



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Alaska OCS Region

3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

OCT 4 2012

Shell Exploration and Production
AK Venture Support Integrator
Attn: Susan Childs, Manager
3601 C Street, Suite 1000
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Ms. Childs:

Shell Exploration and Production (Shell) submitted a request to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), dated October 3, 2012, seeking permission to commence exploratory drilling operations under its 2012 Camden Bay Exploration Plan (EP). Condition 7 requires Shell to seek authorization before beginning drilling operations once the bowhead whale hunt is complete at Nuiqsut and Kaktovik.

BOEM has received confirmation from the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) that subsistence hunting activities are now complete at both Nuiqsut and Kaktovik. BOEM also contacted the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Based upon the completion of the hunt at Nuiqsut and Kaktovik, BOEM has no objection to Shell commencing exploratory drilling under its 2012 Camden Bay EP. Shell, however, must obtain the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) authorization; final approval to commence drilling will rest with BSEE.

If you have questions, or need additional information, feel free to contact me at (907) 334-5273.

Sincerely,

David W. Johnston, Regional Supervisor
Office of Leasing and Plans

cc: Johnny Aiken, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
Jessica LeFevre, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
Tommy Beaudreau, Bureau Ocean Energy Management
Mark Fesmire, Bureau of Safety Environmental Enforcement
Jeffrey Missal, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
David Moore, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
James Balsiger, National Marine Fisheries Service
Brad Smith, National Marine Fisheries Service