



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>March 2, 2017</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>March 17, 2017</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2015-256-M2</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Cook Inlet</b>

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 Andy Mitzel at (907) 753-2673, by fax at (907) 420-0813, or by email at [andy.mitzel@usace.army.mil](mailto:andy.mitzel@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**APPLICANT:** Hilcorp Alaska, LLC., Attention: Kelley Nixon, 3800 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 100, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 7, T. 1 S., R. 13 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Kenai A-5; Latitude 60.1039° N., Longitude 151.5917° W.; at milepost 130 of the Sterling Highway, near Ninilchik, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to expand Kalotsa Pad's gravel footprint to provide room needed to drill more gas development wells and to add necessary additional gas production infrastructure.

**PROPOSED WORK:**

The applicant is proposing to permanently discharge 15,928 cubic yards (cy) of clean gravel into 1.84 acres of waters of the United States (WOUS), including wetlands, for the construction of the Kalotsa Drill Pad expansion. The proposed drill pad expansion would be 371 feet wide by 319 feet wide by 3 feet high, "L" shaped pad bordering the southeast and southwest edges of the existing pad (see attached drawing 3 of 4), underlain by geogrid material with 2:1 side slopes.

The applicant is proposing to conduct the work, if permitted, starting in April 2017.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated January 20, 2017.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This project is an expansion of an existing pad. On October 31, 2015 the Corps issued a permit to Hilcorp, authorizing the discharge of fill into waters of the US for the construction of a drill pad, pipeline installation, and filling a manmade ditch to restore hydrology to an existing stream. The original permit was modified on 30 September 2016, to reroute the gas pipeline to avoid an area of standing water.

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 that avoidance is being accomplished by the following measures:
  1. The proposed project would place the drilling pad onshore to avoid impacts in marine waters.
  2. The proposed project would place fill material to the south of the previously authorized pad, thereby avoiding impacts to existing stream north of the pad.
  
- b. Minimization: The applicant has stated that minimization is being accomplished by the following measures:
  1. Expansion of the existing pad would take advantage of the remaining usable space on the pad, and reduce the need for further impacts
  
- c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has stated that no compensatory mitigation is being proposed due to:
  1. The proposed project avoids all impacts to the marine environment.
  2. The proposed project avoids all impacts to the onsite mapped stream.
  3. The 1.84 acres of proposed impacts would be minimal in nature, on a watershed based review, when looking at previous and currently proposed activities. The applicant believes this would not risk a cumulative degradation of wetlands.

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. Additionally, the applicant provided a cultural resource survey conducted in 2014 (by Stephen Braun & Associates) and a supplemental cultural resource assessment conducted in 2017 (by Charles M. Mobley & Associates). Both reviews recommended a finding that the projects

would not affect historic properties. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. 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.

Based on the studies conducted in the area, the Corps has determined that the proposed project would have no effect to historic properties. The Corps requests concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, 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 (NMFS) 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).

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.

