

STATE OF ALASKA

ALASKA OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

3001 Porcupine Drive

Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3192

Re: **THE REQUEST**) Aquifer Exemption
OF CONOCO, INC.) Order No. 2
for an aquifer) Milne Point Unit
Exemption order for the) Kuparuk River Field
Milne Point Unit. July 8, 1987

IT APPEARING THAT:

1. Conoco, Inc. (Conoco), by letter of May 1, 1987, requested that the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission issue an order exempting those portions of all freshwater aquifers lying directly below the Milne Point Unit for Class II injection activities.
2. Notice of an opportunity for a public hearing on June 11, 1987 was published in the Anchorage Daily News on May 15, 1987.
3. Neither a protest nor a request for a public hearing was timely filed. Accordingly, the Commission will, in its discretion, issue an order without a public hearing.
4. A copy of Conoco's request was forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Region 10 on May 8, 1987 in conformance with Section 13 of the Memorandum of Agreement, between the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and EPA, effective June 19, 1986.
5. A request for additional information was received from EPA on June 1, 1987, and a copy of Conoco's "Supplement to the Application..." dated June 12, 1987 was forwarded to EPA on June 18, 1987.

FINDINGS:

1. Those portions of freshwater aquifers occurring beneath the Milne Point Unit do not currently serve as a source of drinking water.
2. Those portions of freshwater aquifers occurring beneath the Milne Point Unit are situated at a depth and location that makes recovery of water for drinking water purposes economically impracticable.

3. Those portions of freshwater aquifers occurring beneath the Milne Point Unit are reported to have a total dissolved solids content of more than 3000 and less than 10,000 mg/l., and are not reasonably expected to supply a public water system.
4. By letter of July 2, 1987, EPA - Region 10 advises that the aquifers occurring beneath the Milne Point Unit qualify for exemption. It is considered to be a minor exemption and a non-substantial program revision not requiring notice in the Federal Register.
5. The Milne Point Unit area constitutes a compact land parcel which can readily be described by governmental subdivisions.

CONCLUSION:

Those portions of freshwater aquifers lying directly below Milne Point Unit qualify as exempt freshwater aquifers under 20 AAC 25.440.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT the portions of aquifers on the North Slope described by the one-quarter (1/4) mile area beyond and lying directly below the following tracts of land are exempted for Class II injection activities only.

Umiat Meridian

T13N R9E Sections 13, 14, 23 and 24.

T13N R10E All Sections.

T13N R11E Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 29, 30, 31
And 32.

DONE at Anchorage, Alaska, and dated July 8, 1987.

C. V. Chatterton, Chairman
Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Lonnie C. Smith, Commissioner
Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

W. W. Barnwell, Commissioner
Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission