

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKE01000

Lease/Serial/Case File No. FF097022

Applicant: Terri Lomax
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Water
Alaska Monitoring and Assessment Program
555 Cordova St
Anchorage, AK 99501

Proposed Action Title/Type: Arctic Estuaries Survey (NPR-A Permit)

Date of Proposed Action: August 8-28, 2015 (approximate dates, dependent on weather)

General Location of Proposed Action: Six estuaries within the Arctic coastal plain of NPR-A including: Kasegaluk Lagoon, Wainwright Inlet, Peard Bay, Elson Lagoon/Dease Inlet, Smith Bay and Harrison Bay

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Terri Lomax with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), has requested authorization to conduct an Arctic Estuaries Survey on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A).

The proposed activity would take place approximately August 8th through the 28th. Crew size would be 8 total, with a maximum of 6 present at any given time. Transportation and lodging would be via boat with a small launch used to access inshore estuaries. ADEC does not expect to go ashore at any location. Fuel would be stored on the boat. Communities would be contacted via phone or mail regarding the project.

ADEC intends to participate in the National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) coordinated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This effort includes water quality, soil, and biological measurements. Multiple indicators would be assessed to maximize the potential of detecting anthropogenic stress and describing its potential effects on coastal condition across multiple spatial scales.

ADEC has partnered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) to plan and implement this survey. They randomly identified 40 estuarine sites for the survey, with 80 additional sites identified as backups. Targeted sites may also be sampled; these locations have not been finalized but would be located at impacted locations near communities or other development. Most likely locations for targeted

samples are Skull Cliff, drainage area of DEW Line site near Wainwright, Smith Bay and Admiralty Inlet oil seeps, and potentially areas between Wainwright and Belcher Point.

- Water quality samples would be collected and analyzed for general water conditions, various chemical analytes, and evidence of disturbance. Measurements would include temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, chlorophyll a, and bacteria. Up to 4 liters of water may be collected from each site. A Seabird CTD (conductivity, temperature, depth) would be used to evaluate the water column profile.

- Sediment would be collected using a ponar or van veen sediment sampler. Sediments will be analyzed for stable isotopes, mercury, PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon) and PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) contaminants. A maximum of 4 liters of sediment would be collected from each site

- Biological samples including benthic macroinvertebrates and fish would be collected. Benthic macroinvertebrates would be collected from sediment samples and fish samples would be collected using a beam trawl. Ms. Lomax has applied for a permit from Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Table 1 Legal Description: All in Umiat Meridian

MTP #	Site ID	Stratum	Township	Range	Section	Ownership
1	NPRA2015-060	OverSample	9 North	39 West	5	BLM Excluding N/As
2	NPRA2015-056	OverSample	10 North	38 West	1	BLM Excluding N/As
3	NPRA2015-052	OverSample	10 North	39 West	22	BLM
4	NPRA2015-042	OverSample	11 North	32 West	1	BLM
4	NPRA2015-058	OverSample	11 North	32 West	25	BLM
5	NPRA2015-048	OverSample	11 North	36 West	19	BLM
6	NPRA2015-040	OverSample	11 North	37 West	12	BLM
6	NPRA2015-024	OverSample	11 North	37 West	19	BLM Excluding N/As
7	NPRA2015-016	Base	11 North	38 West	19	BLM
7	NPRA2015-028	OverSample	11 North	38 West	33	BLM
7	NPRA2015-044	OverSample	11 North	38 West	34	BLM
8	NPRA2015-020	Base	11 North	39 West	13	BLM
8	NPRA2015-012	Base	11 North	39 West	7	BLM Excluding N/As & State
8	NPRA2015-036	OverSample	11 North	39 West	34	BLM
9	NPRA2015-075	Base	12 North	3 East	11	Private
10	NPRA2015-003	Base	12 North	32 West	27	BLM
10	NPRA2015-031	OverSample	12 North	32 West	28	BLM
10	NPRA2015-007	Base	12 North	32 West	33	BLM
11	NPRA2015-008	Base	12 North	35 West	12	BLM Excluding N/As
11	NPRA2015-032	OverSample	12 North	35 West	15	BLM

