

## A. Background

**BLM Office:** Arctic Field Office LLAKF010

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** FF095399

**Applicant:** Olgoonik Holdings LLC  
3201 C Street, Suite 700  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Mineral Material Sale Renewal (3610.00)

**Dates of Proposed Activity:** Approval Date – June 1, 2016

**General Location of Proposed Action:** Tupkak Bar, Wainwright Inlet, Mouth of the Kuk River and near Wainwright, Alaska.

**Description of Proposed Action:** Ms. Mary Jane Lang, President of Olgoonik Holdings, LLC (Olgoonik) has requested an extension on a gravel material sale at Wainwright, Alaska from waters and submerged lands under federal jurisdiction, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). All tidally influenced water within the barrier islands including Wainwright Inlet, are under the jurisdiction of the BLM. Submerged lands within those waters are also property of the United States. Most nearby lands south and east of the inlet are a mix of village/regional lands or part of the NPR-A. Adjacent lands north of the site are under the jurisdiction of Olgoonik Corporation. The proposed action is the sale of 50,000 cubic yards of material to Olgoonik.

The original sale contract in 2008 authorized removal of 100,000 cubic yards of material over a 5 year time span. In 2013 BLM granted a 2 year sale of 70,000 cubic yards of material, of which 17,877 cubic yards has been purchased. The contract expired March 22, 2015. BLM Arctic Field Office (ArFO) received the extension request on March 16, 2015 for the remaining material. At that time BLM extended Olgoonik the option of processing either an extension until June 1, 2016 or a new 5 year contract in which the unpurchased material would be included. Olgoonik has chosen to pursue the shorter time frame and remaining quantity.

The proposed action would allow Olgoonik to continue to mine gravel – or material(s) as similar to gravel as possible, as can be found in the local vicinity of Wainwright – within the submerged BLM-managed lands and waters of Wainwright Inlet for local community uses (Figure 1). An environmental assessment completed for the 2008 sale analyzed the mining of up to 250,000 cubic yards of materials (AK-023-2009-0003); to date approximately 142,877 cubic yards of material has been purchased from the site. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-005-DNA) was completed in 2012.

The 2012 proposed action was exactly the same as what was analyzed in the original EA referenced above for the proposed action. The mining techniques and general location – at Tupkak Bar in Wainwright Inlet – were exactly the same. The 2015 proposed extension would be for the totality of the areas described for 2008 and 2013. Given the local hydrology during

break-up and the summer months, the submerged lands – i.e. inlet bottom – is constantly moving and replenishing the mined areas.

The only area used by locals for fishing in the inlet during the winter season is past the end of Tupkak Bar in the main channel. The applicant – the village corporation – purposely designed the original plan of operations to avoid conflicts with local subsistence uses and activities.

Ms. Lang has also requested the name of the sale be assigned from Olgoonik Development, LLC to Olgoonik Holdings, LLC. In May 2014 the Olgoonik Corporation had a corporate reorganization and as a result of the reorganization the Olgoonik Holdings, LLC is the division responsible for the work associated with the sale.

