



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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**Shadura 3D Seismic Geophysical**  
Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2016-0007-EA

Case File, AA-094187

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### Background

The Bureau of Land Management has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2016-0007-EA) to evaluate the effects on the implementation of SAE Exploration's (SAE) proposed plan to conduct seismic study on a federally administered oil and gas units, Birch Hill Unit and Swanson River Unit. The proposed action would facilitate the development of a 2D and 3D image of the subsurface geology and stratigraphy underlying the project area which would then be used to predict the presence or absence of geological formations potentially containing commercial quantities of hydrocarbons.

### 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.

### 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 EA (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2016-0007-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 ROD for 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 Bittner

2/9/2016

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Alan Bittner  
Anchorage Field Manager

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Date

## Attachments

1. Shadura Seismic Geophysical Exploration Environmental Analysis DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2016-0007-EA