



March 7, 2016

Ms. Suzan Simonds  
SAExploration, Inc.  
8240 Sandlewood Pl., Suite #102  
Anchorage, AK 99507

**RE: MLUPNS 16-002, SAExploration, Inc., Toolik/Kuparuk 2D Geophysical Exploration Permit Approval**

Dear Ms. Simonds,

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Oil and Gas (Division) approves the SAExploration, Inc. (SAE) Toolik/Kuparuk 2D (TK2D) Miscellaneous Land Use Permit (MLUP) application, dated January 19, 2016 and revised March 1, 2016, to conduct geophysical exploration on State of Alaska lands on the North Slope. The enclosed permit, MLUPNS 16-002, authorizes SAE to conduct a land based seismic survey on State of Alaska land and waters within the vicinity of Franklin Bluffs pad along the Dalton Highway subject to the conditions of the permit. This project includes approximately 420 linear miles of 2D acquisition.

This permit is effective March 7, 2016 to May 31, 2016.

Issuance of a permit under 11 AAC 96 is not a disposal of an interest in land and does not grant a preference right to a lease or other disposal. The permit is revocable for cause for violation of a permit stipulation of this chapter, and is revocable at will if the DNR determines that the revocation is in the state's interest. The proposed activities are for a discrete and limited duration with limited, temporary impact to the land, and are not part of a larger project or investment by the permittee that might weigh against revoking the permit. Therefore the permit is both legally and functionally revocable. Each permit issued is subject to any stipulations the DNR determines necessary to assure compliance with this chapter, to minimize conflicts with other uses, to minimize environmental impacts, or otherwise to be in the interests of the state. Public notice of any miscellaneous land use application is discretionary under 11 AAC 96.030(c). The Director of the Division of Oil and Gas (Director) has the right at any time to amend or modify any provisions of this permit, or revoke this permit.

**Project Description: Proposed Activity, Associated Structures, Type of Equipment:**

SAE plans to conduct a two-dimensional (2D) seismic survey at points southwest of Deadhorse. The survey will cover approximately 420 linear miles and will occur during the 2016 winter season (Appendix C).

SAE will stage equipment and operate the camp from the Franklin Bluffs gravel pad. Equipment will mobilize from the Franklin Bluffs gravel pad onto the tundra. The crew will mobilize to the survey site daily using a helicopter. Up to eight trips per day may occur to move the survey crews and associated supplies. Ice checking will continue until the close of tundra travel. When the survey is completed, the equipment will travel along the tundra to the Franklin Bluffs gravel pad for loading and then will be trucked back to SAE's Deadhorse pad location.

The data acquisition technique will be conducted utilizing 6 (rubber tracked/buggy) vibrators per crew that operate in groups of up to two. About twenty-five 2D lines will be surveyed across the project area. Geophones are typically located every 82.5 ft. along this line, but design pattern may change with clients. Wireless nodes and geophones will be laid out by crews on foot and by use of rubber tracked vehicles and or snow machines. There could be up to 2-4 receiver lines placed on the ground at a time with vibrators typically operating on two lines at a time.

Cleanup operations will be conducted the summer after the seismic program to inspect for any remaining debris not identified and removed during demobilization activities and to identify any remnant issues. All debris that is collected will be disposed of at an approved waste facility in Deadhorse.

Project Area Legal Description:

Meridian: Umiat

Township: 4N	Range: 9E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 10E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 11E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 12E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 13E	Section(s): 1-36

Township: 5N	Range: 9E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 10E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 11E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 12E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 13E	Section(s): 1-36

Township: 6N	Range: 9E	Section(s): 1-36
	Range: 10E	Section(s): 1-36

**This decision is reviewing the following activities for potential Division approval:**

Activities supporting seismic data acquisition on State of Alaska land and waters have been reviewed under the authority of this approval.

