

*Contract Activity:* GSA, Southwest Supply Center, Fort Worth, Texas.

*Product/NSN:* Gloves, Chemical Protective, 8415-01-509-2898, 8415-01-509-2902, 8415-01-509-2904, 8415-01-509-2905, 8415-01-509-2916.

*Product/NSN:* Socks, Chemical Protective, 8415-01-509-2875, 8415-01-509-2877, 8415-01-509-2879, 8415-01-509-2882, 8415-01-509-2883.

*NPA:* Industrial Opportunities, Inc., Marble, North Carolina.

*Contract Activity:* Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

#### Services

*Service Type/Location:* Base Supply Center, Fort Eustis, Virginia.

*NPA:* Virginia Industries for the Blind, Charlottesville, Virginia.

*Contracting Activity:* Army Contracting Agency/NRCC Installation Division, Fort Eustis, VA.

*Service Type/Location:* Food Service and Food Service Attendant, 131st Fighter Wing, Air National Guard Unit—Lambert Air Base, St. Louis, Missouri.

*NPA:* Challenge Unlimited, Inc., Alton, Illinois.

*Contracting Activity:* Missouri Air National Guard, Bridgeton, Missouri.

*Service Type/Location:* Housekeeping Services, Camp Edwards Billeting, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

*NPA:* Nauset, Inc., Hyannis, Massachusetts.

*Contracting Activity:* Massachusetts Army National Guard, Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

#### Deletion

On March 26, 2004, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notice (69 FR 15787) of proposed deletion to the Procurement List. After consideration of the relevant matter presented, the Committee has determined that the service listed below is no longer suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

#### Regulatory Flexibility Act Certification

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action may result in additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities.
2. The action may result in authorizing small entities to furnish the service to the Government.
3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the service deleted from the Procurement List.

#### End of Certification

Accordingly, the following service is deleted from the Procurement List:

#### Service

*Service Type/Location:* Janitorial/Custodial, U.S. Army Reserve Center (Midland), Midland, Texas.

*NPA:* None currently authorized.

*Contracting Activity:* Department of the Army.

**Sheryl D. Kennerly,**

*Director, Information Management.*

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**BILLING CODE 6353-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 56-2004]

#### Foreign-Trade Zone 259—International Falls, MN; Application for Subzone Status, Arctic Cat, Inc. (All-Terrain Vehicle Engines and Snowmobiles) Thief River Falls, MN

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Koochiching Economic Development Authority, grantee of FTZ 259, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the all-terrain vehicle engine and snowmobile manufacturing facilities of Arctic Cat, Inc. (ACI), located in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on December 3, 2004.

The proposed subzone would be comprised of four separate sites: *Site 1* (77 acres/517,000 sq. ft., manufacturing plant)—601 Brooks Avenue, Thief River Falls (Pennington County), Minnesota; *Site 2* (3 acres/60,000 sq. ft., manufacturing plant)—817 Lowell Drive, Thief River Falls, located immediately to the south of Site 1; *Site 3* (60 acres, company test track)—Greenwood Street West between County Route 75 and State Route 32, located across Greenwood Street to the south of Site 2; and, *Site 4* (20,000 sq. ft., warehouse)—“Hartz Warehouse”, 120 Arnold Avenue South, located about 1,000 feet to the east of Site 1. The facilities (1,200 employees) are used to manufacture all-terrain vehicles (ATV) and snowmobiles, assemble ATV engines, and to distribute U.S. and foreign-made ATVs, snowmobiles, related parts and branded accessories for export and the U.S. market. The manufacturing process at the facilities

involves machining, painting, assembly, and testing. ACI proposes to assemble ATV engines and snowmobiles under FTZ procedures. The facilities can produce between 30,000 to 65,000 snowmobiles and 20,000 to 55,000 ATV engines annually, which are assembled from domestic and foreign-origin components. Components purchased from abroad (representing approximately 65% of total material cost) include: spark-ignition engines, articles of rubber (o-rings, seals, drive/V-belts, hoses, dampers/plugs/covers), strips, roller chain, fasteners (screws, nuts, washers, bolts, clips, studs, pins), clamps, oil strainers, crankshafts, balancers, pistons, camshafts, cylinder heads, starter motors, remote starters, water pumps, oil pumps, valves, shafts (drive, counter, secondary), bushings, pulleys, universal joints, sprockets, transmissions, gears, gear drives, axles, hubs, flywheels, rotors, idlers, electronic control units, ignition coils, spark plugs, voltage regulators, resistors, fuses, capacitors, relays, circuit boards, circuit protectors/breakers, stators, diodes, generators, transformers, wiring harnesses, magnets, solenoids, sensors, A/C condensers, electrical terminals/junction boxes/sockets, drive sheaves, parts of transmissions, clutches, CDI (capacitive discharge) units, bearings (ball, spherical, needle, tapered roller shaft; subject to ADD/CVD-must be admitted under privileged foreign status), articles of plastic (fittings, caps, decals, strips, sheets, knobs, seals, washer, o-rings, v-belts), tires, steel and alloy tube/pipe/wire/coil hooks, springs (leaf, helical), aluminum stampings, titanium tubes/bars/rods, locks, keys, hinges, castors, mountings, turbochargers, aluminum heat exchangers and parts, winches, batteries, lighting equipment, horns, alarms, block heaters, LCD screens, body stampings, bumpers, brake parts, shock absorbers, wheels, radiators, mufflers, steering parts, trailers, gauges, oxygen sensors, odometers, speedometers, meters, and thermostats (duty rate range: free-15.0%). FTZ procedures would exempt ACI from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export production. On its domestic sales and exports to NAFTA markets, the company would be able to choose the duty rates that apply to ATV engines and snowmobiles (duty free, 2.5%) for the foreign-sourced components noted above. The application indicates that subzone status would help improve the facilities' international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff

has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the following addresses:

1. *Submissions via Express/Package Delivery Services:* Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, Franklin Court Building—4100W, 1099 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20005; or,

2. *Submissions via the U.S. Postal Service:* Foreign-Trade Zones Board, U.S. Department of Commerce, FCB—4100W, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20230.

The closing period for their receipt is February 8, 2005. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to February 23, 2005).

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board's Executive Secretary at address No.1 listed above and at the Office of the Port Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 112 W. Stutsman Street, Pembina, North Dakota 58271.

Dated: December 3, 2004.

**Dennis Puccinelli,**

*Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 04-27183 Filed 12-9-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 110104A]

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Construction and Operation of Offshore Oil and Gas Facilities in the Beaufort Sea

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of a letter of authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, and implementing regulations, notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued a letter of authorization (LOA) to BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. (BP) to take marine mammals incidental to the

production of offshore oil and gas at the Northstar development in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska.

**DATES:** This LOA is effective from December 6, 2004, through May 25, 2005.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of BP's letter, a list of monitoring reports, and/or the LOA may be obtained by writing to the Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, or by telephoning one of the contacts listed here.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kenneth R. Hollingshead (301) 713-2055, ext. 128, or Bradley Smith (907) 271-5006.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs NMFS to allow, on request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region, if certain findings are made by NMFS and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term "take" means to harass, hunt, capture, or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if NMFS finds, after notice and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals, and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) of marine mammals for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations setting forth the permissible methods of taking and other means of effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses. The regulations also must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of marine mammals incidental to construction and operation of the offshore oil and gas facility at Northstar in the Beaufort Sea were published and made effective on May 25, 2000 (65 FR 34014), and remain in effect until May 25, 2005. These regulations include mitigation, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

#### Summary of Request

On October 19, 2004, NMFS received a request from BP for a renewal of an LOA issued on September 18, 2000 (65 FR 58265, September 28, 2000) and reissued on December 14, 2001 (66 FR 65923, December 21, 2001), December 9, 2002 (67 FR 77750, December 19, 2002)

and December 4, 2003 (68 FR 68874, December 10, 2003) for the taking of marine mammals incidental to oil production operations at Northstar, under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA. This latest request (BP, 2004) contains information in compliance with 50 CFR 216.209, which updates information provided in BP's original application for takings incidental to construction and operations at Northstar. The 2003/2004 LOA for the taking of marine mammals incidental to oil production at the Northstar facility will expire on December 3, 2004. This current LOA is effective through May 25, 2005, when the implementing regulations expire. A request for LOAs after May 25, 2005 is the subject of a separate rulemaking action (see 69 FR 56995, September 23, 2004).

#### Background

BP is currently producing crude oil from the Northstar facility in the U.S. Beaufort Sea and is injecting the natural gas into the formations. Northstar includes a gravel island work surface to support the main facilities required for drilling and oil production, and two pipelines connecting the island to the existing infrastructure in Prudhoe Bay. One pipeline transports crude oil to shore, and the other transports natural gas to the island for field injection. Oil production began in late 2001 and is ongoing. Activities under the LOA will include: (1) winter ice-road construction, (2) winter ice road traffic, (3) Northstar oil production activities, (4) environmental compliance monitoring, and (5) helicopter, hovercraft, tugboat and barge transportation of personnel, equipment and supplies.

Impacts on marine mammals at the Northstar facility may occur through noise from tugs, barges, helicopters and hovercraft traffic, and drilling and other noise sources on the island facility. Impacts may also result if there is an oil spill resulting from production. While noise impacts on marine mammals will be low (activities on Northstar Island will make less noise than that from standard jack-up rigs, a concrete island drilling structure, or seismic activity), bowhead whales will likely hear the noise at distances up to 10 km (6.2 mi) from the island. In addition, there may be some harassment, injury, or mortality of ringed seals during winter ice-road construction. In 2000 (65 FR 58265, September 28, 2000) and 2001 (66 FR 65923, December 21, 2001), NMFS estimated that noise impacts may result in Level B harassment of approximately 765 bowheads (i.e., the LOA authorizes up to 765 bowheads annually, with a