



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 6898  
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	January 16, 2014
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	February 18, 2014
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	POA-1982-9-M7
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	Kuparuk Industrial Center

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 Mary Romero at (907) 753-2773, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at [mary.r.romero@usace.army.mil](mailto:mary.r.romero@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**APPLICANT:** ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. (CPAI), PO Box 100360, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; Samuel Widmer, 907.265.1450

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 34, T. 12 N., R. 10 E., and Sections 3 & 4, T. 11 N., R. 10 E., Umiat Meridian; USGS Quad Map Beechey Point B-5; Latitude 70.3442° N., Longitude 149.5847° W.; Kuparuk River Unit; approximately 30 air miles west of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to expand the existing Kuparuk Industrial Center (KIC) Pad.

**PROPOSED WORK:** CPAI proposes to place 385,000 cubic yards of gravel fill material onto 47.79 acres of jurisdictional tundra wetlands to expand the existing KIC pad to include space for temporary camp additions, a wells chemical building, construction office expansion, construction shops, roads and pads equipment building, wells shop and offices, field services shops, office, and parts storage. A second access road would be installed as part of the project to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety in the northwest area of the pad. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated July 11, 2013. Both the KIC and KCS Plan of Ops and KIC and KCS Environmental Evaluation Document are available electronically for viewing as attachments at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The proposed KIC gravel pad expansion would be located in the Kuparuk River Unit. KIC is located approximately 1 mile northeast of the Kuparuk Main Camp and Central Process Facility No. 1. The project would be a 47.79-acre expansion on three sides of the existing pad within a North Slope Borough Resource Development District and are approximately 25 miles east of the Village of Nuiqsut. None of the project facilities would be on, or near Native Allotments. Although documents attached to this public notice include information on the proposed development of Kuparuk Construction Services (KCS) it is not part of this

permit proposal. No new drill sites, cross country pipelines, or power lines are to be constructed as part of this project. The development would utilize the existing Kuparuk road infrastructure for access to the gravel pit(s) and pads. Gravel for the KIC pad expansion would come from C-Pit. The KIC Expansion is both on State and North Slope Borough Land. On drawing sheet 3 of 4 the pad expansion labeled F-3 is approximately 25-30-feet from Ugnuravik River. The proposed KIC gravel expansion for Area A-3 is approximately 180-feet from Ugnuravik River.

Construction of the KIC and KCS pad expansions are scheduled to begin in the second quarter of 2014. Most gravel would be placed in 2014 and would be allowed to season and dry in 2015. An alternate schedule would begin with construction of the KCS expansion prior to the KIC expansion. Under both the proposed and alternate schedules, the proposed expansion Projects would be completed by the end of 2015.

The gravel required for the expansion of these pads would be obtained from the existing Mine Site C and Mine Site E. CPAI has existing material sales from the State of Alaska (ADL 419337) for the purchase of the fill material. Gravel would be hauled over the existing road system and no ice roads would be constructed for the haul.

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 applicant has stated, "The proposed action would place gravel fill material to expand the work surface of Kuparuk Industrial Center (KIC) pad to support growth necessary for the continued development and production of oil and gas resources within the KRU.

The placement of fill would accommodate continued development and maintenance activities by providing space for current and potential future shops, offices, camps, and equipment storage. Expansion at KIC would allow equipment to be staged next to shops for service and maintenance. Existing infrastructure would be used to support the Projects for access, egress, and power supply. No new drill sites, cross-country pipelines, or power lines are proposed as part of these projects.

Over the past 20 years, the work load within the KRU has increased by 4% to 4.5% each year and these pad expansions would increase efficiency to continue to meet this increasing demand. As a result CPAI is currently outsourcing some of the work to Deadhorse shops to keep up with the demand; there is a lack of space on this pad to support this work. Utilizing more of the Deadhorse shops increases travel time by travel an extra 1 hour ½ each way, increases the risk of having a vehicle or off road incident, and increase air emissions. Without allowing for growth, it would increase air emissions, added driving time and personnel exposure, and increase operating costs. Specifically, this new pad expansion would allow equipment to be staged adjacent to the Equipment Shops when being serviced or maintained, result in greater efficiency and lower cost, improved response time in the event of an incident, and provide for greater vehicle and pedestrian safety in this area.

