

APPENDIX A EXISTING EXPLORATION SITES

Overview

This appendix describes the proposed rehabilitation and reuse activities for former exploration sites in the Point Thomson Unit (PTU). These proposed activities for the exploration sites (subject to owner approval) will be carried out in conjunction with construction activities at the Point Thomson Gas Cycling Project. The timing and scope of these activities are contingent upon the Gas Cycling project being approved and implemented. The presence of ice roads and the potential for pad and gravel reuse provide the logistical opportunity and environmental and economic justification for addressing these sites. Rehabilitation of these sites will offset impacts to wetlands from planned development. These same sites may also have utility in future development plans. If for some reason the development plans for the Point Thomson Reservoir are modified, then ExxonMobil reserves the right to reevaluate the timing and scope for the rehabilitation of these sites.

There are 10 onshore gravel pads existing within the PTU as a result of exploration and assessment activities. ExxonMobil was the operator for all but one of these pads. The PTU also includes a former gravel mine used to support some of these exploration activities. These 11 sites are listed in Table A-1 (Figure A-1).

TABLE A-1
 SUMMARY OF EXISTING EXPLORATION SITES

| Index number | Site name | Special site conditions |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Alaska State C-1 | Polystyrene insulation, Corps Permit |
| 2 | Bullen Point Staging Area | Known diesel-contaminated gravel |
| 3 | North Staines River State No. 1 | Polystyrene insulation, suspended well, ExxonMobil not Operator |
| 4 | Point Thomson Area Material Site | Former gravel mine, rehabilitated per Corps Permit |
| 5 | Point Thomson Unit No. 1 | |
| 6 | Point Thomson Unit No. 2 | |
| 7 | Point Thomson Unit No. 3 | Corps Permit |
| 8 | Point Thomson Unit No. 4 | Polystyrene insulation, Corps Permit |
| 9 | Staines River State No. 1 | Suspended well |
| 10 | West Staines State No. 1 | |
| 11 | West Staines State No. 2 | Open reserve pit |

The Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) have historically regulated the exploration sites within the PTU. AOGCC has typically been concerned with those activities associated with the drilling and abandonment of the exploration well, while ADEC has been concerned with the design, use, and

closure of the reserve pits. ADEC also enforces regulations that require remediation of any contamination. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) began to issue permits on the North Slope for gravel pad construction in the 1980 timeframe. The Corps permits for exploration well pads typically include a requirement that the pad area be rehabilitated if the site is not used to support production.

The rehabilitation of these exploration sites hinges on the timing of near-by project development. The scope of the rehabilitation activities is affected by the age and condition of the site. Remedial action may be required at sites where the well has not been plugged, the reserve pit has not been closed, or contamination is present at levels that require clean-up. Recent North Slope practice includes the consideration of gravel reclamation from existing pads when a new need for gravel has been identified within close proximity to the existing pads. Gravel is typically left in place under two circumstances:

- The pad contains polystyrene insulation, or,
- Repeated freeze/thaw cycles have caused the pad to subside and deteriorate to a degree that prevents efficient removal of gravel.

With that in mind, the Point Thomson Gas Cycling Project rehabilitation plans (subject to agreement by the exploration site owners) are anticipated to follow these general guidelines. Rehabilitation of the existing gravel pads will start with the reclamation of existing gravel for use at production-related locations. A portion of the available gravel may be used to improve the surface water drainage at an existing reserve pit. Gravel will be typically removed to within 1 foot of the surrounding ground surface (approximately tundra grade). All trash and debris in the general area will be removed. The surface of any remaining gravel will be covered with a thin layer of topsoil and/or overburden from the proposed gravel mine, once available gravel has been removed. The topsoil and/or overburden will be seeded and fertilized with native plant species. A monitoring program will be implemented to verify the progress of the revegetation efforts.

