

ExxonMobil Production Company

Alaska Interest - Joint Interest U.S.

P.O. Box 196601

Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6601

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Production

April 13, 2001

**Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Habitat - Region III**

Distribution List Below

Re: Status Report for the ExxonMobil Flaxman Island Reserve Pit Closures
Alaska State A-1 and G-2 Project

Ladies and Gentlemen:

FILE COPY

AGO MB

JDD ✓

JFW ✓

LLJ ✓

LRM ✓

NJH ✓

PKW ✓

RFM ✓

RTS ✓

WAM ✓

Attached is the most recent Status Report for the referenced project. The enclosed report provides an updated summary of work completed to date and our revised Operations Plan for this winter's activities. As discussed with each of you in the past few days, we have made a course correction in this project. Instead of on-site disposal by grinding and injection, we now plan to haul the reserve pit wastes to Prudhoe Bay for injection during the 2001/2002 winter. Before leaving the island this winter, we will take precautionary measures to ensure the wastes will not be exposed by island erosion this summer. This modified Operation's Plan is underway and necessary, to ensure continued protection of the drilling wastes from erosion. We are not aware of any new permits or amendments required by this change in our short-term activities this winter.

The attached reports are intended to only cover operations during the remainder of this winter season. We intend to file a new plan of operations and necessary permit applications to allow hauling the waste to Prudhoe during the 2001/2002 winter. We appreciate everyone's cooperation. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 907-564-3691 or Jesse Mohrbacher with Fairweather E&P Services, Inc., at 907-258-3446.

Sincerely,



Mike Barker

DMB:ddm

Attachments

dmblen\mpt-lom01\state-federal agencies\Judd Peterson Update 4-5-01.doc

c: Dr. Steve Amstrup, USGS
John Bridges, USFWS
Gordon Brower, NSB
Bob Crandall, AOGCC
Glen Gray, DGC
Tom Maunder, AOGCC
Pete McGee

Judd Peterson, ADEC
Robert Robichaud, USEPA
Gary Schultz, ADNR
The Honorable Lon Sonsalla, Mayor of Kaktovik
Bruce Webb, ADNR DOG
Kellie Westphal, ADNR DMLW
Jack Winters, ADFG ✓

**ExxonMobil Production Company
Flaxman Island Reserve Pit Closures
Alaska State A-1 and G-2 Project
Project Status Report, April 13, 2001**

Field operations continued since the previous Project Status Report dated March 8, 2001 was submitted. The following project status update has been prepared to provide North Slope Borough, State and Federal regulatory personnel with the current status of the project and a revised Operations Plan for this winter.

Work Completed to Date

The camp continues to accommodate as many as forty personnel. Daily helicopter and rolligon trips are the norm. All clean cap material has been excavated from both the G-2 and the A-1 reserve pits. Waste material from the flare pits and reserve pits have been excavated and stockpiled. ExxonMobil Production Company discontinued grinding and injection (G&I) operations on Flaxman Island on April 4, 2001. Our current plans for this winter are to cover and protect the drilling wastes in an ADEC approved manner at the A-1 and G-2 locations until winter 2001/2002. We considered relocating the drilling waste from Flaxman Island to the Pt. Thomson #3 location on the mainland but warm weather and insufficient ice thickness have precluded safely carrying out this option.

Ongoing work includes ripping, excavation, and the relocation of drilling waste material at both locations. A fully equipped field lab is operational and providing field analytical support for the excavation.

Project Schedule

The remaining tasks this winter for both the A-1 and G-2 locations include excavating waste material that is near the northern edge of the reserve pits, relocating the wastes to the southern edge of the reserve pits, covering the wastes, and demobilization of the G&I and support equipment. If complete demobilization of the project equipment by rolligon is not possible due to the ice road limitations or close of tundra travel in late April or early May, the remaining equipment will be demobilized by barge in summer, or left on the island for next winter's work activities. The disposal well will be plugged and abandoned next winter, when we return to the island to excavate drilling waste and dispose of it.

