

**U. S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 7, Alaska**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Seismic Surveys on XS Platinum Mining Claims - Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is responding to a request by XS Platinum Inc. (the applicant) to conduct a seismic exploration program on valid mineral claims in the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). These claims consist of 22 parcels totaling 776 acres. The claims extend along the lower Salmon River within the refuge from the current off-refuge mine site to Kuskokwim Bay, and along a corridor that leads to Chagvan Bay. None of the claims are within the Togiak Wilderness Area. This geophysical exploration program would provide the applicant the information for identifying resource targets for future test drilling to further assess the mineral potential of the claims. Specifically, the geophysical exploration activities would allow the applicant to identify the location and depths to bedrock and identify the location of the paleo-stream channel(s) on the Salmon River Claims and the Chagvan Bay Claims. Locating the paleo-stream channel(s) would allow the Applicant to incorporate this information into planning a second phase of the program, which would likely involve drilling into the paleo-stream channel(s) material to test for precious metal resources. The seismic work is scheduled to be conducted in the winter 2012/13 timeframe. An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The EA is hereby adopted by reference.

The proposed action has been selected for implementation.

Alternatives Considered

Two alternatives were considered in the EA, the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Since the Applicant has a valid mineral claim and a right to develop that claim, the No Action Alternative is presented for comparison purposes.

Government to Government Consultation and State of Alaska Review

Letters were sent to two local tribal governments on August 19, 2011 notifying them of the proposed action and inviting the tribes to provide input into the decision. The tribes did not express an interest in participating. The State of Alaska was provided a draft of the EA for comment. The State had no overall objections to the proposed action. Minor comments were resolved prior to finalizing the EA.

Analysis of Impacts

The EA provides an analysis of the impacts of implementing the proposed seismic exploration project as well as the impacts of not implementing the project (the No Action Alternative). These impacts are summarized in Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences.

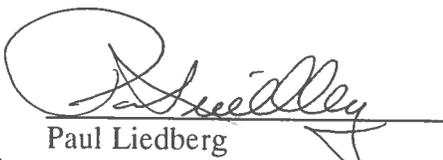
The direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts were evaluated in terms of intensity, duration, and context, and were assigned one of four impact levels (negligible, minor, moderate, or major). The evaluation was done for plants and soils, wildlife and wildlife habitat including endangered species, subsistence resources and use, cultural resources and priority public uses.

Impacts to plants and soils are anticipated to be minor. Impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat are expected to be minor. No impacts to minor impacts are expected for subsistence resources and use. The proposed action is anticipated to have minimal to no impacts to priority public uses. No impacts to cultural resources are expected to occur. A cultural resource survey is to be conducted prior to implementation of the proposed action and a National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 permit will be required prior to the issuance of a Special Use Permit.

No significant effects were identified in the analysis.

Conclusions

Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the EA, I have determined that there will be no significant individual or cumulative impacts to the human environment, within the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. I have determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action. Accordingly, the Service is not required to prepare an environmental impact statement.


Paul Liedberg
Refuge Manager

Feb. 13, 2012
Date