



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Region

3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

JUL 19 2013

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