Additional Information

There is full-time polar bear surveillance. One bear den has been located this spring within one mile of the G-2 location. The sow and her two cubs have left the island and no further sightings of these three bears have been noted. Three other bears have been sighted near the camp without incident.

**ExxonMobil Production Company
Flaxman Island Reserve Pit Closures
Operations Plan for Protection and Temporary Storage of Drilling Waste**

ExxonMobil Production Company (ExxonMobil) is continuing closure operations for the Alaska State A-1 and G-2 reserve pits. Since completion of the Alaska State A-2 injection well, approximately 850 cubic yards of drilling wastes have been disposed by grinding and injection (G&I) into the Alaska State A-2 injection well. The results of the injection disposal operations have been slower than anticipated due to mechanical and other operational problems with the G&I program. This has prompted a review of the G&I program and other disposal options for the drilling wastes. ExxonMobil has evaluated different options for the drilling waste disposal and determined the preferred approach at this time is to protect the drilling wastes from further island erosion during the next summer season, and return to the island next winter and dispose of the drilling waste.

The following Plan covers the tasks necessary to implement a "protect in place" storage program for the drilling wastes at the Alaska State A-1 and G-2 locations. This procedure is intended to keep the drilling wastes protected from the ongoing erosion at Flaxman Island until the wastes can be removed in winter 2001/2002. This winter's "protect in place" program will involve excavation of wastes that are within approximately 100 feet of the north side of the island to provide buffer zones. These buffer zones will be sampled for clean closure and back-filled with clean cap material. The excavated wastes will be moved to the south side of the reserve pits, covered with reinforced Visqueen, and then covered with the remaining clean cap material to stabilize the drilling wastes. In general, operations at the G-2 reserve pit will be given priority due to the limited time remaining for use of the ice road between A-1 and G-2.

The Plan contains the following tasks:

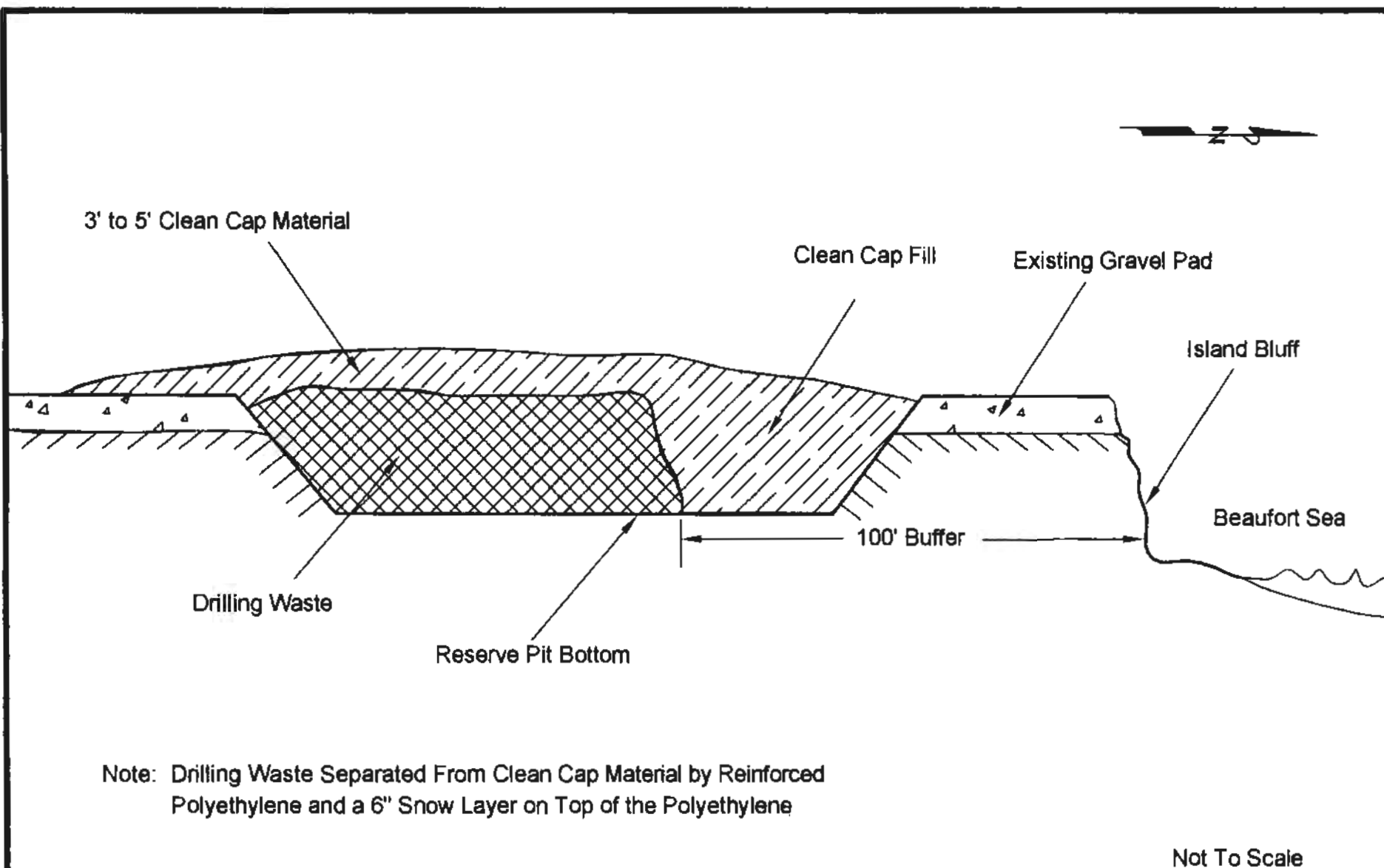
1. Demobilize all unnecessary on-site equipment. This will include extra heaters, light plants, building enclosure, Cat 14G blade, snow blower, LATV pumpers, maxi-haul trailers, and other miscellaneous equipment. A boom truck will need to be mobilized to assist with rig down of the building. This lower priority work can be done while implementing the "protect in place" operations.
2. Excavate a 50-75 foot buffer zone on the north side of the G-2 reserve pit. Sample the reserve pit floor and side walls in this area to verify clean closure. Stockpile all G-2 drilling wastes in the remaining southern two-thirds of the reserve pit (see attached cross-sectional view).
3. Repeat step 2 for the A-1 reserve pit. The drilling wastes in the A-1 reserve pit will be removed to 50-75 feet from the northern edge of the reserve pit. Depending upon the level of reserve pit wastes remaining in the A-1 reserve pit, it may be necessary to transport some of these wastes to the G-2 reserve pit for storage. In both the A-1 and G-2 reserve pits, the drilling wastes may be mounded but will not be piled above the existing reserve pit berms.

4. Cover the drilling wastes in both reserve pits with reinforced Visqueen. This will keep the drilling wastes separate from the clean cap material and provide a visual marker between clean cap versus drilling waste material during future excavation. A snow barrier may also be used on the clean side of the Visqueen as a separation mechanism between the clean cap material and drilling wastes.
5. Fill the north side buffer zones with clean cap material and then cover the drilling wastes the remaining clean cap material. The clean cap material will be contoured to provide adequate protection to the drilling wastes, prevent sloughing and minimize any ponding or run-off from the capped reserve pit.
6. Demobilize all remaining equipment to Deadhorse with the exception of the CATCO 6-man sleeper, Hyundai 360 trackhoe, and one loader. Approximately 2000 gallons of diesel will be stored in a tank with secondary containment for summer use, if necessary.
7. Develop a site monitoring plan for the summer 2001.

A plan of operations for the 2001-'02 winter operations will be developed and submitted with necessary permit applications, during the next few months.

DMB:ddm

DMB\enviro\p\p\01\state-federal agencies\Udd Peterson Update 4-5-01.doc



ExxonMobil Production Company
Flaxman Island Reserve Pit Closures
Reserve Pit Protect In Place Diagram
Cross Sectional View

ExxonMobil Production Company
P.O. Box 196601
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6601
907 561 5331 Telephone

Jack P. Williams, Jr.
Production Manager, Alaska Interest
Joint Interest U.S.