Sites to be rehabilitated in parallel with Project development

Ten existing exploration sites are candidates for rehabilitation in conjunction with the development of the Point Thomson Gas Cycling Project to offset production related impacts to wetlands. These sites include 9 exploration well locations and 1 pad used for staging material during exploration. The old mine site has previously been rehabilitated and no further rehabilitation is planned. The proposed activities are consistent with recent North Slope practices. Three of these sites (Alaska State C-1, PTU No. 3, and PTU No. 4) are specifically subject to Corps requirements for rehabilitation plans. The required rehabilitation plans were submitted in January 2003 to the Corps. Since ExxonMobil was not the operator for the North Staines River No. 1 well, the discussion on this site is limited. It is ExxonMobil's understanding that some of these gravel pads may be considered for use in the EIS Alternatives Analysis.

Alaska State C-1

The gravel pad is underlain by polystyrene insulation. The reserve pit is closed. Gravel at the site will be left in place to protect the insulation. As necessary, additional gravel and/or overburden will be brought to the pad and used to further cover the insulation and improve the surface water drainage. Revegetation and follow-up monitoring will be performed. A rehabilitation plan was

submitted to the US Army Engineer District, Alaska on January 15, 2003. This pad may be considered as an alternative laydown area.

Bullen Point Staging Area

No well was drilled at this location and there is no reserve pit. Remediation will be performed to address diesel-contaminated gravel at the site. The site will be revegetated and monitored once the clean-up of diesel contamination is complete. The site will be used for staging ACS oil spill response equipment for the Point Thomson Gas Cycling Project.

North Staines River No. 1

The gravel pad is underlain by polystyrene insulation. The well is currently suspended (i.e. not plugged). The reserve pit is closed. The gravel pad could be left in place to serve as a potential location for a relief well. This pad may be considered as an alternative for the East Well Pad site. ExxonMobil did not operate this site. Specific site rehabilitation plans have not been determined for this site.

Point Thomson Unit No. 1

The gravel pad will be left in place to serve as a potential location for a relief well. The reserve pit is closed. Some of the gravel at the site will be used to improve the surface water drainage at the existing closed reserve pit. Overburden placement, revegetation, and follow-up monitoring will be performed.

Point Thomson Unit No. 2

The reserve pit is closed. Some of the gravel at the site will be used to improve the surface water drainage at the existing closed reserve pit. The remainder of the recoverable gravel will be removed for use during the project development. Overburden placement, revegetation, and follow-up monitoring will be performed.

Point Thomson Unit No. 3

This pad will be left in place and incorporated into the new CWP. The reserve pit is closed. An existing disposal cell used to support exploration activities at offshore well locations is also closed.

Point Thomson Unit No. 4

The gravel pad will be left in place to serve as a potential location for a relief well. The gravel pad is underlain by polystyrene insulation. The reserve pit is closed. Gravel at the site will be left in place to protect the insulation. Overburden placement, revegetation, and follow-up monitoring will be performed. A rehabilitation plan was submitted to the US Army Engineer District, Alaska on January 15, 2003.

Staines River State No. 1

The well is currently suspended (i.e. not plugged). The reserve pit is closed. The well will be plugged and abandoned. The recoverable gravel will be removed for use during the project development. Overburden placement, revegetation, and follow-up monitoring will be performed.

West Staines State No. 1

The reserve pit is closed. The recoverable gravel will be removed for use during the project development. Overburden placement, revegetation, and follow-up monitoring will be performed.

West Staines State No. 2

The reserve pit is not closed. Most of the gravel at the site will be used to close the reserve pit and improve the surface water drainage at the reserve pit. The remainder of the recoverable gravel will be removed for use during the project development. Overburden placement, revegetation, and follow-up monitoring will be performed.

Point Thomson Area Material Site (Old Mine Site)

This location was a mine for gravel used in construction of exploration pads and a stockpile area for topsoil and overburden removed during mining. The site has been rehabilitated in accordance with Corps requirements established when the original Corps permit was issued. The mine is currently water-filled. The stockpile for topsoil and overburden is revegetated. A low gravel berm surrounds the base of the stockpile to retain any soil that might wash from the stockpile. This site will be used as a water source for the Point Thomson Gas Cycling Project.

