

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Alaska Fire Service (AFS) Fort Yukon Fuel Line Project

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2015-0009-CX

Case File Number: N/A

Location / Legal Description: Fort Yukon Fire Control Station, Township 20 North, Range 12 East, Section 7, Fairbanks Meridian. This project is proposed on (see Figure 1):

- USS 4399 withdrawn for BLM in PLO 1729;
- USS 3191 patented to the Territory of Alaska in 1955 and leased from the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) by BLM – Alaska Fire Service (Lease ADA-72066); and
- Lot 5, Section 7 of Fairbanks Township 20 North, Range 12 East issued to the State of Alaska DOT&PF by Quit Claim Deed in 1980. Block 3, Lot 1 is leased to BLM – Alaska Fire Service (Lease ADA-72066)



Figure 1. Legal Land Description.

Applicant (if any): N/A

Description of Proposed Action:

The AFS proposes to remove buried fuel pipes extending from the former tank location to existing fuel dispensers. A contractor will install new buried pipes from existing 5,000 and 6,000 gallon fuel tanks to the two existing fuel dispensers, install a new fuel dispenser approximately 60 feet northwest of the tanks, and buried pipes from the tanks to the new fuel dispenser. See Figure 2. AFS will install a new shut-off valve next to the fuel tanks and new buried electrical wiring from existing wiring system to the all fuel dispensers and the new shut-off valve. Separate trenches will be dug for the electrical wiring and the fuel pipes. Project will occur during the 2015 and/or 2016 field seasons (May- September).

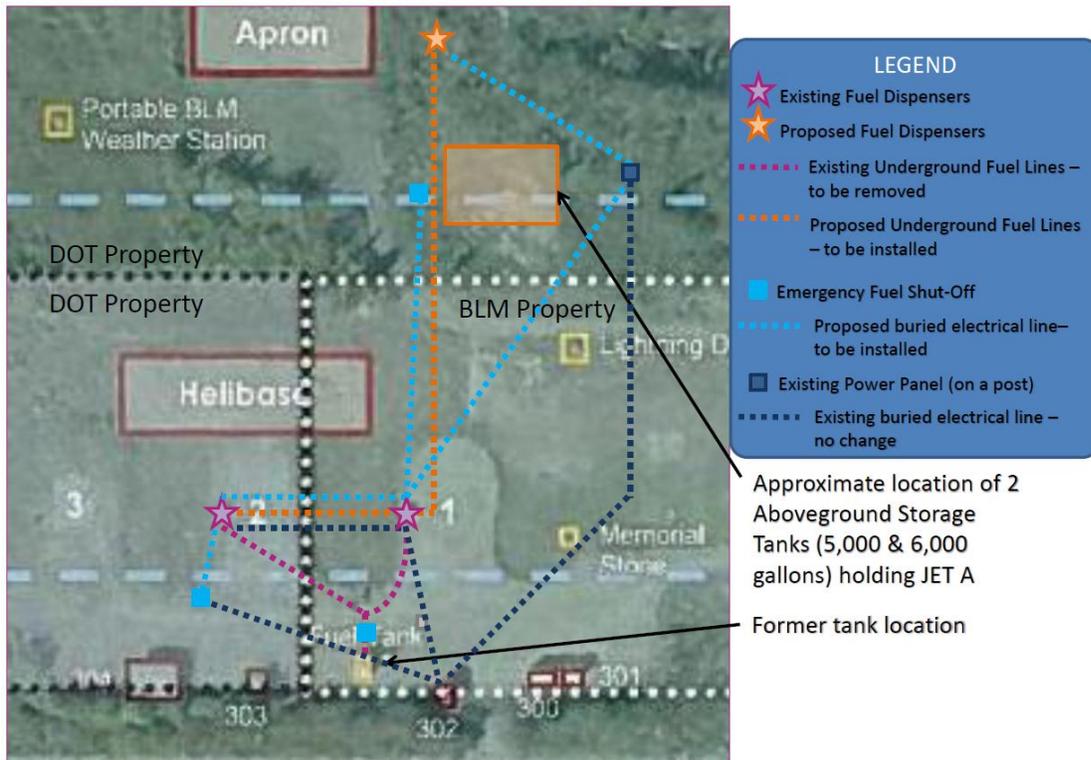


Figure 2. Project Diagram.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: This area is not covered under any current BLM Land Use Plans. The project area is on BLM and DOTP&F land within the boundary of the Fort Yukon Airport and is included in the State of Alaska DOT&PF Airport Development and Land Use Plan of 1983. The BLM is authorized to use this Land Use Plan under 43 CFR 1610.5-7 because the plan is comprehensive, has allowed for public involvement, has considered the public land interest in a way comparable to the manner in which it would have been considered in a resource management plan, and has had subsequent NEPA analysis. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) contracted an Environmental Assessment (EA) in January 2009 for airport improvements with a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI). That EA included the project area for this proposed action, although this specific proposed action was not included.

The proposed action is in conformance with the State of Alaska DOT&PF Airport Development and Land Use Plan of 1983. Paragraph 3.3.1 states that “on-airport” land uses are divided into four functionally-oriented categories: aviation, auxiliary, utility and non-aviation. Figure 3-3 of the Land Use Plan identifies the project area as aviation land use. Appendix B defines aviation functions as “the normal operations of aircraft which use the airport. These include aircraft sales, service, repair, maintenance, hangars, tie-downs, pilot training, air charter service, passenger terminals, and similar services.”

C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 43 CFR 46.210(f) or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, which provides:

DOI Categorical Exclusion, 1.7. "Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity (e.g. limited size and magnitude or short-term effects)."

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
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

** Invasive Species – Several nonnative invasive plant species with high invasiveness ranks occur in the vicinity of the proposed action, including Melilotus alba, M. officinalis, and Medicago sativa L. ssp. sativa. Control efforts have been conducted by the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District and the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. No nonnative invasive plants occur in the area of the proposed action however do occur near by, behind bare areas. AFS and the contractor will make sure not to introduce seed from nonnative plants while burying fuel and electrical lines by keeping equipment out of adjacent areas of infestation, power washing all equipment at the point of origin, and keeping it from becoming contaminated during transport to the site.*

E. LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Not Applicable.

F. 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 the United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516 DM 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

/s/ Alan Peck Acting For

3-18-2015

Lenore Hepler
Easter Interior Field Office Manager

Date