



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
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
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
Alaska Ice Seal Committee
Alaska Beluga Whale Committee
Alaska Nanuuq Commission