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July 24, 2001

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game
Habitat - Region III

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JFW _____
LLJ _____
LRM _____
NJI _____
PKW _____
RFM _____
RTS ☒ _____
WAM _____

ExxonMobil
Production



John Bridges
Wildlife Biologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Marine Mammals Management
1101 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503

**RE: ExxonMobil Production Company, Flaxman Island Reserve Pit Closures, Alaska
State A-1 and G-2 Project, Report of Polar Bear Sightings and Interaction**

Dear Mr. Bridges:

ExxonMobil Production Company (ExxonMobil) hereby submits the referenced report for the time period of October 1, 2000 through April 30, 2001. The enclosed report contains a summary of all polar bear sightings during the reporting period and provides copies of the individual reports completed by on-site field personnel. Daily field reports that do not contain any bear sighting information have been omitted from this report.

As you are aware, we learned of a maternal den located near the Alaska State G-2 location on March 28, 2001. Enclosed is a table identifying work activities that occurred within 1/2 mile of this den during the course of our winter project activities. A map for reference is also enclosed.

ExxonMobil plans to return to Flaxman Island in early October 2001 for approximately 80 days to monitor and patrol Flaxman Island. This work will be followed by excavation and removal of drilling wastes during the 2002 winter work season. ExxonMobil intends to file a request for a Letter of Authorization from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the taking of small numbers of polar bears during the planned 2001/2002 field operations.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed report, please contact Mike Barker at 907-564-3691 or Al Robb at 713-656-9182.

Sincerely,

DMB:ddm

Attachments

dmblmwpoptom-02\Incidental Takes\PolarBearCovrLtr.doc

c: Gordon Brower, NSB
Glenn Gray, DGC
Judd Peterson, ADEC
Dick Shideler, ADF&G
Bruce Webb, ADNR



**ExxonMobil Production Company
Flaxman Island Reserve Pit Closures Alaska State A-1 and G-2 Project
Polar Bear Sighting Report Summary**

Date	Polar Bear Sighting Description	Action Taken and Result of Any Action
1-Oct-00	One (1) large adult bear with apparent collar was observed for 15 minutes on northwest end of Flaxman Island near the former Alaska State D-1 location ¹ during barging operations to A-1 location.	None, tug and barge proceeded eastward to A-1 landing site.
3-Oct-00	Mature bear sighted near Leffingwell cabin. Bear continued toward A-1 camp location to within 50 yards of location at dusk.	Hazed bear with cracker and whistler shells. Bear ran off to the west ½ mile with darkness preventing further observation.
6-Oct-00	Two (2) adult bears sighted. The first at one (1) mile south of A-1 location on ice and appeared to be hunting in open leads until darkness. The second at 1.5 miles SW of A-1 location and north of Leffingwell cabin. This bear moved off out of site.	None.
10-Oct-00	Two (2) bears sighted. One was located three (3) miles south of A-1 location near the North Staines location. The other on the east end of Flaxman Island.	USGS representatives darted the bear on Flaxman Island to the east of the A-1 location then went after the bear located south near the North Staines location.
16-Oct-00	One (1) adult bear sighted on north side of A-1 location, within 100 yards of location. Bear moved into open water, swam north/northwest out of site.	None.
28-Mar-01	Female bear (sow) sighted outside of den approximately ¼ mile southeast of G-2 location. USGS helicopter caused bear to run away from den to the north then returned to the south. Bear stayed near the den after helicopter left the area.	None.



29-Mar-01	Sow sighted outside den three (3) times for 30, 45 and 30 minutes each between 1330 and 1730 hours. Sow reported to stand up and look in G-2 direction when backup signal on front-end loader would sound during earthmoving operations.	None.
30-Mar-01	Sow moved from den area northeast onto ice and returned to den area over a period of one (1) hour. USGS helicopter landed and crew watched bear movement.	None.
7-Apr-01	Four (4) bears sighted. One (1) sow and a two-year-old cub sighted southeast of the A-1 location. Sow and cub moving to the southeast. One adult sighted east of the A-1 location and moving northeast (bear also probably sighted from the G-2 location). Additional bear sighted at 7:30 pm on north side of A-1 location and was scared off by a rolligon. Curious bear returned to within 100 yards of location (island) and was hazed with a cracker shell. Bear returned to A-1 location at 12:30 am (8-Apr-01) and was scared off with a pickup truck. Possible fifth bear sighting if bear sighted above from G-2 location was a separate bear from other sightings.	Bear scared off and hazed as discussed at left.
8-Apr-01	Apparently, the same repeat return bear that was sighted previous day, was sighted 700 yards north of camp at 0630 hours. Bear disappeared into the ice rubble.	None.

