



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA) WORKSHEET

Proposed Action Title/Type: AGDC Boreholes

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2016-0014-DNA

Case File Number: FF095641-A

Location / Legal Description:

Sections, 12, 14-16, 19, 21,30, T. 18 S., R. 8 W., FM
Section 24, T. 24 N., R. 5 W., SM
Section 6, T. 23 N., R. 4 W., SM

Applicant (if any): Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC)

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) proposes to explore soil characteristics by geotechnical borehole drilling, approximately 1,500 sites, along the proposed Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) alignment (from Prudhoe Bay to Cook Inlet, Alaska) and at proposed exploration areas as potential gravel sources. Proposed activities include access, installing thermistors, piezometers and data loggers, drilling and collection of geotechnical and geophysical data on public land. Information obtained would be used to support engineering design activities along the proposed gas pipeline corridor.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

East Alaska Resource Management Plan, September 2007

I. Lands and Realty

I-1: Goals

- Provide a balance between land use (rights-of-way, land use permits, leases and sales) and resource protection that best serves the public at large.

I-2: Land Use Authorizations

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands such as right-of-way grants, road, temporary use permits under several different authorities; leases, permits, and easements under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA); airport leases under the Act of May 24, 1928; and Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases.

Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan, March 2008

I. Lands and Realty

I-1: Goal

Provide a balance between land use (Right-of-Way, permits, leases and sales) and resource protection which best serves the public at large.

C. IDENTIFY APPLICABLE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) DOCUMENTS AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS THAT COVER THE PROPOSED ACTION.

- Alaska Stand Alone Gas Pipeline Geotechnical Sampling Program, DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2015-0003-EA
- Utility Corridor RMP, Appendix N — Lands and Realty Program (Page N-8)

D. NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA

1. *Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?*

Yes. Even though the specific drill areas are not identified in the Environmental Assessment (EA), the terrain is essentially similar to the analysis areas described in the Environmental Assessment which AGDC has proposed to add 261 new boreholes, 195 trails and 40 roads to the original 1,500 sites, all located in the areas previously described and in the area of analysis for the Alaska Stand Alone Gas Pipeline Geotechnical Sampling Program (EA). Some of these changes could be from drilling boreholes in the summer to winter and vice versa, as well as changing summer trail/road to a winter trail/road. There are additional boreholes/trails and roads as well.

2. *Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?*

Yes, the range of alternatives analyzed in the Alaska Stand Alone Gas Pipeline Geotechnical Sampling Program Environmental Assessment remain appropriate with respect to the new proposed action.

3. *Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-*

sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes, the existing analysis is still valid and new information and circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the additional boreholes.

4. *Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?*

Yes, the effects that would result from implementation of the additional sites would be similar. Some of the additional proposed summer borehole locations have been determined to be in wetland areas and therefore will be required to be drilled in the winter months.

5. *Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?*

Yes, since the Alaska Stand Alone Gas Pipeline Geotechnical Sampling Program EA was approved, the Glennallen Field Office consulted with the Native Village of Cantwell on March 25, 2015.

E. PERSONS, AGENCIES, AND BLM STAFF CONSULTED

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

| Name | Role | Discipline |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| Brenda Becker (GFO) | Realty | Lands |
| Robin Walthour (CYFO) | Realty | Lands |
| Bob Karlen | Fish Biologist | Air, Fish, Greenhouse, Floodplains |
| Erin Julianus | Wildlife Biologist | Biologist Wildlife, Invasives, Vegetation, Endangered Species |
| Darrel VandeWeg | Geologist | Geology, Minerals |
| Erica Lamb | Hydrologist | Hydrologic Conditions |
| William Hedman (CYFO) John Jangala (GFO) | Archaeologist | Archaeologist Cultural, Paleontology, Native American Concerns |
| Rebecca Hile | Hazmat Specialist | Wastes solid or hazardous |
| Kelly Egger | Outdoor Rec Planner | Recreation, WSR, WSA |
| Cal Westcott | Outdoor Rec Planner | Visual Resource Management |
| Jennifer McMillan | Ecologist | Botany, Invasive Species |
| Michael Schoder | Survey | Boundary Risk Assessment |
| Thomas St. Clair | Fire Management Officer | Fuels, Fire Management |
| Robin Walthour/Karen Deatherage | Wilderness | Wilderness Characteristics |

F. CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plans and that the NEPA documentation identified in Part C of this DNA Worksheet fully covers the proposed action and constitutes the Bureau of Land Management's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

/s/ Mike Sondergaard for Dennis C. Teitzel

2/10/2016

Dennis C. Teitzel, Glennallen Field Manager

Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR § 4 and the program-specific regulations.