**This decision is not reviewing the following activities for potential Division approval:**

State land within the Umiat Meridian in the North Slope area has been designated as Special Use Lands under ADL 50666. A permit is required from the Division of Mining, Land and Water

(DMLW) for motorized use, unless that use is for subsistence purposes or is on a graveled road. Tundra travel is approved by DMLW.

**Land Status:**

The proposed TK2D seismic survey program is located on state land on the North Slope (Appendix C). The SAE project area covers approximately 420 linear miles.

Other third party interests identified by DNR DMLW:

ADL 50666 – North Slope Special Use Area  
LAS 30135 – Franklin Bluffs Gravel Pad Authorization to SAE

Land Agreements, Settlements, Conveyances, Reconveyances and Municipal Entitlements of land: This permit does not grant access to any non-state lands.

**Agency Review:**

The Division provided an Agency review and comment opportunity for the activities considered for authorization under this decision. The following government entities were notified on February 9, 2016 for comment on the permit application: North Slope Borough, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and DNR: State Pipeline Coordinator's Section, Division of Mining Land and Water, and Division of Oil and Gas. The comment deadline was 4:30 pm Alaska time on February 23, 2016. Comments were received from the State Pipeline Coordinator's Section and DNR: Division of Mining Land and Water and are summarized in Appendix B.

**Public Review:**

The public notice process is discretionary and was not initiated for this application.

**Performance Guarantee:**

The permittee has provided the Division with a performance guarantee under 11 AAC 96.060 in the amount of \$100,000.

**Insurance:**

The certificate of insurance has been furnished to the department and lists the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources as an additional named insured on the policy. The policy is issued by an insurer licensed to transact the business of insurance under AS 21.

**Application Approved:**

Should any unforeseen issues arise, the Division has the authority to amend or revoke this permit. As detailed in this permit, the Division shall be notified if, during the conduct of activities, a surface use conflict occurs. All activities conducted under this permit are subject to inspection by the Division, and if damage occurs, appropriate interest holders will be engaged and corrective action will be prescribed. The Division will impose additional provisions as necessary under 11 AAC 96.040 at any time during the activity approved under this permit to minimize impacts and conflicts.

The Division considered all facts material to this application including the permit provisions contained in this authorization per 11 AAC 96.040(b). The Division has determined that this permit as conditioned by the attached provisions for this non-permanent activity is in the state's interest. Stipulations in this permit authorization are necessary to protect the state's interest and the public interest.

An eligible person affected by this decision may appeal it, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within 20 calendar days after the date of issuance of this decision, as defined in 11 AAC 02.040 (c) and (d), and may be mailed or delivered to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918; or sent by electronic mail to [dnr.appeals@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.appeals@alaska.gov). This decision takes effect immediately. An eligible person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Kim Kruse  
Permitting Manager  
Division of Oil and Gas

Appendices:

- A: Stipulations
- B: Comments
- C: Map(s)

ecc: Gordon Brower NSB, [gordon.brower@north-slope.org](mailto:gordon.brower@north-slope.org)  
Melissa Head DNR/MLW, [melissa.head@alaska.gov](mailto:melissa.head@alaska.gov)  
Matthew Willison DNR/MLW, [sean.willison@alaska.gov](mailto:sean.willison@alaska.gov)  
Kimberley Maher DNR/MLW, [kimberley.maher@alaska.gov](mailto:kimberley.maher@alaska.gov)  
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Sharon Morgan ADEC, [sharon.morgan@alaska.gov](mailto:sharon.morgan@alaska.gov)  
Wastewater Discharge, Oil & Gas ADEC, [dec.water.oilandgas@alaska.gov](mailto:dec.water.oilandgas@alaska.gov)  
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James Hyun DNR/DOG, [james.hyun@alaska.gov](mailto:james.hyun@alaska.gov)  
DNR/DOG Permitting, [dog.permitting@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.permitting@alaska.gov)  
SPCO Records, [SPCO.records@alaska.gov](mailto:SPCO.records@alaska.gov)

**APPENDIX A: STIPULATIONS**  
**MISCELLANEOUS LAND USE PERMIT FOR GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION**

Geophysical and Seismic activities are subject to the following permit stipulations:

**Standard Stipulations:**

1. The permittee shall defend, indemnify and hold the State of Alaska harmless from and against any and all claims, damages, suits, losses, liabilities and expenses for injury to or death of persons and damage to or loss of property arising out of or in connection with the entry on and use of State lands authorized under this permit by the permittee, its contractors, subcontractors and their employees.
2. A copy of the permit and stipulations must be posted in a prominent location where other permits and safety information are displayed for crew members. The permittee shall make available a copy of the application, all subsequent modifications, and a copy of this permit and all its attachments to any interested party upon request in a reasonable time.
3. The permittee shall notify and obtain a modification from the Division in advance of any activities which deviate from the approved permit. Any action taken by the permittee or his agent which increases the overall scope of the project or which negates, alters, or minimizes the implied intent of any stipulation contained in this permit will be considered a deviation from the approved permit.
4. The issuance of this permit does not alleviate the necessity of the permittee to obtain authorization required by other agencies for this activity.
5. The permittee shall inform and ensure compliance with all conditions of this permit by its employees, agents and contractors, including subcontractors at any level.
6. **Reservation of Rights:** The Division reserves the right to grant additional authorizations to third parties for compatible uses on or adjacent to the land under this permit. Authorized concurrent users of state land, their agents, employees, contractors, subcontractors, and licensees, shall not interfere with the operation or maintenance activities of each user.
7. **Valid Existing Rights:** This permit is subject to all valid existing rights and to the land. The State of Alaska makes no representations or warranties whatsoever, either expressed or implied, as to the existence, number, or nature of such valid existing rights.
8. The Commissioner of the DNR may require that an authorized state representative be present during any oil and gas activities described in or conducted under this permit.
9. The permittee shall consult the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (907-269-8721) so that known historic, archeological and paleontological sites may be avoided. Should any sites be discovered during the course of field operations, activities that may damage the site will cease and the Office of History and Archaeology in the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (907-269-8721) shall be notified immediately.

10. The permittee shall make available, to the Division, all records relating to the permit activities and landowner approvals upon request.
11. The permittee shall observe and apply applicable setbacks as defined by 18 AAC 80.020, 18 AAC 72 and/or the International Association of Geophysical Contractors Setback Guidelines to activities approved under this authorization. Alternative setback distances may be employed to protect coastal uses and resources, water wells, structures, private property including livestock, and other resources if it is determined that a particular guideline is insufficient.
12. Trails, campsites and work areas must be kept clean. Trash, survey lath, markers, and other debris that accumulates in camps, along seismic lines, and travel routes that are not recovered during the initial cleanup, shall be picked up and properly disposed of within one calendar year.
13. The Director has the right at any time to modify or revoke this permit.
14. All wastewater must be disposed of in a manner acceptable to ADEC and must meet Alaska Water Quality Standards found at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/wqs/>.
15. ADEC Drinking Water regulations 18 AAC 80 apply to public water systems.
16. Performance Guaranty. To ensure performance with all of the terms of the permit and to cover the potential cost of restoring the site, the permittee will maintain security acceptable to the state.
17. Insurance. The permittee shall maintain insurance to protect the State from risks associated with the planned activities during the term of the permit. The Permittee shall maintain a comprehensive general liability insurance policy with the state named as an additional insured party. The insurance requirement must be for no less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence and \$2,000,000.00 per annual aggregate. The insurance requirement may be adjusted periodically by the Division.

