

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:

December 3, 2012

EXPIRATION DATE:

December 18, 2012

REFERENCE NUMBER:

POA-2012-870

WATERWAY:

Sagavanirktok River

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 Janet Post at (907) 753-2831, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at janet.l.post@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

<u>APPLICANT</u>: Colville, Inc., 4300 B Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 POC: Mr. Eric Helzer, Telephone 907 563-1080

AGENT: UMIAQ, 6700 Arctic Spur Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518 POC: Mr. Glen Oen, Telephone 907 273-1849

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 30, T. 10 N., R. 15 E., Umiat Meridian; USGS Quad Map Beechey Point A-3; Latitude 70.1990° N., Longitude 148.4464° W.; Deadhorse Airport Property Lease, Block 900, Lot 10 & 15; in Deadhorse, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to construct a gravel pad to be used for short term aircraft parking for customers using their recently constructed Fixed Base Operator Facility. Space for aircraft parking on their adjacent Lots 9 & 10 is marginal for safe aircraft operation when customers are using the terminal building and aviation fuel dispensing station. The expansion on Lot 10 and Lot 15 will allow adequate short term parking and tie downs. The gravel pad will also provide space for safer removal of snow from the temporary stockpile by allowing greater clearances for snow removal equipment.

PROPOSED WORK: Discharge 12,500 cubic yards of clean gravel material into Block 900, Lots 10 & 15 to construct a 300 by 195 foot gravel pad filling 1.34 acres of wetlands. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated October 9, 2012.

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: Based upon existing mapping of the Deadhorse area, avoidance of the wetlands is not possible because most of the Deadhorse area is wetlands. It is difficult to find a location in the Deadhorse area that would not impact wetlands and meet the purpose and need for this. The location of the proposed gravel pad is in an area previously isolated by other airport development, including runways and taxiways.
- b. Minimization: The project is limiting the amount of fill placed to the minimum amount necessary to support operations on their neighboring Lots 9 & 10; Clean fill will be used for construction; The pad will be stabilized with woven geotextile fabric.
- c. Compensatory Mitigation: There is 1.34 acres of unavoidable wetland impacts for this project and a 1.5:1 mitigation ratio. Based upon an in lieu fee estimate prepared by The Conservation Fund (TCF), a mitigation contribution of \$22,000 will be made to the TCF.

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. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (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), Spectacled eider (Somateria fischeri), and polar bear (Ursus maritimus).

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, 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).

No EFH species are known to use the project area.

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.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: 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)(l) 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

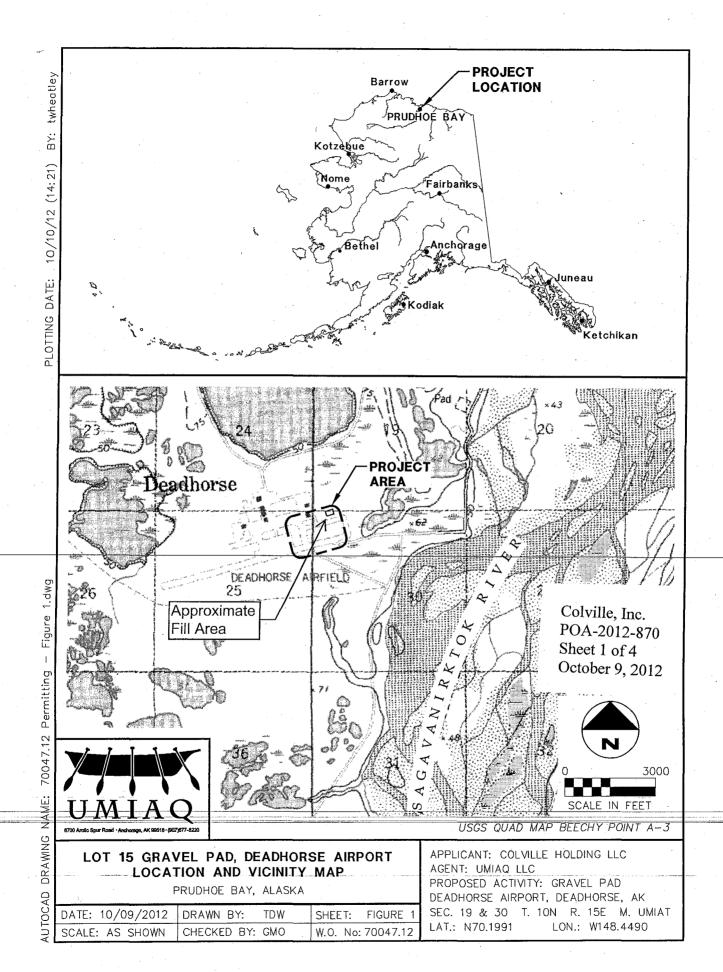
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

