

Bear Den discovery at DS L5

March 23, 2018 At Drillsite L5 @ Niakuk

Main BP contacts:

Rich Vicente-Equipment lead

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An adult female was observed by equipment operators on March 22, 2018 around 3:00 pm. The operator reported the sighting to security. An officer was dispatched to observe the bear and realized she was maintaining her location, suggesting a possible den nearby. BP notified Environmental and the USFWS. The location of the bear, and the probable den location was about 400 yards from the road and pipeline and 0.5 miles from the L staging and well housing pad. The probable den site was about 1 mile from the Niakuk drill pad with active drilling occurring there during the sighting. BP enacted a den response plan restricting travel and personnel near the site, dispatching personnel to maintain observation from the pad or road. Cub(s?) were soon observed at the site, confirming the den. The female did not appear to be concerned with activities on the road until a snowblower attempted to clear snow from the road (there was no alternative access to the active drill site). The bear began to approach the sound, suggesting a possible Level B take response. Crew ceased the snowblowing activity, waiting until the bear was in the den and heavy winds were blowing from upwind before attempting again to clear the snow. There was no observable response to the repeated effort to clear snow because the bear was not visible at that time. The female was observed daily until March 27, at about 2:00 pm when she was observed walking with the cub intoward the N/NW. She was not directly observed departing the den, but continued den observations indicated that she was no longer present there. She was observed walking aout to 2.5 miles out until about 2:00 am before

the observers lost track of her. The densite was monitored for another 24 hours before it was declared abandoned and regular activities could resume.