ideas to manage the land that they use. In order to access their sites it is necessary to cross an Air Force ROW (FF081465). NOAA, DOE and USGS have requested a ROW grant across the Air Force ROW for access to their withdrawals and ROW. The withdrawal expires in 2031. The entities have requested the ROW time frame to coincide with their current authorizations.

The area is accessed via public road, Stevenson Street to the Dewline Road. The Dewline Road allows access to the withdrawals and the ROW (see Figure 1). The Air Force has the road gated to their property and allows the Barrow Group users access. The proposed ROW would provide each entity with their own authorization to use the road to their sites, not dependent upon each other or the Air Force. The ROW would not increase or decrease the amount of traffic on the road.

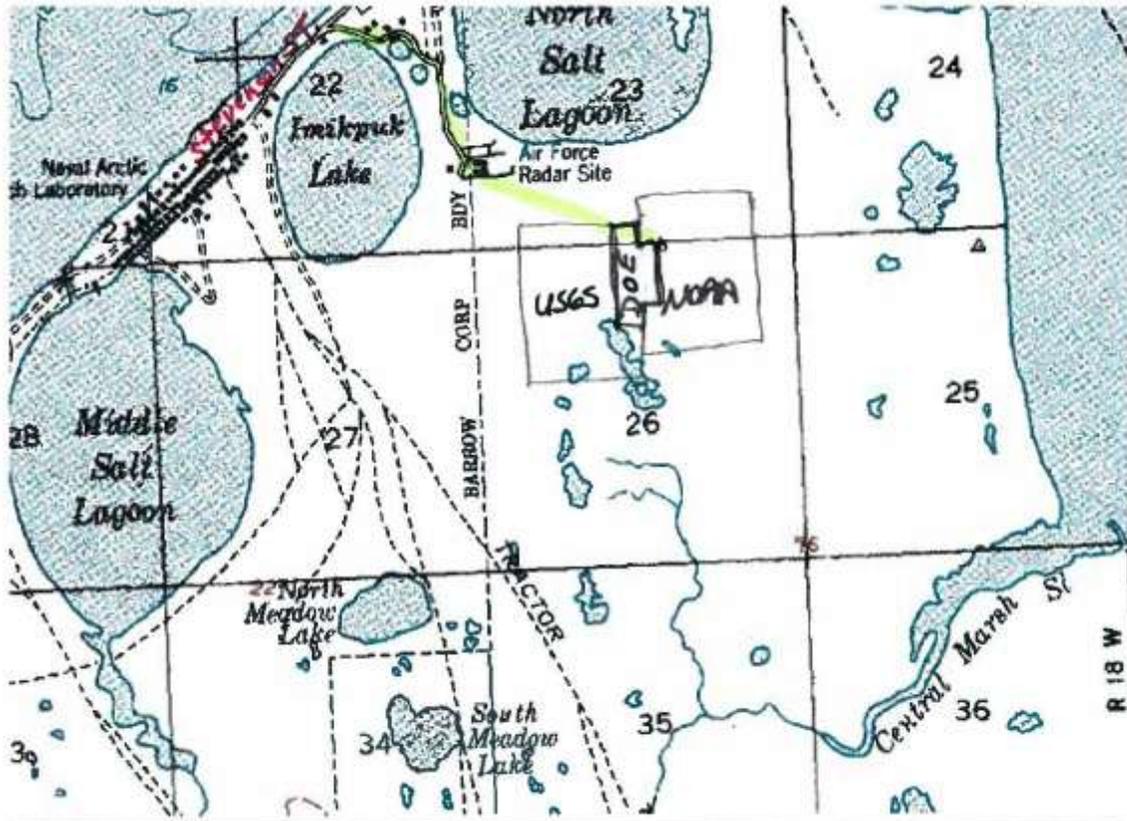


Figure 1: Map showing access road in yellow

Legal Description:

Meridian	Township	Range	Section	Survey #	Lot
Umiat	23 North	18 West	22	5253	12
Umiat	23 North	18 West	23	5253	12

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 applicants and are entitled: “FF096777 NOAA Access ROW Stipulations”, FF096778 DOE Access ROW Stipulations” and “FF096779 USGS Access ROW 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 4 BLM Categorical Exclusions.

“Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.”

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.

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		X

National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		
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

May 21, 2014
Date

Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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