

The BLM intends to coordinate the development of the EIS with the National Park Service, which, in accordance with ANILCA section 201(4)(d), is developing a separate environmental and economic analysis solely for the purpose of determining the most desirable route for that portion of the proposed road right-of-way that would cross Gates of the Arctic National Preserve.

The BLM will consult with affected Federally Recognized Tribes on a government-to-government basis, and with affected Alaska Native corporations, in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Native concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given appropriate consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed project, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be asked by the BLM to participate in the development of the EIS as cooperating agencies.

Pursuant to ANILCA section 1104(e), a Draft EIS must be completed within nine months of the application filing date, and the Final EIS must be completed within one year of the application filing date, unless these periods are extended for good cause by the lead Federal agency. Due to the size and complexity of the proposed project, multiple land managers along the approximately 211-mile route, and the BLM's commitment to work with several relatively isolated rural communities potentially affected by the proposed project, an extension of the timeline is necessary to meet the intent and purpose of NEPA and provide appropriate public involvement. Accordingly, the date for completion of the Draft EIS is extended to March 29, 2019, and the date for completion of the Final EIS is extended to December 30, 2019.

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 ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2.

Bud Cribley,
State Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

**[NPS-AKR-GAAR-22618;
PR.RGAAR1502.00.1]**

Extension of Time for Preparation of an Environmental and Economic Analysis, Gates of the Arctic National Preserve

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of time.

SUMMARY: The time for completion of the draft and final environmental and economic analysis is being extended.

DATES: The date for completion of the draft environmental and economic analysis (EEA) is extended to March 29, 2019, and completion of the final EEA is extended to December 30, 2019.

ADDRESSES: Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Dudgeon, Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, 4175 Geist Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709. Telephone: 907-457-5752. Email: yuga_ambler_road@nps.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An application for a right-of-way (ROW) across the Western (Kobuk River) unit of Gates of the Arctic National Preserve has been submitted by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) to the National Park Service, pursuant to section 201(4) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. 410hh(4). That section requires the preparation of an environmental and economic analysis (EEA), and that the final EEA be completed within one year and the draft EEA be completed within nine months of the receipt of an application for such ROW. That analysis, however, is subject to the procedures set out in 16 U.S.C. 3164(e) and implemented by 43 CFR 36.6, which allow for extension of this time for completion of the draft and final EEA if additional time is determined to be necessary.

An application for a ROW was submitted by the AIDEA on November 25, 2015. The application was determined to be sufficient after

submission of supplemental information on June 30, 2016, which was deemed the filing date of the application in accordance with 43 CFR 36.5(d)(1). The draft EEA is currently due nine months from that filing date, on March 30, 2017. The final EEA is currently due one year from that date, on June 30, 2017.

Although the segment of the proposed road within the National Preserve would be only 17 to 25 miles, the entire length of the proposed road would be 221 miles. For the road to be constructed, authorizations are also needed from other federal agencies. These include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands permit) and the Bureau of Land Management (right of way). An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required for those authorizations, and is expected to take several years to complete. In order to properly coordinate the permitting actions among the several agencies, and to minimize the chance of conflicting route determinations for the road, it is necessary to have the timing of the EEA be in general harmony with that of the EIS. For that reason, additional time is needed for the completion of the EEA.

Accordingly, the date for completion of the draft EEA is extended to March 29, 2019, and the date for completion of the final EEA is extended to December 30, 2019.

Dated: February 24, 2017.

Herbert C. Frost,
Regional Director, Alaska Region.

[FR Doc. 2017-03991 Filed 2-27-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Notice of Availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Cook Inlet Planning Area Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244; MMAA 104000

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale for Cook Inlet Planning Area Lease Sale 244.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announces the availability of the Proposed Notice of Sale (NOS) for the proposed Cook Inlet Planning Area Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Lease Sale 244 (Cook Inlet Sale 244). This Notice is published pursuant to 30 CFR 556.304(c).

With regard to oil and gas leasing on the OCS, the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to section 19 of the OCS Lands Act, provides affected States the