

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-04-CX-002

Case File No.: AA-12918

Proposed Action Title/Types: Fort Richardson Fish Hatchery Natural Gas Pipeline,
Right-of-Way Renewal

Location of Proposed Action: Section 6, Township 13 North, Range 2 West
Seward Meridian
U.S.G.S. 1:63,000 Quad – Anchorage A-8

Description of Proposed Action: The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, has applied for a renewal of their right-of-way grant for a natural gas pipeline at the Fort Richardson fish hatchery. The right-of-way was granted for 25 years on November 29, 1978. The natural gas line is a 2 inch pipe which supplies the hatchery with natural gas for heating purposes. The right-of-way dimensions are 10 ft wide by 703 feet in length. The hatchery is expected to continue indefinitely. This grant renewal would be for a period of 30 years; extending the life of the grant to November 29, 2033 at which point the grant may be renewed. No additional rights would be conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorization.

Applicant: State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish - Region II

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan. Date Plan Approved: March 1980

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks: In the Management Framework Plan, Objective L-1 and L-2 state BLM will “satisfy state and local government needs...for land as they arise” and “satisfy needs for rights-of-way.” As this is a right-of-way for a state government need, this action is in conformance with the plan.

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4 E. (9), *Renewals and assignments of leases, permits or rights-of-ways where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.*

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----------|
| 1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species. | ___ | <u>X</u> |

YES NO

9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. _____ X
10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. _____ X

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s): /s/ Natalie Cooper Date: 11-21-03

PART III – DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Remarks:

Authorized Official: /s/ Clinton E. Hanson, Acting Date: 11-28-03