Notes: 1. The daily report references Alaska State F-1 location. Mr. Keener actually meant the D-1 location on the western extent of Flaxman Island also sometimes referred to as Mary Sachs Island.



Work Activities within one-half mile of the bear **den** on the southeast end of Flaxman Island

DATE	EQUIPMENT	TYPE OF WORK ACTIVITY
12/30/2000	Rolligons Arrive At Site to start work.	Freight 2ea
12/31/2000	CATCO pumper units arrive.	3 Pumper Units flooding ice road.
1/1/2001	CATCO pumper units.	3 Pumper Units flooding ice road.
1/2/2001	CATCO pumper units.	3 Pumper units flooding ice road, then leave site.
1/3/2001	Rolligons.	4ea Freight haulers.
1/4/2001	Rolligons.	4ea Freight haulers.
1/5/2001	Rolligons.	3ea Freight haulers.
1/6/2001	Rolligons.	3ea Freight haulers. 1ea water haul.
1/7/2001	Rolligons.	1ea Freight haul. 1ea water haul.
1/9/2001	Rolligons.	5ea Freight haulers. 1ea water haul.
1/10/2001	Rolligons.	3ea Freight haulers. 1ea water haul.
1/11/2001	Rolligons.	4ea Freight haulers.
1/12/2001	Rolligons.	4ea Freight. 2ea Water.
1/13/2001	Rolligons.	4ea Freight. 1ea Water.
1/14/2001	Rolligons.	5ea Freight haulers.
1/15/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers. 1ea Water haul
1/16/2001	Rolligons.	1ea Water haul.
1/17/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers.
1/18/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers. 1ea Water haul
1/19/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers. 1ea Water haul
1/20/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers. 2ea Water hauls.
1/21/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers.
1/22/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers. 3ea water hauls.
1/23/2001	Rolligons.	1ea Water haul.
1/24/2001	Rolligons.	1ea Water haul.
1/25/2001	Rolligons.	3ea Freight haulers. 1ea water haul.
1/26/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers.
1/27/2001	Rolligons.	1ea Water haul. 1ea Visiting snowmachiner on way to Kaktovik.
1/28/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers. 3ea water hauls.
1/29/2001	Rolligons.	1ea Water haul.
1/30/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers.
1/31/2001		
2/1/2001	Rolligons.	2ea Water hauls.



2/2/2001			
2/3/2001		Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers.
2/4/2001		Rolligons.	1ea Water hauls.
2/5/2001			
2/6/2001		Rolligons	4ea Water hauls.
2/7/2001		Rolligons	3ea Water hauls.
2/8/2001		Rolligons	2ea Water hauls.
2/9/2001		Rolligons	2ea Water hauls.
2/10/2001		Rolligons	2ea Water hauls.
2/11/2001		Rolligons	2ea Water hauls.
2/12/2001		Rolligons	2ea Water hauls. Made a new direct trail to the shoreline.
2/13/2001			
2/14/2001		Rolligons.	2ea Freight haulers. End of old trail for the time being.

FOR EACH ROLLIGON TRIP THAT IS LISTED, THE NUMBER REFLECTS A ROUNDTrip. FOR EXAMPLE, 2EA WATER HAULS EQUALS FOUR TRIPS PAST THE BEAR DEN LOCATION.

