



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

csc 125022

November 12, 2012

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, SOLDOTNA, AK

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT ON PROPOSED 3D SEISMIC SURVEY
PROGRAM ON KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service invites public comments on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed winter 3D seismic survey program to be conducted by NordAq Energy, Inc. in the northern portion of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) beginning in January 2013 and completed by April 30, 2013. The draft EA is available for public review and comment until December 15, 2012. The draft EA describes the proposed seismic survey operation and documents the site-specific analysis of the 3D seismic acquisition program. Two alternatives were evaluated in detail - NordAq's proposed 3D seismic survey acquisition program and the No Action alternative.

The 48-square mile seismic survey area would be located west of the Swanson River Oil and Gas Unit and east of the Cook Inlet coastline on surface lands managed by Kenai NWR and on subsurface in-holdings owned by Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI). CIRI has entered into a lease agreement with NordAq Energy, Inc to develop these gas resources. Regulations require Kenai NWR to grant adequate and feasible access to owners of valid in-holdings for economic and other purposes, subject to reasonable regulation to protect the natural and other values of the Refuge.

The draft EA is available on-line at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/nepa.htm> or <http://kenai.fws.gov>. Hard copies are also available at the Kenai NWR headquarters office located on Ski Hill road in Soldotna.

Please provide comments to:

Peter Wikoff

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1011East Tudor Road, MS-231

Anchorage, AK 99503

Comments should be postmarked by December 15, 2012. Additionally, comments can be faxed to (907) 786-3976 or e-mail to fw7_kenai_planning@fws.gov by December 15, 2012.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov

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