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

# 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

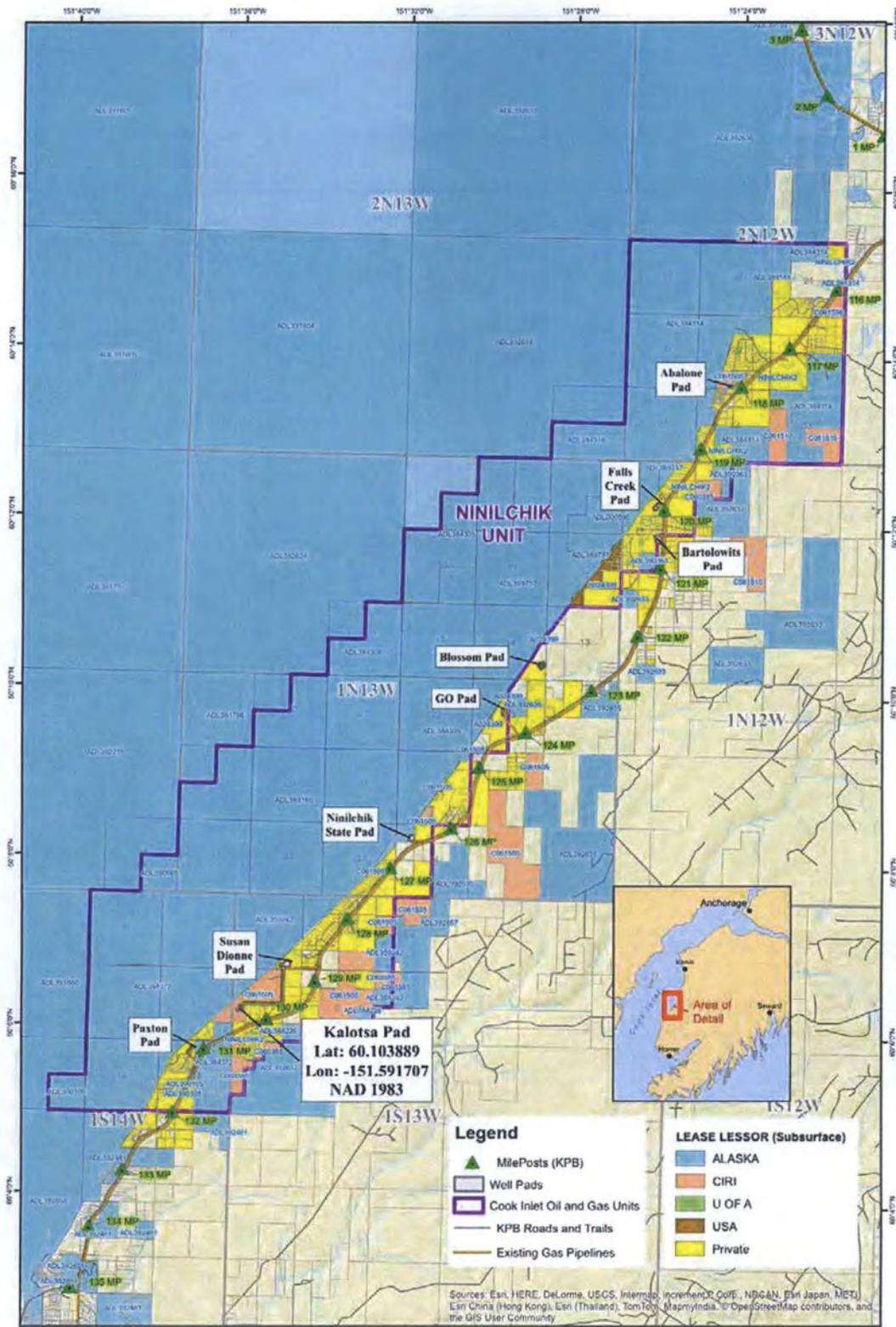
## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

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.

