



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 6898  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:** 18 September 2008

**EXPIRATION DATE:** 20 October 2008

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** POA-2007-890-M1

**WATERWAY:** Beaufort Sea

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Julie W. McKim at (907) 753-2773, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at julie.w.mckim@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**APPLICANT:** BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., Post Office Box 196612, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6612; Contact: Katherine Hughes, (907) 564-5837

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 4, T. 10 N., R. 15 E., Umiat Meridian; USGS Quad Map Beechey Point A-3; Latitude 70.2493° N., Longitude 148.3453° W.; Corrosion Inspection and Chemicals/Drill Site Maintenance (CIC/DSM) pad, Prudhoe Bay Unit, Eastern Operating Area, near Deadhorse, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to provide additional pad space for Drilling and Wells Operations.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant proposes to place approximately 65,000 cubic yards of clean fill material in up to 4.26 acres of wetlands for the expansion of the CIC/DSM pad to alleviate unsafe crowding conditions on the pad in support of Drilling and Wells Operations. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-6), dated September 2008.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** This request for fill is in addition to 3.69 acres of fill that was recently authorized (POA-2007-890, January 28, 2008) on the other side of the pad to alleviate hazards of increased traffic and provide space for a fire lane as well as provide additional parking/storage areas required due to the expanding CIC workforce. The applicant states they are not piecemealing as groups within BPXA operate independently and the operators of each side of the pad requested expansion of their side of the pad only to address only their need. The applicant

has identified this lack of collaboration and will make every attempt to minimize these occurrences in the future. Only clean gravel fill would be used. The source of the gravel fill is the Put 23 Mine Site. The gravel would be placed to the height of the existing pad, a depth of approximately 5 feet.

MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material:

- The applicant reviewed options that would alleviate the over-crowding of the CIC/DSM pad. With unused space at a premium, there are no options to use existing locations.
- With no options for existing locations, the applicant focused on locations that were in the highly industrialized Prudhoe Bay Operating Center area and therefore did not constitute prime tundra or wildlife habitat.
- The location of the proposed expansion is bordered on three sides by areas of fill/industrial use. Size and configuration were selected to provide the most surface area possible, while eliminating only that tundra which is surrounded by fill and thus less desirable habitat.
- The applicant's commitment to continued improvement of fish passage routes where existing roads meet streams, creeks, and rivers
- As directed by US Army Corps of Engineers, the applicant will direct in-lieu fees to The Conservation Fund

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management, Department of Natural Resources has concurred with the applicant's certification.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Commander at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*), Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*). Preliminarily, the described activity may affect threatened or endangered species, or modify their designated critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being

coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

The applicant received a Letter of Authorization regarding incidental takes for polar bears on August 15, 2006 from the USFWS Marine Mammals Management Office during year-round oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production operations in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect EFH in the project area. This Public Notice initiates EFH consultation with the NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental

Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

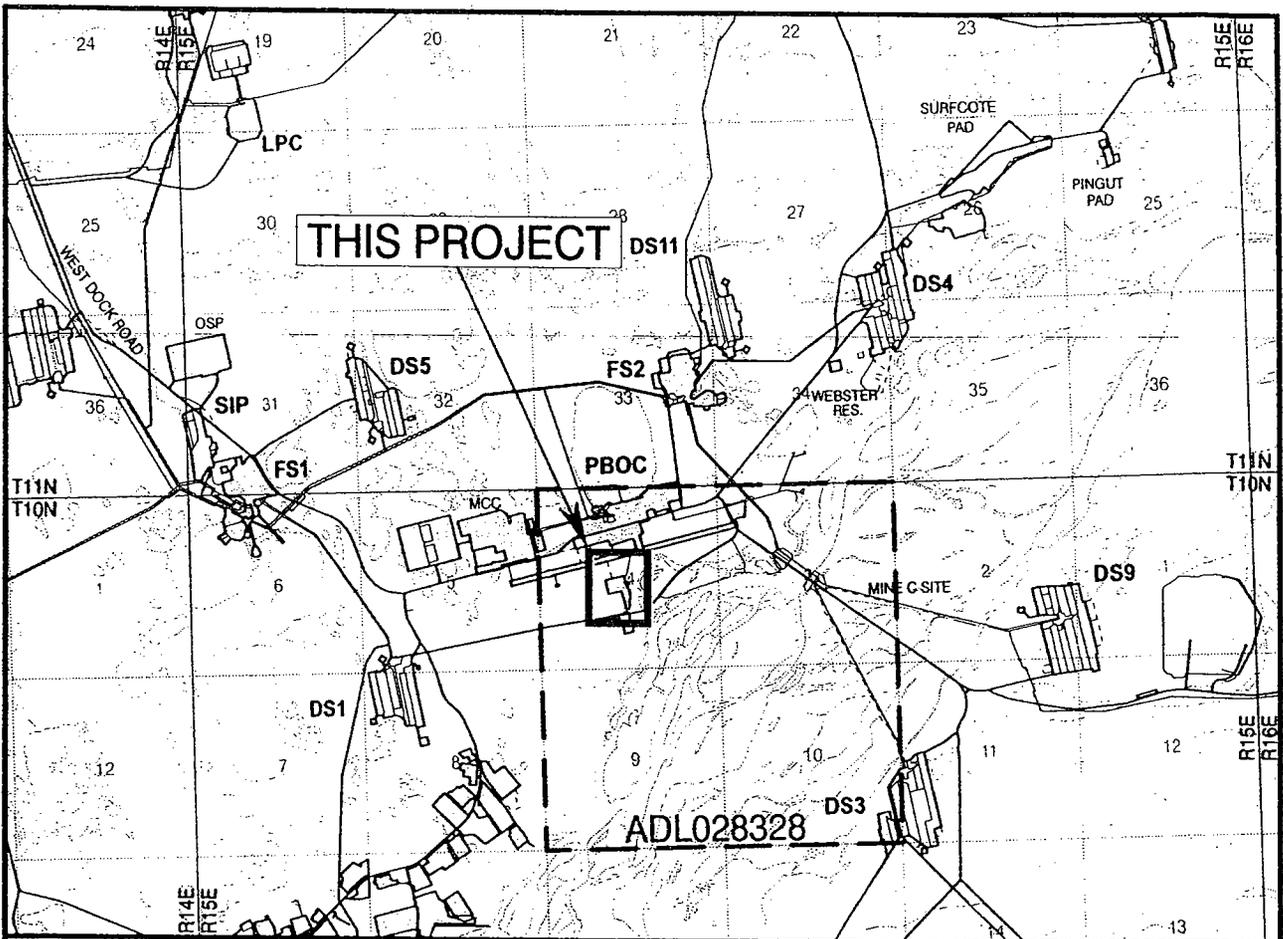
AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings, Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



This map is based on U.S.G.S. quad Beechey Point (A-3, B-3) and on the Unit Operator's Facility Maps.



**PROJECT LOCATION:**

PRUDHOE BAY UNIT - CIC/DSM PAD

NAD83

LAT. = 70° 14' 56.76"

LONG. = -148° 20' 54.27"

ALASKA STATE PLANE ZONE 4, NAD 83

X = 1,844,820.22 FEET

Y = 5,943,293.24 FEET

SEC. 4 T10N, R15E UMIAT M.

