

Public Notice appearing in July 1 Anchorage Daily News:

## **Revised Draft Air Permits Proposed For Shell Oil and Gas Exploration Drilling In Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea, Alaska, Public Comment July 6 to August 5**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 seeks public comment from July 6 to August 5, 2011 on revised draft Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Prevention of Significant Deterioration Clean Air Act permits for Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc. and Shell Offshore Inc., 3601C St., Ste. 1000, Anchorage, AK 99503.

The revised draft permits authorize air emissions from Shell oil and gas exploration drilling operations in the Beaufort Sea and the Chukchi Sea. Shell plans to operate the Discoverer drillship and support fleet for oil and gas exploration drilling beginning in 2012 on the Beaufort Sea OCS, within and beyond 25 miles of the Alaska seaward boundary and on the Chukchi Sea OCS, 25 miles beyond the Alaska seaward boundary, as authorized by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management and Regulatory Enforcement. EPA Region 10 issued the previous permits in 2010.

The 2011 draft permits, 2011 supplemental statement of basis, and 2011 supplemental application are available at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/AIRPAGE.NSF/Permits/ocsap/>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments must be postmarked or emailed to EPA Region 10 at the addresses below by August 5, 2011.

Email: [r10ocsairpermits@epa.gov](mailto:r10ocsairpermits@epa.gov) Mail: Shell Discoverer Air Permits, EPA Region 10, 1200 6th Ave, Ste. 900, AWT 107, Seattle, WA 98101 Fax: 206.553.0110

**PUBLIC HEARING:** August 4, 2011: Informational Meeting 5:00pm to 6:30pm, Public Hearing 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow, Alaska. Telephone participation available at North Slope Borough teleconference centers.

The purpose of the public comment period and public hearing is to receive comments on the 2011 revised draft air permits. Written and oral comments can be given at the public hearing in Barrow, Alaska. Written comments can be submitted by mail or email. Oral comments can also be recorded on tape, disk, or digital audio and submitted by mail or email. North Slope communities outside of Barrow can participate in the public hearing by telephone at North Slope Borough teleconference centers.

The Environmental Appeals Board remanded the 2010 permits to EPA Region 10 for further consideration. EPA Region 10 has proposed revised draft air permits to address the remand issues. The 2011 revised draft permits are based on the Coupled Ocean Atmosphere Response Experiment meteorological modeling algorithm and the Plume Volume Molar Ratio Method nitrogen dioxide modeling algorithm to predict air pollutant concentrations. These modeling algorithms have not been approved by EPA for general use, but have been approved under EPA guidelines case by case alternative modeling provisions and EPA Region 10 also requests public comment on the suitability of these modeling algorithms for these permits.

The Supplemental Statement of Basis supplements the Statement of Basis for the 2010 permits, and addresses the remand issues, but generally does not address other aspects of the 2010 permits that are unchanged in the 2011 revised draft permits. Only those parts of the 2011 revised draft permits proposed for revision and the information and analyses supporting those revisions are open for public comment. If you believe any provisions of the 2011 revised draft permits proposed for revision or the information or analyses supporting those revisions are inappropriate, you may comment on the permits and must raise and submit all reasonably ascertainable issues and arguments supporting your position by the end of the comment period. Supporting documents must be included in full, not by reference, unless they are already in the permit record, are state or federal statutes or regulations, EPA documents of general applicability, or other generally available referenced materials. Please identify if your comments relate to

the Shell Chukchi permit, the Shell Beaufort permit, or both.

**PERMIT DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE:** The permit record includes Shells 2010 applications and 2011 supplemental application, the 2010 permits records, the 2011 revised draft permits and 2011 supplemental statement of basis, and all other materials relied on by EPA. The permit record is available for public review at EPA Region 10, 1200 6th Ave, Seattle, Washington, 9am to 5pm Mon. to Fri. (206.553.1200).

The 2011 draft permits, 2011 supplemental statement of basis, and 2011 supplemental application are available at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/AIRPAGE.NSF/Permits/ocsap/>.

The 2011 draft permits, 2011 supplemental statement of basis, and 2011 supplemental application will also be available at these locations in Alaska: EPA Alaska Office, Federal Building, 222 West 7th Ave, Anchorage (907.271.5083); Barrow City Office, 2022 Ahkovak Street, Barrow (907.852.4050); Nuiqsut City Office, 2230 2nd Avenue, Nuiqsut (907.480.6727); Kaktovik City Office, 2051 Barter Avenue, Kaktovik (907.640.6313); Wainwright City Office, 1217 Airport Road, Wainwright (907.763.2815); Kali School Library, 1029 Ugrak Ave, Point Lay (907.833.2312); Point Hope City Office, 530 Natchiq Street, Point Hope (907.368.2537); Atqasuk City Office, 5010 Ekosik Street, Atqasuk (907.633.6811); Anaktuvuk Pass City Office, 3031 Main St, Anaktuvuk Pass (907.661.3612).

For more information about the public meeting, to request a copy of the permit documents, or to join the EPA arctic permits mailing list, please contact Suzanne Skadowski, 206.553.6689, [skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov](mailto:skadowski.suzanne@epa.gov).