ON MARCH 1, 2001, WE MOVED THE D-7 CAT, HYUNDAI EXCAVATOR, AND 966G LOADER TO G-2 TO BEGIN EXCAVATION OF THE CAP MATERIALS. G-2 IS WITHIN A HALF MILE OF THE REPORTED BEAR DEN. THE FOLLOWING IS A RECORD OF ACTIVITIES THAT TOOK PLACE FOR G-2

3/1/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Walk equipment to site using approved route. Carry light plant and equipment by Rolligon
3/2/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Start excavation. Two Rolligon trips to site.
3/3/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Excavation activities. Two Rolligon trips to site.
3/4/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	A trip was made by Rolligon for the purpose of studying a route to build an ice road from A-1 to G-2. The trip included looking at the route the snowmachines took during bear watching activities-October, November & December 2000. This trip had to take the Rolligon within 100' to 200' of where the bear dened.
3/5/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Ice road const., excavation, & 3 rd. trips by Rolligon
3/6/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Ice road const., excavation, & 2 rd trips by Rolligon
3/7/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Ice road const., excavation, & 3 rd. trips by Rolligon
3/8/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Ice road const., excavation, & 2 rd trips by Rolligon
3/9/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Ice road const., excavation, & 3 rd. trips by Rolligon

3/10/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Excavation and ice road const.
3/11/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Excavation and ice road const.
3/12/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Excavation and ice road const.
3/13/2001		Rolligons, Excavator, Cat, Loader	Excavation and ice road const. End of ice road construction.

AFTER MARCH 13, NORMAL EXCAVATION ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE AT G-2 ON A DAILY BASIS. CREW TRANSPORTATION TOOK PLACE VIA TRUCK AFTER MARCH 9, 2001.

DAILY POLAR BEAR SIGHTING LOG

Location: Flannan Island

Watchperson: Chris Erickson

Date: 3-28

Chris Erickson

Signature

Maximum Visibility: 3 mi (mi/yds) Time: 06:00

Sightings: 1300 HR. 3-28-01

Species: POLAR BEAR Group Size: ADULT Age: _____ Sex: F

Reaction: POLAR BEAR REACTED TO U.S.S. HELICOPTER BY LEAVING DEN

Duration of Interaction: 1/2 HR. Closest Approach: 1/4 MI.

General Weather Conditions: -10 / light wind

Other Comments: BEAR OUT OF HER DEN, RAN TO NORTH THEN TURNED AND
RAN TO SOUTH, CREW WATCH FROM G.Z. W/ FIELD GLASSES, CALLED AT
FOR BEAR HAZER. BEAR RETURNED TO DEN AREA AFTER HELICOPTER LEFT.

DAILY POLAR BEAR SIGHTING LOG

Location: Flaxman IslandWatchperson: Chris EricksonDate: 3-29-01Chris Erickson

Signature

Maximum Visibility: 10 (m/yds) Time: _____Sightings: 1330 - SOW OUTSIDE DEN FOR 30 MINUTES; 1545
SOW OUTSIDE DEN FOR 45 MINUTES; 1700 - SOW OUTSIDE
DEN FOR 30 MINUTES.Species: _____ Group Size: _____ Age: _____ Sex: F

Reaction: _____

Duration of Interaction: _____ Closest Approach: 1/4 MILEGeneral Weather Conditions: Light winds from southwest,
clear skies.

Other Comments: _____

DAILY POLAR BEAR SIGHTING LOG

Location: Flaxman Island

Watchperson: SHAWN BOTTOMS

Date: 3-31-01

Shawn Bottoms
Signature

J.K.

Observation of
polar bear occurred
on March 30, 2001.

