



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Alaska OCS Region
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823
MAY 21 2013

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

Dear Mr. Brock:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM's) expectations regarding archaeological analysis and reporting requirements as part of the BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. (BPXA) 2013 Liberty Ancillary Activities. In regard to your recent communication, dated May 10, 2013, *Report of Ancillary Activities 2013 Winter Geotechnical and Sea Bottom Investigation Liberty Development Beaufort Sea, Alaska*, although "nothing unusual was encountered on the sea bottom including, but not limited to, wreckage or submerged land sites," BOEM believes that a sub-seabottom evaluation of prehistoric resources provided by core analysis is necessary. Prehistoric sites would be buried beneath the marine sediments, and not visible from the seafloor, to a possible depth of 50 meters below sea surface. Coring would allow for the discovery of sub-seafloor prehistoric resources of archaeological interest.

The BOEM requests that the core data be examined and documented by a marine archaeologist, and a brief report of the findings be submitted to BOEM and the Alaska State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). Discussions in the report should include what was encountered at each site cored, including a description of the profiles. For example, as part of the earlier Liberty analysis, a buried lagoon with peat and an ancient barrier island system running parallel to the coast were identified. An analysis of the peat (including dates) and an analysis of buried land forms such as terraces and islands (including dates) as well as descriptions of organic material retrieved in the cores (shell, wood, etc.) would be required in the event that BPXA's coring activities penetrated these buried features. BOEM also requests that if BPXA conducted seismic studies along the survey route that a discussion of any relevant findings be reported, including features such as drowned landforms of buried channels, drowned islands, terraces, and shorelines

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Bill Ingersoll at 907-334-5224 (email: william.ingersoll@boem.gov).

Sincerely,

David Johnston, Regional Supervisor
Office of Leasing & Plans

cc: State of Alaska – SHPO