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Resource Evaluation

JAN 02, 2013

BOEM, Alaska OCS Region

December 31, 2012



BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.
P. O. Box 196612
900 E. Benson Boulevard
Anchorage, AK 99519-6612
USA

Mr. Rance Wall
Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Alaska OCS Region
3801 Centerpoint Drive , Suite #500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

Request for Geophysical Exploration Permit
2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey
Beaufort Sea, Alaska

Dear Mr. Wall:

BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. (BPXA) is requesting approval of a Geophysical Exploration Permit to conduct a three-dimensional (3D) ocean bottom cable (OBC) seismic survey in the Prudhoe Bay area of the Alaskan Beaufort Sea during the open water season of 2013.

BPXA plans to conduct a 190 square mile seismic survey on state and private lands and in federal and state waters. The area lies mainly within the Prudhoe Bay Unit (PBU) and also includes portions of the Northstar, Dewline, and Duck Island Units as well as non-unit areas. Approximately 19 square miles of the proposed seismic survey area is within Federal waters.

The planned start date of receiver deployment is approximately July 1, 2013. To limit potential impacts to the bowhead whale migration and the subsistence hunt, airgun operations dates will be in accordance with the dates agreed in the Conflict Avoidance Agreement (CAA) (historically August 25). Receiver retrieval and demobilization of equipment and support crews will be completed by September 30, 2013.

BPXA submitted a draft request for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) to the National Marine Fisheries Service (whales and seals) in December 2012 and plans to submit a request for a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (polar bear and walrus).

As part of the IHA process, BPXA participates in discussions with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) to develop a CAA which is intended to minimize potential interference with subsistence hunting. Initial CAA coordination meetings commenced in December 2012. Additional CAA meetings are scheduled in 2013. The CAA, when executed, will describe measures to minimize any adverse effects on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence uses.

The North Slope Borough (NSB) and state agencies will be consulted regarding the project. BPXA plans to hold meetings in the community of Nuiqsut to present the proposed project, address questions and concerns from community members, and communicate contact information for the project.

On November 14, 2012 members of BPXA met with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to provide an overview description of the scope of this requested activity. Based upon our understanding of permit requirements for this project, we have prepared a permit application package which includes:

Public Information

- Sections A, B, C, and E of the Application for Permit to Conduct Geological or Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources or Scientific Research in the Outer Continental Shelf (BOEM-327)
- Project Description, including Figures 1 through 4
- Potential Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures
- Copy of receipt for the service fee payment of \$2,012.00 (Pay.gov tracking ID 2593DBEN)
- CD with a digital copy of the *Public Information* for the Application for Permit to Conduct Geological or Geophysical Exploration

Proprietary Information

- Section D - *Proprietary Information* Attachment required for the Application for Geophysical Permit (BOEM-327) including Figures D-1 through D-3
- CD with a digital copy of the Section D - *Proprietary Information* Attachment including the Survey Pre-Plot ArcGIS shape files

Three additional hard copies of the permit application (without the CD's) have been included for your use.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this project, please contact me at (907) 564-4325 or via email at janet.sheldon@bp.com or Erika Denman at (907) 564-4646 or via email at erika.denman@bp.com.

Sincerely,



Janet Sheldon, Permitting Advisor
HSE-Alaska

cc: (without attachments)

Susan Banet, BOEM
Mike Holley, USACE
Helen Golde, NMFS
Craig Perham, USFWS
Sarah Conn, USFWS
ADNR/DOG Permitting
Melissa Head, ADNR/DMLW
Jack Winters, ADFG
Judith Bittner, ADNR, SHPO
Rhoda Ahmaogak, NSB

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

Alaska OCS Region
(Insert Appropriate Regional Office)

**Requirements for Geological and Geophysical Explorations
or Scientific Research on the Outer Continental Shelf**

**Application for Permit to Conduct Geological or Geophysical
Exploration for Mineral Resources or Scientific Research
on the Outer Continental Shelf**
(Attachment 1)

Nonexclusive Use Agreement for Scientific Research
(Attachment 2)

SUBMIT: Original plus three copies, totaling four copies, which include one digital copy and one public information copy (all with original signatures).

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Statement: The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) requires us to inform you that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) collects this information to evaluate applications for permits to conduct pre-lease exploration offshore and to monitor activities of scientific research conducted under notices. BOEM uses the information to ensure there is no environmental degradation, personnel harm, damage to historical or cultural sites, or interference with other uses. Responses are mandatory or to obtain or retain a benefit. Proprietary information is protected in accordance with standards established by the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1733), the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552(1), (4)), and Department regulations (43 CFR 2). An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number. The reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 381 Elden Street, Herndon, VA 20170.

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATIONS
OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

Authority

You must perform all geological and geophysical explorations or scientific research activities authorized and conducted in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) according to the OCS Lands Act, 30 CFR Parts 251, 551, and other applicable Federal statutes and regulations, and amendments thereto.

General Requirements of Permits and Notices

You must conduct geological and geophysical activities for mineral exploration or scientific research activities authorized under 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551 so that those activities do not:

- A. Interfere with or endanger operations under any lease or right-of-way or permit issued or maintained pursuant to the OCS Lands Act;
- B. Cause harm or damage to aquatic life or to the marine, coastal, or human environment;
- C. Cause pollution;
- D. Create hazardous or unsafe conditions;
- E. Unreasonably interfere with or harm other uses of the area; or
- F. Disturb archaeological resources.

Any person conducting geological or geophysical activities for mineral exploration or scientific research under 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551 must immediately report to the Director, BOEM:

- A. Detection of hydrocarbon occurrences;
- B. Encounters of environmental hazards that constitute an imminent threat to human activity;
or
- C. Activities that adversely affect the environment, aquatic life, archaeological resources, or other uses of the area in which the exploration or scientific research activities are conducted.

Any person conducting shallow or deep stratigraphic test drilling activities under a permit for mineral exploration or scientific research under 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551 must utilize the best available and safest technologies that BOEM determines to be economically feasible.

The authorization that BOEM grants you under 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551 to conduct geological and geophysical explorations for minerals or for scientific research does not confer a right to any discovered oil, gas, or other minerals, or to a lease under the OCS Lands Act.

Time Restriction for Permits and Notices

Permitted activities approved for a specified period, including requests for extensions, and activities under a notice may not exceed 1 year.

Geological and Geophysical Activities Requiring Permits and Notices

Geological and Geophysical Explorations for Mineral Resources

You may not conduct geological and geophysical explorations for mineral resources in the OCS without an approved permit unless you conduct such activities pursuant to a lease issued or maintained under the OCS Lands Act. You must obtain separate permits for either geological or geophysical explorations for mineral resources. If BOEM disapproves an application, the statement of rejection will state the reasons for the denial and will advise the applicant of those changes needed to obtain approval.

Geological and Geophysical Scientific Research

You may not conduct geological and geophysical scientific research related to oil, gas, and sulphur in the OCS without an approved application for permit or filing of a notice. You must obtain separate permits for geological and geophysical scientific research that involves the use of solid or liquid explosives or the drilling of a deep stratigraphic test. If BOEM disapproves an application for permit, the statement of rejection will state the reasons for the denial and will advise the applicant of the changes needed to obtain approval.

