



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Juneau Field Office
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
8800 Glacier Highway, Suite 106
Juneau, Alaska 99801-8079

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: February 25, 2013
EXPIRATION DATE: March 26, 2013
REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2013-30
WATERWAY: Hawk Inlet

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 **Randal Vigil** at (907) 790-4491, by fax at (907) 790-4497, or by email at **Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil** if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company, PO Box 32199, Juneau, AK 99803.

AGENT: Jennifer Saran, PO Box 32199, Juneau, AK 99803, (907) 790-8474.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 22, T. 43 S., R. 65 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Juneau A-3; Latitude 58.125° N., Longitude 134.755° W.; Greens Creek Mine; Admiralty Island, near Juneau, Alaska.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: The project is located within the Tongass National Forest.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to "replace the existing barge loading facility that has been in use for more than 20 years with a facility that improves safety and efficiency."

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization for the following work in waters and navigable waters of the United States:

- a. Discharge approximately 14,400 cubic yards of clean rock fill material into approximately 0.5 acres below the plane of the high tide line (approximate elevation +18.7 feet above the 0.0 foot contour), including approximately 160 linear feet of shoreline to construct a dual use approach pad.

- b. Dredge approximately 100 cubic yards of "spilled" gravel from approximately 0.29 acres below the mean high water mark (approximate elevation +14.4 feet above the 0.0 foot contour) (MHW) from the existing barge face.
- c. Remove from below the MHW the existing barge, ramp, piles, and mooring floats.
- d. Install below the MHW 1 each approximately 25 feet wide by 120 feet long, pile-supported (8 each galvanized steel), freight barge transfer bridge and restraints.
- e. Install below the MHW one approximately 40 feet wide by 40 long, pile-supported (2 each 3 pile (galvanized steel) restraint dolphins) small boat float connected to one 6 feet wide by 64 feet long gangway secured to the proposed dual use approach pad.
- f. Install below the MHW 2 each approximately 3 feet wide by 65 feet long pile-supported (1 each galvanized steel) Catwalks to the existing south ship dolphin.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-6), dated 11/1/2012 (2/2013 Rev.1).

Additional Information: The dredged material would be placed at the Greens Creek mine tailings disposal facility. The tailings disposal facility is a permitted and contained uplands site. The dredging would be accomplished using a 150 ton crane on a barge using a 3.5 cubic yard square nose clam bucket. The clam would be lowered to the dredge depth and closed. It would then be raised to the surface and the material would be placed in a gated dump truck for transit to the tailings disposal facility.

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: avoidance of aquatic resources is not possible.

b. Minimization: "Only clean rock will be used as fill. The fill would likely be sourced from existing quarries in Hoonah, Alaska, and would be analyzed according to Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company's standard operating procedures to ensure the rock is geochemically appropriate for this project. Fill would be placed in an area that was previously disturbed prior to mining activities by multiple piles driven to provide a foundation for a fish cannery prior to 1987. The remains of the cannery were demolished in 1987. Remaining piles were cut near the mud line. The existing shoreline is fill placed in 1987 and 1988 and is armored with rip rap."

c. Compensatory Mitigation: No compensatory mitigation is proposed.

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 a registered or eligible property in the vicinity of the worksite. It has been designated **JUN-92**. Because it 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. 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 Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*).

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on the Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service is required. 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.

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 chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and pink (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) salmon.

We have determined the described activity may adversely affect EFH in the project area for the following species chum, Coho, and pink salmon. The proposed project location includes near-shore habitat primarily for adult and juvenile salmon migration, which provide refuge from predators and opportunity to rest. The proposed project would involve pile driving, which may increase the potential for injury or mortality to salmon from pressure waves generated from pile driving. This Public Notice initiates EFH consultation with the NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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
410 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1795
PHONE: (907) 465-5321/FAX: (907) 465-5274

