



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Pipeline Monitoring
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Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

Amendment of Temporary Use Permit for Integrity Investigation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline at Milepost 761.7

DOI-BLM-AK-994-2009-001-DNA

BLM Office: Office of Pipeline Monitoring

Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-AK-994-2009-001-DNA

BLM Case File No. AA 088844

Proposed Action Title: Amendment of Temporary Use Permit for Integrity Investigation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline at Milepost 761.7

Location and Legal Land Descriptions of Proposed Action: The site is located along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) pipeline at milepost (PLMP) 761.7 in the vicinity of the Tsaina River south of the Richardson Highway in T. 8 S., R. 1 W., Sec. 5, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Copper River Meridian, Alaska.

Applicant: Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, P.O. Box 196660, MS 502, Anchorage, AK 99519-6660

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures:

BLM proposes to amend Temporary Use Permit (TUP) AA 088844 to allow the use of an additional 400' by 200' section of land (1.84 acres) along TAPS to complete the integrity investigation of the buried pipeline at PLMP 761.7. On September 4, 2008, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (APSC), operator of TAPS, was granted a TUP for the integrity investigation as a follow-up action to the 2006 emergency flood response activities. The area requested was 400' by 600' (approximately 5.51 acres) of federally managed lands. The investigation includes the excavation around and full exposure of 30' of the pipeline and replacement of the protective wrap on the pipe. Access to the site will be via foot, passenger vehicles, and small, rubber-tired or tracked equipment. This additional section of land is required to provide access to an additional length of pipe in order to complete the rewinding of the portion of pipe exposed during the integrity investigation. The total area involved will be 400' by 800' (approximately 7.35 acres) of federally managed lands.

Mitigation Measures: All mitigation measures under TUP AA 088844 will be applied to the amendment. No additional measures will be necessary.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan, U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, January 1991.

1. The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

Issuance of rights-of-way for oil and natural gas pipelines and related facilities are dealt with specifically on page 2-24 of the Utility Corridor RMP, "FLPMA leases on federal lands would be considered where environmentally feasible and compatible with management objectives" and on page 2-23 the issuance of rights-of-way for oil and natural gas pipelines and related facilities is referred to under the heading Rights-of-Way.

2. The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

N/A

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

1. *Final Environmental Impact Statement, Renewal of the Federal Grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way*, U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Joint Pipeline Office, BLM-AK-PT-03-005-2880-990, November 2002. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the Record of Decision stated there were no probable significant adverse environmental impacts from the TAPS Right-of-Way authorization and continued operation and maintenance along TAPS for an additional 30 years. The FEIS also stated that excavations of buried pipe would result in reductions and prevention of corrosion to the mainline pipe, and that an estimated 15 digs would occur each year, potentially increasing to 20 per year by 2034.

2. *Programmatic Environmental Assessment for TAPS Mainline Activities*, U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM Joint Pipeline Office - AK-993-04-001, March 23, 2004. An environmental assessment (EA) was completed to analyze and document activities that are frequently and routinely proposed by Alyeska to repair, protect, or inspect TAPS along the entire pipeline system. These activities are routine in nature, and do not typically pose impacts that require specific environmental assessment documentation. The EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that concluded an environmental impact statement was not required and the impact to the physical environment was not expected to be significant. The FONSI stated that routine pipeline maintenance activities that occurred within the existing right-of-way that require additional workspace off the right-of-way, but within the original temporary construction zone of the pipeline would not present an adverse environmental impact. This

includes temporary activities to protect pipeline integrity, such as excavations for investigation and repair. The proposed action was not expected to result in undue or unnecessary environmental degradation and would not restrict subsistence activity or resources. The environment would benefit by protecting the integrity and safety of the existing pipeline system and related facilities from corrosion and potential erosive forces.

3. *Final Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Trans-Alaska Pipeline, Prepared by a Special Interagency Task Force for the Federal Task Force on Alaskan Oil Development, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1972.* In 1972, the U.S. Department of Interior completed a FEIS that identified and analyzed the probable direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of TAPS for the first 30-year term of the Right-of-Way Grant. The Record of Decision stated there were no probable significant adverse environmental impacts from the TAPS Right-of-Way authorization and continued operation and maintenance along TAPS. This was the first comprehensive NEPA analysis document completed for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the first EIS completed after passage of the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969.