You must file a notice with the BOEM at least 60 days before you begin scientific research not requiring a permit. We may inform you of all environmental laws and regulations pertaining to the OCS.

Information Required for Permits

Each applicant for a permit must complete the applicable sections of the Application for Permit (Attachment 1) and must include a public-information, page-size plat(s) showing the location of the proposed area of activity (Section B.2 or C.2). In addition, each applicant for a geological or geophysical permit must submit the appropriate attachment to section D of the application. This includes a detailed map of the proposed activity for Section D.8 (Geological Application) or Section D.12 (Geophysical Application). Only applicants for a notice of scientific research must complete a Nonexclusive Use Agreement (Attachment 2).

The information provided on the Application for Permit (excluding section D) and on the Nonexclusive Use Agreement, including continuation sheets and the page-size plat(s), is considered NON-PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. These non-proprietary portions of the application constitute the "public information" copy of Form BOEM-0327 and with the executed permit will be available to the public upon request.

The information listed in section D is considered PROPRIETARY INFORMATION and you should NOT attach it to the public information copy. BOEM will not make this information available to the public without the consent of the potential permittee or for a period mandated by law or regulation. However, BOEM may determine that earlier release is necessary for the proper development of the area permitted.

Modifications to Approved Permits

The BOEM Regional Supervisor must approve any modification to the permitted operations.

Filing Locations for Permits to Conduct Explorations for Mineral Resources and for Permits or Notices to Conduct Scientific Research

File each notice or application for a permit with an original plus three copies, totaling four copies, which include one digital copy and one public information copy (all with original signatures) at the following locations at least 60 days before you begin operations:

A. For the OCS off the State of Alaska:

Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Alaska OCS Region
3801 Centerpoint Drive
Suite #500
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

B. For the OCS in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Atlantic Coast:

Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region
1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard
New Orleans, Louisiana 70123-2394

C. For the OCS off the States of California, Oregon, Washington, or Hawaii:

Regional Supervisor, Office of Strategic Resources
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Pacific OCS Region
770 Paseo Camarillo
Camarillo, California 93010-6092

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

Alaska OCS Region
(Insert Appropriate Regional Office)

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO CONDUCT GEOLOGICAL OR GEOPHYSICAL
EXPLORATION FOR MINERAL RESOURCES OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

(Section 11, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of August 7, 1953, as amended on September 18, 1978, by Public Law 95-372, 92 Statute 629, 43 U.S.C. 1340; and 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551)

BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
P.O. Box 196612
Anchorage, AK 99519-6612

Application is made for the following activity: (check one)

- ☐ Geological exploration for mineral resources
- ☐ Geological scientific research
- ☒ Geophysical exploration for mineral resources
- ☐ Geophysical scientific research

Submit: Original plus three copies, totaling four copies, which include one digital copy, and one public information copy.

=====

To be completed by BOEM

Permit Number: 13-01

Date: _____

A. General Information

1. The activity will be conducted by:

To Be Determined
Service Company Name

For: BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.
Purchaser(s) of the Data

Address

P.O. Box 196612
Address

City, State, Zip

Anchorage, AK 99519-6612
City, State, Zip

Telephone/FAX Numbers

(907) 561-5111
Telephone/FAX Numbers

E-Mail Address

Janet.Sheldon@bp.com
E-Mail Address

2. The purpose of the activity is: X Mineral exploration
 Scientific research

3. Describe your proposed survey activities (i.e., vessel use, benthic impacts, acoustic sources, etc.) and describe the environmental effects of the proposed activity, including potential adverse effects on marine life. Describe what steps are planned to minimize these adverse effects (mitigation measures). For example: 1) Potential Effect; Excessive sound level Mitigation; Soft Start, MMOs, mammal exclusion zone or 2) Potential Effect; Bottom disturbance; Mitigation; ROV Deployment/retrieval of bottom nodes) (use continuation sheets as necessary or provide a separate attachment):

See:

1. **2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey Project Description (Attached)**
2. **Potential Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures (Attached)**

4. The expected commencement date is: July 1, 2013
The expected completion date is: September 30, 2013

5. The name of the individual(s) in charge of the field operation is: Larry Wyman
May be contacted at:

Telephone (Local) (907) 564-5385 (Marine) _____

Email Address: Larry.Wyman@bp.com Radio call sign

6. The vessel(s) to be used in the operation is (are): See 2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey Project Description (Attached). Vessel names to be provided prior to survey.

7. The port from which the vessel(s) will operate is: Support activities, such as vessel mobilization/demobilization, crew transfers and vessel re-supply, are primarily planned to occur at West Dock and East Dock and may also occur at other nearby vessel accessible locations if needed.

8. Briefly describe the navigation system (vessel navigation only):
Navigation will be accomplished with the use of a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS). See 2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey Project Description (Attached).

B. Complete for Geological Exploration for Mineral Resources or Geological Scientific Research – Section B is Not Applicable.

1. The type of operation(s) to be employed is: (check one)

(a) _____ Deep stratigraphic test, or

(b) _____ Shallow stratigraphic test with proposed total depth of _____, or

(c) _____ Other _____

2. Attach a page-size plat showing: 1) The generalized proposed location for each test, where appropriate, a polygon enclosing the test sites may be used, 2) BOEM protraction areas; coastline; point of reference; 3) Distance and direction from a point of reference to area of activity.

C. Complete for Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources or Geophysical Scientific Research

1. The type(s) of operation(s) to be employed is (are):

a) Acquisition method (OBN, OBC, Streamer): OBC

b) Type of acquisition: (High Resolution Seismic, 2D Seismic, 3D Seismic, gravity, magnetic, CSEM, etc.)

3D Seismic

2. Attach a page-size plat showing:

a) The generalized proposed location of the activity with a representative polygon,

b) BOEM protraction areas; coastline; point of reference,

c) Distance and direction from a point of reference to area of activity. See Figures 1 thru 3 of the 2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey Project Description (Attached).

3. List all energy source types to be used in the operation(s): (Air gun, air gun array(s), sub-bottom profiler, sparker, towed dipole, side scan sonar, etc.).

Energy Source types include: airgun and airgun arrays.

4. Explosive charges will ____ **will not** X be used. If applicable, indicate the type of explosive and maximum charge size (in pounds) to be used:

Type _____ Pounds _____ Equivalent Pounds of TNT _____

D. Proprietary Information Attachments

Use the appropriate form on page 9 for a "geological" permit application or the form on page 11 for a "geophysical" permit application. You must submit a separate Form BOEM-0327 to apply for each geological or geophysical permit.

Section D Proprietary Information for a Geophysical Permit Application is Attached.

E. Certification

I hereby certify that foregoing and attached information are true and correct.

