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Professor Douglas L. Kane, Director
Institute of Northern Engineering
College of Engineering and Mines
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5910

Dear Professor Kane:


It is our understanding that an Arctic Long Term Hydrologic Observatory would be broadly beneficial to the entire scientific community, including the field researchers actively working on the North Slope and modelers who utilize archived data. In support of the potential selection of the Kuparuk River basin as the site of an LTHO, BP recognizes the importance to better understand arctic hydrology for both the scientific and industrial communities. An investment in the Arctic as an LTHO will benefit responsible development by providing information relevant to preventing potential impacts by industry:

- Basic information about arctic hydrology that is not available on topics ranging from groundwater/surface water exchange to rates of evapotranspiration under different conditions;
- Improved knowledge of arctic hydrology which is increasingly important to studies of climate change;
- Resource information crucial for the use of water for ice roads, domestic consumption, and various industrial processes, and;
- Process studies crucial for ecological rehabilitation in the Arctic. These efforts currently suffer from poor understanding of hydrology.

Perhaps more than any other region, hydrology is a key component of all aspects of environmental science in the Arctic. The Alaskan Coastal Plain is covered with snow and ice in winter and open water of lakes and wetlands in summer. Hydrology is integral to life and industrial development in the North. We wish you good luck in your proposal efforts and look forward to establishing collaborative relations if the Kuparuk watershed is selected to be the home of a Long Term Hydrologic Observatory.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (907) 564-4383.

Sincerely,


Bill Streever, Ph.D.
BPXA Environmental Studies Leader