

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKF01000

Lease/Serial/Case File No. FF096988

Applicant: Alaska Clean Seas
Pouch 340022
Prudhoe Bay, Alaska 99734
1-907-659-3207 Office
1-907-943-1867 Mobile
E-mail address: planning@alaskacleanseas.org

Proposed Action Title/Type: Reconnaissance of area for possible deployment of equipment cache and determination of feasibility of pre-deploying protective boom (NPR-A Permit)

Date of Proposed Action: July 1 – August 31, 2015

Description of Proposed Action: Alaska Clean Seas (ACS) was issued a NPR-A Right of Way FF096757 dated February 20, 2014, allowing use of public land for the purpose of construction, operation, maintenance and termination of a series of oil spill response drills, training and logistical support within the NPR-A. Consistent with spill prevention and response methods used throughout the North Slope operating areas, ACS pre-stages equipment caches to facilitate rapid access to and deployment of protective boom and pre-deploys boom at particularly sensitive areas to minimize the threat from potential oil spills.

During summer 2015 ACS is proposing to evaluate 6 sites (Figure 1) to determine the access capabilities of the areas and determine possible locations to pre-stage an equipment Conex and where boom may be pre-deployed. Only one (Figure 1, Site 6; Ublutuoch River; 70° 18'22.45"N 151° 19'56.30"W) of these sites are on BLM managed lands (the remainders are on Kuukpik Corporation land) and ACS is requesting access to BLM lands by helicopter and boat (airboat and jet boat) up to 3 times during July and August 2015 to evaluate Site 6 for use as an oil spill equipment pre-staging location. Response times, sensitive areas and area topography would be documented. The helicopter and boat landing sites would be in the immediate vicinity of the site to be assessed. Vessel travel would consist of two boats with at least 4 persons aboard. Helicopter trips would involve 3 – 4 people. There would be no camping involved as the ACS personnel would return to their base location each night. There would be no fueling of aircraft or boats at the proposed site.

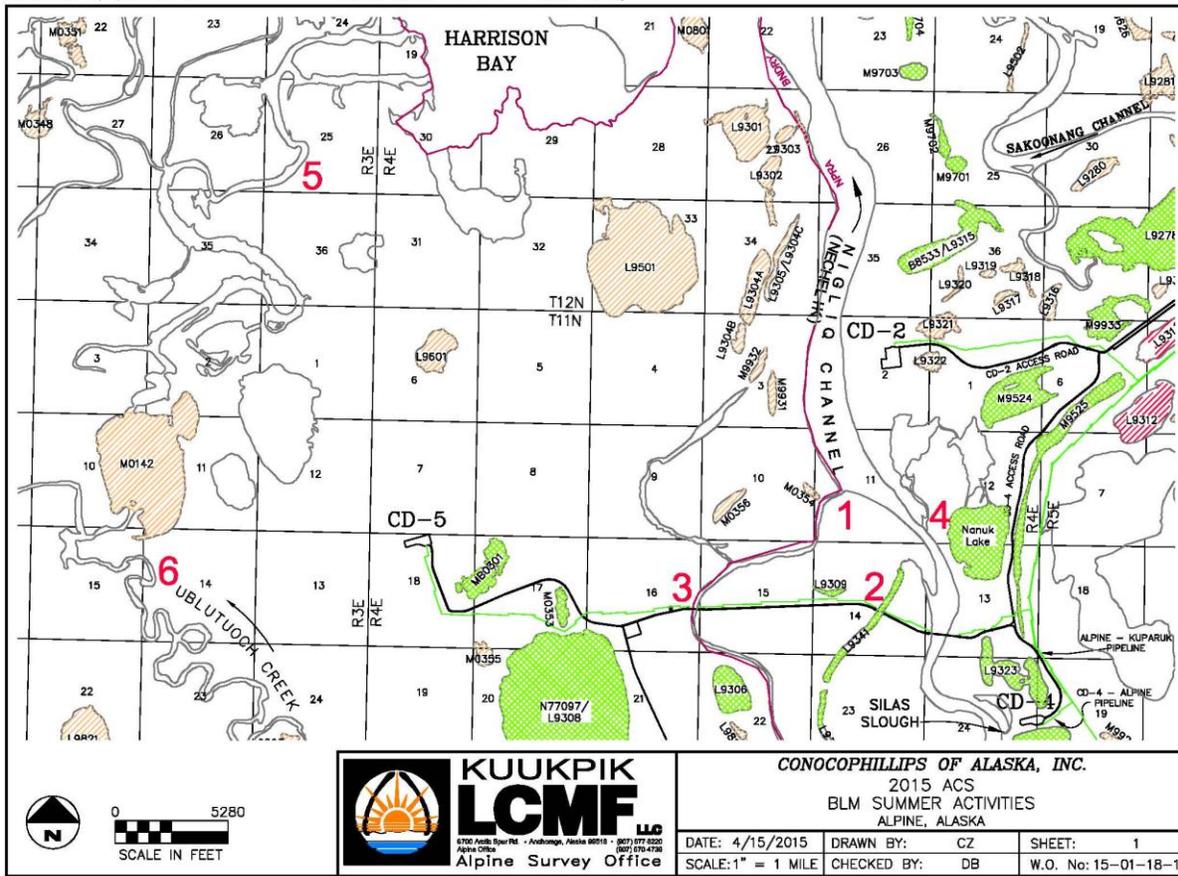


Figure 1: Location of 6 sites that ACS will reconnaissance during July and/or August 2015. Only Site 6 is on BLM land and that is the site associated with this authorization request.

Map Locations: All in Umiat Meridian

Location ID	Township	Range	BLM Managed Sections	Non BLM Managed Sections
Site 1	11 North	4 East	--	11 NWSW
Site 2	11 North	4 East	--	14 NWSE
Site 3	11 North	4 East	--	16 NESE
Site 4	11 North	4 East	--	12 NENE
Site 5	12 North	3 East	--	25 SWSW
Site 6	11 North	3 East	15 NESE	--

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

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 Decision 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: (FF096988Alaska Clean Seas Summer 2015 Permit 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 (1.6) 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.

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		X

