

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**ALASKA OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**333 West 7th Avenue, Suite 100**  
**Anchorage Alaska 99501**

Re: THE APPLICATION OF BP Exploration ) Docket Number: CO-12-26  
(Alaska), Inc. to modify Conservation Order ) Conservation Order No. 311C  
311B to contract the affected area for the West )  
Beach Oil Pool. ) Prudhoe Bay Field  
) Prudhoe Bay Unit  
) West Beach Oil Pool  
) North Slope Borough, Alaska  
)  
) December 18, 2013

**IT APPEARING THAT:**

1. By letter received September 25, 2012, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc. (BPXA), requested the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) contract the affected area for the West Beach Oil Pool.
2. Pursuant to 20 AAC 25.540, the AOGCC tentatively scheduled a public hearing for November 13, 2012. On September 28, 2012, the AOGCC mailed printed copies of the notice of the opportunity for public hearing to all persons on the AOGCC's mailing distribution list, published notice of the opportunity for that hearing on the State of Alaska's Online Public Notice website and on the AOGCC's website, and electronically transmitted the notice to all persons on the AOGCC's email distribution list. On October 7, 2012, the notice was published in the ALASKA JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.
3. No protest to the application or request for hearing was received.
4. The AOGCC vacated the tentatively scheduled public hearing on October 30, 2012.
5. Because BPXA provided sufficient information upon which to make an informed decision, the request can be resolved without a hearing.

**FINDINGS:**

1. Operator: BPXA is the operator of the Prudhoe Bay Field, Prudhoe Bay Unit, and West Beach Oil Pool, which are located in the North Slope Borough, Alaska.
2. Affected Area: The West Beach Oil Pool lies offshore, in the northwestern portion of Prudhoe Bay, North Slope Borough, Alaska.
3. Owners and Landowners: All lessees and owners of the West Beach Oil Pool and the affected contraction area are Working Interest Owners of the Prudhoe Bay Unit.
4. Pool Identification: Conservation Order No. 311B defines the West Beach Oil Pool as defined as the accumulation of oil and gas which is common to and correlates with the

accumulation found in the West Beach No. 4 well between the depths of 14, 548' MD and 14,781' MD.

5. Exploration and Production History: The West Beach Oil Pool was discovered in 1976 by ARCO's West Beach No. 3 exploratory well. Regular oil production began in April 1993 and continued through July 2001. Small amounts of oil were produced in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008 and 2009. The last reported production from the pool occurred in 2009.
6. Regulatory History: The AOGCC has issued Conservation Order No. 311 (dated February 25, 1993), Conservation Order No. 311A (dated December 20, 1996), Conservation Order No. 311B (dated April 19, 2000), Conservation Order No. 492 (dated June 26, 2003), Conservation Order No. 311B.001 (dated July 29, 2003), and Conservation Order No. 311B.002 (dated May 23, 2007) to govern development of the West Beach Oil Pool.
7. Proposed Change to Affected Area: BPXA's proposed contraction of the West Beach Oil Pool is based on new well information and a new structural interpretation from seismic data that reduces the limits of the area capable of contributing to production.

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

1. West Beach Oil Pool is a mature, producing pool that is currently shut in.
2. BPXA's proposed contraction of the West Beach Oil Pool is warranted based on their revised structural interpretation.
3. The conclusions in Conservation Order No. 311B and the amendments thereto are incorporated herein.

#### **NOW THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED:**

The development and operation of the West Beach Oil Pool is subject to the rules in Conservation Order No. 311B and the amendments thereto and the statewide requirements under 20 AAC 25:

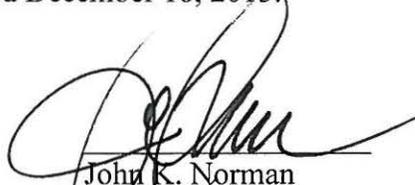
#### **Affected Area: Umiat Meridian (revised and contracted this order)**

<b>Township, Range</b>	<b>Lease , Tract</b>	<b>Description</b>
T12N R15E	034627	Section 19 S½ Section 20 S½ S½
T12N R15E	034626	Section 21 S½ SW¼ Section 28 N½
T12N R15E	034628	Section 29 N½ Section 30 N½
T12N R14E	034624	Section 24 S½
T12N R14E	028301	Section 25 N½, SE¼

**DONE** at Anchorage, Alaska and dated December 18, 2013.



Daniel T. Seamount, Jr.  
Commissioner

  
John K. Norman  
Commissioner

**RECONSIDERATION AND APPEAL NOTICE**

As provided in AS 31.05.080(a), within **20** days after written notice of the entry of this order or decision, or such further time as the AOGCC grants for good cause shown, a person affected by it may file with the AOGCC an application for reconsideration of the matter determined by it. If the notice was mailed, then the period of time shall be **23** days. An application for reconsideration must set out the respect in which the order or decision is believed to be erroneous.

The AOGCC shall grant or refuse the application for reconsideration in whole or in part within 10 days after it is filed. Failure to act on it within 10-days is a denial of reconsideration. If the AOGCC denies reconsideration, upon denial, this order or decision and the denial of reconsideration are **FINAL** and may be appealed to superior court. The appeal **MUST** be filed within **33** days after the date on which the AOGCC mails, **OR 30** days if the AOGCC otherwise distributes, the order or decision denying reconsideration, **UNLESS** the denial is by inaction, in which case the appeal **MUST** be filed within **40** days after the date on which the application for reconsideration was filed.

If the AOGCC grants an application for reconsideration, this order or decision does not become final. Rather, the order or decision on reconsideration will be the **FINAL** order or decision of the AOGCC, and it may be appealed to superior court. That appeal **MUST** be filed within **33** days after the date on which the AOGCC mails, **OR 30** days if the AOGCC otherwise distributes, the order or decision on reconsideration. As provided in AS 31.05.080(b), "[t]he questions reviewed on appeal are limited to the questions presented to the AOGCC by the application for reconsideration."

In computing a period of time above, the date of the event or default after which the designated period begins to run is not included in the period; the last day of the period is included, unless it falls on a weekend or state holiday, in which event the period runs until 5:00 p.m. on the next day that does not fall on a weekend or state holiday.