**Land and Access Stipulations:**

1. The permit authorizes the Permittee to conduct geophysical/seismic exploration activity upon lands owned by the State of Alaska. No person may engage in mineral exploratory activity on land, the surface of which has been granted or leased by the State of Alaska, or on land for which the state has received the reserved interest of the United States.
2. This permit does not authorize activity on Mental Health Trust Lands, School Trust Lands, Park Lands, or Lands of the University of Alaska.
3. Approval of this permit does not constitute the approval required for surface entry on non-state land without an agreement with the surface owner. This permit does not approve entry on private land.
4. The seismic exploration activities granted under this permit must not diminish the use and enjoyment of lands encompassed within a Native Allotment. Before entering a pending or

approved Native Allotment, the permittee shall contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management and comply with applicable federal law.

**Public Safety and Program Outreach Stipulations:**

1. Public safety: Appropriate signage will be deployed on all access routes and roadways in the project area. The Department of Transportation or Right of Way Lessee may advise permittee on appropriate measures to maintain safe conditions where appropriate. The permittee must watch for, provide verbal warning to and document people or vehicles entering potentially dangerous areas of the project. Lighting and marking with lath or fluorescent tape of some project work areas is advised for activities that occur during periods of sustained darkness or where conditions are unsafe for humans or animals.
2. Notices: To avoid unintended conflicts with other users, the permittee shall post a Notice of this project at conspicuous locations including key travel intersection crossings, areas of public use and in a prominent location in any operators or contractors staging area or camp. The Notice shall include the Division's contact number (907-269-8800), project title and permit number, names and contact telephone numbers of the permittee and all operators. The permittee shall provide notices on behalf of the Division to all upland owners involving shoreland, tideland, or submerged land adjacent to the upland owner's property if no notice or agreement is made with the owner by the permittee as required under 11 AAC 96.030(c). All forms of public outreach must be documented and reported to the Division as they occur.
3. In areas of subsistence and personal use harvesting, the permittee will coordinate survey activity with local users to prevent unnecessary conflicts. The permittee shall make a good faith attempt to coordinate survey activities with the owners of trap lines if known. Existing snowmachine, dogsled, or other trails, should be marked with survey lath where they intersect receiver and source lines. The permittee is required to post notice of potentially dangerous or hazardous project activities at these locations.

**Fuel and Hazardous Substances Stipulations:**

1. Fuel and hazardous substances. Secondary containment shall be provided for fuel or hazardous substances, as defined under AS 46.03.826 (5) or under 42 U.S.C. 9601(14)F.
2. Fuel or hazardous substance transfers. Secondary containment or a surface liner must be placed under all container or vehicle fuel tank inlet and outlet points, hose connections, and hose ends during fuel or hazardous substance transfers. Appropriate spill response equipment to respond to a spill of up to five gallons must be on hand during any transfer or handling of fuel or hazardous substances. Transfer operations shall be attended by trained personnel at all times.
3. Fuel or hazardous substances container(s) with a total combined capacity larger than 55 gallons shall not be stored within 100 feet of a waterbody.
4. Sorbent material in sufficient quantity to handle operation spills must be on hand at all times for use in the event of an oil or fuel spill.

5. Any use of explosives or blasting materials must comply with ADFG Habitat Publication No. 13-03, Alaska Blasting Standard for the Proper Protection of Fish. Additionally the permittee must contact the nearest ADFG Division of Habitat office regarding the need for a Fish Habitat permit.
6. Stationary fuel storage facilities must not be placed within the annual floodplain of a watercourse or closer than 100 feet to a waterbody. There shall be no fueling, servicing or repair of vehicles or equipment, and no vehicles shall be left unattended within the floodplain or below the ordinary high water line of any river, lake or stream or closer than 100 ft. to a waterbody or wetland.

