

Office of Pipeline Monitoring
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
411 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Serial No./Case File No.: AA84064 CX Number: AK-993-06-008

Project Title: Modification of the Material Sale Contract for OMS 9-4R (AA-084064), Tiekel River Site

Field Office: Office of Pipeline Monitoring

Plan Name: South Central Plan

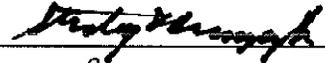
Applicant: Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

Address: P.O. Box 196660, Anchorage Alaska 99519-6660

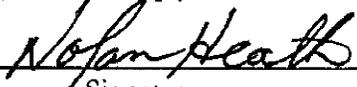
LANDS INVOLVED

TOWNSHIP RANGE MERIDIAN SECTION SUBDIVISION ACRES

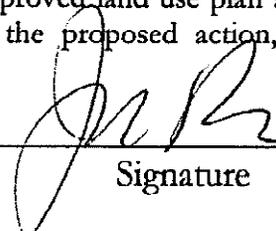
7 S., 1 E., Copper River 8 S W1/4SW1/4 Approx 9.5

Prepared by:  Realty Specialist April 26, 2006
Signature Title Date

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE. I have reviewed the proposed action and have determined the action will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment, and will not involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. This action is listed in 516 DM 11, 11.5, F(10) and is categorically excluded from the NEPA process. The twelve exceptions to a categorical exclusion as listed in 516 DM 2.3A(3) do not apply.

Reviewed by:  Deputy AO 16 May 2006
Signature Title Date

DECISION. I have reviewed the proposed action and determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the proposed action, as described, with the mitigation measures identified in the attached document.

 A/O 5-17-06
Signature Title Date

OFFICE OF PIPELINE MONITORING
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PLAN CONFORMANCE
CX-AK-993-06-008

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (purpose, location)

The purpose of this OMS modification is to make less mineral material available for mining within the exterior boundaries of the pit area. The end result of this action will be to decrease the volume of the pit run gravel material from 25,000 Cu. Yds to 1,000 Cu. Yds. Since this action will take place within the confines of the approved Mining Plan and the area already cleared by an archaeologist, this action is considered to have a minimum impact to the environment. The total action involves approximately 9.5 acres of Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.; however, the actual area disturbed by the operation will be more in the area of less than 1 acre. The application received from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company is for the reduction in the total amount of mineral material removed from this pit area.

The whole operation will encompass an area of less than 5 acres and will not cause any siltation to neighboring streams. The area will not be affected by any long term environmental damage because the area is already dedicated to the use as a material site. The excavation of the pit run gravel from the pit area is consistent with the long term plans for the area and will not result in any impact upon the human environment.

I. DETERMINATION OF EXCLUDABILITY

Action is Non-surface Disturbing Surface Disturbing

1. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11, 11.5,F(10). The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any of the twelve criteria for exception described in 516DM 2, Appendix 2 apply.

2. DOCUMENTATION: Information Source (may include previous NEPA documents, fieldwork, other studies and reports, staff expertise, correspondence.

Criteria for Exception	NO	Yes
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	X	
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	X	
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	X	
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	X	
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	X	
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	X	
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	X	
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	X	
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	X	
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	X	
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	X	
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	X	

III. SPECIAL PROJECT STIPULATIONS:

The following Special Stipulations apply to this Material Sale Contract:

1. The Mineral Material Sale shall be subject to the terms, conditions and stipulations of the Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline between the United States of America and BP Pipelines (Alaska) Inc., et. al. dated January 8, 2003, which became effective on January 24, 2004. It shall be provided, however, that in the event of a conflict, either express or implied, between any provisions of the Agreement and any provision of the Material Sale, such conflict shall be resolved in favor of this Sale
2. Primary access shall be limited to the existing roads, unless specifically authorized in writing.
3. The Alyeska working limits shall be staked prior to any excavation activities.
4. Any mining activities shall be conducted to minimize disturbance to existing vegetation except in the areas actually being excavated during the mining operation.
5. Fuel storage is allowed within the OMS area but such storage will be in conformance with the requirements of the State Department of Environmental Conservation guidelines for fuel containment
6. Temporary trash storage is not allowed in the Sale area. Waste materials will be removed from the Sale area to appropriate facilities on a regular basis.
7. The Authorized Officer may require that his authorized representative be on site during operations conducted under this material sale contract. . The contract holder will notify the Valdez Office Manager of the BLM at 907-787-6701 during regular business hours at least 48 hours prior to entry into this pit for mining purposes.
8. Alyeska shall inform and ensure compliance with these stipulations by its agents, employees, and contractors (including subcontractors at any level).
9. This Sale applies to lands under jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.
10. Contract volume shall be established as follows:
 - a. A cross-section survey shall be completed for the site prior to the beginning of mining operations at this pit (I.E. prior to the first mining operation in this pit) and at pit close out (upon the final closing of the pit area).
 - b. Annual reports of quantities mined shall be based upon truck counts or an engineer's estimate of stockpiled material.