Print Name: Janet Sheldon

SIGNED _____

DATE 12/31/2012

TITLE _____ **Permitting Advisor**

COMPANY NAME: _____ **BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.**

=====

TO BE COMPLETED BY BOEM

Permit No. 13-01 **Assigned by** Virginia Hoffman **Date** 1/7/2013
of BOEM

This application is hereby:

a. ____ Accepted

b. ____ Returned for reasons in the attached

SIGNED _____ **TITLE** _____ **DATE** _____

2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey

Project Description December 31, 2012

1. INTRODUCTION

BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. (BPXA) plans to conduct a three dimensional (3D) ocean bottom cable (OBC) seismic survey with a transition zone (TZ) component on state and private lands, and federal and state waters in the Prudhoe Bay area of the Beaufort Sea during the open water season of 2013 and 2014. The area lies mainly within the Prudhoe Bay Unit (PBU) and also includes portions of the Northstar, Dewline and Duck Island Units as well as non-unit areas. **(Figure 1)**

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed survey is to obtain current, high resolution seismic data to image the existing reservoirs. This data will increase BPXA's understanding of the reservoir, allowing more effective reservoir management.

3. LOCATION

The general location of the proposed seismic survey is shown in **Figure 2**. The project area identified covers activity for two summer seasons and encompasses approximately 190 square miles. The area is comprised of 129 square miles in waters 3-45 feet (ft) deep, 61 square miles of waters less than 3 ft and land in the Prudhoe Bay area. The approximate boundaries of the total surface area are between 70°16'N and 70°31'N and between 147°51'W and 148°49'W.

4. SCHEDULE

Activity associated with the survey is anticipated to commence with mobilization of equipment to Deadhorse in late May/early June. Demobilization of equipment is planned for completion by the end of September. Seismic survey data acquisition may take approximately 45 days to complete within this time period. BPXA anticipates that the full proposed seismic area will not be completed during the 2013 open water season. For permits that do not last more than one year, BPXA will request new permits in 2014 for the area that was not completed in 2013.

The planned start date of receiver deployment is approximately July 1, 2013. To limit potential impacts to the bowhead whale migration and the subsistence hunt, airgun operations dates will be in accordance with the dates agreed in the Conflict Avoidance Agreement (CAA) (historically August 25). Receiver retrieval and demobilization of equipment and support crew will be completed by September 30.

5. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

The activities associated with this project include mobilization of equipment and personnel, equipment staging, establishing temporary helicopter landing areas, establishing temporary camps to house seismic personnel, installing temporary docks, testing airguns, sound source verification, seismic data acquisition

and project demobilization. Data acquisition will also include recording from the existing geophones located near East Dock.

The survey area is categorized by the terms onshore, surf-zone and offshore to distinguish where different types of receivers will be used. The onshore zone is the vegetated area from the coastline and inland. The surf-zone includes tidelands and 0 to 6 ft water depths along the onshore coastline and also includes lands within the river delta areas that are intermittently submerged with tidal, precipitation and storm surge events. The offshore zone is defined as water depths of 3 ft or more. There is a zonal area between 3 and 6 ft which may be categorized as either surf-zone and offshore.

Support vessels will transit and maneuver as necessary in waters outside the survey area. The survey area identified in **Figure 3** by dashed lines shows the area where receiver and source lines will be located. The recorder barge may be placed outside the dashed line during seismic activities.

5.1 Mobilization and Access

Support activities, such as vessel mobilization/demobilization, crew transfers and vessel re-supply, are primarily planned to occur at West Dock and East Dock and may also occur at other nearby vessel accessible locations if needed. Other existing pads within the PBU area may be utilized for equipment staging or support if necessary.

Most vessels are either stored at or transported to the North Slope by truck. They will be prepared at the seismic contractor's staging area, West Dock or East Dock. Vessel preparation will include assembly of navigation and source equipment, cable deployment and retrieval systems and safety equipment. Once assembled, the systems will be tested at the project site. Mobilization support activities also include setting survey control, bathymetry and scouting the project area.

Transportation to pads and facilities will be by trucks and crew transport buses via existing gravel roads. Helicopters, vessels and trucks on the existing road system will be utilized to transfer survey equipment and crews to the onshore portions of the survey area. Crews on foot will deploy equipment onshore. In addition to survey vessels, Arktos (amphibious craft) or other shallow water craft will be used in shallow water and surf-zone.

5.2 Permanent Vertical Array Test Facility

The project will also include recording data at the permanent vertical array test facility (PVATF) at East Dock on fee simple land (ADL 42749). A cable will be connected to geophones that were previously installed in the borehole in 1985.

5.3 Housing and Logistics

Seismic data acquisition will occur over a 24-hour per day schedule. Approximately 220 people will be involved in the operation; including seismic crew, vessel management, camp personnel, mechanics, and overall project management.

Most of the crew will be accommodated at camps on existing pads near the project area such as East Dock, West Dock, BPXA operated camps or Deadhorse. Certain offshore crew members may be housed on vessels.

West Dock and East Dock as well as other existing PBU infrastructure will be utilized for seismic support activities. A temporary T-shaped flexi-float dock (maximum of 170 ft x 30 ft with a 125 ft x 30 ft wide "Tee") may be located at East Dock to provide support for vessel supply operations, personnel transfers, and refueling (**Figure 4**). The dock will be comprised of sections that will be fastened at location and secured with spuds to the seafloor. A smaller 100 ft x 25 ft temporary dock may also be used at an alternative location if needed for additional support operations. No discharge of gravel into marine waters or state land will occur as a result of dock placement, but minimal and temporary disturbance to existing marine sediments is expected when the spuds for the flexi-float dock are placed.

Helicopter landing and associated fuel and operational support may be located at existing pads or gravel location in the PBU or at the Deadhorse airport.

For protection from weather, vessels may anchor near West Dock, near the barrier islands or other near shore area locations. Personnel transfers may also occur offshore, at barrier islands or other land locations during survey activities. Surveyors will deploy navigation positioning base stations on land, or an island and may mark receiver locations in advance of the lay-out crews.

6. SEISMIC SURVEY DETAILS

Receiver lines will be deployed in the survey area with a minimum line spacing of 1320 feet. Source lines will be oriented perpendicular to receiver lines with a minimum line spacing of 320 feet. At some locations, receiver line spacing may be closer to improve data imaging. Additionally, receiver lines will be adjusted as necessary for cultural sites, wildlife and geographic features.

Data will be acquired using the patch technique, composed of multiple patches with 3 or more receiver lines per patch. This allows recording, receiver deployment, retrieval and general mobility among patches.

6.1 Equipment and Vessels

Survey support equipment will include camps, trucks, buses, geophysical equipment (cables, geophones/receivers, airguns, nodes, batteries, etc.), helicopters and vessels. As shown in **Table 1**, approximately fourteen to sixteen vessels may be used for the survey. In the event a specific vessel is not available a vessel with similar parameters would be used. Any substitution will be in accordance with the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) requirements. Shallow water craft not shown in Table 1 (e.g., airboat, buggy, Arktos, catamaran, zodiac, Jon boat) will be used to deploy and retrieve receivers in water depths less than those accessible by the cable boats.