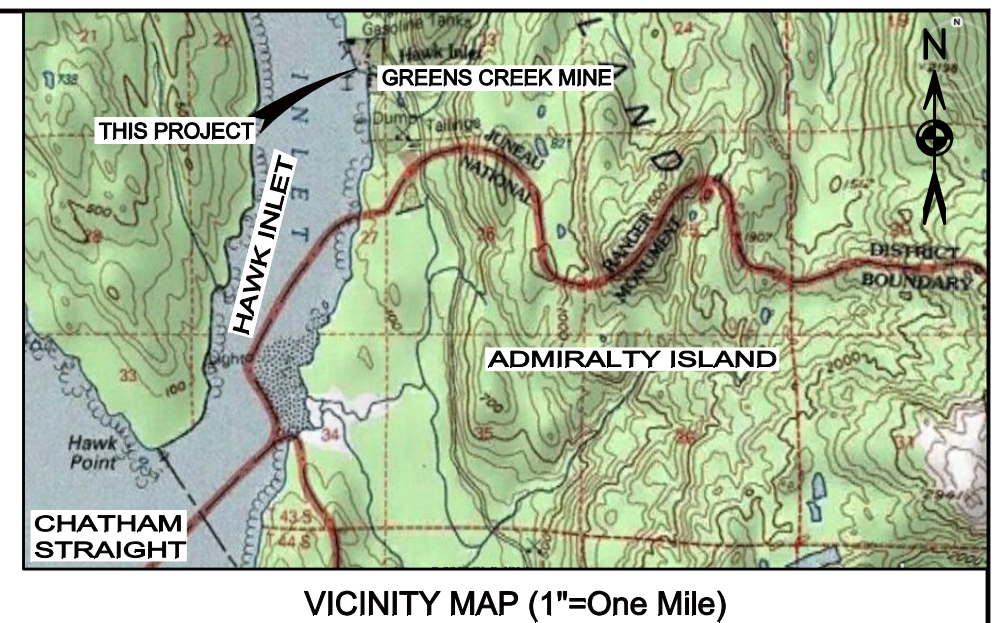
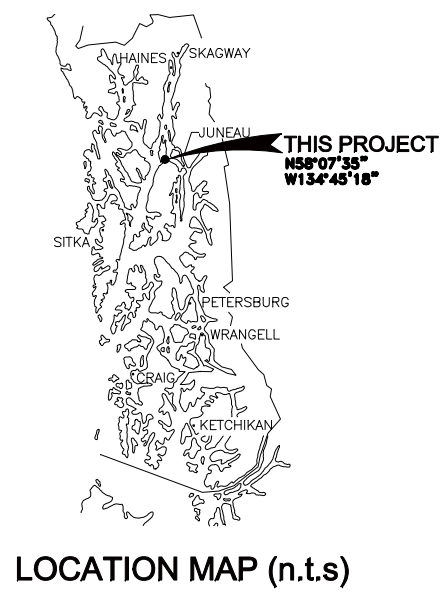
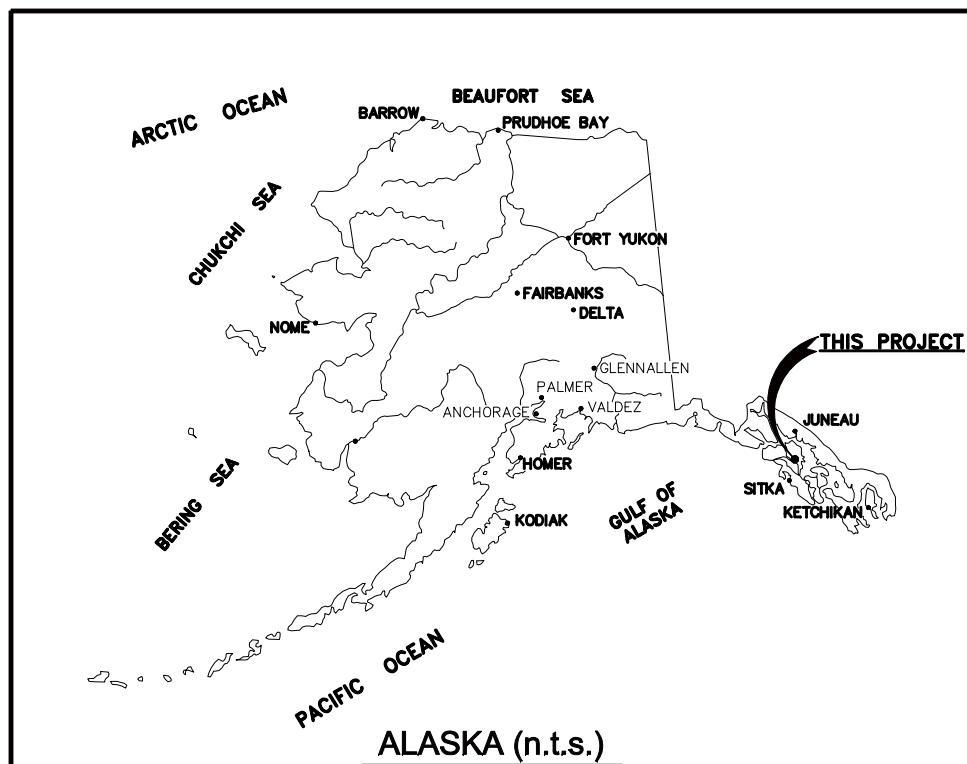
NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR
STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

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-2013-30, Hawk Inlet, 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.



**PERMIT DRAWINGS FOR
HAWK INLET BARGE LOADING FACILITY
FOR HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING CO.
HAWK INLET, ALASKA**

TIDAL DATA

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| EXTREME HIGH WATER (MAY 1999) | 18.7' |
| MEAN HIGHER HIGH WATER | 15.3' |
| MEAN HIGH WATER | 14.4' |
| MEAN LOW WATER | -1.6 |
| MEAN LOWER LOW WATER | -0- (CHART DATUM) |
| EXTREME LOW TIDE (MAY 1999) | -4.4 |

