

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R2-ES-2015-N193;
FXES1112020000-167-FF02ENEH00]

Receipt of Incidental Take Permit Applications for Participation in the Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan for the American Burying Beetle in Oklahoma

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for public comments.

SUMMARY: Under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (Act), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on incidental take permit applications for take of the federally listed American burying beetle resulting from activities associated with the geophysical exploration (seismic) and construction, maintenance, operation, repair, and decommissioning of oil and gas well field infrastructure within Oklahoma. If approved, the permits would be issued under the approved *Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan Associated with Issuance of Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permits for the American Burying Beetle in Oklahoma* (ICP).

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be received on or before December 3, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain copies of all documents and submit comments on the applicant's ITP application by one of the following methods. Please refer to the permit number when requesting documents or submitting comments.

- *U.S. Mail:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species—HCP Permits, P.O. Box 1306, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87103.
- *Electronically:* fw2_hcp_permits@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marty Tuegel, Branch Chief, by U.S. mail at Environmental Review, P.O. Box 1306, Room 6034, Albuquerque, NM 87103; or by telephone at 505-248-6651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Introduction**

Under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; Act), we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invite the public to comment on incidental take permit (ITP) applications for take of the federally listed American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) resulting from activities

associated with geophysical exploration (seismic) and construction, maintenance, operation, repair, and decommissioning of oil and gas well field infrastructure within Oklahoma. If approved, the permit would be issued to the applicant under the *Oil and Gas Industry Conservation Plan Associated with Issuance of Endangered Species Act Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permits for the American Burying Beetle in Oklahoma* (ICP). The ICP was made available for comment on April 16, 2014 (79 FR 21480), and approved on May 21, 2014 (publication of the FONSI notice was on July 25, 2014; 79 FR 43504). The ICP and the associated environmental assessment/finding of no significant impact are available on the Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/oklahoma/ABBICP>. However, we are no longer taking comments on these documents.

Applications Available for Review and Comment

We invite local, State, Tribal, and Federal agencies, and the public to comment on the following application under the ICP, for incidental take of the federally listed ABB. Please refer to the appropriate permit number (TE-123456) when requesting application documents and when submitting comments. Documents and other information the applicants have submitted with this application are available for review, subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a) and Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Permit TE-78498B

Applicant: Grand Mesa Pipeline, LLC, Edmond, OK. Applicant requests a new permit for gas upstream and midstream production, including geophysical exploration (seismic) and construction, maintenance, operation, repair, and decommissioning of gas well field infrastructure, as well as construction, maintenance, operation, repair, decommissioning, and reclamation of gas gathering, transmission, and distribution pipeline infrastructure within Oklahoma.

Permit TE-78500B

Applicant: Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Oklahoma City, OK. Applicant requests a new permit for gas upstream and midstream production, including geophysical exploration (seismic) and construction, maintenance, operation, repair, and decommissioning of gas well field infrastructure, as well as construction, maintenance, operation, repair, decommissioning, and reclamation of

gas gathering, transmission, and distribution pipeline infrastructure within Oklahoma.

Public Availability of Comments

Written comments we receive become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request in your comment that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Authority

We provide this notice under section 10(c) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 17.22) and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.6).

Dated: October 21, 2015.

Joy E. Nicholopoulos,

Acting Regional Director, Southwest Region.

[FR Doc. 2015-27973 Filed 11-2-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS-R7-ES-2015-N152; FF07CMM00-FX-FR133707REG00]

Marine Mammals; Letters of Authorization To Take Pacific Walrus and Polar Bears, Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, Alaska

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of issuance.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has issued letters of authorization for the nonlethal take of polar bears and Pacific walrus incidental to oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production activities in the Beaufort Sea and the adjacent northern coast of Alaska and incidental to oil and gas

industry exploration activities in the Chukchi Sea and the adjacent western coast of Alaska. These letters of authorization stipulate conditions and methods that minimize impacts to polar bears and Pacific walrus from these activities. These letters of authorization are available electronically at the following location: <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/mmm/itr.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Hendrick at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS 341, Anchorage, AK 99503; (800) 362-5148 or (907) 786-3479.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 3, 2011, the Service published in the

Federal Register a final rule (76 FR 47010) establishing regulations that allow us to authorize the nonlethal, incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus during year-round oil and gas industry exploration, development, and production activities in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska. The rule established subpart J in part 18 of title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and is effective through August 3, 2016. The rule prescribed a process under which we issue Letters of Authorization (LOAs) to applicants conducting activities as described under the provisions of the regulations.

Each LOA stipulates conditions or methods that are specific to the activity and location. Holders of LOAs must use methods and conduct activities in a manner that minimizes to the greatest extent practicable adverse impacts on Pacific walrus and polar bears and their habitat, and on the availability of these marine mammals for subsistence purposes. Intentional take and lethal incidental take are prohibited.

In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and our regulations at 50 CFR 18, subpart J, we issued LOAs to each of the following companies in the Beaufort Sea and adjacent northern coast of Alaska:

BEAUFORT SEA LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION

Company	Activity	Project	Date issued
Alaska Development and Export Authority	Development	North Slope Liquefied Natural Gas Facility ...	February 10, 2014.
Alaska Development and Export Authority	Development	North Slope Liquefied Natural Gas Facility (amended).	May 27, 2014.
Alaska Gasline Development Corporation	Exploration	North Slope Geotechnical drilling	April 8, 2014.
BP Exploration, Inc	Exploration	North Prudhoe Seismic Survey	June 11, 2014.
BP Exploration Alaska Inc	Exploration	Winter Vibroseis Seismic Survey	January 29, 2015.
Brooks Range Petroleum Corporation	Development	Mustang Development Program	January 15, 2015.
Caelus Natural Resources Alaska, LLC	Development	Nuna Development Activities	April 20, 2015.
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc	Exploration	Environmental Sampling and Well Plug Abandonment.	January 16, 2014.
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc	Exploration & Development	North Slope activities	December 12, 2014.
ExxonMobil Development Company	Exploration	Preliminary studies for development of Prudhoe Bay Gas Plant.	May 16, 2014.
ExxonMobil Alaska LNG LLC	Exploration	Prudhoe Bay Unit Hydrology Studies	August 6, 2014.
ExxonMobil Development Company	Exploration	Prudhoe Bay Unit Field Studies	December 23, 2014.
ExxonMobil Development Company	Exploration	Exploration activities at Point Thomson	January 29, 2015.
Geokinetics	Exploration	Caelus and Great Bear 3D Winter Seismic Surveys.	January 14, 2015.
Global Geophysical Services, Inc	Exploration	Kad River 3D Winter Seismic Surveys	January 14, 2015.
Global Geophysical Services, Inc	Exploration	Schrader Bluff 3D Seismic Survey	January 15, 2014.
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC	Production	Operations at the Milne Point, Endicott, and Northstar Facilities.	November 14, 2014.
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC	Exploration	Geotechnical Investigation, Sonar and Scour Survey.	January 29, 2015.
NordAq Energy, Inc	Exploration	Tulimaniq Exploration Drilling Project	November 14, 2014.
North Slope Borough	Development	Pipeline upgrades near Barrow	July 28, 2015.
Olgoonik Specialty Contractors, LLC	Development	Point Lonely, Oliktok Point, and Bullen Point DEW Line Cleanup.	March 25, 2014.
Olgoonik Fairweather, LLC	Exploration	Environmental Baseline Studies	June 11, 2014.
Olgoonik Specialty Contractors, LLC	Development	Demolition and Remediation Projects	May 29, 2015.
Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska, Inc	Development	Nuna Development Project	February 13, 2014.
Repsol E&P USA Inc	Exploration	Drilling Program in the Colville River area ...	January 29, 2015.
SAExploration, Inc	Exploration	North Slope Big Bend 3D Seismic Survey ...	February 11, 2014.
SAExploration, Inc	Exploration	Colville River Delta Seismic Survey	August 14, 2014.
SAExploration, Inc	Exploration	Umingmak 2015 Program Horseshoe Winter Seismic Survey.	December 23, 2014.
Shell Exploration and Production Company ..	Production	Ice Overflight Surveys	January 14, 2015.

On June 12, 2013, we published in the **Federal Register** a final rule (78 FR 35364) establishing regulations that allow us to authorize the nonlethal, incidental, unintentional take of small numbers of polar bears and Pacific walrus during year-round oil and gas

industry exploration activities in the Chukchi Sea and adjacent western coast of Alaska. The rule established subpart I of 50 CFR part 18 and is effective until June 11, 2018. The process under which we issue LOAs to applicants and the requirements that the holders of LOAs

must follow is the same as described above for LOAs issued under 50 CFR 18, subpart J.

In accordance with section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA and our regulations at 50 CFR 18, subpart I, we

issued LOAs to the following companies in the Chukchi Sea:

CHUKCHI SEA LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION

Company	Activity	Project	Date issued
Olgoonik Fairweather, LLC	Exploration	Environmental Studies	July 23, 2014.
Shell Exploration and Production Company.	Exploration	Ice observation overflights	January 14, 2015.
Shell Exploration and Production Company.	Exploration	Ice observation overflights (amended)	January 29, 2015.
Shell Exploration and Production Company.	Exploration	Exploration Drilling Program in the Chukchi Sea	June 30, 2015.
Shell Exploration and Production Company.	Exploration	Exploration Drilling Program in the Chukchi Sea (amended).	July 24, 2015.
TGS	Exploration	Seismic Operations	June 28, 2013.
TGS	Exploration	Seismic Operations (amended)	September 11, 2013.

Dated: October 26, 2015.
Peter J. Probasco,
Acting Regional Director, Alaska Region.
 [FR Doc. 2015-27978 Filed 11-2-15; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R7-R-2015-N210; FF07RKDK00-FVRS8081070000-XXX]

Proposed Information Collection; Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Bear Viewing Survey

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to approve the information collection (IC) described below. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and as part of our continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, we invite the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this IC. We

may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

DATES: To ensure that we are able to consider your comments on this IC, we must receive them by January 4, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Send your comments on the IC to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803 (mail); or *hope_grey@fws.gov* (email). Please include "1018-Kodiak Bear Viewing" in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this IC, contact Hope Grey at *hope_grey@fws.gov* (email) or 703-358-2482 (telephone).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge has partnered with Utah State University to conduct a public survey of visitors to the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge who participate in bear viewing at structured and unstructured sites.

Questions will address logistical aspects of bear viewing (including the amount of money visitors are willing to spend on viewing and amenities), satisfaction with current experiences (based on number of bears, density of other visitors, length of stay, and education received), and reported changes to attitudes and behavior related to bear conservation based on visitors' experiences on the refuge. Survey results are crucial to understanding public demands for and expectations of bear viewing, so that the refuge can better facilitate bear viewing opportunities and better convey educational messages on bear management.

II. Data

OMB Control Number: 1018-XXXX.
Title: Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Bear Viewing Survey.
Service Form Number: None.
Type of Request: Request for a new OMB Control Number.
Description of Respondents: Visitors to Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge who come for the purpose of viewing bears.
Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.
Frequency of Collection: One time.

Activity	Number of responses	Completion time per response (minutes)	Total annual burden hours
Initial Contact	1,800	2	60
Online Survey	600	15	150
Totals	2,400		210

Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None

III. Comments

We invite comments concerning this information collection on:

- Whether or not the collection of information is necessary, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information;
- Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and