**Legal Description:**

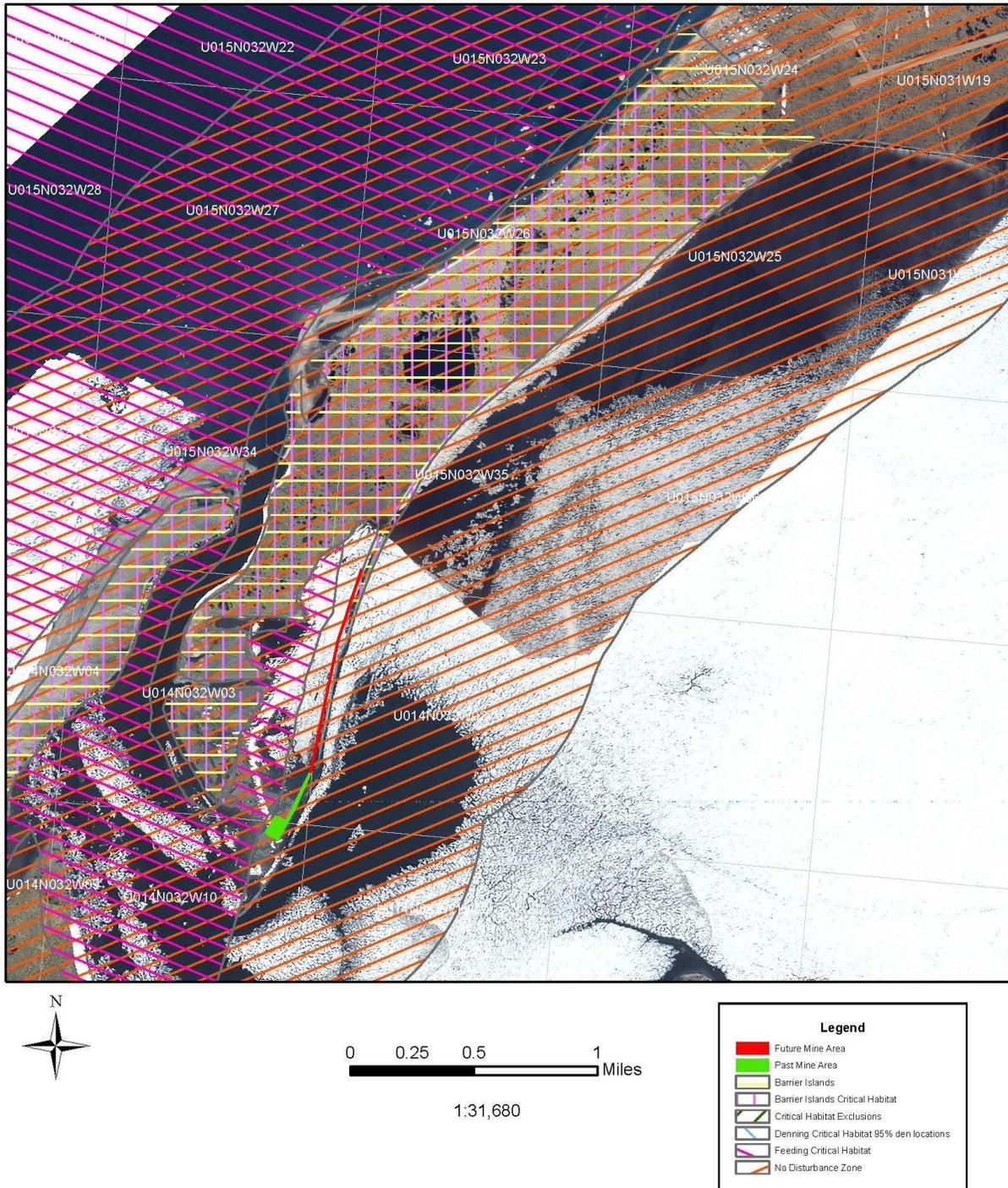
Sections 2, 3, 10, Township 14 North, Range 32 West, Umiat Meridian  
Section 35, Township 15 North, Range 32 West, Umiat Meridian  
Tupkak Bar, Wainwright Inlet, Mouth of the Kuk River and near Wainwright, Alaska

**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.

# Wainwright Gravel Mine Sale Renewal



**Figure 1:** from 2012 DNA

### 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: [“FF095399 Olgoonik Holdings LLC Gravel Sale Stipulations 2015 Extension”](#).

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 Departmental Categorical Exclusions.

**“Disposal of mineral materials, such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas.”**

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 National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X

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

11/13/2015  
 Date

#### Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Donna Wixon  
 Natural Resource Specialist  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Arctic Field Office  
 1150 University Avenue  
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Phone: 907-474-2301  
 Email: [dwixon@blm.gov](mailto:dwixon@blm.gov)