

OPTIONAL EA, FONSI AND DR FORM

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Number: AK-040-EA00-018

BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office

Serial No: AA-82369

Applicant: Alaska Earth Sciences, Inc.

Proposed Action Title/Type: Geological Reconnaissance and Geophysical survey.

Location of Proposed Action:

Geological Reconnaissance

Geophysical Survey

Seward Meridian, Alaska

Seward Meridian, Alaska

T. 6 S., 40 W.

T. 7 S., 40 W.

T. 7 S., 41 W.

T. 7 S., 42 W.

T. 7 S., 43 W.

T. 8 S., 41 W.

T. 8 S., 42 W.

T. 8 S., 43 W.

T. 8 S., 44 W.

T. 9 S., 43 W.

T. 9 S., 44 W.

T. 9 S., 45 W.

T. 10 S., 41 W.

T. 10 S., 42 W.

T. 10 S., 43 W.

T. 10 S., 44 W.

T. 2 N., 34 W.

T. 2 N., 35 W.

T. 2 N., 36 W.

T. 1 N., 33 W.

T. 1 N., 34 W.

T. 1 N., 35 W.

T. 1 N., 36 W.

T. 1 S., 34 W.

T. 1 S., 35 W.

T. 1 S., 36 W.

T. 8 S., 43 W.

T. 8 S., 44 W.

T. 9 S., 43 W.

T. 9 S., 44 W.

T. 10 S., 42 W.

T. 10 S., 43 W.

T. 10 S., 44 W.

T. 2 N., 35 W.

T. 1 N., 34 W.

T. 1 N., 35 W.

See attached maps.

Conformance With Applicable Land Use Plan:

No land use plan exists for this area. However, this environmental analysis assesses the impacts of the proposed action and provides a basis for a decision on the proposal (43 CFR 1610.8(b)(1)).

Need for Proposed Action: Mineral exploration.

Description of Proposed Action:

There are two aspects to Alaska Earth Sciences' project: geological reconnaissance and geophysical survey.

Geological Reconnaissance. Alaska Earth Sciences intends to fly a three man crew into the area, land at outcroppings of exposed bedrock and collect rock samples. This activity will commence in mid June 2000 and will continue for a period of six weeks. The crew will be based in Illiamna and will conduct daily flights into the survey area.

Geophysical survey. Alaska Earth Sciences is desirous of putting a seven-man crew in the field to conduct a geophysical survey of the area. The crew will camp in a given location for a period of one week. The camp will consist of lightweight tents, one of which will be used for cooking, and a light portable toilet facility. Cooking will be done over a white gas stove and all garbage, trash and waste will be bagged and sealed in containers for removal from the camp site and survey area.

While on site, the crew will conduct their survey by using a 6 kilowatt generator to generate a weak electromagnetic field over a large land mass. This is accomplished by inserting probes in the ground and sending electrical current through the probes. The area affected by the electromagnetic field will be encompassed by a wire loop that is laid on the ground. The loop will measure changes in the field as it decays. The loop will be laid by hand and can reach a circumference of several miles.

Operation of the generator will necessitate the presence of five gallon containers of fuel and a few quarts of oil. The camp stove too will require fuel in appropriate containers. Vegetation will be disturbed by the camp and the placement of the wire loop. The latter may require some brush clearing.

When the crew is done collecting data in one area, they will break camp, move their equipment by helicopter to another site within the survey area and the process will recommence at the new site. It is expected that the survey will take up to eight weeks and involve several camp relocations.

Environmental Impacts:

<u>Critical Element</u>	<u>Affected</u>		<u>Critical Element</u>	<u>Affected</u>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
ACECs	___	<u>X</u>	Subsistence	___	<u>X</u>
Air Quality	___	<u>X</u>	T & E Species	___	<u>X</u>
Cultural Resource	___	<u>X</u>	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	___	<u>X</u>
Environmental Justice	___	<u>X</u>	Water Quality (Surface and/or		
Farmlands, Prime/Unique	___	<u>X</u>	Ground)	___	<u>X</u>
Floodplains	___	<u>X</u>	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	___	<u>X</u>
Invasive, Non-native			Wild & Scenic Rivers	___	<u>X</u>
Species	___	<u>X</u>	Wilderness	___	<u>X</u>
Nat. Amer. Rel. Concerns	___	<u>X</u>			

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Description of Impacts:

Active camping will necessarily result in disturbance of the vegetation in the area of the camp. Placement of the wire loop will also result in disturbance of vegetation along the line of the loop's placement. Some light survey flagging may be left in the field for future location purposes. Camping for periods of up to one week in a fixed location will generate garbage, trash and waste. The presence of fuel and oil in the field carries the risk of accidental spills and contamination.

Description of Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts:

Alaska Earth Sciences will be required to keep vegetation disturbance to a minimum. All garbage, trash and waste, including human waste will be removed from the camp sites and the survey area. Alaska Earth Sciences will be required to use reasonable care in the use of all fuels and potential contaminants.

Persons/Agencies Consulted: _____

Preparer: James F. Moore, Realty Specialist, Anchorage Field Office

Date: May 26, 2000

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION RECORD.

I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined that the proposed action with the mitigation measures described below will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an EIS is not required. I have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan. It is my decision to implement the project with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures/Remarks: Alaska Earth Sciences will keep vegetation disturbance to a minimum. All garbage, trash and waste, including human waste will be removed from the camp sites and the survey area. Alaska Earth Sciences will use reasonable care in the use of all fuels and potential contaminants.

Authorized Official: /s/ Peter J. Ditton, Acting

Date: 06-09-00