The 2nd access road for the KIC Expansion would improve pedestrian and vehicle safety in the northwest area of the KIC pad. This is an area of frequent movement of large service company trucks, parked light plants, heavy equipment, and regular foot traffic to and from shops. Recently a new 400 man camp, which generates significant amounts vehicle and pedestrian traffic, was placed on the south west section of the pad and due to the restricted available pad space is a safety concern, especially during winter conditions. There are plans to add shop additions at the north end of the KIC pad, along with further camp additions, which would generate further traffic congestion in this area.

b. Minimization: The Kuparuk Industrial Center Pad Expansion design focuses on minimizing impacts to waters and wetlands and limiting the gravel fill discharge in areas of ponds. The proposed pad expansion was redesigned after meeting with the USACE. The pad expansion was moved from a pond area and is only extending the existing pad. With only expanding the pad we would not require any new drill sites, cross-country pipelines, or power lines as part of these projects.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: Incorporating appropriate and practical avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed KIC Expansion would result in approximately 47.79 acres of unavoidable impacts to wetlands, due to the placement of fill and other activities in wetlands. ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. proposes in-lieu fees as a means of compensatory mitigation for the unavoidable impacts to waters of the U.S. resulting from this 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 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 are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Commander at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The applicant has previously sent a survey to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and received a concurrence of No Historic Properties Affected dated 10-29-2013 (3-30-3K NSB)

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and Spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*).

We have determined the described activity may affect the threatened the Polar Bear, Steller's eider, and Spectacled eider. We have initiated the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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). No EFH species are known to use 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 authority:

(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

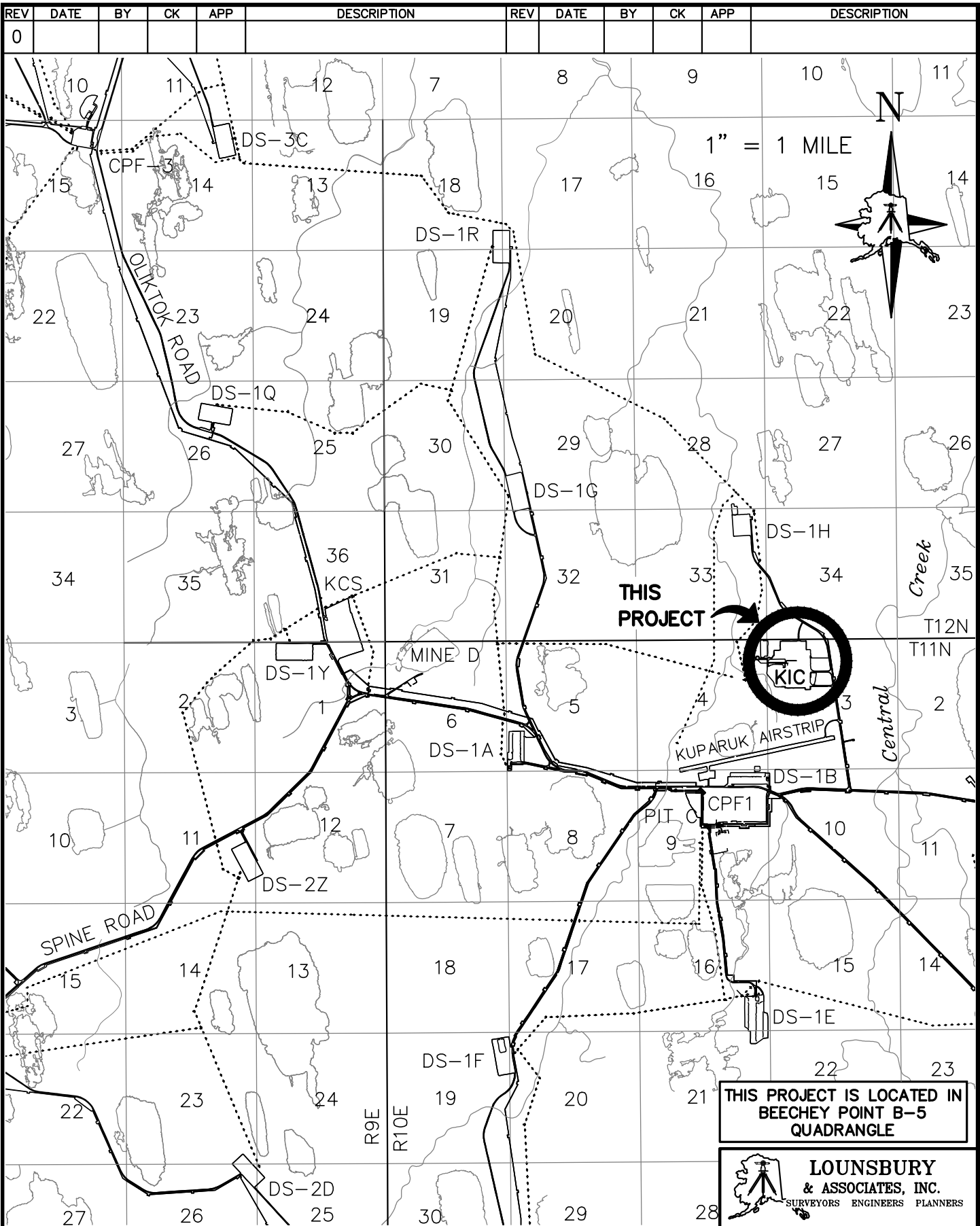
## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