ADL # 028328

POA-2007-890-M1

Beaufort Sea

September 2008

Sheet 1 of 6

DATUM: MEAN SEA LEVEL

PURPOSE: GRAVEL EXPANSION

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER:  
STATE OF ALASKA

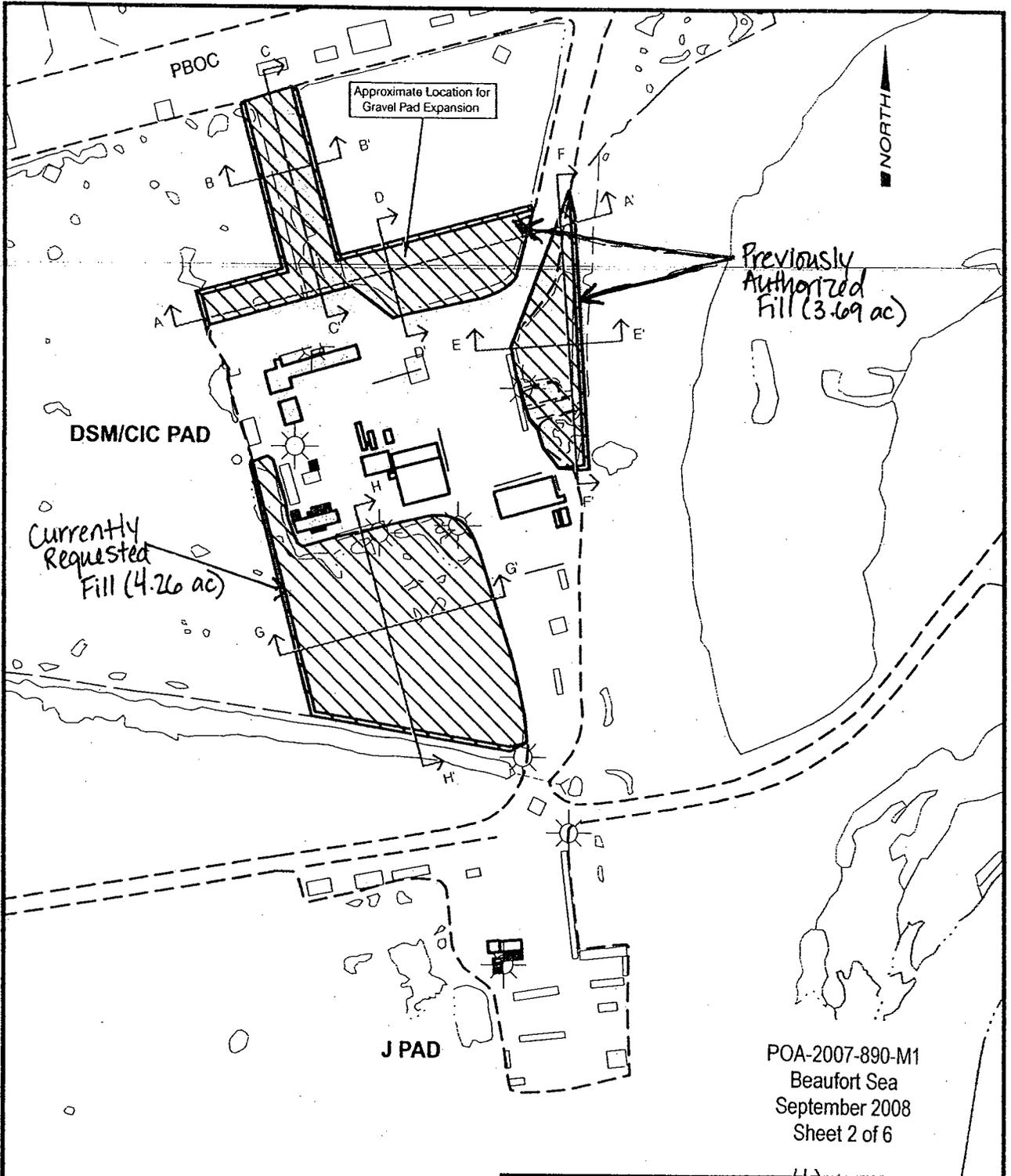
**BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.**

