Civil Works Branch

Public Notice

Alaska District of Engineers Date: February 20, 2015 Identification No. ER-15-02 **U.S. Army Corps**
Please refer to the identification number when replying.

Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment, and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

Alaska Deep-Draft Arctic Port System Study, Nome, Alaska

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to construct a 2,150-foot-long (655 meters) extension of the existing Nome Harbor's 2,700-foot-long (823 meters) causeway, remove the existing 270-foot-long (83 meters) spur, and dredge the associated entrance channel to a depth of -28 feet (8.5 meters) Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). Dredged materials would be disposed of east of the existing harbor for the purpose of beach nourishment. Impacts anticipated with construction of the proposed project are nearly identical to those that were previously assessed in support of the Corps' 2006 construction of the Nome Harbor entrance channel's existing configuration (*Navigation Improvements Final Feasibility Report and EA*) and the attendant 10-year maintenance dredging program (*Environmental Assessment, Maintenance Dredging Nome Harbor Entrance Channel, Nome, Alaska*) completed in July 1998 and October 2012, respectively.

The proposed action, alternatives considered, and anticipated environmental effects are described in the enclosed Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The draft integrated report and EA are available for public review and comment for 30 days from the date of this public notice. The draft document and draft FONSI may be viewed on the Alaska District's website at http://www.poa.usace.army.mil. Click on the Reports and Studies button and look under the heading Alaska Regional Ports.

Written comments received during the 30-day review period will become part of the official record. The FONSI will be signed upon review of comments received and resolution of significant concerns. Please send electronic comments to: akregports@usace.army.mil
Written comments may be sent to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
ATTN: CEPOA-PM-C-PL
P.O. Box 6898
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska 99605-0898

No public meeting is scheduled for this action. If you believe a meeting should be held, please send a written request to the above address during the 30-day review period explaining why you believe a meeting is necessary.

Notice is hereby given that the Corps will be applying for State Water Quality certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). ADEC may certify there is a reasonable assurance that this proposed action and any discharge that might result will comply with the Clean Water Act, Alaska Water Quality Standards and other applicable State laws. ADEC's certification may authorize a mixing zone and/or a short-term variance under 18 AAC 70. ADEC may also deny or waive certification.

Anyone desiring to comment on this proposed action with respect to water quality certification may submit written comments to ADEC at the address below within 30 days from the date of this notice.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
WQM/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501-2617
Telephone: (907) 269-7564
FAX: (907) 269-7508

For inquiries regarding the environmental assessment, please contact Mike Noah, chief, Environmental Resources Section, at (907) 753-2677

For media inquiries, please contact Tom Findtner, Public Affairs Officer, at (907) 753-2522.

For all other inquiries, please contact Lorraine Cordova, Project Manager, at (907) 753-2672.

Michael Noah
Chief, Environmental Resources Section