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. **POA-1982-9-M7, Beaufort Sea**, 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.



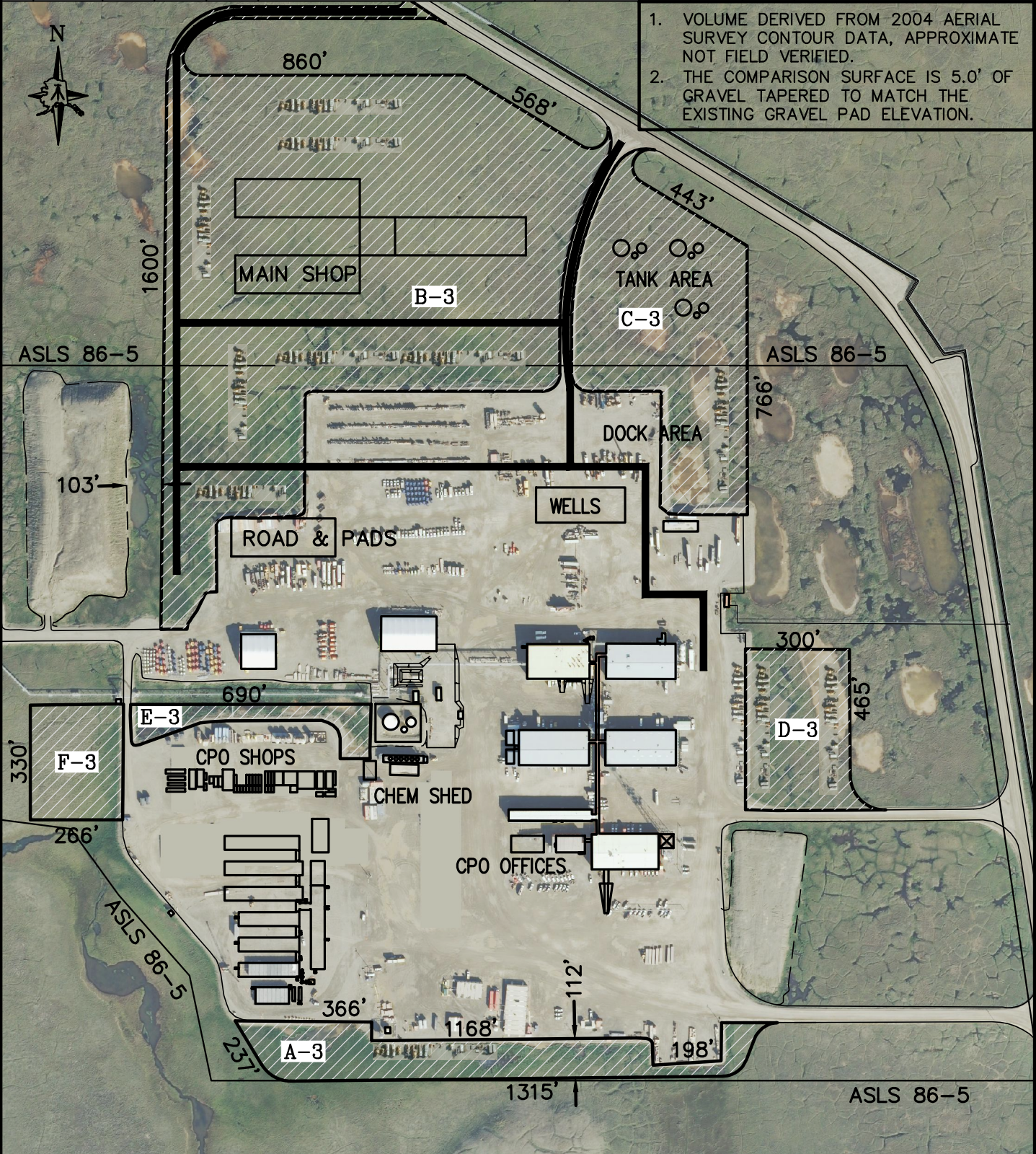
**ConocoPhillips**  
Alaska, Inc.

