



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

KENAI FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
44669 Sterling Highway, Suite B
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7915

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	March 11, 2015
EXPIRATION DATE:	April 9, 2015
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-1982-598-M20
WATERWAY:	Captains 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 Jen Martin at (907) 753-2689 or by email at jen.l.martin@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Mr. Jeff Savage, Offshore Systems, Inc. (OSI), 12019 76th Place NE, Kirkland, WA 98034

AGENT: Ms. Robin Reich, Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc., 2607 Fairbanks Street, Suite B, Anchorage, AK 99503

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 21, T. 73 S., R. 118 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Unalaska C-2; Latitude 53.8405° N., Longitude -166.5816° W.; south of the existing OSI Dock Facility, Captains Bay Road, in Unalaska, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to ensure the safety and efficiency of crucial marine freight services at the OSI dock in Captains Bay by increasing the dock area.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge 38,800 cubic yards (cy) of gravel/cobble fill and 5,800 cy of armor rock would be discharged into 2.70 acres of waters of the U.S., below the high tide line (HTL, approximate elevation +4.7 foot above 0.0 foot elevation) and mean high water mark (MHWM, approximate elevation +3.4 foot above 0.0 foot elevation) of Captains Bay, a navigable water of the U.S., to expand an existing dock to serve as a high load capacity area for the offloading of barges and material handling/staging.

High-capacity sheet pile would be installed, from a crane barge or from the existing dock, resulting in a 650 linear foot dock face with two bulkheads to be used as crane pads. Twelve 24-inch diameter steel piles would be installed to support a barge ramp (three of which would be fully contained within fill) and four 36-inch diameter steel piles would be placed adjacent to the sheet pile bulkheads for vessel mooring.

All in-water work would be conducted between May 1 and November 1.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated January 6, 2015.

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: To meet the project's purpose and need to alleviate congestion and accommodate future growth by providing additional capacity for industrial freight handling in the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor region, the project must fill approximately 2.70 acres of waters of the U.S. Unlike some of the dismissed alternatives, to avoid impacts, this alternative will not require dredging to construct or maintain; however, complete avoidance is not possible. To contain sediment, an in water silt barrier would be used during placement of fill.

b. Minimization: To minimize impacts to waters of the U.S., the project uses the most compact design possible, while meeting the objectives for the dock expansion area. OSI originally proposed a larger dock that would have required 4.6 acres of fill in wetlands and waters of the U.S. OSI changed the project design to this smaller dock expansion project, using the most compact footprint practicable.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: Compensatory mitigation is proposed for unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands. OSI proposes to provide compensatory mitigation through The Conservation Fund, an in-lieu fee provider, at a ratio of 2:1.

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 latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There is an unevaluated property in the vicinity of the worksite. It has been designated UNL-00103. Because the property has been determined to be outside of the project area, no further action is required. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Commander at this time. The Corps has determined the project would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties. This application is being coordinated with SHPO. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), northern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris kenyoni*), Steller sea lion (*Eumatopias jubatus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), and fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*).

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on Steller's eiders under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required for that species. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

We have determined the described activity may affect the threatened northern sea otter or the endangered Steller sea lion, humpback whale, fin whale or sperm whale and may affect northern sea otter and Steller sea lion designated critical habitat. We have initiated the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they 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 weathervane scallop (*Patinopecten caurinus*), arrowtooth flounder (*Atheresthes stomias*), flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*), rock sole (*Lepidopsetta bilineata*), sculpin (Cottoidea), Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), skate (Rajidae), walleye pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*), chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), and Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*).

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).

Project drawings and a Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

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., serves **POA-1982-598-M20, Captains Bay** 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.