



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Swanson River Unit / Natural Gas Wells
Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2015-0008-EA

Case File, A-028406

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Background

The Bureau of Land Management has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI-BLM-AK A010-2015-0008-EA) to evaluate the effects on implementation of Hilcorp Alaska LLC's proposed plan to drill three new natural gas wells and additional production facilities including three new line heater separator units and associated flow lines, in a federally administered oil and gas unit, Swanson River Unit. The proposed action would continue the exploration for and development of natural gas within the producing Swanson River Unit and Cook Inlet. The Proposed Action is in accordance with the terms and conditions of the federal lease and unit agreement.

Decision

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment and based on the analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, I have determined that Alternative 2, the Proposed Action, is not expected to have any significant direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the environment and will not cause undue or unnecessary degradation to public lands. I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan 2008, the existing land use plan for the area.

The Applications for Permit to Drill for the three new natural gas wells will be approved under the authority of 43 CFR 3160. The applicant shall be subject to applicable stipulations under unit agreement and lease stipulations, regulations contained in 43 CFR 3160 through 3163, Onshore Oil and Gas Orders, and Notices to Lessees.

Finding of No Significant Impact

This action and its effects have been evaluated consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for determining *significance*. Per 40 CFR § 1508.27, a determination of *significance* requires consideration of both context and intensity. The former refers to the relative context in which the action would occur such as society as a whole, affected region, affected interests, etc. The latter refers to the severity of the impact.

Conclusion

Therefore, on the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2015-0008-EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that:

1. None of the environmental effects identified meet the definition of significance as defined by context and intensity considerations at 40 CFR § 1508.27;
2. The alternatives are in conformance with the Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan 2008; and
3. The Proposed Action and alternatives do not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment.

Therefore, neither an Environmental Impact Statement nor a supplement to the existing EA is necessary and neither will be prepared.

/s/ Alan Bitter

7/10/2015

Alan Bittner
Anchorage Field Manager

Date