SUMMARY OF WORK

1. REMOVE EXISTING BARGE, RAMP AND PILES
2. REMOVE EXISTING MOORING FLOATS
3. REMOVE SPILLED GRAVEL FROM EXISTING BARGE FACE (100 c.y. +/-)
4. INSTALL ROCK FULL DUAL USE APPROACH (15,000 c.y. +/-)
5. INSTALL FREIGHT BARGE TRANSFER BRIDGE AND RESTRAINTS
6. INSTALL SMALL BOAT FLOAT WITH RAMP AND RESTRAINT PILES
7. INSTALL CATWALKS AND SUPPORTS TO EXISTING SOUTH SHIP DOLPHIN

SHEET INDEX

| | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| SHEET 1 | COVER AND PLAN PURPOSE |
| SHEET 2 | EXISTING SITE PLAN |
| SHEET 3 | PROPOSED SITE PLAN |
| SHEET 4 | PLAN AND PROFILE BRIDGE AND LANDING |
| SHEET 5 | SMALL BOAT FLOAT |
| SHEET 6 | PILE DETAILS |

APPLICANT

HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING CO.
P.O. BOX 32199
JUNEAU, AK 99803
Tel. (907) 789-8100 Fax. (907) 789-8108

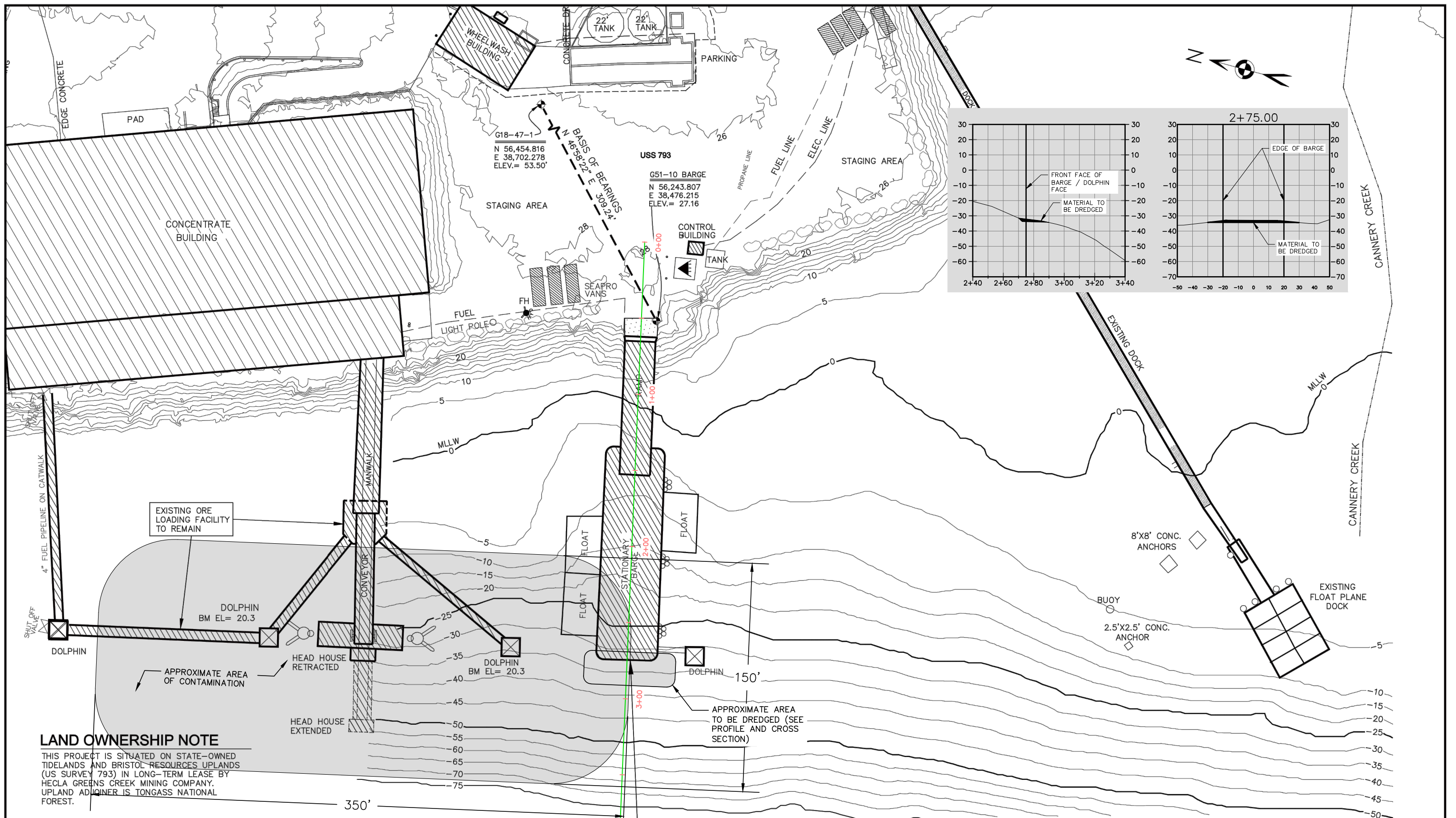
DESIGN CONTRACTOR

WESTERN MARINE CONSTRUCTION, INC.
2775 HARBOR AVE. SW Suite A
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98126
Tel. (206) 622-9161 Fax. (206) 622-9170

PLAN PURPOSE

TO REVISE THE EXISTING BARGE LOADING FACILITY AND REMOVE ACCUMULATED SPILLED GRAVEL FROM EXISTING BARGE LANDING.

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| APPLICANT: | HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING CO. | 0 1/2" FULL SIZE (11"x17") SCALE: AS SHOWN |
| PROJECT: | HAWK INLET BARGE LOADING FACILITY | |
| LOCATION: | HAWK INLET, ALASKA T43S R65 E SECTION 22 | DATE: 11/1/2012 |
| SHEET TITLE: | -COVER- | 1 SHEET OF 6 |




LAND OWNERSHIP NOTE

THIS PROJECT IS SITUATED ON STATE-OWNED TIDELANDS AND BRISTOL RESOURCES UPLANDS (US SURVEY 793) IN LONG-TERM LEASE BY HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING COMPANY. UPLAND ADJACINER IS TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST.

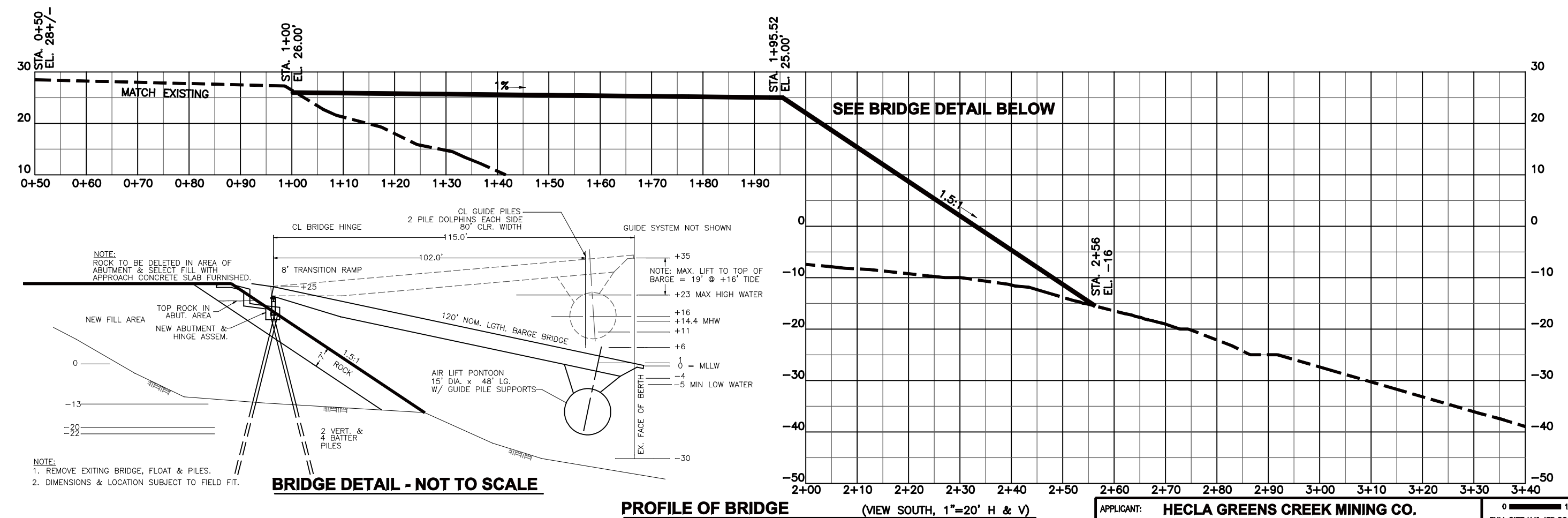
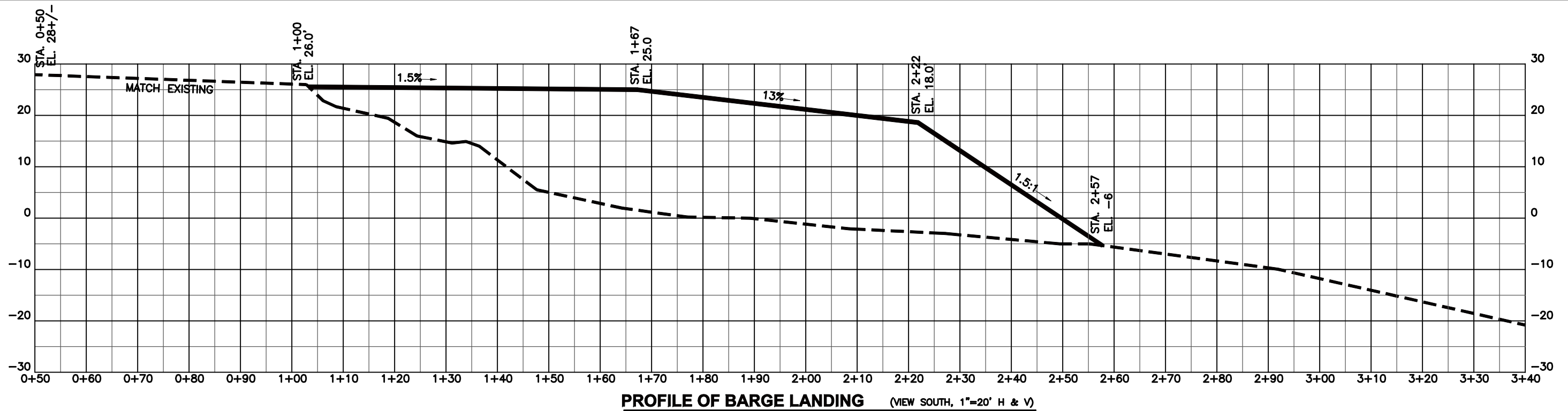
EXISTING RAMP AND BARGE TO BE REMOVED, SEE SHEET 2




