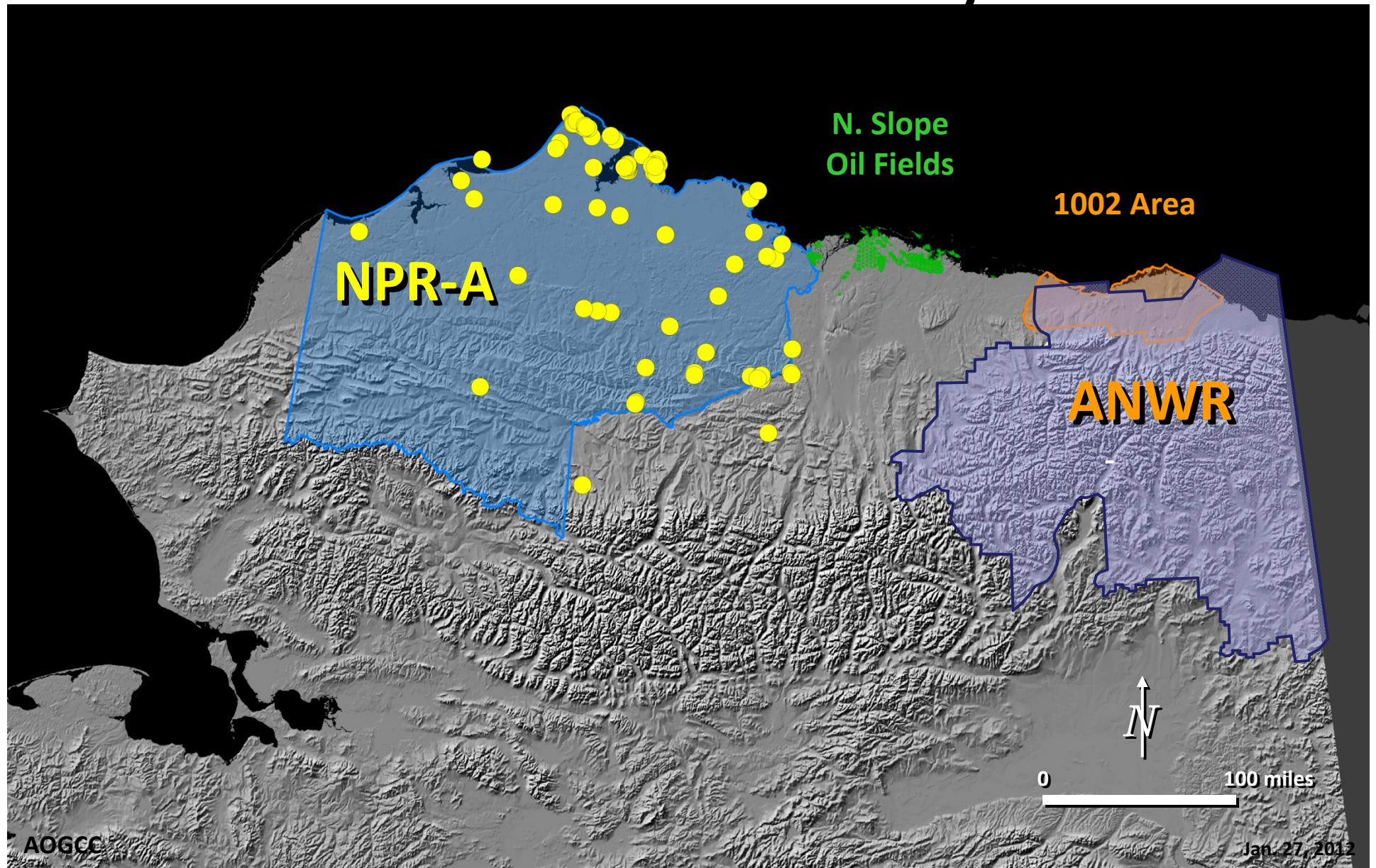


BLM Legacy Wells: Environmental Hazards and Eyesores





















Wellhead along with
wood and metal debris
in a natural oil seep





Natural subsidence and snowmelt have started to obscure this site.







Back-up slides



What's Happening?



National Mall and Memorial Parks is restoring the Mall lawn and making other improvements between 3rd Street and 7th Street. The work includes the installation of engineered soil medium to resist soil compaction, durable turf varieties and granite edging. New sustainable systems to improve soil drainage and collect stormwater for irrigation will reduce the use of potable water and help improve regional water quality. This contract work is to be completed by December 2012.

Status of Legacy Wells

- 16 properly plugged and abandoned (7 by Alaska Native Groups rather than BLM)
- 5 improperly plugged and not abandoned
- 29 not cased & partially revegetated
- 17 used for temperature monitoring by USGS
- 17 transferred to Alaska native ownership
- **2 leaking flammable gases**
- 50 other out-of-compliance wells

Example Problems

- At least 26 are open to the atmosphere and at one time were filled with drilling mud
- At least 44 have wood, metal, plastic, glass, and concrete debris on site
- At least 17 are filled with diesel
- 3 can no longer be found - 1 under landslide at Colville River's edge, 2 in lakes

Example Problems

- At least 2 leak flammable gases
- 29 are partially revegetated at surface but have unknown downhole conditions; some have surface clean-up issues
- At least 49 have metal piping sticking above ground level