**PRUDHOE BAY UNIT  
CIC/DSM PAD EXPANSION  
VICINITY MAP**

DATE:  
September 2008

SCALE:  
1" = 1 Mile

FIGURE:  
1



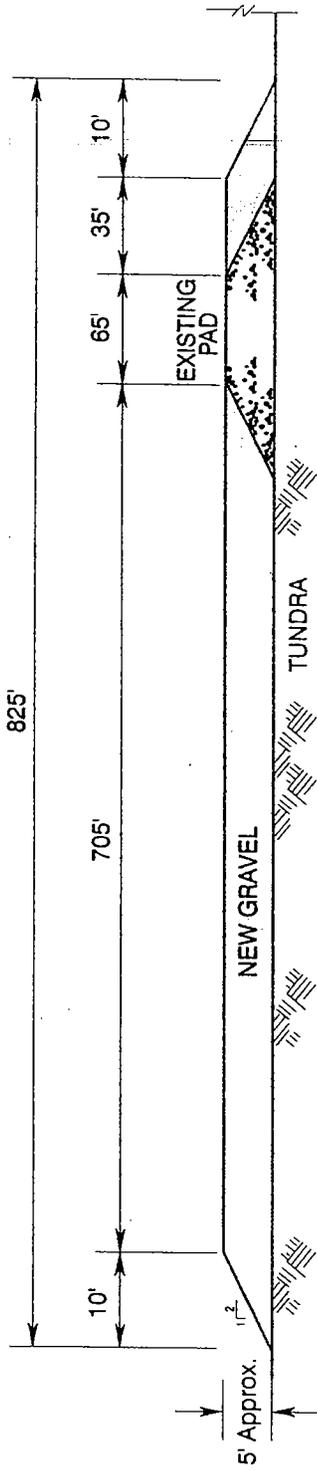
ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

CIC Pad Gravel Expansion	Approximate Footprint Area	Approximate Gravel Quantity
West Road	3.20 Acres	23,815 CY
East Road	1.49 Acres	9,360 CY
South Pad	4.26 Acres	35,000 CY
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.95 Acres</b>	<b>68,075 CY</b>

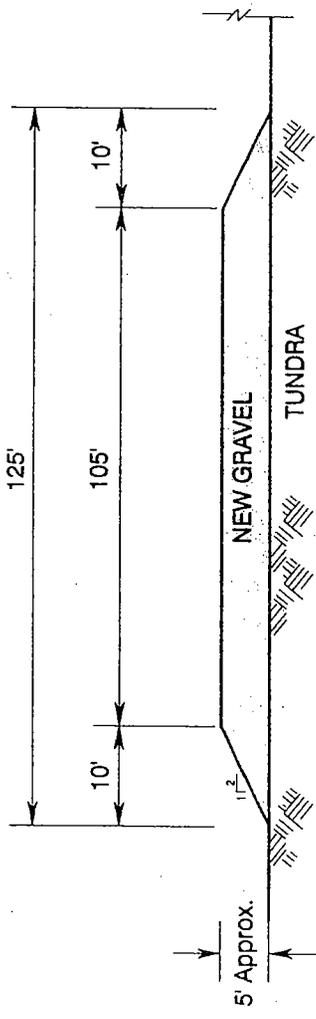
**BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.**

**PRUDHOE BAY UNIT  
CIC/DSM PAD EXPANSION  
LOCATION MAP**

DATE: September 2008	SCALE: 1" = 300'	FIGURE: 2
-------------------------	---------------------	--------------



**CROSS-SECTION A-A'**

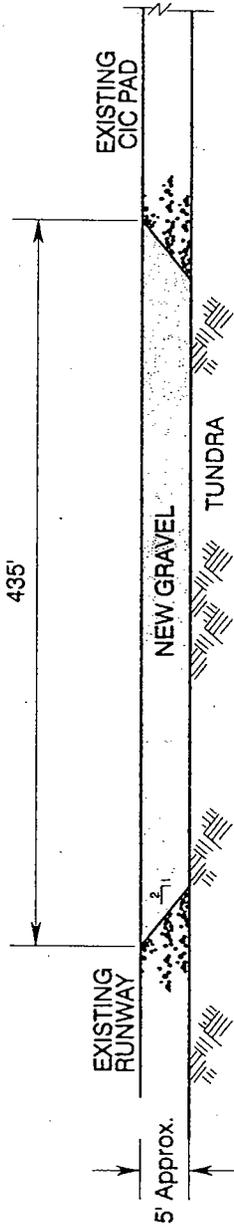


**CROSS-SECTION B-B'**

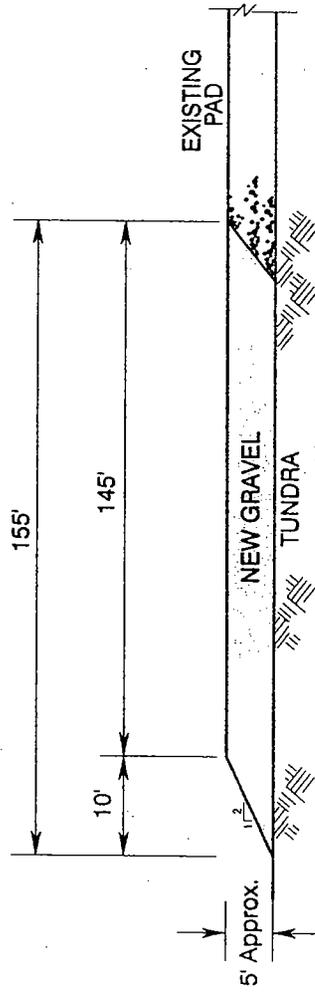
POA-2007-890-M1  
 Beaufort Sea  
 September 2008  
 Sheet 3 of 6

<b>BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.</b>		
<b>PRUDHOE BAY UNIT CIC/DSM PAD EXPANSION CROSS SECTIONS</b>		
DATE: September 2008	SCALE: N/A	FIGURE: 3

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.



**CROSS-SECTION C-C'**



**CROSS-SECTION D-D'**

POA-2007-890-M1  
 Beaufort Sea  
 September 2008  
 Sheet 4 of 6

**BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.**

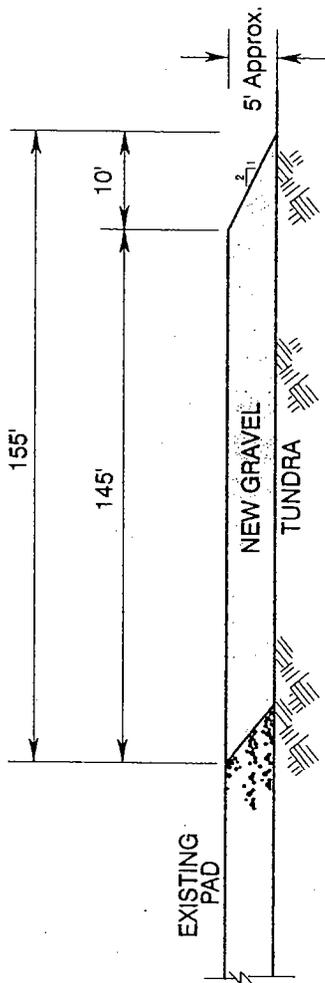
**PRUDHOE BAY UNIT  
 CIC/DSM PAD EXPANSION  
 CROSS SECTIONS**

DATE:  
 September 2008

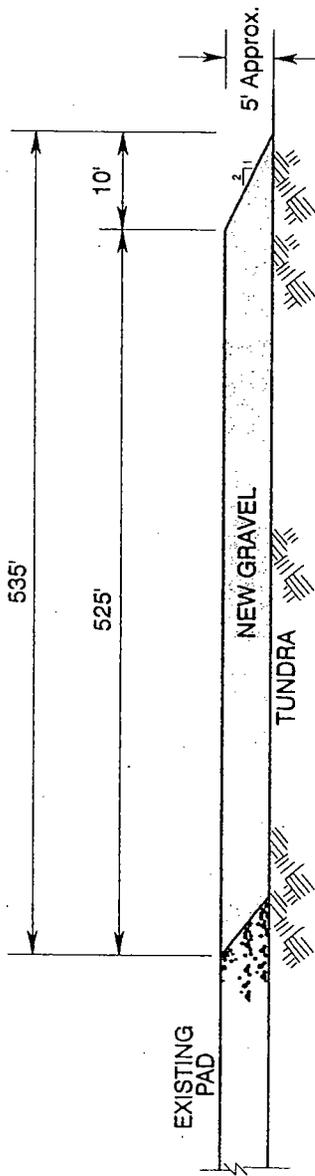
SCALE:  
 N/A

FIGURE:  
 4

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.