**Wildlife Stipulations:**

1. All activities shall be conducted in a manner to minimize or avoid disturbance to wildlife and their habitat. Hazing of wildlife is prohibited unless a Health Safety and Environment concern is present.
2. Activities must avoid occupied grizzly bear dens and black bear dens, by one-half mile unless alternative mitigation measures to minimize disturbance are authorized by the Division after consultation with ADFG. Known den locations shall be obtained from the nearest ADFG Division of Wildlife Conservation office prior to starting operations. Occupied dens encountered in the field must be reported to the above, and subsequently avoided.
3. The permittee shall abide by the provisions of Alaska's wildlife feeding regulation, 5 AAC 92.230.
4. Activities within State-designated special areas (AS 16.20.010- .162, .500-.690) will be conducted in a manner consistent with the area's statutes regulations and management plan.
5. Activities must avoid known polar bear dens by one mile. Known den locations shall be obtained from the U.S. Geological Survey (907-786-3800 or 800-362-5148) prior to starting operations. New dens encountered in the field must be reported to the above, and subsequently avoided by one mile.

**North Slope Stipulations:**

1. Crossing of water bodies and activities near fish bearing water bodies may require permits from ADFG, the permittee is required to obtain all permits necessary for this project prior to commencing activities authorized by this permit.
2. All solid wastes, including incinerator residue, shall be backhauled to a solid waste disposal site approved by ADEC.
3. The use of ground contact vehicles for off-road travel must be limited to those areas which have adequate ground frost and snow cover to prevent damage to the ground surface as determined by DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) Northern Region Office (NRO). Movement of equipment through willow (*Salix*) stands must be avoided wherever possible. The



use of ground contact vehicles for off-road travel is subject to regional tundra travel openings and closure notices issued by DNR DMLW NRO.

4. Vehicles shall be operated in a manner such that the vegetative mat is not disturbed, and blading or removal of vegetative cover is prohibited except as approved by DNR DMLW NRO. Filling of low spots and smoothing using snow and ice is allowed. Incidents of vegetative mat damage and follow-up corrective actions shall be reported to the Division.
5. The DNR/DMLW maintains tundra monitoring stations throughout the North Slope. Tundra monitoring stations must not be impacted by permitted activities. Specific location information for these sites can be obtained from the DNR/DMLW directly at 907-451-2740.
6. Existing roads, trails, and natural clearings must be used wherever possible. Trail widths and clearing shall be kept to a minimum. Trail surfaces may be cleared of brush, stumps, and snags. Site disturbance shall be kept to a minimum to protect local habitats. All activities at the site shall be conducted in a manner that will minimize the disturbance of soil and vegetation and changes in the character of natural drainage systems. Additionally, any ground disturbance which may have occurred shall be restored to its original condition contoured to blend with the natural topography to protect human and wildlife health and safety. Particular attention must be paid to prevent pollution and siltation of streams, lakes, ponds, waterholes seeps and marshes, and disturbances to wetlands.

#### **Reporting Stipulations:**

1. **Geophysical Data Submission Requirement Form:** As a stipulation of the issuance of this MLUP for Geophysical Exploration, the permittee acknowledges the requirements of 11 AAC 96.210 (1) and agrees to notify the Director of the Division of the availability of processed seismic exploration data within 30 days of completion of initial processing and submit seismic exploration data. The Geophysical Data Submission Requirements can be found on the DNR Division's Website <http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Permitting/permittingForms.htm>. Your signature acknowledges your obligation to fulfill the Data Submittal requirements. This report shall be submitted to [dog.redata@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.redata@alaska.gov) before each survey commences.
2. **Activity Completion Report** Upon expiration of the MLUP or completion of all activities authorized under the MLUP, whichever occurs first, an Activity Completion Report must be submitted summarizing activities, equipment trails, camps and staging areas, damages to State lands and surface impacts, lost equipment, fires, and unintended explosions, spills, land-use conflicts and work completed. The report shall include a map depicting all mulched trails. Rehabilitation, if required, shall be completed to the satisfaction of the DNR. This report shall be submitted to [dog.permitting@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.permitting@alaska.gov).

If the term of the MLUP exceeds one calendar year from the date of approval, an annual Activity Completion Report, in addition to the final Activity Completion Report, must be submitted discussing the above information and projected activities for the rest of the permit term. If no activities are completed under the MLUP, an Activity Completion Report must be submitted on or before the expiration of the MLUP stating that no activities occurred.