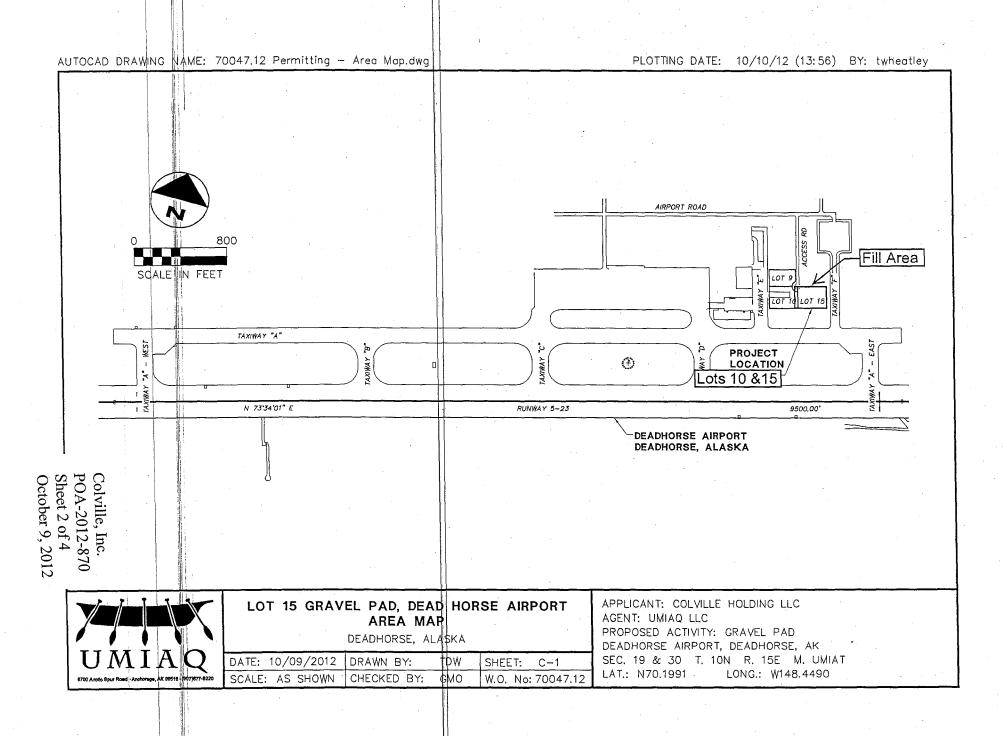
Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation 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. <u>POA-2012-870</u>, <u>Sagavanirktok River</u>, 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.





October 9, 2012

AUTOCAD DRAWING NAME: 70047.12 C-3, 4, 5 Site Plan & Grading Plan.dwg PLOTTING DATE: 10/10/12 (13:54) BY: twheatley (SEE 2/C-3 FOR CONTINUATION) - WOVEN GEOTEXTI MATCHLINE EXISTING GRADE -GRAVEL PAD SECTION (SEE 1/C-3 FOR CONTINUATION) BLEND WITH EXISTING GRADE TYPICAL — Sheet 4 of 4 POA-2012-870 GRAVEL PAD SECTION SCALE IN FEET LOT 15 GRAVEL PAD, DEADHORSE AIRPORT APPLICANT: COLVILLE HOLDING LLC AGENT: UMIAQ LLC PAD SECTION PROPOSED ACTIVITY: GRAVEL PAD DEADHORSE, ALASKA DEADHORSE AIRPORT, DEADHORSE, AK DATE: 10/09/2012 SEC. 19 & 30 T. 10N R. 15E M. UMIAT DRAWN BY: SHEET: C-3LAT.: N70.1991 LONG.: W148.4490 GMO SCALE: AS SHOWN CHECKED BY: W.O. No: 70047.12

October 9, 2012