11	NPRA2015-004	Base	12 North	35 West	22	BLM Excluding N/As
12	NPRA2015-108	OverSample	13 North	1 East	1	BLM
12	NPRA2015-092	OverSample	13 North	1 East	14	BLM
13	NPRA2015-119	OverSample	13 North	2 East	9	Private
13	NPRA2015-103	OverSample	13 North	2 East	25	Private
14	NPRA2015-043	OverSample	13 North	29 West	6	BLM
15	NPRA2015-059	OverSample	13 North	30 West	16	Private
15	NPRA2015-023	OverSample	13 North	30 West	19	Private
16	NPRA2015-011	Base	13 North	31 West	1	Private
16	NPRA2015-055	OverSample	13 North	31 West	4	Private
16	NPRA2015-039	OverSample	13 North	31 West	23	Private
16	NPRA2015-047	OverSample	13 North	31 West	28	Private
17	NPRA2015-019	Base	13 North	32 West	23	Private
18	NPRA2015-064	Base	14 North	2 East	31	Private
19	NPRA2015-072	OverSample	14 North	1 West	2	BLM
19	NPRA2015-115	Base	14 North	1 West	23	BLM
20	NPRA2015-099	OverSample	14 North	2 West	23	BLM
21	NPRA2015-015	Base	14 North	31 West	6	Private
21	NPRA2015-051	OverSample	14 North	31 West	22	Private
22	NPRA2015-096	OverSample	15 North	2 West	16	BLM
22	NPRA2015-112	OverSample	15 North	2 West	27	BLM
23	NPRA2015-035	OverSample	15 North	31 West	32	Private
24	NPRA2015-027	OverSample	15 North	32 West	25	Private
25	NPRA2015-080	Base	16 North	2 West	23	BLM
26	NPRA2015-017	Base	16 North	28 West	2	BLM
26	NPRA2015-001	Base	16 North	28 West	30	BLM
27	NPRA2015-014	Base	16 North	29 West	3	Private
28	NPRA2015-120	OverSample	17 North	8 West	19	BLM
29	NPRA2015-117	OverSample	17 North	9 West	8	BLN
29	NPRA2015-89	OverSample	17 North	9 West	24	BLM
30	NPRA2015-062	Base	17 North	10 West	2	BLM
30	NPRA2015-090	OverSample	17 North	10 West	9	BLM
30	NPRA2015-061	Base	17 North	10 West	15	BLM
30	NPRA2015-105	OverSample	17 North	10 West	15	BLM
31	NPRA2015-118	OverSample	17 North	15 West	1	BLM
31	NPRA2015-086	OverSample	17 North	15 West	18	BLM
32	NPRA2015-091	OverSample	17 North	16 West	2	BLM
33	NPRA2015-013	Base	17 North	25 West	18	BLM
33	NPRA2015-057	OverSample	17 North	25 West	21	BLM
33	NPRA2015-053	OverSample	17 North	25 West	30	BLM
34	NPRA2015-038	OverSample	17 North	26 West	4	BLM
34	NPRA2015-010	Base	17 North	26 West	8	BLM
34	NPRA2015-041	OverSample	17 North	26 West	14	BLM
34	NPRA2015-025	OverSample	17 North	26 West	23	BLM