AREA: KUPARUK FACILITIES ENVIRONME  
 MODULE: XXXX UNIT:  
**POA-1982-9-M7, Beaufort Sea  
 ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.  
 Drawings dated July 11, 2013  
 Sheet 1 of 4**

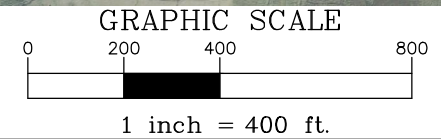
CADD FILE NO. LK616D103 7/11/13

DRAWING NO. NSK 6.16-d103

REV	DATE	BY	CK	APP	DESCRIPTION	REV	DATE	BY	CK	APP	DESCRIPTION
3	09/05/13	MBS	NRB		REVISED HATCHING	4	11/09/13	JAH	MBS		ADD ASLS 86-5



VOLUME TABLE		
PARCEL	FILL	ACREAGE
TOTAL	385,500 Cu. Yd.	47.79 ACRES

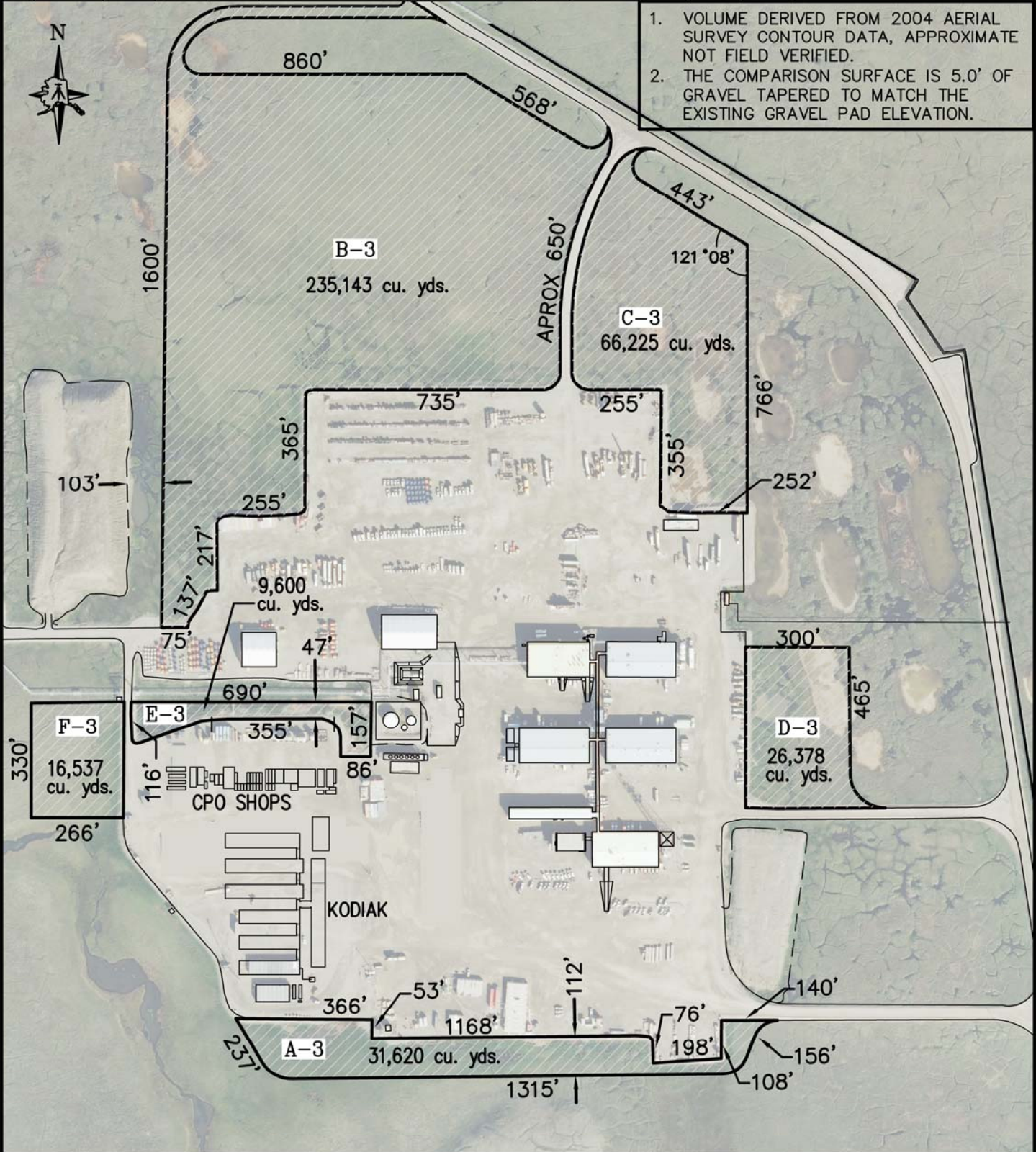


AREA:  
KUPAR  
FACILITIE  
ENVIRO

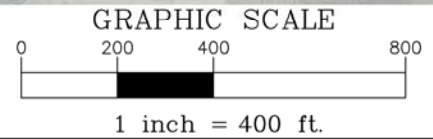
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LIMIT:  
POA-1982-9-M7, Beaufort Sea  
ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.  
Drawings dated July 11, 2013  
Sheet 2 of 4

CADD FILE NO. LK616D103	7/11/13	DRAWING NO. NSK 6.16-d10
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REV	DATE	BY	CK	APP	DESCRIPTION	REV	DATE	BY	CK	APP	DESCRIPTION
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PARCEL	FILL	ACREAGE
TOTAL	385,500 Cu. Yd.	47.79 ACRES