3. **Geophysical Activity Completion Report Form:** The permittee must complete and return a Geophysical Activity Completion Report form for each survey acquired. Please submit a separate form for each sub-program data submittal. A non-confidential public completion report will be placed into the MLUP permit file each time a sub-program is completed. Geophysical Activity Completion reports must be submitted to the Division's Resource Evaluation Section within 30 days of completion of all activities. For in depth instructions on how to complete the form, please refer to the Division's permitting website <http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Permitting/PermittingForms.htm>. This report shall be submitted to [dog.redata@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.redata@alaska.gov). If no activities are completed under the MLUP, an Activity Completion Report form must be submitted on or before the expiration of the MLUP; be sure to check box 27 to indicate the survey was cancelled.
4. **Geophysical Processing Completion Report Form:** The permittee must complete and return a Geophysical Activity Completion Report form for each survey acquired. Please submit a separate form for each sub-program data submittal. A confidential Processing Completion report will be submitted each time a sub-program is completed. The Processing Completion reports must be submitted to the Division's Resource Evaluation Section within 30 days of completion of initial processing. For in depth instructions on how to complete the form please refer to the Division's permitting website <http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Permitting/PermittingForms.htm>. This report shall be submitted to [dog.redata@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.redata@alaska.gov)
5. **In-Field Operations Notice:** During activities conducted under the MLUP, the permittee must submit weekly reports summarizing activities undertaken and their location within the permit area. These reports shall be submitted to [dog.permitting@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.permitting@alaska.gov).
6. **Spill Notifications:** The permittee shall comply with the ADEC requirements for reporting the unauthorized discharge, leak, or spill of hydrocarbons or toxic or hazardous substances. The permittee shall notify the Department of Natural Resources of all spills that must be reported under 18 AAC 75.300 under timelines of 18 AAC 75.300. All unintentional fires and explosions must be reported to DNR immediately. The DNR 24 hour spill number is (907) 451-2678; the fax number is (907) 451-2751. DNR and ADEC shall be supplied with all follow-up incident reports.
7. **Blowouts,** as defined as the detonation of source points that caused surface damaged, are reportable if the surface damaged is larger than 36 inches. The report must include the location (Lat./Long. in WGS 84) and pictures of the blowout. All blowouts will need to be reclaimed or rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the Alaska DNR.
8. A summary record of all surface impacts, lost equipment, spills, fires, and unintended explosions, shall be included in the Permitting Section's completion report. Rehabilitation, if required, shall be completed to the satisfaction of the DNR.
9. All fires and explosions that require a response to protect life and property must be reported to DNR and ADEC immediately and shall be supplied with all follow-up incident reports.

10. The Division's Permitting Section shall be notified in Anchorage by telephone at 907-269-8800 and by email at [dog.permitting@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.permitting@alaska.gov) if, during the conduct of activities, state resources are damaged or a conflict occurs.

I acknowledge, and agree to these Permit terms, conditions and stipulations.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative Signature

3-15-16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

RICK TRUPP  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Representative Printed Name

## **APPENDIX B:**

### **Agency Review Comments**

#### **Alaska DNR, Division of Oil and Gas, State Pipeline Coordinator's Section (SPCS), February 12, 2016**

The State Pipeline Coordinator's Section (SPCS) reviewed SAExploration Inc.'s Toolik Kuparuk Geophysical Exploration Application. The proposed project may enter or cross the AS 38.35 pipeline right-of-way of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). The SPCS requests that SAExploration receive a letter of non-objection, if the proposed activities are anticipated to enter or cross the AS 38.35 pipeline right-of-way, and/or coordinate with the AS 38.35 pipeline lessee if the proposed activities could affect the AS 38.35 pipeline related activities.

#### **Division Response:**

Comments noted and forwarded to the applicant. The applicant has received a Letter of Non-objection for the 2016 season.

#### **Alaska DNR: DMLW NRO, February 10, 2016**

The DNR DMLW NRO has reviewed the application package.