Table 1 Summary of Number/Type of Vessels Involved in Proposed 2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey

Vessel Type	Number	Dimensions (approximate)	Main activity	Frequency
Source vessels: main	3	79 × 20 ft	Seismic data acquisition	24-hour operation
Recorder barge with tug boat	1	116.5 × 24 ft (barge) 23 × 15 ft (tug)	Seismic data recording	24-hour operation
Cable boats	5 - 6	43 × 13 ft	Deploy and retrieve receiver cables	24-hour operation
Crew transport vessels	2	44 × 14 ft	Transport crew and supplies to and from the working vessels	Intermittently, minimum every 8 hrs
Other crew and support boats	2 - 3	34 × 10.5 ft	Transport people and small amounts of gear	Intermittently
HSSE vessel	1	38 × 15 ft	HSSE support	As required
TOTAL: 14 to 16 vessels				

6.2 Receiver Deployment and Retrieval

As previously noted, there are three methods of receiver deployment and retrieval for the proposed project applicable to the habitat zones.

Offshore Zone. In the offshore zone, vessels will be used for the deployment and retrieval of the receiver cables. ULS cables with receivers (connected at a minimum of 82.5 ft intervals) and recorder units (Field Digitizing Units or FDUs) will be placed on the ocean bottom. Surface markers and acoustic pingers will be attached to the cable at various intervals to ensure the battery packs can be located and retrieved and to determine exact positions for the receivers. The data received at each FDU will be transmitted through the cables to a recorder for further processing. This recorder will be installed on a boat-barge combination and positioned close to the area where data are being acquired. While recording, the recorder vessel is stationary. After recording is complete the equipment is retrieved.

Surf-Zone. In the surf-zone, an Arktos (or similar equipment) with a 4 inch (approximate) diameter bit will be used to either drill or flush the receivers to a maximum depth of 12 ft. Portable hand held drills may also be used. Either autonomous nodes, and/or ULS cables will be attached to the receivers. ULS cables connect to the recorder and nodes record autonomously. In river areas, storm surge and high precipitation events resulting in fluctuating water levels may not allow the use of autonomous nodes. In those situations, ULS cables will be attached to the receivers. If waterproof (floating) autonomous nodes are used in these fluctuation areas, they may need to be weighed down. A line marked by either a float or survey lathe will be attached to the receivers to facilitate removal.

Onshore Surface. On land, receivers (autonomous node with a geophone or group of geophones) will be used. Helicopters are planned to be used to transport the land crews and equipment. Vessels may also be

used to transport personnel and equipment to a staging area on the beach. Bags that hold several nodes will be deployed from helicopters to the line. Multiple bags will be cached by helicopter from a staging area. Crews on foot will walk from bag to bag and lay out the equipment at the surveyed location and retrieve the nodes when recording operations are complete.

Nodes will be located on the ground and the geophone(s) will be either inserted into the ground by hand with the use of a planting pole or will be inserted in 3 ft deep by 1.5 inch diameter holes made with a hand-held portable drill. Equipment will be removed after recording is complete.

6.3 Recording

Once the receivers for a patch have been deployed, they will either be connected to the recorder on the recorder vessel or they will autonomously record data. Data from nodes may be retrieved periodically from small recorders placed on land. The recorders are connected to a tripod with an antenna.

Batteries for ULS cables will be used to maintain power to ensure data transmission to the recorder. These batteries will be placed in a sealed container and deployed with the cable approximately every 30 stations along the receiver lines. Each battery pack will be equipped with a buoy (or acoustic release) and a pinger, to ensure that the battery packs can be located and retrieved when needed. Pingers on the cables will also have batteries. Each node will have one or two battery packs attached.

6.4 Source Vessel Operations

A total of three seismic source vessels will be used during the proposed survey. The sources will be arrays of airguns. Each source vessel will carry an array that consists of two sub-arrays. Each sub-array contains eight 40 cubic inch (in³) airguns, totaling 16 guns per main source vessel with a total discharge volume of 2 × 320 in³, or 640 in³. This 640 in³ array has an estimated source level of ~223 dB re 1 µPa (rms). In very shallow water a single 320 in³ array may be the only source in use on a given source vessel. **Table 2** summarizes the acoustic properties of the airgun arrays.

Table 2 Air Source Configuration and Acoustical Outputs

Array Parameter	640 in³ array	320 in³ array
Number of guns	Sixteen 2000 psi sleeve airguns of 40 in ³ divided over two sub-arrays of eight guns	Eight 2000 psi sleeve airguns of 40 in ³
Zero to peak	12.5 bar-m (242 dB re 1µPa @1m)	4.26 bar-m (233 dB re 1µPa @1m)
Peak to peak	23.1 bar-m (247 dB re 1µPa @1 m)	7.92 bar-m (238 dB re 1µPa @1 m)
RMS pressure	1.44 bar-m (223 dB re 1µPa @1 m)	0.39 bar-m (212 dB re 1µPa @1 m)

The arrays of the source vessels will be towed at a distance of approximately 30 ft from the stern at depths up to 6 ft, which is remotely adjustable as needed. The source vessels will travel along pre-determined lines with a speed varying from approximately 1 to 5 knots, mainly depending on the water depth. To limit the duration of the total survey, the source vessels will be operating in flip-flop mode (i.e., alternating shots); this means that one vessel discharges airguns when the other vessel is recharging. Generally, only two vessels

will be operating simultaneously, while the third vessel is engaged in crew change, refueling, maintenance, or other activities that do not require the operation of airguns. Three vessels would operate together during ramp ups to replace one vessel with another. The expected shot interval will be 8 to 10 seconds, resulting in a shot every 4 to 5 seconds due to the flip-flop mode of operation. The exact shot intervals will depend on the compressor capacity, which determines the time needed for the airguns to be recharged.

6.5 Navigation and Data Management

Navigation will be accomplished with the use of a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS). This navigation system remotely links the operating systems located on each vessel. Two DGPS base stations may be maintained along the coast or on land.

The raw data used to calculate the GPS corrections will be gathered on an exhibit archiving system. The instrument navigation system (INS) will display known obstructions, islands, identified areas of sensitivity along with pre-plotted source and receiver line positions and are updated as necessary. The asset monitor will update the positions of each vessel in the survey area every few seconds providing the crew a quick display as to each vessel's position relative to the various display items.

The position of each receiver will be determined using GPS positioning units. Due to the variable bathymetry of the survey area, determining positions of receivers deployed in water may require more than one technique. A combination of Ocean Bottom Receiver Location (OBRL), GPS and acoustic pingers will be used. For OBRL, the source vessel fires a precisely positioned single energy source multiple times along either side of the receiver cables. Production data may also be used instead of dedicated OBRL acquisition. Multiple energy sources are used to triangulate a given receiver position. In addition, acoustical pingers will be located at predetermined intervals on the receiver lines and transmit a signal to a transponder mounted on a vessel. This allows for an interpolation of the receiver locations between the acoustical pingers and also serves as a verification of the OBRL method. The pingers transmit at 19-36 kHz and have a source level of 188-193 dB re μPa at 1m. Because OBRL method is not accurate in shallow water (< 15 ft), the receiver locations at these depths will be recorded as "as laid" positions, which is the GPS location where the receivers are deployed.

A tide gauge may also be installed in the operation area.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS

Mitigation measures are proposed for various aspects of the activity, specific measures for activities and interaction with whales, seals, polar bears and walrus are discussed in the applications for Letter of Authorization (LOA) from USFWS and the IHA application.

