



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Alaska OCS Region

3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 500

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5823

AUG 11 2015

Ms. Suzan Simonds
SAExploration
8240 Sandlewood Place, Suite 102
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Dear Ms. Simonds:

On April 6, 2015, SAExploration (SAE) submitted an application to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to obtain a Geological and Geophysical (G&G) permit under the 30 CFR 551 regulations to conduct geophysical exploration operations on certain Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lands. The activity is in the Beaufort Sea area shown on the map accompanying your application. SAE will conduct the subject operations using the vessels described in the Plan of Operations 2015. Operations are proposed to begin on or after July 1, 2015, and will be completed on or before October 15, 2015. The proposed program is a 3D Ocean Bottom Node (OBN) seismic acquisition using airguns as an energy source.

Your application submittal states that SAE has requested an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for whales and pinnipeds, and a Letter of Authorization (LOA) from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for polar bears. The BOEM requires a copy of the IHA and LOA and the Incidental Take Statement (ITS) prior to conducting seismic operations. SAE received the IHA and ITS from NMFS on July 1, 2015. The IHA and the LOA are in place to resolve subsistence-related concerns and to insure that impacts to marine mammals are not significant. The procedures outlined in these authorizations are required to avoid conflict with subsistence activities which may be conducted during a portion of the time proposed for this seismic operation.

OCS Permit 15-02 is hereby granted to conduct geophysical exploration operations on the OCS in the area and manner described in the application. A detailed track map of planned operations must be submitted to this office prior to the start of seismic operations. SAE must notify BOEM prior to starting operations. All operations are subject to the enclosed stipulations (see Attachment 1 and Attachment 2) and the approved Permit for Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources on the OCS (Form BOEM-0328). In all cases, the specific mitigating measures identified in the NMFS IHA and USFWS LOA will apply and shall supersede any differing BOEM requirements related to marine mammals, including protocols for monitoring programs. Information related to compliance with the provisions in the IHA and LOA and of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act may be obtained from the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alaska Region
1011E.Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Telephone (907) 786-3467

And from the

National Marine Fisheries Service
Federal Building, Room C-554
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
Telephone (907) 271-5006

Regulation 30 CFR 551.6(a)1 requires that your G&G operations must not interfere with or endanger operations being conducted under any lease, right-of-way, easement, right-of-use, Notice, or permit issued or maintained under the OCS Lands Act.

This permit is effective from August 11, 2015, until October 15, 2015, or the completion of the survey, whichever occurs earlier. Please be advised that this office requires a weekly report of daily operations (see Attachment 3). We will require a completion report as detailed in the permit within 30 days following cessation of field operations.

Sincerely,



Rance R. Wall
Regional Supervisor
Resource Evaluation

6 Enclosures

- Attachment 1 Stipulations
- Attachment 2 Boulder Patch Stipulations
- Attachment 3 Weekly Operations Report
- Attachment 4 Forms BOEM-0327 and BOEM-0328
- Attachment 5 Map with BOEM Boulder Patch Boundaries
- Attachment 6 CD with ArcGIS Shape File: Boulder Patch