

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKF010

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096997

Applicant: Suzan Simonds
Permits and Regulatory Manager
SAExploration Inc.
8240 Sandlewood Place
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Dates of Proposed Activity: –August 8 - 22, 2015

Proposed Action Title/Type:Summer Stick Picking Activities/NPR-A Permit

Description of Proposed Action: Ms. Suzan Simonds with SAExploration, Inc. (SAE) is requesting authorization to conduct summer stick picking activities. The activity would occur on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A), see Figure 1 and Legal Description Table.

SAE conducted seismic operations this past winter and is required to ensure that the area is free of debris. The activity is referred to as stick picking, but involves picking up any items that remain on site from the winter activity. SAE expects to have approximately 150 helicopter landings over a 10 day period. There would be one helicopter and pilot with a three person crew to perform the trash clean up and recovery of some geophones. They would stop at all areas used as campsites and all spill locations (as reported to BLM during winter operations) along with the location of any areas where items are spotted from the air.

BLM discovered 3 groups of trash consisting of 1-3 large black bags and pieces of lathe sitting on ice at Lake 32162. It appears that someone picked up trash and forgot to go back and get it. SAE was notified and they plan to walk the perimeter of the lake in search of the debris. The crew would pick up any trash that they find. BLM will require them to not work at this lake until August 15th at the earliest as there is a yellow-billed loon next on the lake.

There would be no field camp and they don't expect any human waste. They will be provided with BLM Arctic Field Office standard stipulations in regard to human waste. The helicopter would depart from Deadhorse and return there each day. Any emergencies would be communicated through the helicopter radio system to Deadhorse. SAE received approval from the Kuukpik Native Corporation and Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel regarding the project and timing of the activity.

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.

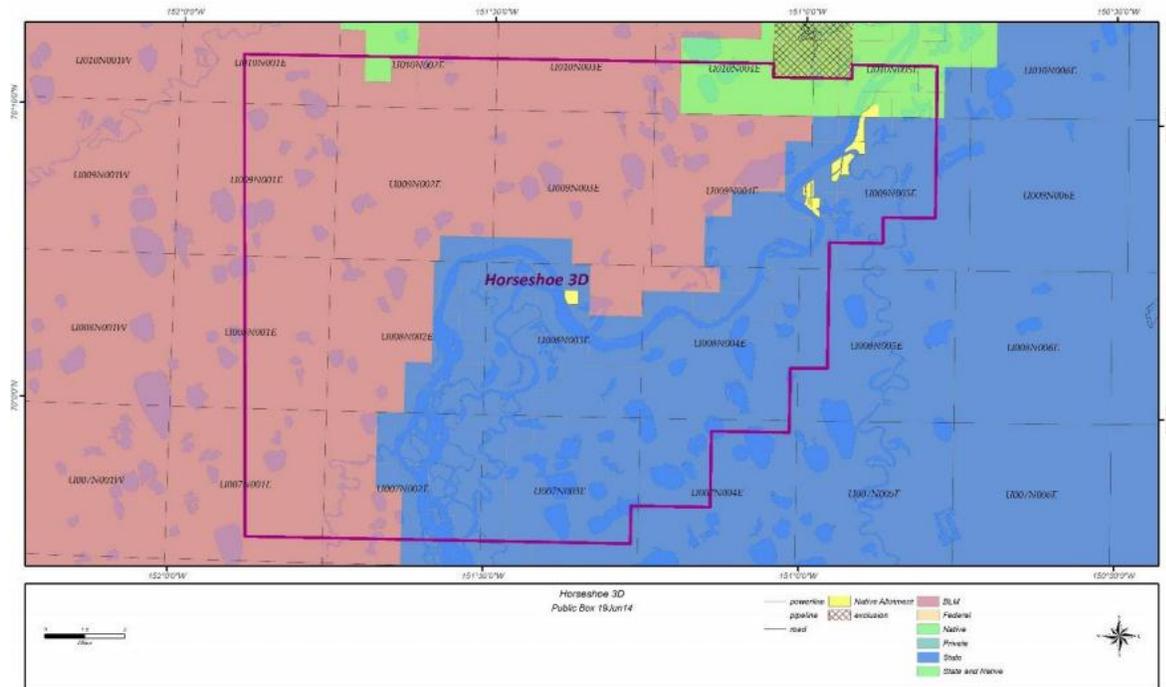


Figure 1: Applicant Supplied Map

Legal Description (All Umiat Meridian):

| Township | Range | BLM Managed Land Sections | Comments |
|----------|--------|---------------------------|--|
| 10 North | 1 East | 1-36 | |
| 10 North | 2 East | 4, 25-27, 34-36 | 12-15, 19, 22-24, 28, 30-33 Selected Land |
| 10 North | 3 East | 1-36 | |
| 10 North | 4 East | 6,7, 15-19, 30, 31 | |
| 10 North | 5 East | | No BLM managed lands |
| 9 North | 1 East | 1-36 | |
| 9 North | 2 East | 1-36 | Excluding State Land Sec 35 & 36 |
| 9 North | 3 East | 1-36 | Excluding State Land Sec 31 & 32 |
| 9 North | 4 East | Tract B | |
| 9 North | 5 East | Tract B | |
| 8 North | 1 East | 1-36 | |
| 8 North | 2 East | 2-11, 14-23, 26-34 | Excluding State Land |
| 8 North | 3 East | 1-4, 10-15 | Excluding State & Private Land |
| 8 North | 4 East | 2-10, 18 | Excluding State Land |
| 8 North | 5 East | | No BLM managed lands |
| 7 North | 1 East | 1-36 | |
| 7 North | 2 East | 3-9, 15-22, 27-35 | Excluding State Land |

| | | | |
|---------|--------|--|----------------------|
| 7 North | 3 East | | No BLM managed lands |
| 7 North | 4 East | | No BLM managed lands |
| 7 North | 5 East | | No BLM managed lands |

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: "FF096997 SAExploration Inc. 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.

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/
 Stacie McIntosh
 Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

7/27/2015
 Date

Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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 Natural Resource Specialist
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