



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

KENAI FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
805 Frontage Road, Suite 200C
Kenai, Alaska 99611-7755

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	August 8, 2014
EXPIRATION DATE:	September 8, 2014
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-1979-142
WATERWAY:	Resurrection Bay

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Andy Mitzel at (907) 283-3519, by fax at (907) 283-3981, or by email at andy.mitzel@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: University of Alaska – Fairbanks, Seward Marine Center, PO Box 730, Seward, AK, 99664.

AGENT: PND Engineers, Inc., 1506 W 36th Ave., Anchorage, AK, 99503.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 10, T. 1 S. , R. 1 W., Seward Meridian , USGS Quad Map Seward A- 7 , Latitude 60.0986° N., Longitude 149.4424° W., at the Qutekcaq Shellfish Hatchery dock, in Seward, Alaska . The proposed offshore dredge disposal site is located at Latitude 60.1127° N., Longitude 149.4242° W., in Resurrection Bay, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to remove sediment deposited at the dock face during the 2012 and 2013 flooding in Seward. The dredging will allow for the safe mooring of the Sikuliaq, a scientific vessel.

PROPOSED WORK: To dredge 13,900 cubic yards of sediment that was recently deposited material from a 43,500 square foot area below the mean high water mark (MHWM, -9.6 feet) of Resurrection Bay to -35 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). Dredging would be conducted with a clam shell bucket or conventional hydraulic excavator from an anchored barge. The dredged material would be disposed of offshore , at the established disposal site in Resurrection Bay, approximately 2000 ' south of the Alaska Railroad Dock facility at depth of at least -180 feet MLLW. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated May 21, 2014.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This project is additionally being reviewed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine compliance with federal regulations and laws, due to potentially funding the proposed work.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The project is, inherently by nature, required to be sited within tidelands. Avoidance is not possible.

b. Minimization: The minimum amount of material is being removed to safely moor the Sikuliaq.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has stated that no compensatory mitigation should be required due to the inability to avoid and that this is the minimum dredging required to accomplish the purpose of the project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The lead Federal agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A permit for the described work will not be issued until the Section 106 process has been completed.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), North Pacific Right Whale (*Eubalaena japonica*), and Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*).

We are currently gathering information regarding these species and have yet to make a determination of effect. Should we find that the described activity may affect the species listed above, or their designated critical habitat, we will follow the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Any comments the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is within the known range of the Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Sockeye Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), Chum Salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*).

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

- (X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).
- (X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).
- (X) Transport dredged material for the purpose of dumping it into ocean waters - Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended (40 CFR Parts 220 to 229), as appropriate.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION
555 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617
PHONE: (907) 269-7564/FAX: (907) 334-2415

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA-1979-142, Resurrection Bay**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.