The proposed seismic operation will be conducted in compliance with permits and federal, state, and local regulations. Field personnel will be trained at a minimum to the applicable standards set forth by the North Slope Training Cooperative. Additionally, personnel will participate in specific project related training programs related to their job position, which may include vessel and overall operational safety, marine mammals, and other wildlife interaction. Protected Species Observers (PSOs) will be on board to monitor for marine mammals in accordance with the requirements in the IHA and LOA.

7.1 Waste Management

A waste management plan will be developed and implemented for each area of the operation; vessel operations, camp and staging sites. Wastes such as metals, used oil, and trash will be sorted, stored and back hauled for recycling, treatment, or disposal in existing approved facilities. Staging areas and the camp will have waste accumulation areas where wastes generated by working crews will be transferred.

Vessels will have approved marine sanitation devices for handling sewage. Vessel fluids will be managed in accordance with applicable governmental regulations. Solid wastes and recyclables from vessels will be transferred to shore for handling at existing facilities.

7.2 Fuel Storage and Fuel Transfer Operations

Vessels will either be fueled offshore by contractor supplied or contracted vessels, or from a shore based location. Weather, sea states and vessel function will be the determining factors on which method is used. Fuel transfers will be conducted in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

7.3 Wildlife Interaction Plan and Marine Mammal Monitoring Program

BPXA will submit a polar bear interaction plan with a request for a LOA for incidental and intentional take from USFWS. A marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan was submitted with a request for an IHA to NMFS. The proposed monitoring program includes PSO's on each source vessel, ramp up procedures, and avoidance protocols.

8. PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS

Federal, state and local permits and authorizations will be required for the proposed activity. These are summarized in **Table 3**.

Letters of Non-Objection will be requested from affected leaseholders, Unit Operators and Operators of Rights-of Way within the survey area.

Table 3 Regulatory Requirements and Agreements

Permit/Approval	Agency
FEDERAL	
Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Exploration of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) & National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process	US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) of Cetaceans and Seals	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Letter of Authorization (LOA) for Incidental and Intentional Take of Polar Bears and Pacific Walrus	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Nationwide Permit 6 – Survey Activities	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
STATE	
Miscellaneous Land Use Permit (Geophysical Exploration)	Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas (ADNR DOG)
Land Use Permit LAS 23316 – West Dock Staging	Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining Land and Water (ADNR MLW)
Title 16 Fish Habitat Permit	Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat (ADF&G)
Cultural Resources Clearance	Alaska Department of Natural Resources, State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)
LOCAL	
Development Permit	North Slope Borough (NSB)
Inupiat History, Language, and Culture - Traditional Land Use Inventory Clearance Certificate (Form 500)	North Slope Borough Inupiat History, Language, and Culture (NSB IHLC)
Conflict Avoidance Agreement (CAA) / Plan of Cooperation	Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) and North Slope communities Whaling Captains' Associations
Revocable Use (Native Allotment) Permits	Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) / Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
OTHER	
Letters of Non-Objection	Affected lease and right-of-way owners
Associated Camp Operating Permits	Contractor obtained permits from various agencies

8.1 Other Uses in the Area

As noted, the project area lies mainly within the PBU and also includes portions of the Northstar, Dewline and Duck Island Units. The Prudhoe Bay area is used by several operators and contractors to support North Slope operations. West Dock is used for barging materials and support vessels for industry operators and contractors. Subsistence whalers transit the area when travelling between Nuiqsut and Cross Island. Research and studies groups and some tourism vessels also pass through the area.

BPXA will be contacting other unit operators, lessees and land owners in the area as applicable to advise them of project activities and will request non-objection from affected lessees and right-of-way holders.

9. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND LOCAL HIRE

9.1 Subsistence Impacts

The proposed seismic survey will take place between July and September, with seismic data acquisition occurring in July and August. The project area is located approximately 55 miles east from Nuiqsut, 3 miles south from Cross Island, and more than 100 miles west from Kaktovik and east from Barrow. Potential impact from the planned activities is expected mainly from sounds generated by the vessels and during active airgun deployment; however, due to the timing of the project and the distance from the surrounding communities, it is anticipated there will be no effects on spring harvesting and little or no effect on the occasional summer harvest of beluga whale, subsistence seal hunts (ringed and spotted seals are primarily harvested in winter while bearded seals are hunted during July-September in the Beaufort Sea). The community of Nuiqsut may begin fall whaling activities in late August to early September from Cross Island. As part of the planned mitigation measures, BPXA will complete airgun operations at a date agreed upon by the Nuiqsut whaling captains as captured in the CAA. No or little impact on the fall bowhead hunt from the proposed activities is therefore expected to occur.

9.2 Coordination and Communication

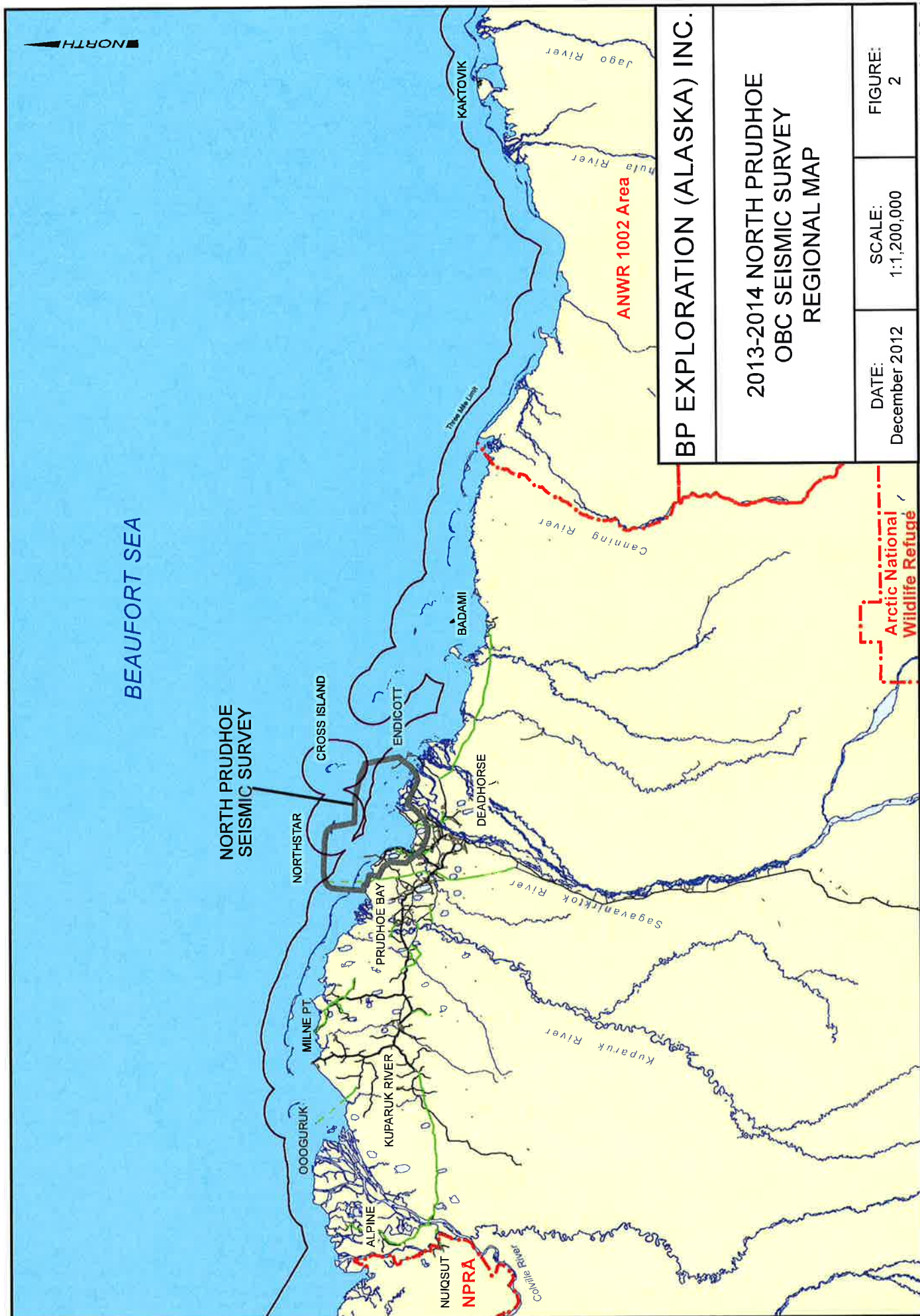
BPXA participates in discussions with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) to develop a Conflict Avoidance Agreement (CAA) which is intended to minimize potential interference with subsistence hunting. Initial CAA coordination meetings began in December 2012. Additional CAA meetings are scheduled in 2013. The CAA, when executed, will describe measures to minimize any adverse effects on the availability of bowhead whales for subsistence uses.

