



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. Tudor Rd.

Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

IN REPLY REFER TO:

AFES/MMM

DEC 7 2006

Mr. Tommy Thompson  
Drilling Manager  
Anadarko Petroleum Corporation  
3201 C Street, Suite 603  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This responds to the letter Anadarko Petroleum Company (Anadarko) submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) dated November 16, 2006, requesting a Letter of Authorization (LOA) for the incidental take of polar bears for the Jacob's Ladder Exploration Program east of Deadhorse.

Enclosed is a LOA (06-09) that would allow Anadarko to take small numbers of polar bears incidental to oil and gas industry exploration activities at the above location identified in your LOA request. The proposed start date for this project is December 2006. The Jacob's Ladder exploration program has 2 components:

1. construction of up to 6 exploration drill pads; the construction of an ice road (approximately 16 to 20 miles), beginning at Drill Site 16 in the Greater Prudhoe Bay oil field. Ice road construction also includes spur roads to support exploration activities, and;
2. the mobilization, drilling, and demobilization of one drilling rig to support exploration activities.

If any changes develop in your project during the 2006-07 winter season, such as activities or location, please notify the Marine Mammals Management Office prior to the planned operation. This would allow us to evaluate the activity and, if appropriate, amend your LOA.

Historical polar bear denning activity reveals that some creek cutbanks and river bluffs provide suitable denning habitat for polar bears, especially in and around the larger, braided rivers, such as the Sagavanirktok River delta and its adjacent drainages (see enclosed map; Figure 1). Activities, such as ice road construction and placement of drill pads, occurring in areas near preferred denning habitat may encounter denning polar bears. Disturbance during denning could lead to abandonment of dens and possible mortality to cubs. The Service seeks to limit disturbance to maternal polar bear den sites, both known dens and those areas that could possibly

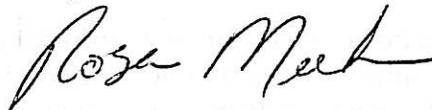
be preferred by denning polar bears. With this in mind, use caution when operating near these areas during the maternal denning period (mid November to mid April). Furthermore, please provide copies of the polar bear observation form to all Anadarko contractors operating under the LOA. Report any polar bear sightings or bear sign to this office by phone or using the polar bear observation form.

The U.S. Geological Survey has posted information regarding polar bear denning habitat and a polar bear den habitat GIS coverage for downloading from the Alaska Science Center (ASC) website. The den habitat map (ARC/INFO export file), the mapping manuscript (PDF file) and a picture of den habitat (JPG file) are available on the ASC website (<http://www.absc.usgs.gov/dataproducts.htm>). Use these resources to support and plan activities in potential denning areas. Report any possible den locations that are found during work activities immediately to our office. In addition, Service biologists are available for consultation if questions or concerns arise during the project period at the phone numbers listed below and noted in your interaction plan.

Polar bear conservation has benefited from monitoring programs associated with the Incidental Take program since 1993. Monitoring serves to assess the effect of industrial activities on polar bears by evaluating trends and effects of bear encounter rates, take frequency, as well as the location and timing of encounters.

This authorization is issued in accordance with our regulations listed at 71 FR 43926, dated August 2, 2006. Please review these regulations. Should you have any further questions contact Mr. Craig Perham of our Marine Mammals Management Office at (907) 786-3800 or 786-3810.

Sincerely,



Rosa Meehan, Ph.D.  
Chief, Marine Mammals Management

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard Shideler, ADF&G  
LE  
FFWFO

MMM

ISSUED: December 5, 2006

EXPIRES: June 30, 2007

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION  
(06-09)

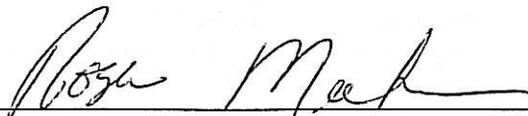
Anadarko Petroleum Company (Anadarko) is hereby authorized to take small numbers of polar bears incidental to activities occurring during the Jacob's Ladder exploration project. This authorization and the required conditions below includes contractors of Anadarko performing Anadarko-approved work under the scope of operations to be conducted. The proposed start date for this project is early winter 2006. Jacob's Ladder activities authorized under this letter include, but are not limited to:

1. construction of up to 6 exploration drill pads; the construction of an ice road (approximately 16 to 20 miles), beginning at Drill Site 16 in the Greater Prudhoe Bay oil field. Ice road construction includes also spur roads to support exploration activities, and;
2. the mobilization, drilling, and demobilization of one drilling rig to support exploration activities.

Authorization is subject to the following conditions:

1. The November 2006 Jacob's Ladder Bear Avoidance and Interaction Plan is approved and all provisions must be complied with unless specifically noted otherwise in this Letter of Authorization. A copy of this polar bear interaction plan must be available on site for all personnel.
2. Anadarko Operations Managers, or their designates, will be fully aware, understand, and capable of implementing the conditions of this authorization.
3. Intentional take is prohibited under this authorization.
4. This authorization is valid only for those activities identified in the request for a Letter of Authorization dated November 16, 2006.