CROSS-SECTION E-E



CROSS-SECTION F-F

POA-2007-890-M1  
 Beaufort Sea  
 September 2008  
 Sheet 5 of 6

**BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.**

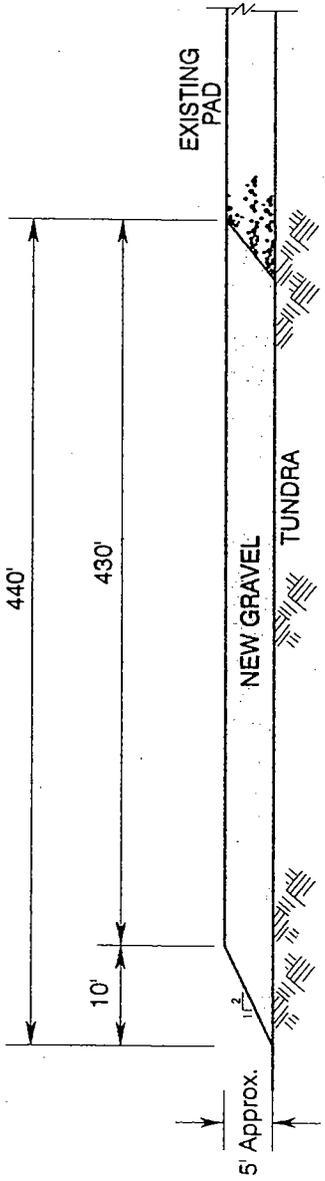
**PRUDHOE BAY UNIT  
 CIC/DSM PAD EXPANSION  
 CROSS SECTIONS**

DATE:  
 September 2008

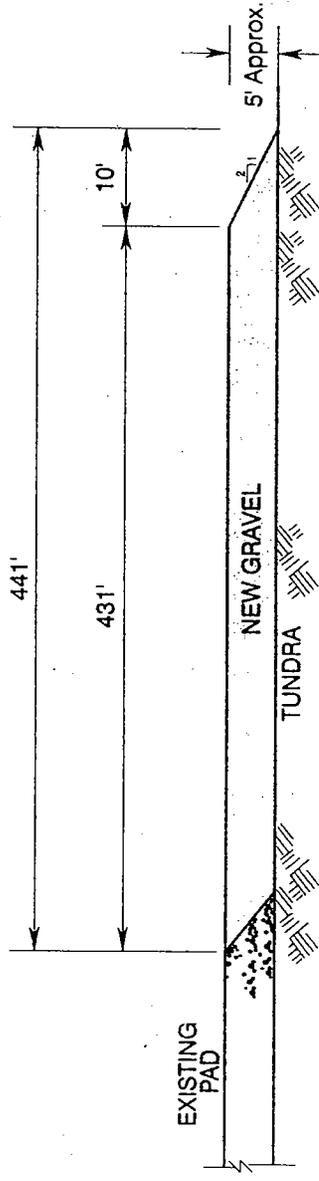
SCALE:  
 N/A

FIGURE:  
 5

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.



**CROSS-SECTION G-G'**



**CROSS-SECTION H-H'**

POA-2007-890-M1  
 Beaufort Sea  
 September 2008  
 Sheet 6 of 6

**BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.**

**PRUDHOE BAY UNIT  
 CIC/DSM PAD EXPANSION  
 CROSS SECTIONS**

DATE:  
 September 2008

SCALE:  
 N/A

FIGURE:  
 6

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT  
550 WEST 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SUITE 705  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3559  
PHONE: (907) 269-7470/FAX: (907) 269-3981

NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR  
CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE  
ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. POA-2007-890-M1, Beaufort Sea, will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

This project is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Written comments about the consistency of the project with the applicable ACMP statewide standards and district policies must be submitted to the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management (DCOM). For information about this consistency review, contact DCOM at the address or phone number above, or visit the ACMP web site at <http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us//Projects/projects.html>.

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF WATER  
401 Certification Program  
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION  
410 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1795  
PHONE: (907) 465-5321/FAX: (907) 465-5274

NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR  
STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. POA-2007-890-M1, Beaufort Sea, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.