



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Glennallen Field Office  
P.O. Box 147  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588-0147  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

### A. BACKGROUND

**Project Name / Type:** AT&T Communication Sites – Refueling Project

**NEPA Register Number:** DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2016-0018-CX

**Case File Number:** AA094195

#### **Location / Legal Description:**

Section 34, T. 7 S., R. 1 W., CRM – Valdez B-4  
Section 18, T. 6 S., R. 1 E., CRM – Valdez B-4  
Section 30, T. 15 S., R. 10 E., FM – Mt. Hayes C-4

**Applicant (if any):** AT&T Alascom

**Description of Proposed Action:** On February 17, 2016, AT&T Alascom submitted an application to utilize existing disturbed areas for refueling operations. This is to transport fuel to existing communication sites that are used to support the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The request states “locations will be used to stage a fuel truck and transfer fuel to air transport bladders for helicopter sling-loading to existing mountaintop radio sites”. The refueling operation will take place in the summer field season. AT&T is requesting a 10 year permit, but BLM can only issue a 3 year minimum impact permit.

### B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

**Applicable Land Use Plan:** East Alaska Resource Management Plan, September 2007.

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):

- I. Lands and Realty  
I-1: Goal

1. Support the BLM Alaska policy to survey and convey lands to the State of Alaska, the ANCSA Native Corporations and to Native Allottees.
2. Provide a balance between land use (Right-of-Way, permits, leases and sales) and resource protection which best serves the public at large.
3. Provide support to other BLM programs to protect and enhance resources.

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.

**C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR 46.210 or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, which provides:

**E. Realty**

19. Issuance of short-term (3-years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

**D. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

The proposed action must be screened against the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR § 46.215 (listed below). Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

<b>EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	No
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.	No
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the	No

<b>EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>
National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	
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.	No
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
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).	No
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or 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).	No

**E. SIGNATURE**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 FM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

/s/ Dennis C. Teitzel

6/27/16

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Dennis C. Teitzel  
Glennallen Field Manager

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Date