The North Slope Borough (NSB) and state agencies will be consulted regarding the project. BPXA plans to hold meetings in the community of Nuiqsut to present the proposed project, address questions and concerns from community members, and communicate contact information for the project.

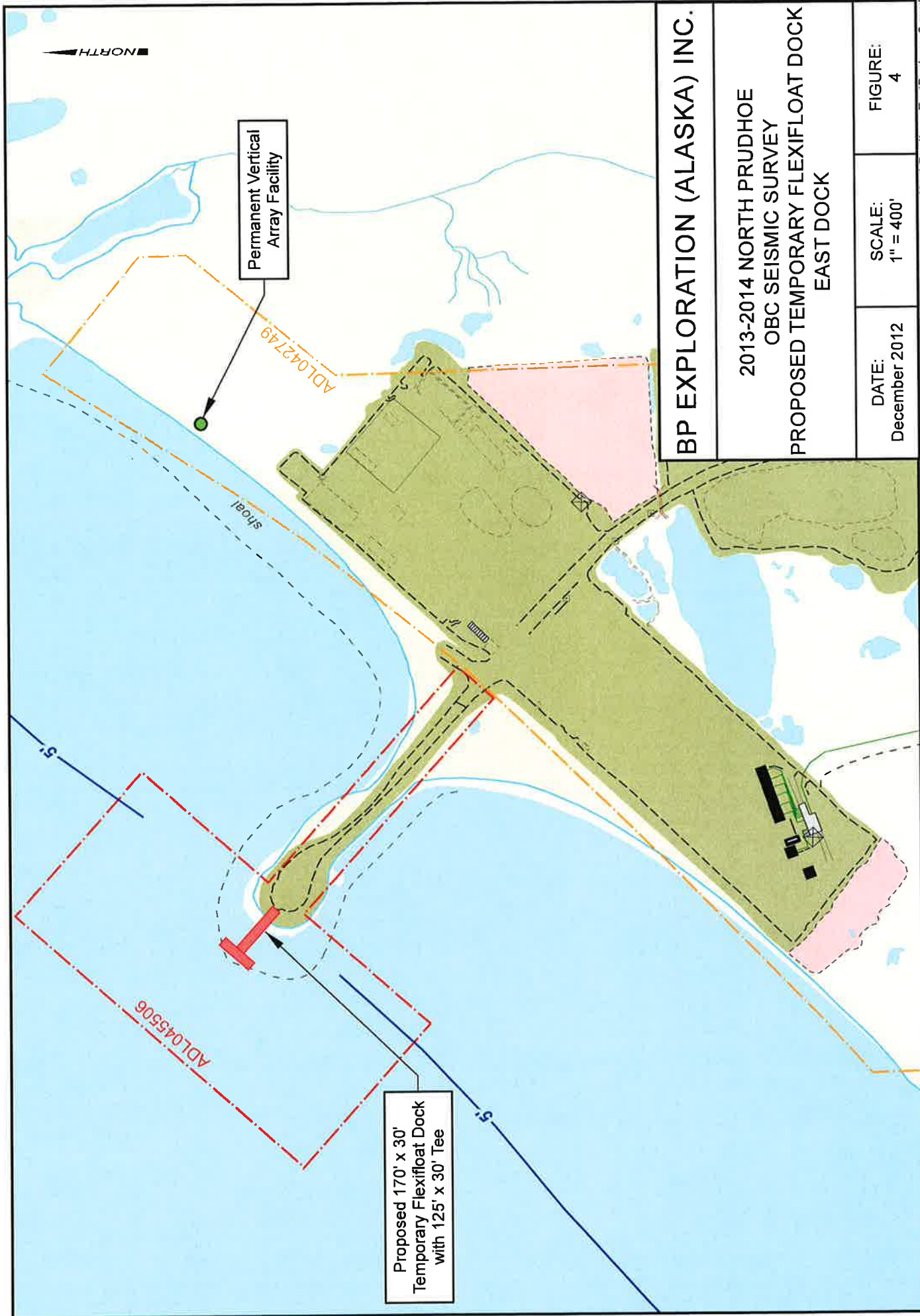
9.3 Archaeological and Cultural Sites

Archeological and historical sites have been identified within the survey area. These sites include those identified from the National Register of Historic Sites, Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) and the NSB Traditional Land Use Inventory (TLUI) databases. Additionally, offshore projects with potential for effects on the seabed require an evaluation of the locations of known shipwrecks.

The Prudhoe Bay area has been surveyed numerous times over the years by professional archaeologists. A field archeological and cultural resource reconnaissance was conducted within the project area to identify and update the status of known archaeological resources and cultural sites for pre-project clearances. BPXA will request approval of setbacks from such archaeological sites from the State Historic Preservation Office as well as the NSB Inupiat History Language and Cultural Commission as a part of the permitting process.



BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.		
2013-2014 NORTH PRUDHOE OBC SEISMIC SURVEY REGIONAL MAP		
DATE: December 2012	SCALE: 1:1,200,000	FIGURE: 2



BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.

2013-2014 NORTH PRUDHOE
OBC SEISMIC SURVEY
PROPOSED TEMPORARY FLEXIFLOAT DOCK
EAST DOCK

DATE: December 2012	SCALE: 1" = 400'	FIGURE: 4
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**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

Alaska OCS Region

(Insert Appropriate Regional Office)

**PERMIT FOR GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION
FOR MINERAL RESOURCES OR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF**

In consideration of the terms and conditions contained herein and the authorization granted hereby, this permit is entered into by and between the United States of America (the Government), acting through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) of the Department of the Interior, and

BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.