5. Polar bear monitoring, reporting, and survey activities will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR 18, section 18.128. The basic monitoring and reporting requirements follow:
- Anadarko must cooperate with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and other designated Federal, State, or local agencies to monitor the impacts of oil and gas exploration activities on polar bears;
  - Anadarko must not conduct activities that operate nor pass within 1 mile of known polar bear dens, and all observed dens must be reported to the Marine Mammals Management Office, Fish and Wildlife Service immediately. Should occupied dens be identified within one mile of activities, work in the immediate area will cease and Service must be contacted for guidance. The Service will evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate action. Potential actions may range from cessation or modification of work to conducting additional monitoring, and Anadarko must comply with any additional measures specified.
  - Anadarko must designate a qualified individual or individuals to observe, record, and report the effects of the activity on polar bears to the Service within 24 hours of visual observation;
  - at the discretion of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Anadarko must allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to place an observer on the site to monitor the impacts of the activity on polar bears;
  - Anadarko must submit an annual monitoring report to the Marine Mammals Management Office as required under 18 CFR 18.128(f), which will be received by September 30, 2007.
6. The LOA is valid from the date of issuance to June 30, 2007, or the close of tundra travel for the winter season of 2006-07, whichever comes first.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Marine Mammals Management

DEC 7 2006  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

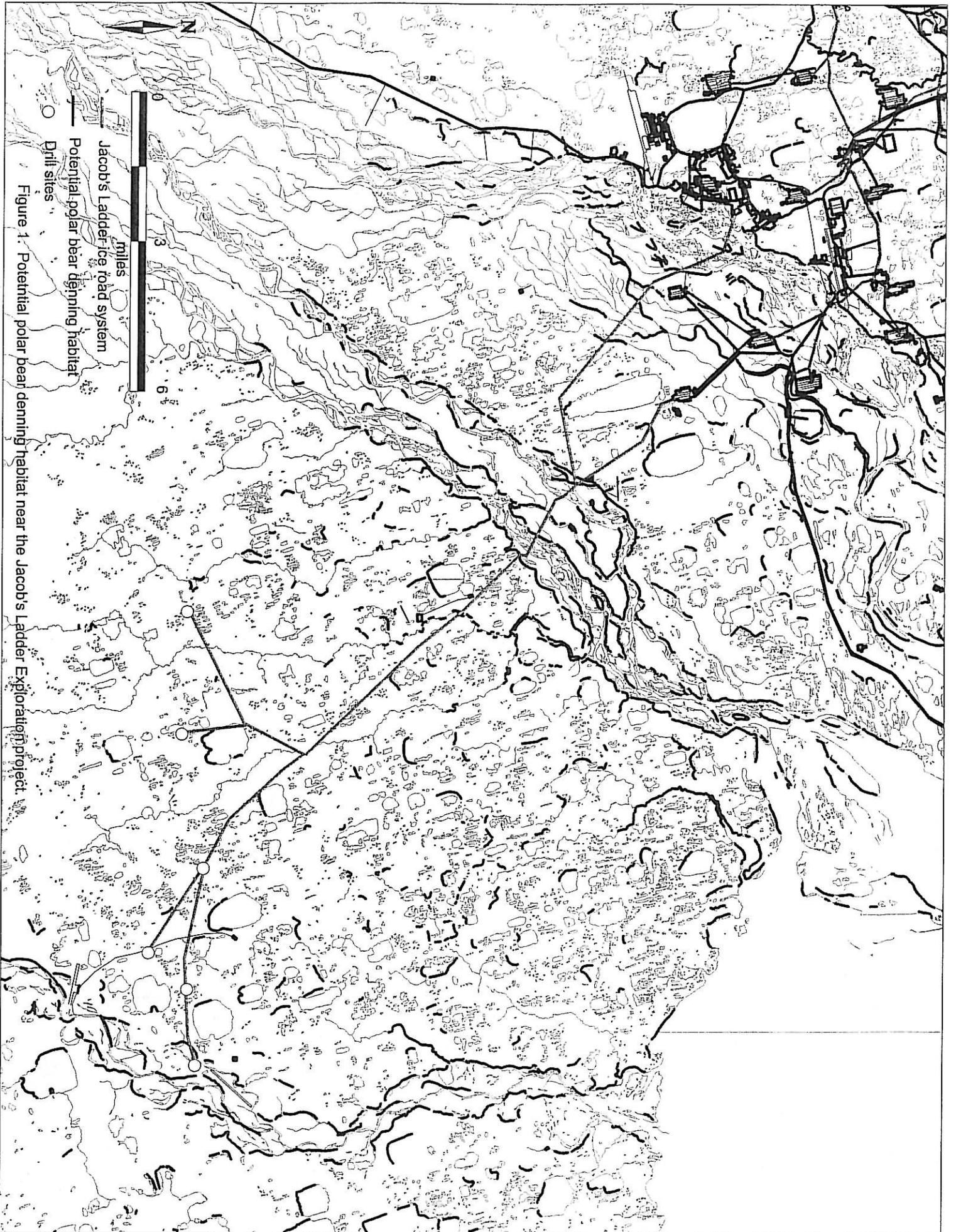


Figure 1. Potential polar bear denning habitat near the Jacob's Ladder Exploration project.

