



February 10, 2014

Subject: BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. Notification of 2014 Winter Geotechnical and Seabottom Investigation Activities

Good Morning

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Alaska Region is currently reviewing BPXA's notice of ancillary activities to ensure that the activities on its federal leases comply with the performance standards under 30 CFR550.202(a), (b), (d), and (e).

We're contacting you for two purposes:

1. To inform you that BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. (BPXA) has submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a 2014 Winter Geotechnical and Seabottom Investigation in support of their Liberty Prospect Development.
2. To encourage you to contact BOEM-Alaska Region should you want to discuss or consult regarding the BPXA proposed 2014 Winter Geotechnical and Seabottom Investigation Activities.
 - Importantly, should you desire to discuss or consult with us, our window of time is throughout this week and next – Monday, February 10, thru not-later-than Friday, February 21, 2014. You are welcome to contact the undersigned to set up such a meeting or consultation, at your earliest convenience.

Project Summary

The proposed BPXA 2014 Winter Geotechnical and Seabottom Investigation project scope includes both **onshore** activities, and **offshore** activities, extending from state into federal waters of the Beaufort Sea.

The purpose of the **onshore geotechnical investigation** is to:

- Investigate potential gravel island material sites for adequate quality and quantity of material

The purpose of the **offshore geotechnical investigation** is to:

- Provide soils information for the possible future offshore drilling and production island locations
- Provide soils information for evaluating proposed pipeline routing
- Conduct a visual inspection of the sea bottom environment

The onshore and offshore programs are scheduled to begin in March 2014, and conclude by early May 2014. Timing of work will be determined based on ice and weather conditions.

In addition, all of the related information can be found at our website, online, at:

[http://www.boem.gov/uploadedFiles/BOEM/About BOEM/BOEM Regions/Alaska Region/Leasing and Plans/Plans/20131912 Liberty Winter Geotech Appl.pdf](http://www.boem.gov/uploadedFiles/BOEM/About_BOEM/BOEM_Regions/Alaska_Region/Leasing_and_Plans/Plans/20131912_Liberty_Winter_Geotech_Appl.pdf)

BPXA is responsible for notifying and complying with all other agencies that have regulatory authority associated with the ancillary activities, and notifying other users of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

For additional information or to arrange a consultation or meeting, please contact me at: (907) 334-5276 or via email at michael.haller@boem.gov.

Thank you, very much, and with best regards

Michael

Michael Haller
Tribal & Community Liaison
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - Alaska Region
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99503-5823

Email Michael.Haller@boem.gov

Office 907.334.5276

Fax 907.334-5202

Please visit our BOEM-Alaska Region Tribal & Community Outreach website, at:
<http://www.boem.gov/About-BOEM/BOEM-Regions/Alaska-Region/Community-Liaison/Index.aspx>

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- North Slope Borough Mayor
- North Slope Borough, Office of Government Affairs
- North Slope Borough Planning Department
- North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management
- Native Village of Kaktovik
- City of Kaktovik
- Native Village of Nuiqsut
- City of Nuiqsut
- City of Barrow
- Native Village of Barrow
- City of Barrow
- Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
- Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
- Alaska Ice Seal Committee
- Alaska Beluga Whale Committee
- Alaska Nanuuq Commission

For additional information or to arrange a consultation or a meeting, please contact me at: (907) 334-5276 or via email at michael.haller@boem.gov. As a reminder, the due date for comments concerning the AA005 BPXA Ancillary Activities is: March 7, 2014.

Thank you, very much, and with best regards

Michael

Michael Haller
Tribal & Community Liaison
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - Alaska Region
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Anchorage, AK 99503-5823

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set up such a meeting or consultation, at your earliest convenience. If you are in Anchorage and would like to come by the office, in-person, please let me know and we will arrange an appropriate time.

Project Summary

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For additional information or to arrange a consultation or meeting, please contact me at: (907) 334-5276 or via email at michael.haller@boem.gov.

Thank you, very much, and with best regards

Michael

Michael Haller
Tribal & Community Liaison
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - Alaska Region
3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500
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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Alaska OCS Region

3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

FEB 25 2014

Ms. Pauline Ruddy
Land Use Permitting and Compliance Advisor
BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
PO Box 196612
Anchorage, AK 99519-6612

Dear Ms. Ruddy:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Alaska Region (BOEM AKR) has reviewed the BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. (BPXA) notice to conduct 2014 ancillary activities in the Beaufort Sea, titled *Request for Approval for Ancillary Activities, 2014 Winter Geotechnical and Seabottom Investigation, Liberty Development, Beaufort Sea, Alaska* (December 18, 2013). The BPXA ancillary activities in this notice consist of geotechnical and seabottom activities in support of the Liberty Development (OCS Lease Y-1650 and Y-1585). The notice describes on-lease ancillary activities as defined in 30 CFR 550.105 and 30 CFR 550.207.

BOEM has evaluated the notification under the process outlined in 30 CFR 550.209 and concludes that, subject to the conditions listed below, the ancillary activities described in the notice comply with the performance standards under 30 CFR 550.202(a), (b), (d), and (e). The conditions are:

- Provide BOEM confirmation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the ancillary activities proposed by BPXA comply with Section 402 of the Clean Water Act;
- Adhere to the *Biological Opinion and Conference Opinion for Oil and Gas Activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas* (May 8, 2012) prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
- Adhere to the *NMFS Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion - Oil and Gas Leasing and Exploration Activities in the U.S. Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, Alaska - NMFS Consultation Number: F/AKR/2011/0647* (April 2, 2013); and
- Provide BOEM confirmation from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding mitigation for seal lairs.

Please also:

- Notify BOEM in writing at least 15 calendar days before conducting other ancillary activities not described in the notification, pursuant to 30 CFR 550.208(b)(1);
- Provide BOEM with daily operations, safety, and environmental compliance reports;
- Consider conservation recommendations, if any, from NMFS through the EFH consultation process, which is currently ongoing;
- Obtain all necessary permits from the State of Alaska with regard to water discharges(wastewater)/withdrawals, if required;

- Provide to BOEM for submission to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) a report performed by a qualified marine archaeologist that includes a summary and analysis of the data obtained or information derived from the geotechnical boreholes; and
- Utilize ASTM D2487, *Standard Practice for Classification of Soil for Engineering Purposes (Unified Soil Classification System)* for both the onshore material geotechnical investigation (per 30 CFR 250.912(b)(1) for the purpose of gravel island material analysis) and the offshore geotechnical investigation. Provide the resulting geotechnical reports to BOEM and BSEE.

BPXA is responsible for notifying and complying with all other agencies that have regulatory authority associated with 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.gov.

Sincerely,



David Johnston, Regional Supervisor
Office of Leasing and Plans

cc: North Slope Borough Mayor
North Slope Borough, Office of Government Affairs
North Slope Borough Planning Department
North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management
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Native Village of Kaktovik
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Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation COM-COMMISSIONERS OFFICE - Prog
Coordinator
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
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 7 Endangered Species
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 Oil & Gas Sector Management
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 Alaska Operations Office
U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska
Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
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