This activity is scheduled to occur within the 'Lower Foothills Opening Area' which is currently closed to winter travel due to low snow. Specifically, the DMLW NRO monitoring station located at gasline mile 30 along the Dalton is several inches below the 9" criteria; surrounding tundra can also typically have minimal snow coverage. SAE will need to work with the DMLW NRO to identify areas with adequate snow coverage to allow for motorized travel. We have been working with seismic companies for them to provide DNR with snow depth information and receive conditional tundra travel authorization, if appropriate. SAE should be prepared to and understand that areas of low snow will be closed to vehicle travel and would require manual placement/retrieval of instrumentation.

The anticipated start date is February 20. The tundra typically closes for winter travel in mid-May. I believe that SAE is familiar with the DMLW NRO tundra travel guidelines; but, they should be reminded that once we close the tundra to winter travel, folks have 72 hours to close out tundra travel activities.

Under Section 3D, existing gravel pullouts along the Dalton will be used for resupply. The TAPS gasline runs adjacent to and west of the Dalton Hwy in this area. SAE should work with Alyeska on coordinating both pullout resupply locations and tundra access locations. SAE should consider identifying one or two resupply locations and fortify the areas with thin ice pads.

Does SAE have a client for this program? Geokinetics has shot/is shooting this area over the past several years and current seismic data may already be available. Is it appropriate for successive seismic shoots, and related tundra impacts, if the data has already been acquired and is available for clients?