(Name of Permittee)

P.O. Box 196612

(Number and Street)

Anchorage, AK 99519-6612

(City, State, and Zip Code)

PERMIT NUMBER: 13-01 **DATE:** _____

This permit is issued pursuant to the authority of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended, (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), hereinafter called the "Act," and Title 30 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 251 and 551 (Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Explorations of the Outer Continental Shelf).

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Statement: This permit refers to information collection requirements contained in 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551 regulations. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved those reporting requirements under OMB Control Number 1010-0048.

Section I. Authorization

The Government authorizes the permittee to conduct:

 x Geophysical exploration for mineral resources as defined in 30 CFR 551.1.

 Geophysical scientific research as defined in 30 CFR 551.1. A permit is required for any geophysical investigation that involves the use of solid or liquid explosives or developing data and information for proprietary use or sale.

This permit authorizes the permittee to conduct the above geophysical activity during the period from July 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013 in the following area(s):
North Prudhoe area of Beaufort Sea. See 2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey Project Description (Attached). Extensions of the time period specified above must be requested in writing. A permit plus extensions for activities will be limited to a period of not more than 1 year from the original issuance date of the permit. Inspection and reporting of geophysical exploration activities, suspension and cancellation of authority to conduct exploration or scientific research activities under permit, and penalties and appeals will be carried out in accordance with 30 CFR 551.8, 551.9, and 551.10.

The authority of the Regional Director may be delegated to the Regional Supervisor for Resource Evaluation for the purposes of this permit.

Section II. Type(s) of Operations and Technique(s)

A. The permittee will employ the following type(s) of operations:

Ocean Bottom Cable 3D Seismic Survey.

See 2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey Project Description (Attached). ;

and will utilize the following instruments and/or technique(s) in such operations:

Vessels to deploy cables, provide source (airgun), and record information.

See 2013 North Prudhoe OBC Seismic Survey Project Description (Attached).

B. The permittee will conduct all activities in compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, including the "Stipulations," "Special Provisions," and the approved "Application for Permit," which are attached to and incorporated into this permit.

C. The permittee will conduct all geophysical exploration or scientific research activities in compliance with the Act, the regulations in 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551, and other applicable statutes and regulations whether such statutes and regulations are enacted, promulgated, issued, or amended before or after this permit is issued. Some of the provisions of 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551 are restated in this permit for emphasis. However, all of the provisions of 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551 apply to this permit.

Section III. Reports on Operations

A. The permittee must submit status reports on a weekly basis in a manner approved or prescribed by the Regional Supervisor, Resource Evaluation (hereinafter referred to as Supervisor). The report must include a daily log of operations and a map (preferably on a scale of 1: 250,000) showing traverse lines according to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) area and block numbers.

- B. The permittee must submit to the Supervisor a final report within 30 days after the completion of operations. The final report must contain the following:
1. A description of the work performed and areal extent including number of line miles for 2-D or high resolution surveys or OCS blocks for 3-D geophysical data acquired;
 2. Chart(s), map(s), or plat(s) depicting the areas and blocks in which any exploration or scientific research activities were conducted. These graphics must clearly indicate the location of the activities so that the data produced from the activities can be accurately located and identified
 3. The dates on which the actual geophysical exploration or scientific research activities were performed;
 4. A narrative summary of any: (a) hydrocarbon occurrences or environmental hazards observed and (b) adverse effects of the geophysical exploration or scientific research activities on the environment, aquatic life, archaeological resources, or other uses of the area in which the activities were conducted;
 5. The estimated date on which the processed or interpreted data or information will be available for inspection by BOEM;
 6. A final edited navigation file on suitable storage medium of all data or sample locations in latitude/longitude degrees including datum used. The navigation for 2D lines should include line name and locations for the first, last and every tenth SP. For 3D surveys, please supply a navigation file for the acquired track lines that includes the location of the first and last SP and/or the corner locations for the area acquired. Contact the G&G permitting office for the specific navigation required for this permitted activity. The digital file is to be formatted in standard SEG-P1, UKOOA P1-90 or other current, standard industry format, coded in ASCII. A printed data listing and a format statement are to be included;
 7. Identification of geocentric ellipsoid (NAD 27 or NAD 83) used as a reference for the data or sample locations; and
 8. Such other descriptions of the activities conducted as may be specified by the Supervisor.
- C. The last status report and the final report can be combined into one report.

Section IV. Submission, Inspection, and Selection of Geophysical Data and Information

- A. The permittee must notify the Supervisor, in writing, when the permittee has completed the initial processing and interpretation of any geophysical data and information collected under an exploration permit or a scientific research permit that involves developing data and information for proprietary use or sale. If the Supervisor asks if the permittee has further processed or interpreted any geophysical data and information collected under a permit, the permittee must respond within 30 days. If further processing of the data and information is conducted, it is the responsibility of the permittee to keep the most current resulting products available in the event the Supervisor requests the current status of data processing. At any time within 10 years after receiving notification of the completion of the acquisition activities conducted under the permit, the Supervisor may request that the permittee submit for inspection and possible retention all or part of the geophysical data, processed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information.

- B. The Supervisor will have the right to inspect and select the geophysical data, processed geophysical information, or interpreted geophysical information. This inspection will be performed on the permittee's premises unless the Supervisor requests that the permittee submit the data or information to the Supervisor for inspection. Such submission must be within 30 days following the receipt of the Supervisor's request unless the Supervisor authorizes a later delivery date. If the inspection is done on the permittee's premises, the permittee must submit the geophysical data or information selected within 30 days following receipt of the Supervisor's request, unless the Supervisor authorizes a longer period of time for delivery. The data or information requested for inspection or selected by the Supervisor must be submitted regardless of whether the permittee and the Government have or have not concluded an agreement for reimbursement. If the Supervisor decides to retain all or a portion of the geophysical data or information, the Supervisor will notify the permittee, in writing, of this decision.
- C. In the event that a third party obtains geophysical data, processed geophysical information, or interpreted geophysical information from a permittee, or from another third party, by sale, trade, license agreement, or other means:
1. The third party recipient of the data and information assumes the obligations under this section except for notification of initial processing and interpretation of the data and information and is subject to the penalty provisions of 30 CFR Part 550, Subpart N; and
 2. A permittee or third party that sells, trades, licenses, or otherwise provides the data and information to a third party must advise the recipient, in writing, that accepting these obligations is a condition precedent of the sale, trade, license, or other agreement; and
 3. Except for license agreements, a permittee or third party that sells, trades, or otherwise provides data and information to a third party must advise the Supervisor in writing within 30 days of the sale, trade, or other agreement, including the identity of the recipient of the data and information; or
 4. With regard to license agreements, a permittee or third party that licenses data and information to a third party, within 30 days of a request by the Supervisor, must advise the Supervisor, in writing, of the license agreement, including the identity of the recipient of the data and information.
- D. Each submission of geophysical data, processed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information must contain, unless otherwise specified by the Supervisor, the following:
1. An accurate and complete record of each geophysical survey conducted under the permit, including digital navigational data and final location maps of all surveys;
 2. All seismic data developed under a permit presented in a format and of a quality suitable for processing;
 3. Processed geophysical information derived from seismic data with extraneous signals and interference removed, presented in a format and of a quality suitable for interpretive evaluation, reflecting state-of-the-art processing techniques; and
 4. Other geophysical data, processed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information obtained from, but not limited to, shallow and deep subbottom profiles, bathymetry, side-scan sonar, gravity, magnetic, and electrical surveys, and special studies such as refraction, shear wave, and velocity surveys.

