



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

TERRA Activity Plan Modifications DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2016-0014-DNA

Case File Numbers:

**Terra NW Project cases: AA93345-A (Ungalik River), AA-93345-B (Dime), AA-93345-C (Talik), AA-93345-D (Harvey), AA-93345-E (Baldwin Peninsula);
Terra Yukon Project Cases: FF-96750 (Rain), FF-96751 (Nogahabara), FF-96753 (Hunt), FF-96920 (Totson), FF-96921 (Igichuk Hills), FF-96752 (Triplet) ;
Terra SW Project Cases: AA-92971 (Otter Creek), AA-92019 (Cone);
Terra Ring Closure Project Cases: and AA-94193 (Summit)**

DECISION RECORD

Background

Unicom has submitted to the BLM to change in their current leases or plans of development to include:

1. The refueling window to start the first week of June on all BLM Terra communication sites.
2. The Dime Repeater's height by increasing it 10 additional feet (from 60 to 70). This involves no new change of use or location and the work would be conducted within the Lease area footprint. The extension of the tower would be flown to the site by helicopter and the extension does not have lights or guy wires
3. New landing pads either "plank wood" type like those found at the Baldwin Peninsula (approximately 25 feet by 25 feet within the 30,000 square foot ROW lease area) or made of framed steel (or aluminum) with a fiberglass landing platform approximately 12 feet x 12 feet are proposed. All BLM Terra communication sites would be authorized for either a plank type landing system approximately 25 feet by 25 feet or a fiberglass steel/aluminum platform 12 feet by 12 feet on any site where safety conditions dictate an improved helicopter landing site.
4. The use of an internal fuel delivery system in the Bell UH-1 helicopters, when available, rather than a sling load on all BLM Terra communication sites.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office (AFO) has prepared a Determination of NEPA Adequacy Worksheet to document their decision to authorize the above additional components or operating plan changes to the Terra network.

Decision

I have decided to authorize

1. the increase in refueling window to June 1;
2. 10 feet additional height to the Dime Repeater Lease;
3. the use of internal fuel delivery systems in Bell UH-1 helicopters, and
4. either plank wood or aluminum/fiberglass helicopter landing platforms.

Adequate permit stipulations and project design features identified in Plan of Development in the four previous NEPA documents (TERRA Southwest, TERRA Northwest, TERRA Yukon, TERRA Ring Closure) conducted for the Terra system and through specific leases.

This decision is based on the outcome of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Decision Records (DR) and Determination of NEPA Adequacy worksheet (DNA) for TERRA Southwest (SW) Environmental Analysis, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0008-EA (signed April 2011); TERRA Northwest (NW) Environmental Analysis, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2012-0036-EA (signed June 2013); TERRA Yukon Environmental Analysis, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2014-0004-EA (signed January 2016); TERRA Ring Closure Determination of NEPA Adequacy, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2016-0010 DNA (signed April 2016) and site-specific analysis in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan (September 2008).

Rationale for the Decision

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plans and because it is clearly consistent with the land use plan decision in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan (September 2008).

The rationale for the decision is based on the environmental impacts to public lands versus the greater public benefits of reliable communication and safety concerns.

Laws, Authorities, and Land Use Plan Conformance

The EA and supporting documentation have been prepared consistent with the requirements of various statutes and regulations, including but not limited to:

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. §1732)
- Subsistence Impact Evaluation under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation (ANILCA) Section 810
- National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 ((NHPA) as amended (16 USC 470 eq seq.)
- Alaska Historic Preservation Act of 1971 (AHPA)
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA)

Land Use Plans (LUP) provide the overall long-term management direction for lands encompassed by the proposed project. The proposed action and alternatives are all consistent

with the below mentioned Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD). Specifically the proposed action is consistent with the following decisions:

The Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan (September 2008)

H. Lands and Realty

H-2: Land Use Authorizations

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands such as right-of-way grants, 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.

Q-1-b-4: As needed, site specific actions necessary to manage habitat for Special Status Species plants will be made through activity-level planning, such as ACEC or SRMA management plans, or as mitigation/stipulations on proposed activities.

Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination

The BLM conducted outreach to the most affected villages in the Terra Yukon EA as well as outreach in the development of the Terra Northwest and Terra Southwest Environmental Analysis (EA). The BLM, the proponent, and URS personnel travelled to villages most affected by the project components and held public meetings. Further, a programmatic agreement for compliance with NHPA Section 106 was signed on 3/9/2016. Outreach to tribal and city governments was completed in the development of the programmatic agreement. The State of Alaska issued a letter of concurrence in the development of the Terra sites on State selected land. The Terra EA's was posted on BLM's web site for 30 days and no public comments were received.

Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Anchorage Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile, email, or other electronic means.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/s/ Alan Bittner

7/21/2016

Alan Bittner
Anchorage Field Manager

Date

Attachments

1. TERRA Activity Plan Modifications Determination of NEPA Adequacy Worksheet, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2016-0014-DNA