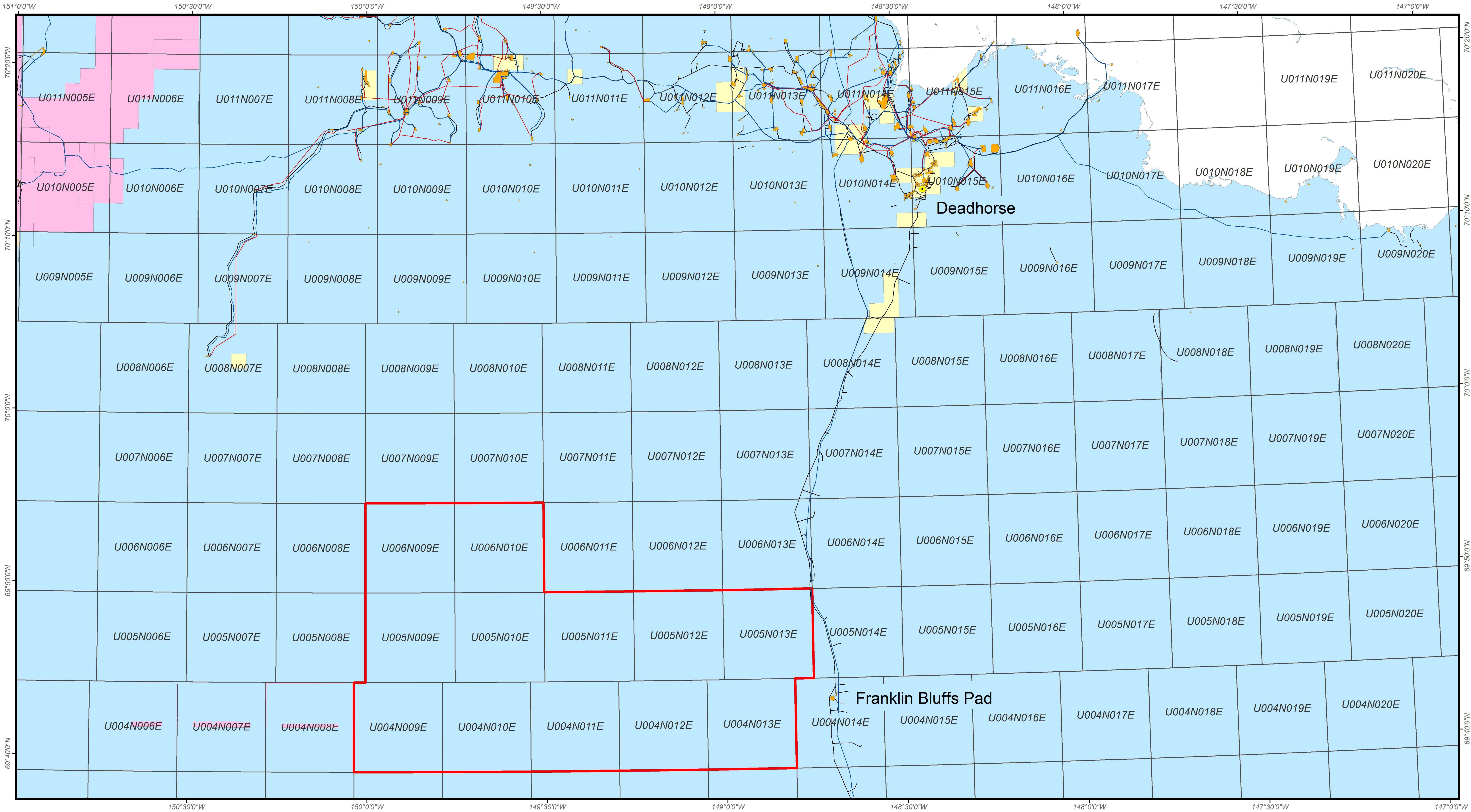
**Applicant Response:**

Please see below, SAE addresses each questions or comment you listed in your email.

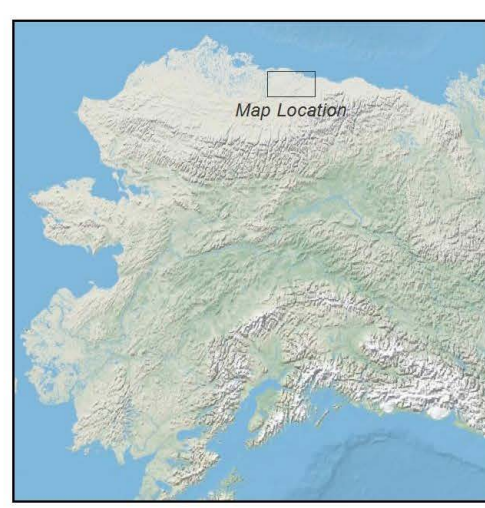
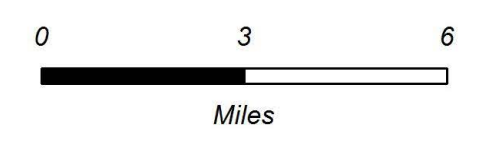
1. SAE works closely with DMLW on our projects, we have in the past provided them with snow sampling all through our projects. We are aware that the lower foot hills are not open and are awaiting the opening. When permits are received SAE will start communication with DMLW for snow sampling locations and approvals.
2. SAE is aware of the tundra closure stipulations.
3. That statement has now been removed from the application. It was from a previous plan of operations.
4. SAE will work with Alyeska for crossing in project area. SAE will not be building any ice pads but will work from existing off tundra locations for access.
5. Clients have been asked to be kept confidential at this time. Although shoot have been done around this area each and every client is looking at different depths and different bin locations. Data is processed with these things in mind and different imagine equipment is used for different data acquisitions. If other company are willing to sell and use the same processing and parameters than I would think this would be an option. At this time it is not.

**Division Response:**

Comments noted and forwarded to the applicant. The applicant will work with DMLW NRO regarding tundra opening and closure. SAE submitted a revised application changing the program from a 3D to a 2D program. SAE will also operate their camp off the Franklin Bluffs gravel pad and has received an approval for these modifications.



**Toolik Kuparuk 3D**  
Mod01 Permit 11Jan16



- Town
- powerline
- pipeline
- road
- pads
- Permit Area
- BLM
- Federal
- Native
- Private
- State
- State and Native