Maximum Visibility: 30 (mi/yds) Time: 0700

Sightings: ADULT BEAR MOVED FROM DEN AREA
NORTH EAST ON ICE PACK, RETURNED TO DEN
AREA

Species: POLAR Group Size: ADULT Age: Sex: F

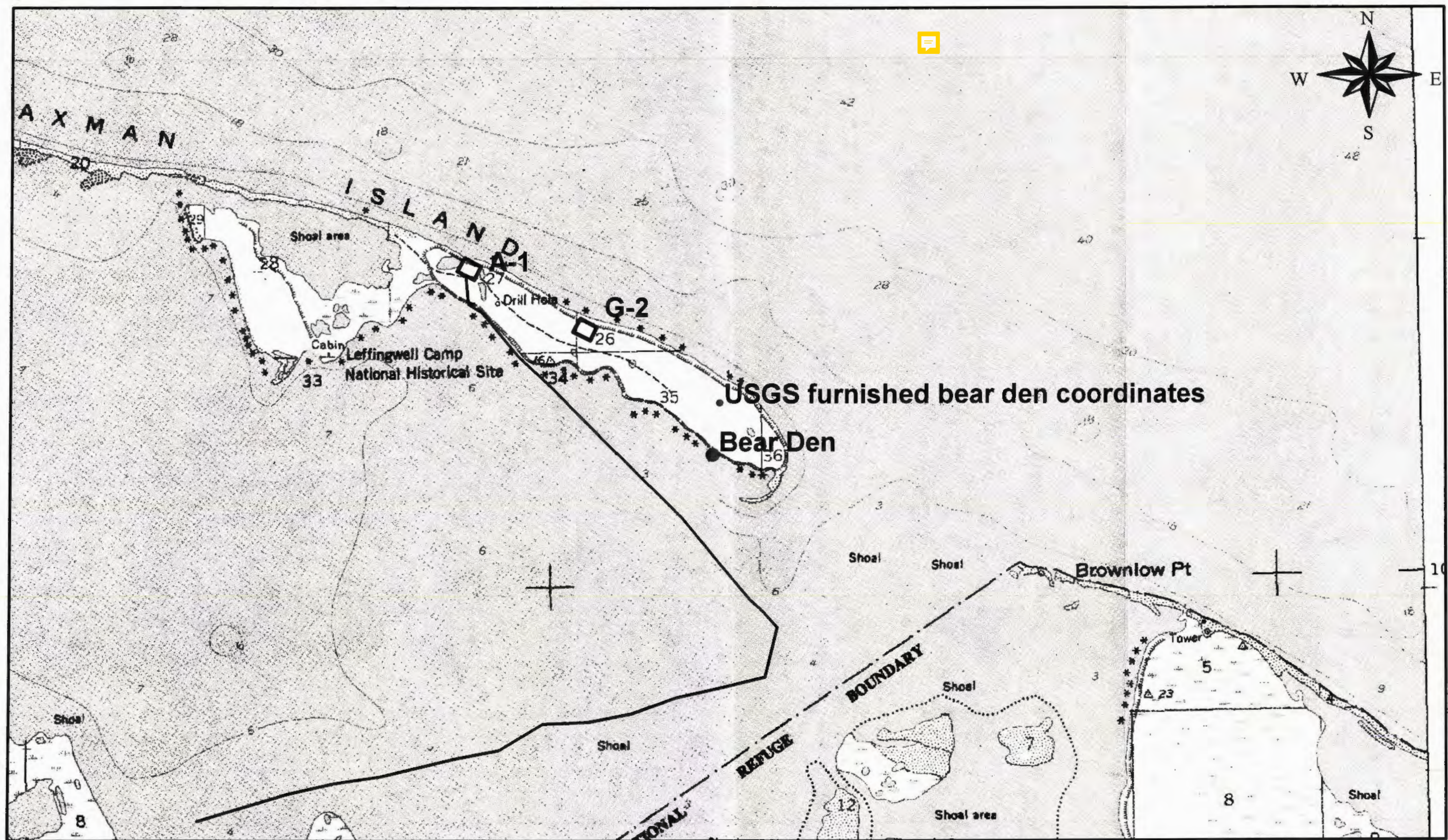
Reaction:

Duration of Interaction: 1 HR. Closest Approach: 1/4 MI.

General Weather Conditions: CLEAR - SUNNY

CREW @ GZ LOCATION OBSERVED SOW MOVED
NE TO ICEPACK USGS HELICOPTER LANDING AND
WATCHED BEAR MOVEMENT

Other Comments:



USGS furnished bear den coordinates

Bear Den

Flaxman Island Survey
Project 52219