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|  WESTERN MARINE CONSTRUCTION INC. 2775 HARBOR AVE. SW Suite A SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98126 Tel. (206) 622-9161 Fax. (206) 622-9170 | 2/2013 | REV. 1 |
| | DATE | REVISION |

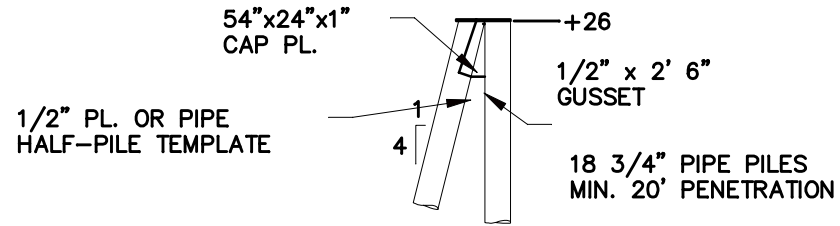
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| APPLICANT: | HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING CO. |
| PROJECT: | HAWK INLET BARGE LOADING FACILITY |
| LOCATION: | HAWK INLET, ALASKA T43S R65E SECTION 22 |
| SHEET TITLE: | EXISTING SITE PLAN |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 0 | 1/2" |
| FULL SIZE (11"x17") SCALE: | |
| 1" = 60 FEET | |
| DATE: 11/1/2012 | |
| 2 | SHEET OF 6 |

