

Administrative Determination (AD)
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

A. BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office **Lease/Serial Case File No.:** A-02877

Proposed Action Title/Type: Drilling of a Natural Gas Well SRU 231-16

Location of Proposed Action: Swanson River Unit, Section 15, T. 8 N., R. 9 W., Seward Meridian.

Description of the Proposed Action:

UNOCAL is proposing to drill a new, single-zone natural gas well (SRU 231-16) within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge on the Swanson River Unit (SRU). The well surface location is within Section 15, T. 8 N., R. 9 W., Seward Meridian (Case File # A-02877). No new roads will need to be built as well SRU 231-16 will be drilled on the Swanson River Unit's northern most tank setting. All access roads and drilling pads are already in place. Existing facilities on Tank Setting 2-15 (TS 2-15) will be utilized during gas production. New flow lines to the well will be required and contained on the existing pad.

Water mixed with the drilling mud to be used in the drilling process will be drawn from adjacent facilities. Solid waste in the form of drill cuttings will be hauled in cutting boxes to the Swanson River Field (SRF) Central Waste Facility. Liquid drilling mud will be recirculated while drilling the well. At the end of the well, the liquid mud will be hauled to and disposed of in the Class II disposal well located within the SRU. Garbage will be incinerated at the Pipe and Supply (P&S) Yard in the SRF, or hauled out of the refuge to the Soldotna dump. All septic/sewage/gray water will be containerized on-site and hauled away by disposal contractors.

Three small trailers will be present on the drill site for use by the UNOCAL drilling supervisor and the contract drilling rig tool pusher. Road and pad reclamation will not take place as the road and associated pad will still be utilized by UNOCAL for other ongoing gas producing operations.

Applicant (if any): Union Oil Company of California (UNOCAL)

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The BLM has not developed a land use plan for surface or subsurface oil and gas development in the Kenai Peninsula area. However, this Proposed Action, which occurs within the boundaries of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, is subject to the Kenai

National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (KNWRCCP). The KNWRCCP was approved by the Secretary of the Interior in January 1985. The Proposed Action follows the aforementioned plan, allowing for the continued development and exploration of oil and gas within the identified area.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

This action will occur in the producing Swanson River oil and gas field. Environmental Assessment (EA) AK-984-001(c), and the associated FONSI adequately cover all environmental issues associated with the drilling of an additional well (SRU 231-16) adjacent to Tank Setting 2-15; Application for Permit to Drill, Union Oil Company of California (UNOCAL), Swanson River Unit, 4/23/04. Environmental Assessment AK-984-001(c) assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and provides a basis for a decision on this proposal [43 CFR 1610.8 (b)(1)].

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current Proposed Action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current Proposed Action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?

The Proposed Action for SRU 231-16 differs from the Proposed Action outlined in EA AK-984-001(c) in that there will be no pad expansion and the well will terminate at a shallower depth than its cousin well, SRU 242-16. Substantially, the current Proposed Action is the same action as that which was previously analyzed. The current Proposed Action lies within the same site that was specifically analyzed and previously approved through an existing document, EA AK-984-001(c).

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

The alternatives analyzed in EA AK-984-001(c) have not changed and are still relevant to the current Proposed Action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?

The following Critical Elements have been analyzed and will not be affected:

- Air Quality
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- Environmental Justice
- Farmlands (Prime or Unique)
- Flood Plains
- Invasive, Non-Native Species
- Native American Religious Concerns

Wastes (Hazardous and Solid)
Water Quality (Drinking or Ground)
Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wilderness

Compliance and Determination reports for Cultural Resources, T&E Species and Subsistence are included in this AD/DNA.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action?

The methodology and analytical approach utilized in EA AK-984-001(c) is consistent with that which is outlined in the Proposed Action.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?

All impacts (direct and indirect) remain unchanged. The current Proposed Action falls under existing site-specific impact analyses outlined in EA AK-984-001(c).

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?

The cumulative impacts outlined in EA AK-984-001(c) remain unchanged, and are applicable to the current Proposed Action.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?

EA AK-984-001(c) involved a consultation with ARCO Alaska, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The resulting documentation from those consultations remains effective for the current Proposed Action. No further consultations will be necessary.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

Interdisciplinary Analyses was conducted by AFO Lands and AFO Resources staff (see associated NEPA routing sheet). Since the Swanson River Unit is located on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, USF&WS is required to comment on the proposed activity.

F. Mitigation Measures:

No mitigation measures are required for this Proposed Action.

G. 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 NEPA.

/s/ June Bailey
Anchorage Field Manager

05-19-04
Date