United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588-0147
http://www.blm.gov/ak

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: UAA Paxson Tower Amendment

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0011-CX

Case File Number: AA084080

Location / Legal Description: Section 33, T. 22 S., R. 12 E., Fairbanks Meridian, by the AT&T Tower

Applicant (if any): University of Alaska, UA Facilities and Land Management

Description of Proposed Action:

On April 17, 2002 UAA filed an application for a right-of-way for a seismic monitoring site located just below the AT&T Tower at Paxson. This was authorized on October 14, 2003. On December 10, 2014, UAA filed an application to amend this authorization. The application requests the installation of a new borehole approximately 8" in diameter and 15' deep to upgrade the current equipment. This request also includes a buried cable from the new borehole to the existing equipment hut, approximately 20' away.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: East Alaska Resource Management Plan approved September 7, 2007.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

I. Lands and Realty
I-1: Goals
Provide a balance between land use (rights-of-way, land use permits, leases and sales, and resource protection that best serves the public at large.

I-2 Land Use Authorizations
Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands such as right-of-way grants, road, temporary use permits under several different authorities; leases, permits and easements under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA); airport leases under the Act of May 24, 1928; and Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases.

C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR 46.210 or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, which provides:

J. Other
3. Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies, and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installations and operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters, and automatic air or water samples.

D. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The proposed action must be screened against the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR § 46.215 (listed below). Any "yes" finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	No
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.	No
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
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.	No
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.	No

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
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).	No
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or 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).	No

E. SIGNATURE

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 FM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

/s/ Dennis C. Teitzel 8/21/2015

Dennis C. Teitzel
Glennallen Field Manager

Date