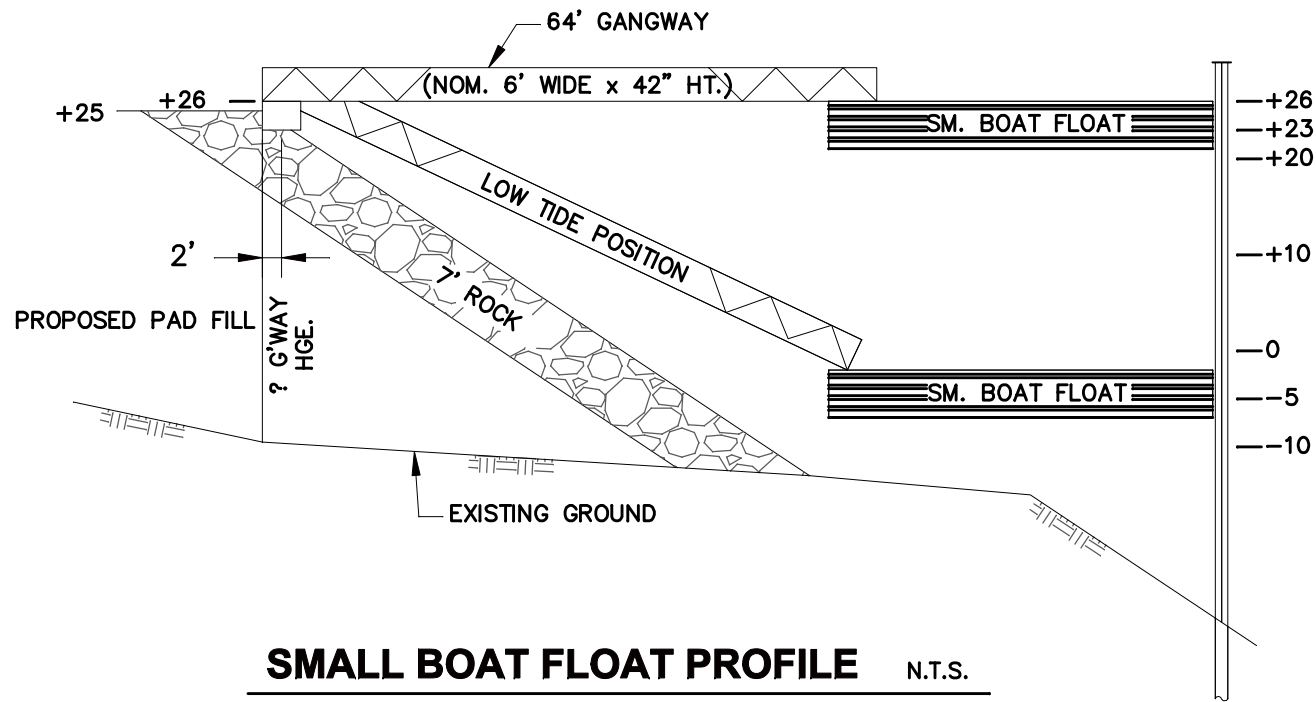


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|  WESTERN MARINE CONSTRUCTION INC. 2775 HARBOR AVE. SW Suite A SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98126 Tel. (206) 622-9161 Fax. (206) 622-9170 | DATE | REVISION |
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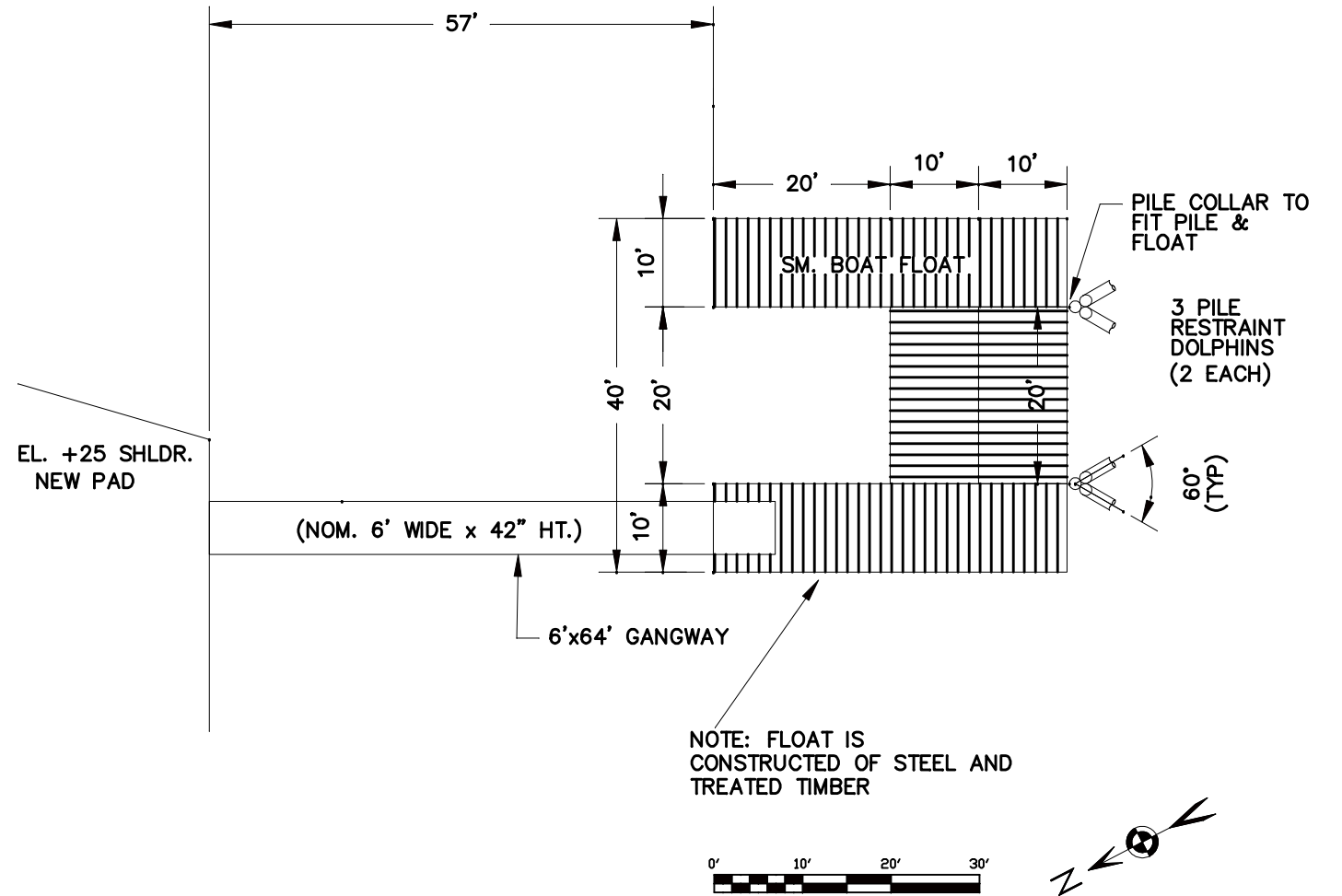
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| APPLICANT: HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING CO. PROJECT: HAWK INLET BARGE LOADING FACILITY LOCATION: HAWK INLET, ALASKA T43S R65E SECTION 22 SHEET TITLE: PROFILE BRIDGE AND LANDING | 0 1/2" FULL SIZE (11"x17") SCALE: 1" = 20 FEET DATE: 11/1/2012 4 SHEET OF 6 |
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PILE DETAIL N.T.S.



SMALL BOAT FLOAT PROFILE N.T.S.