34	NPRA2015-037	OverSample	17 North	26 West	26	BLM
34	NPRA2015-005	Base	17 North	26 West	30	BLM
35	NPRA2015-018	Base	17 North	27 West	3	BLM
35	NPRA2015-030	OverSample	17 North	27 West	6	BLM
35	NPRA2015-046	OverSample	17 North	27 West	7	BLM
35	NPRA2015-029	OverSample	17 North	27 West	14	BLM
35	NPRA2015-021	OverSample	17 North	27 West	19	BLM
35	NPRA2015-045	OverSample	17 North	27 West	33	BLM
36	NPRA2015-002	Base	17 North	28 West	3	BLM
36	NPRA2015-026	OverSample	17 North	28 West	8	BLM
36	NPRA2015-033	OverSample	17 North	28 West	26	BLM
36	NPRA2015-049	OverSample	17 North	28 West	27	BLM
36	NPRA2015-054	OverSample	17 North	28 West	28	BLM
36	NPRA2015-009	Base	17 North	28 West	35	BLM
37	NPRA2015-083	OverSample	18 North	8 West	20	Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
37	NPRA2015-071	Base	18 North	8 West	28	Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
38	NPRA2015-113	OverSample	18 North	10 West	15	Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
38	NPRA2015-078	Base	18 North	10 West	19	BLM
38	NPRA2015-066	Base	18 North	10 West	21	Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
38	NPRA2015-106	OverSample	18 North	10 West	21	Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
38	NPRA2015-097	OverSample	18 North	10 West	24	Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
39	NPRA2015-110	OverSample	18 North	14 West	10	BLM
39	NPRA2015-063	Base	18 North	14 West	17	BLM
39	NPRA2015-091	OverSample	18 North	14 West	26	BLM
40	NPRA2015-102	OverSample	18 North	15 West	10	BLM
41	NPRA2015-006	Base	18 North	26 West	19	BLM
41	NPRA2015-022	OverSample	18 North	26 West	29	BLM
42	NPRA2015-034	OverSample	18 North	27 West	35	BLM
42	NPRA2015-050	OverSample	18 North	27 West	36	BLM
43	NPRA2015-070	Base	19 North	14 West	28	BLM
44	NPRA2015-074	Base	19 North	15 West	26	BLM
45	NPRA2015-093	OverSample	20 North	12 West	11	BLM
46	NPRA2015-098	OverSample	20 North	13 West	31	BLM
47	NPRA2015-082	OverSample	20 North	14 West	33	BLM
48	NPRA2015-109	OverSample	21 North	13 West	27	BLM
48	NPRA2015-077	Base	21 North	13 West	36	BLM
49	NPRA2015-081	OverSample	21 North	14 West	14	BLM
49	NPRA2015-069	Base	21 North	14 West	35	BLM
50	NPRA2015-067	Base	21 North	15 West	2	BLM

51	NPRA2015-111	OverSample	21 North	16 West	13	Private
52	NPRA2015-079	Base	22 North	16 West	12	BLM
53	NPRA2015-107	OverSample	23 North	15 West	31	BLM
54	NPRA2015-095	OverSample	23 North	16 West	31	BLM
55	NPRA2015-065	Base	23 North	17 West	5	BLM
55	NPRA2015-114	OverSample	23 North	17 West	21	BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-068	Base	Water (14N)	Harrison Bay (1e)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-073	Base	Water (18N)	Smith Bay (9W)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-076	Base	Water (15N)	Harrison Bay (1W)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-084	OverSample	Water (15N)	Harrison Bay (1W)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-085	OverSample	Water (18N)	Smith Bay (9W)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-087	OverSample	Water (13N)	Harrison Bay (3E)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-088	OverSample	Water (16N)	Harrison Bay (1W)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-100	OverSample	Water (15N)	Harrison Bay (1E)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-101	OverSample	Water (18N)	Smith Bay (9W)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-104	OverSample	Water (16N)	Harrison Bay (1W)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM
N/A	NPRA2015-116	OverSample	Water (16N)	Harrison Bay (1W)		Outside of NPR-A – Not BLM

MTP – Master Title Plat N/A – Native Allotment

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.

B. 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: "FF097022 ADEC Lomax 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 4 (F-10) BLM 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 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.		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

C. 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

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