



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice for Environmental Impact Statement

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: DECEMBER 4, 2009

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2001-1082-M1

WATERWAY: BEAUFORT SEA

The Alaska District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to identify and analyze the potential impacts associated with the Point Thomson Project, the development of the Thomson Sand Reservoir, including construction and operation of the proposed project.

The Corps is the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the DEIS. The Environmental Protection Agency, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources are participating as cooperating agencies.

The DEIS will be used as a basis for the permit decision and to ensure compliance with the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA). The Corps will be evaluating a permit application for work under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) previously issued a notice of intent to prepare a DEIS on April 19, 2002, for a similar proposal to develop oil and gas reserves in or near the Point Thomson Unit, potentially including designation of ocean dredged material disposal site(s). The EPA was the lead Federal Agency because the proposed project would have required authorization under Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), with the Corps as a Cooperating Agency. Per the applicant's request, the agreement to pursue the EIS was terminated between the EPA and the applicant, Exxon Mobil Corporation (ExxonMobil). In October 2009, ExxonMobil submitted a new proposed project that would not be subject to Section 102 of the MPRSA but would require authorization from the Corps under Section 10 of the Rivers Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, the Corps has been designated the lead Federal agency for the revised proposed project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: An application has been received in this office from Exxon Mobil Corporation (ExxonMobil) for a Department of the Army permit to develop the Thomson Sand Reservoir, including construction and operation of the following facilities. A minimum of five wells would be drilled from three pads: a Central Pad, and East and West Pads located to access the eastern and western extent of the reservoir. The applicant would produce gas from the reservoir to recover liquid condensate from natural gas and re-inject the residual gas back into the reservoir, conserving it for future use.

Hydrocarbon liquid condenses from the produced natural gas when pressure and temperature are lowered below original reservoir conditions during production at surface processing facilities. ExxonMobil proposes to develop offshore portions of the reservoir using long reach directional drilling techniques from the onshore pads. The produced hydrocarbon liquids (condensate and oil) would be shipped through a new 22-mile long, elevated pipeline from Point Thomson to the existing Badami Development. This pipeline would then tie into the existing Badami common carrier pipeline, which connects with the existing common carrier oil sales pipeline system to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Pump Station No. 1. Other project facilities, in addition to the drilling pads, would include a gravel airstrip, a bulkhead and dolphins, in-field gravel roads, ice roads, in-field pipelines, and a gravel mine. Dredging may be required at the bulkhead.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located approximately 60 miles east of Deadhorse on the Beaufort Sea coast and west of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. The major facilities would be located at the following, all within the Umiat Meridian:

Facility	Latitude	Longitude	Section	Township	Range
Central Pad	70.1713° N	146.2568° W	34 3	10 N 9 N	23 E 23 E
East Pad	70.1467° N	146.1084° W	8	9 N	24 E
West Pad	70.1806° N	146.4394° W	36	10 N	22 E
Mine Site	70.1465° N	146.2528° W	10, 11, 15	9 N	23 E
Airstrip	70.1369° N	146.2849° W	15 & 16	9 N	23 E

SCOPING: The scoping period for the DEIS will begin on January 11, 2010, and end on February 25, 2010. The Corps expects to hold scoping meetings mid-January in Anchorage, Barrow, Fairbanks, Kaktovik, and Nuiqsut. Further information about these meetings will be published in advance of each meeting locally, on the project website www.pointthomsonprojecteis.com, or can be obtained by contacting the Corps as described below. A description of the proposed project will be posted on the project website prior to these meetings to help the public focus their scoping comments.

Upon completion of the DEIS, a public notice describing the details of the proposed project, will be released. It is anticipated that the DEIS will be available November 2010 for public review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and the DEIS can be answered by: Ms. Julie McKim, Regulatory Division, telephone: (907) 753-2773, toll free in AK: (800) 478-2712, Fax: (907) 753-5567, email: julie.w.mckim@usace.army.mil, mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEPOA-RD, Post Office Box 6898, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898. Additional information may be obtained at www.pointthomsonprojecteis.com.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

POST MASTER: Please post continuously until February 25, 2010