SMALL BOAT FLOAT PLAN SCALE 1"=20'

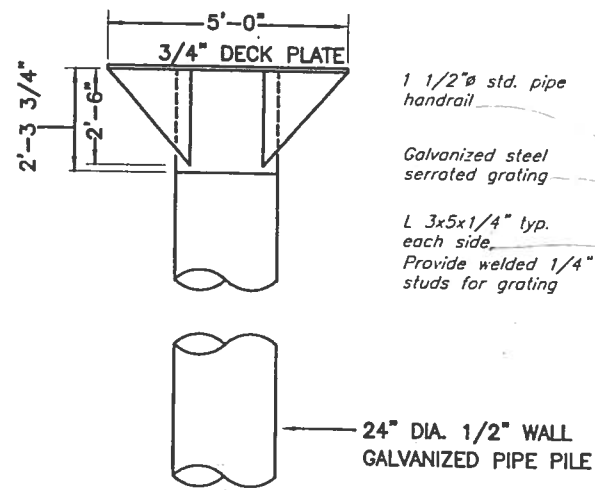


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Fax. (206) 622-9170

| DATE | REVISION |
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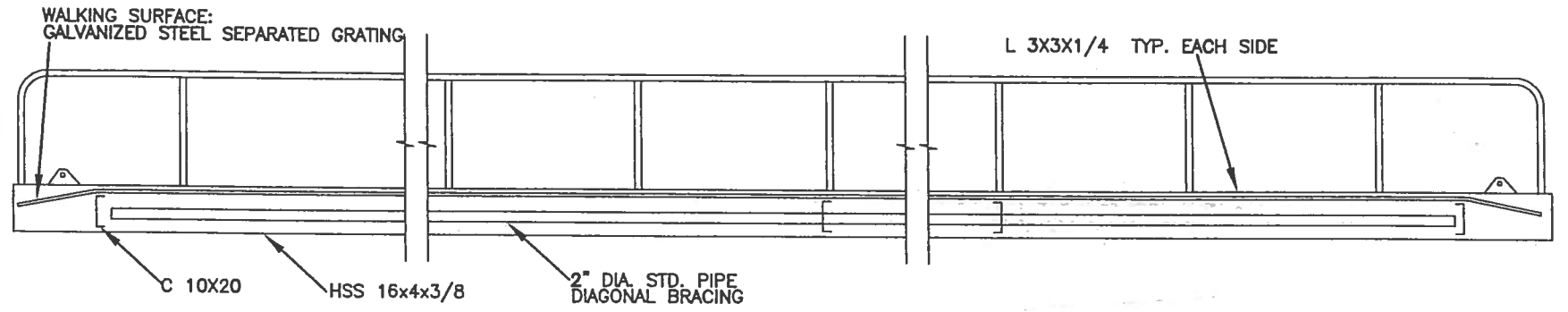
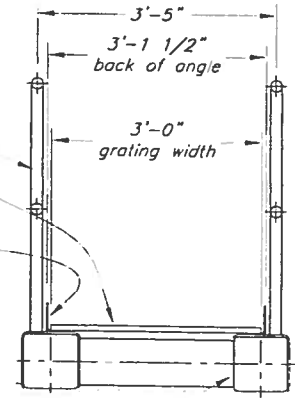
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| APPLICANT: | HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING CO. |
| PROJECT: | HAWK INLET BARGE LOADING FACILITY |
| LOCATION: | HAWK INLET, ALASKA T43S R65E SECTION 22 |
| SHEET TITLE: | SMALL BOAT FLOAT |

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| 0 | 1/2" |
| FULL SIZE (11"x17") SCALE: AS SHOWN | |
| DATE: 11/1/2012 | |
| 5 | SHEET OF 6 |



CATWALK SUPPORT ELEVATION N.T.S.

1 Each

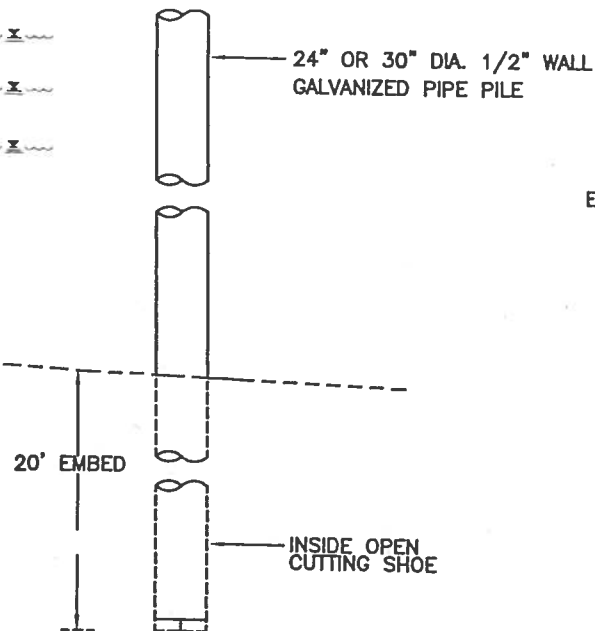


TYPICAL CATWALK ELEVATION N.T.S.

2 Each at 65' (+/-)

EXTREME HIGH TIDE = 18.7' ±
 MHHW = 15.3' ±
 MLLW = 0.0' ±

EXISTING MUDLINE
 EL. VARIES, SEE PLAN



TYPICAL PILE N.T.S.

