Mr. Mike Brock
Environmental Team Lead
BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
PO Box 196612
Anchorage, AK 99519-6612

Dear Mr. Brock:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Alaska Region (BOEM AKR) has reviewed the BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. (BPXA) notice to conduct 2013 ancillary activities in the Beaufort Sea, titled Notification of Ancillary Activities 2013 Geophysical Investigation Liberty Development Beaufort Sea, Alaska (dated June 6, 2013). The notice describes on-lease ancillary activities as defined in 30 CFR 550.105 and 30 CFR 550.207; the ancillary activities consist of geophysical surveys to evaluate future pad island locations and proposed pipeline routes.

Our review indicates that the ancillary activities described in the notice comply with the performance standards under 30 CFR 550.202(a), (b), (d), and (e). Accordingly, BOEM AKR has no objection to BPXA proceeding with the ancillary activities.

BPXA is reminded that its ancillary activities must comply with: applicable lease stipulations; the terms of its Letter of Authorization from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS); and the measures outlined in BPXA’s “Mitigation Measures to Avoid Take of Marine Mammals during 2013 Liberty Summer Field Activities.”

BOEM AKR also expects BPXA’s ancillary activities to comply with the reasonable and prudent measures, and terms and conditions developed through BOEM AKR’s Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultations with National Marine Fisheries Service and USFWS. The operator must provide sufficient information necessary to enable BOEM AKR to comply with the reporting obligations specified in the Biological Opinions:

- Oil and Gas Leasing and Exploration Activities in the U.S. Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, Alaska, Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion, NMFS Consultation Number: F/AKR/2011/0647 (dated April 2, 2013)
- Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion for Oil and Gas Activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas on Polar Bears (Ursus maritimus), Polar Bear Critical Habitat, Spectacled Eiders (Somateria fischeri), Spectacled Eider Critical Habitat, Steller’s Eiders (Polysticta stelleri), Kittlitz’s Murrelets (Brachyramphus brevirostris), and Yellow-billed Loons (Gavia adamsii) (dated May 8, 2012)
BPXA is responsible for notifying other agencies that may be affected by the ancillary activities.

If you have questions, please contact Bill Ingersoll, BOEM AKR Chief of the Plans Section at 907-334-5224, 907-306-4381 or via email at william.ingersoll@BOEM.AKR.gov.

Sincerely,

David Johnston, Regional Supervisor
Office of Leasing and Plans

cc: Mayor of North Slope Borough
North Slope Borough Planning Department
North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management
City of Kaktovik
Native Village of Kaktovik
Native Village of Nuiqsut
City of Nuiqsut
City of Barrow
Village of Barrow
Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management
Bureau of Safety Environmental and Enforcement, Alaska Region, Regional Director
Bureau of Safety Environmental and Enforcement, Chief, Environmental Enforcement Division
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 7 Regional Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska
Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
Alaska Eskimo Walrus Commission
Alaska Ice Seal Committee
Alaska Beluga Whale Committee
Alaska Nanuuq Commission