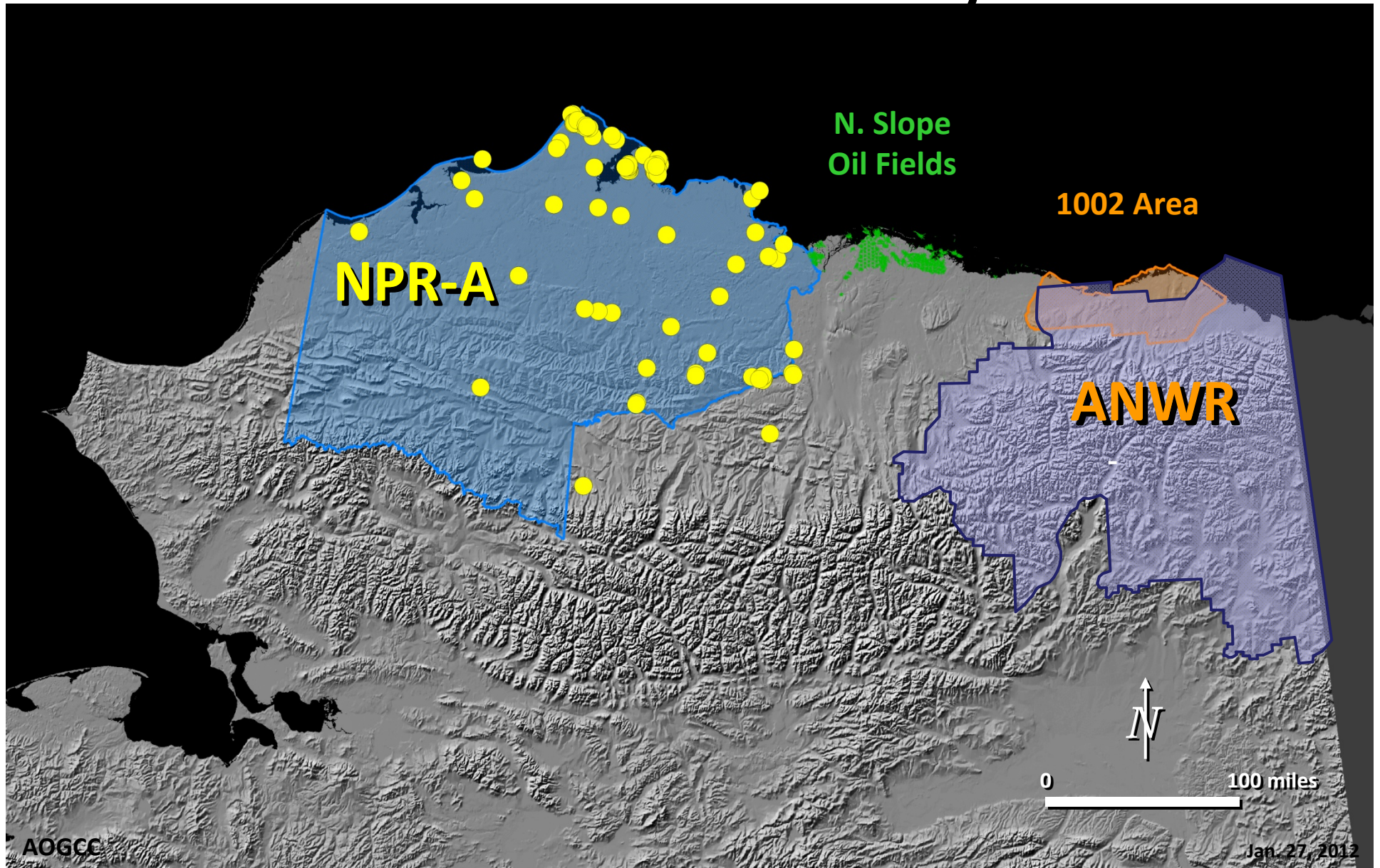


# BLM Legacy Wells: Environmental Hazards and Eyesores

























Natural subsidence and snowmelt have started to obscure this site.











# Back-up slides

# BLM plans for ~50 wells

- The BLM will need to prepare a determination of eligibility pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, due to the age of the site. If the site is not eligible, then the surface debris should be removed as funding allows or in conjunction with other scheduled operations, if possible.



# Better wording

- Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, prior to removal/cleanup of the well, the BLM will determine if the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). If the site is determined not eligible, the BLM will make a finding of “no historic properties affected” and commence with the proposed removal/cleanup action at the site. If the site is determined eligible, this determination in no way precludes removal/cleanup activities. Rather, in consultation with the SHPO, the BLM will mitigate the action – most likely through historic documentation – and commence with the proposed removal/cleanup action at the site.

# BLM statement of status for 9 improperly remediated wells

- The well was marked with the well name and plugged date on the cap, but otherwise left in its original condition in accordance with an agreement established with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).



# Wells BLM already using SHPO as excuse not to remediate

- Umiat wells #3, #4, #8, #9, #10
- Simpson Core Test wells #26, #27, #30, #30A

# Simpson Core Test 30 and 30A





## What's Happening?

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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