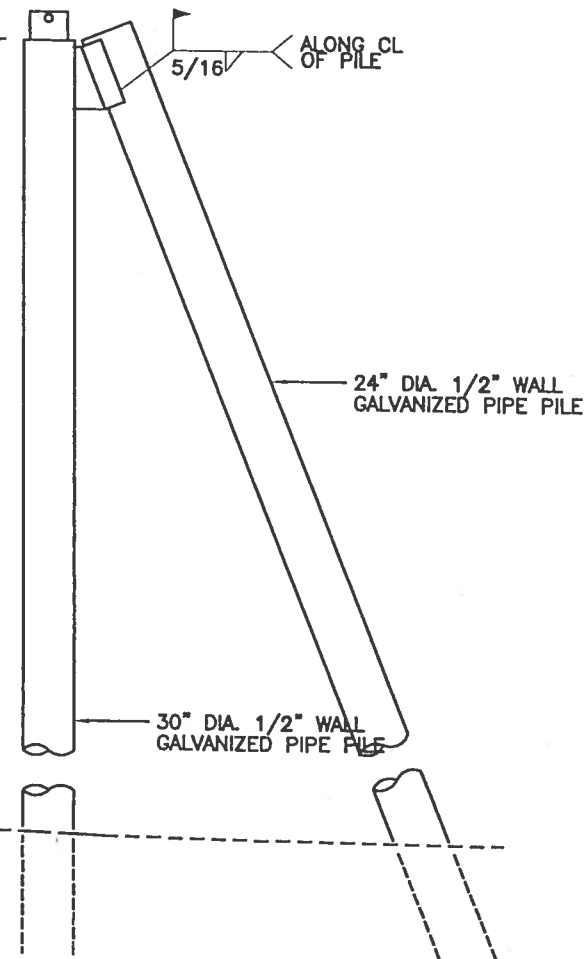
CUTOFF EL. = +28.0' ±

EL. = +22

EXTREME HIGH TIDE = 18.7' ±
 MHHW = 15.3' ±
 MLLW = 0.0' ±

EL. +2

EXISTING MUDLINE
 EL. -10' TO -15'



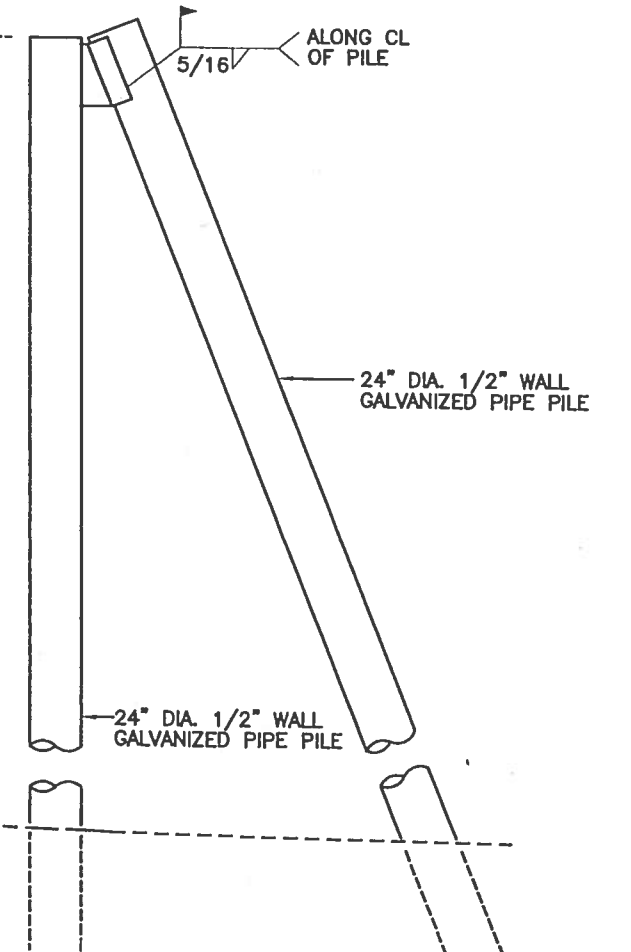
3 PILE BARGE DOLPHIN DETAIL N.T.S.

CUTOFF EL. = +27.0' ±

5/16" ←

← ALONG CL OF PILE

EXISTING MUDLINE
 EL. -30' TO -35'



3 PILE BRIDGE RESTRAINT N.T.S.



WESTERN MARINE CONSTRUCTION INC.
 2775 HARBOR AVE. SW Suite A
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 Tel. (206) 622-9161
 Fax. (206) 622-9170

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| DATE | REVISION |
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| APPLICANT: | HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING CO. |
| PROJECT: | HAWK INLET BARGE LOADING FACILITY |
| LOCATION: | HAWK INLET, ALASKA T43S R65E SECTION 22 |
| SHEET TITLE: | PILE DETAILS |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 0 | 1/2" |
| FULL SIZE (11"x17") SCALE: | |
| N.T.S. | |
| DATE: 11/1/2012 | |
| 6 | SHEET OF 6 |