Section V. Reimbursement to Permittees

- A. After the delivery of geophysical data, processed geophysical information, and interpreted geophysical information requested by the Supervisor in accordance with subsection IV of this permit, and upon receipt of a request for reimbursement and a determination by BOEM that the requested reimbursement is proper, BOEM will reimburse the permittee or third party for the reasonable costs of reproducing the submitted data and information at the permittee's or third party's lowest rate or at the lowest commercial rate established in the area, whichever is less.
- B. If the processing was in a form and manner other than that used in the normal conduct of the permittee's business at BOEM's request, BOEM will reimburse the permittee or third party for the reasonable costs of processing or reprocessing such data. Requests for reimbursement must identify processing costs separate from acquisition costs.
- C. The permittee or third party will not be reimbursed for the costs of acquiring or interpreting geophysical information.
- D. Data and information required under section IV.D.1. of this permit are not considered to be geophysical data or processed geophysical information and must be provided by the permittee at no cost to the Government.

Section VI. Disclosure of Data and Information to the Public

- A. BOEM will make data and information submitted by a permittee available in accordance with the requirements and subject to the limitations of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 2), the requirements of the Act, and the regulations contained in 30 CFR Parts 250 and 550 (Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf), 30 CFR Parts 251 and 551, and 30 CFR Parts 252 and 552 (Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Information Program).
- B. Except as specified in this section, or Section VIII, or in 30 CFR Parts 250, 252, 550, and 552, no data or information determined by BOEM or the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to be exempt from public disclosure under subsection A of this section will be provided to any affected State or be made available to the executive of any affected local government or to the public, unless the permittee or third party and all persons to whom such permittee has sold, traded, or licensed the data or information under promise of confidentiality agree to such an action.
- C. Geophysical data and processed or interpreted geophysical information submitted under a permit, and retained by BOEM, will be disclosed as follows:
 - 1. Except for deep stratigraphic tests, BOEM will make available to the public geophysical data 50 years after the date of issuance of the permit under which the data were collected (see 30 CFR 551.12 (a) (b) (c) and (d)).
 - 2. Except for deep stratigraphic tests, BOEM will make available to the public processed geophysical information and interpreted geophysical information 25 years after the date of issuance of the permit under which the original data were collected (see 30 CFR 551.12(a), (b), (c) and (d)).
 - 3. BOEM will make available to the public all geophysical data and information and geophysical interpretations related to a deep stratigraphic test, at the earlier of the following times: (a) 25

years after the completion of the test, or (b) for a lease sale held after the test well is completed, 60 calendar days after the Department of the Interior executes the first lease for a block, any part of which is within 50 geographic miles (92.6 kilometers) of the site of the completed test.

- D. All line-specific preplot or postplot plat(s), and navigation tapes, including but not limited to seismic survey traverses and shotpoint locations, submitted as a requirement of 30 CFR 251.7, 551.7 or 551.12, will be considered as "PROPRIETARY INFORMATION." Such information will not be made available to the public without the consent of the permittee for a period of 25 years from the date of issuance of the permit, unless the Director, BOEM, determines that earlier release is necessary for the proper development of the area permitted.
- E. All other information submitted as a requirement of 30 CFR 551.8 and determined by BOEM to be exempt from public disclosure will be considered as "PROPRIETARY." Such data and information will not be made available to the public without the consent of the permittee for a period of up to 25 years from the date of issuance of the permit as addressed in 30 CFR 551.14, unless the Director, BOEM, determines that earlier release is necessary for the proper development of the area permitted. The executed permit will be considered as "PROPRIETARY" except the public information copy which will be available to the public upon request.
- F. The identities of third party recipients of data and information collected under a permit will be kept confidential. The identities will not be released unless the permittee and the third parties agree to the disclosure.

Section VII. Disclosure to Independent Contractors

BOEM reserves the right to disclose any data or information acquired from a permittee to an independent contractor or agent for the purpose of reproducing, processing, reprocessing, or interpreting such data or information. When practicable, BOEM will advise the permittee who provided the data or information of intent to disclose the data or information to an independent contractor or agent. BOEM's notice of intent will afford the permittee a period of not less than 5 working days within which to comment on the intended action. When BOEM so advises a permittee of the intent to disclose data or information to an independent contractor or agent, all other owners of such data or information will be deemed to have been notified of BOEM's intent. Prior to any such disclosure, the contractor or agent will be required to execute a written commitment not to sell, trade, license, or disclose any data or information to anyone without the express consent of BOEM.

Section VIII. Sharing of Information with Affected States

- A. At the time of soliciting nominations for the leasing of lands within 3 geographic miles of the seaward boundary of any coastal State, BOEM, pursuant to the provisions of 30 CFR Parts 252.7 552.7 and subsections 8(g) and 26(e) (43 U.S.C. 1337(g) and 1352(e)) of the Act, will provide the Governor of the State (or the Governor's designated representative) the following information that has been acquired by BOEM on such lands proposed to be offered for leasing:
 - 1. All information on the geographical, geological, and ecological characteristics of the areas and regions proposed to be offered for leasing;
 - 2. An estimate of the oil and gas reserves in the area proposed for leasing; and

3. An identification of any field, geological structure, or trap located within 3 miles of the seaward boundary of the State.
- B. After the time of receipt of nominations for any area of the OCS within 3 geographic miles of the seaward boundary of any coastal State and Area Identification in accordance with the provisions of Subparts D and E of 30 CFR Part 556, BOEM, in consultation with the Governor of the State (or the Governor's designated representative), will determine whether any tracts being given further consideration for leasing may contain one or more oil or gas reservoirs underlying both the OCS and lands subject to the jurisdiction of the State.
 - C. At any time prior to a sale, information acquired by BOEM that pertains to the identification of potential and/or proven common hydrocarbon-bearing areas within 3 geographic miles of the seaward boundary of any such State will be shared, upon request by the Governor and pursuant to the provisions of 30 CFR Parts 252.7 and 552.7 and subsections 8(g) and 26(e) of the Act, with the Governor of such State (or the Governor's designated representative).
 - D. Knowledge obtained by a State official who receives information under subsections A, B, and C of this section will be subject to the requirements and limitations of the Act and the regulations contained in 30 CFR Parts 250, 251, 252, 550, 551, and 552.

Section IX. Permit Modifications

The Department will have the right at any time to modify or amend any provisions of this permit, except that the Department will not have such right with respect to the provisions of Sections VI, VII, and VIII hereof, unless required by an Act of Congress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have executed this permit and it will be effective as of the date of signature by the Supervisor.

PERMITTEE:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:


(Signature of Permittee)

(Signature of Regional Supervisor)

Janet Sheldon

(Type or Print Name of Permittee)

(Type or Print Name of Regional Supervisor)

Permitting Advisor
HSE-Alaska

(Title)

(Date)

January 3, 2013

(Date)