**LOUNSBURY & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
 SURVEYORS ENGINEERS PLANNERS

**ConocoPhillips**  
 Alaska, Inc.

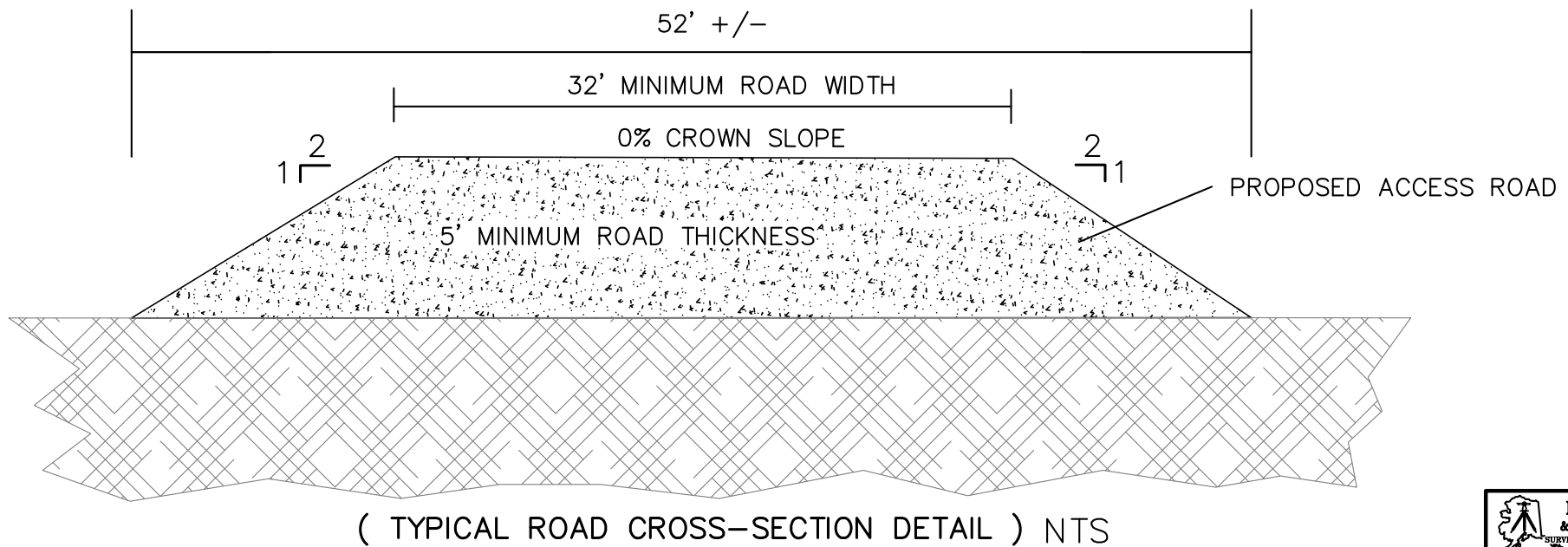
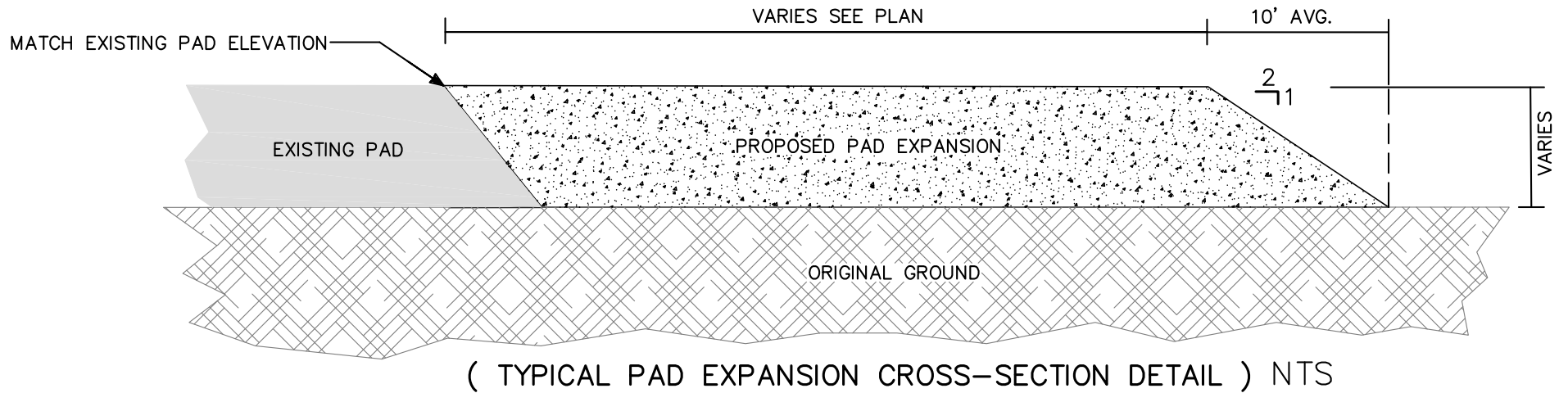
AREA: KUPARUK FACILITIES PAR

MODULE: XXXX UNIT:  
 POA-1982-9-M7, Beaufort Sea  
 ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.  
 Drawings dated July 11, 2013  
 Sheet 3 of 4

CADD FILE NO. LK616D114 11/26/13

DRAWING NO. NSK 6.16-d114





FORM: AsizeL-3L-Title

REV. NO.	CUST APP	DATE	REVISIONS	BY	CHK	JOB ENGR	PROJ ENGR
1		11/27/13	Added Shoulder to Toe Dimension	MEH	BGM		

**ConocoPhillips**  
Alaska, Inc.

APPROVAL: -

DATE: 7/11/13

DRAWING NO. **NSK 6.16-d103**

**KUPARUK INDUSTRIAL CENTER  
FACILITIES EXPANSION PLANNING  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

POA-1982-9-M7, Beaufort Sea  
ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc.  
Drawings dated July 11, 2013  
Sheet 4 of 4