2. List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

a. The BLM Renewal of the Agreement and Grant of Right-of-Way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and Related Facilities, January 2003.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA documents? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed action is the same action previously analyzed in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement, Renewal of the Federal Grant for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Right-of-Way*, BLM-AK-PT-03-005-2880-990, November 2002, and the first TAPS NEPA analysis, the *Final Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Trans-Alaska Pipeline 1972*. All documents concluded no long term adverse environmental impacts would be expected to occur as the result of the proposed project. The TAPS Renewal EIS of November 2002 stated that excavations of buried pipe would result in reductions and prevention of corrosion to the mainline pipe, and that an estimated 15 digs would occur each year, potentially increasing to 20 by the end of 2034.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The range of alternatives is appropriate with respect to the current proposed action in all of the previously prepared NEPA documents listed above. The TAPS Renewal EIS resulted in a ROD signed January 8, 2003, that stated the FEIS fully analyzed three alternative actions and that BLM also considered additional alternatives set forth in the EIS. The ROD authorized the renewal of the federal TAPS right-of-way for another 30 years, and the FEIS specified that excavations of pipe for corrosion investigations would also continue for this duration.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

The Record of Decision for the TAPS Renewal FEIS states:

"Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Essential Fish Habitat provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the BLM initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the BLM prepared the Biological Evaluation of the Effects of Right-of-Way Renewal for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System on Threatened and Endangered Species and Designated Critical Habitat (Biological Evaluation), dated June 2002. The Biological Evaluation identified five species of concern within the action area: spectacled eider, Steller's eider, humpback whale, fin whale, and Steller sea lion. It found there was no designated critical habitat within the action area for the TAPS renewal. The Biological Evaluation concluded that the proposed action was not likely to adversely affect the five species or any critical habitat. The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service each concurred with BLM's determination that the proposed action would not adversely affect the species of concern. BLM prepared an Essential Fish Habitat analysis. The National Marine Fisheries Service concurred that the Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act have been satisfied and further concurred with BLM's determination that any short-term adverse effects on Essential Fish Habitat can be adequately avoided, minimized and mitigated by the conservation measures associated with the proposed action. "

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA documents?

The direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action do not deviate from the impacts identified in the existing NEPA documents. Site-specific impacts related to the current proposal were sufficiently analyzed in the previous EIS's.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency reviews associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current proposed actions?

The public involvement and interagency review associated with the existing NEPA documents are adequate for the current proposed action due to the following:

- a. Public Involvement. The TAPS FEIS for Renewal underwent an exhaustive public involvement process. BLM enlisted all interested stakeholders in the renewal process, including government-to-government involvement with Alaska tribes, state and federal agencies that regulate TAPS activities, and special interest groups affected by TAPS activities. The entire renewal process, including all public hearings and meetings, received extensive coverage by newspaper, television, and radio media.
- b. Interagency Review. During the TAPS Renewal EIS process, BLM coordinated closely with the State of Alaska, as well as all JPO State and Federal stakeholder agencies and other Federal land management agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service. The TAPS FEIS for Renewal contains interagency reviews by the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Alaska Region.

E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

- 1. Diann Rasmussen, Preparer, Realty Specialist, BLM Office of Pipeline Monitoring
- 2. John Jangala, Archaeologist, BLM Glennallen Field Office
- 3. Dennis Gnath, Habitat Biologist, Joint Pipeline Office-ADNR
- 4. Ron Doyel, Joint Pipeline Office-ADEC

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

CONCLUSION

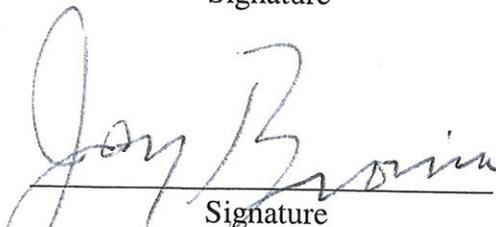
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.



Signature

Realty Specialist, BLM
Title

10/1/08
Date



Signature

Authorized Officer, BLM
Title

10/1/08
Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