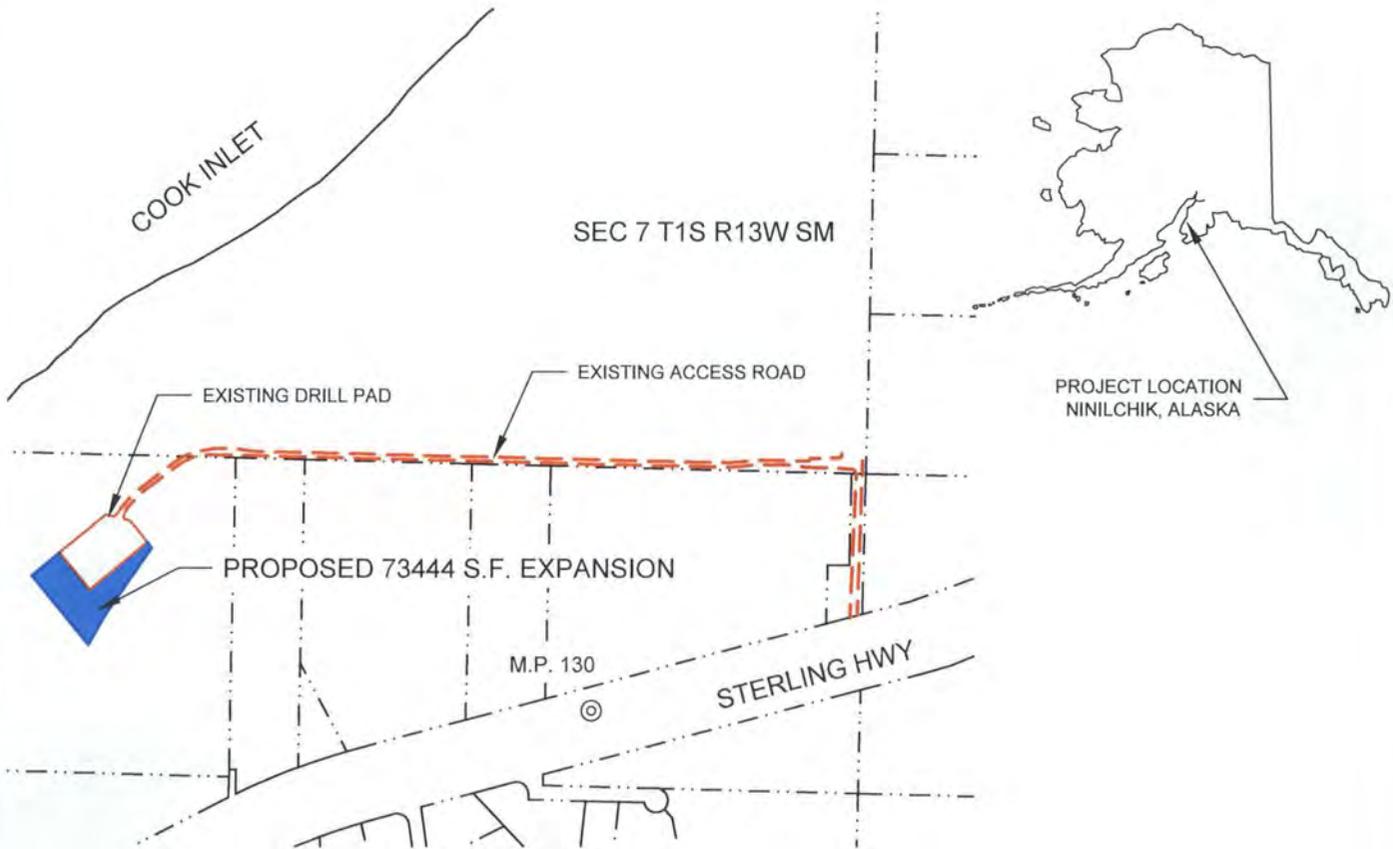
Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. **POA-2015-256-M2, Cook Inlet**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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.

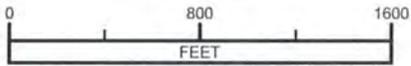
Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.



# HILCORP ALASKA, LLC 2017 KALOTSA PAD EXPANSION



SCALE



VICINITY MAP

## INDEX OF SHEETS

SHEET NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	COVER
2	TYPICAL SECTIONS
3	PAD PLAN VIEW
4	TABLE



Consulting Inc

ENGINEERING - TESTING  
SURVEYING - MAPPING  
P.O. BOX 468  
SOLDOTNA, AK. 99669  
VOICE: (907) 283-4218  
FAX: (907) 283-3265  
WWW.MCLANECG.COM

LOCATION

SECTION 7, T1S, R13W, S.M., AK

PROJECT

KALOTSA 2017 PAD EXPANSION

APPLICANTS

HILCORP ALASKA

3800 CENTERPOINT DRIVE, STE. 100, ANCHORAGE, AK 99503



Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

REVISION: -

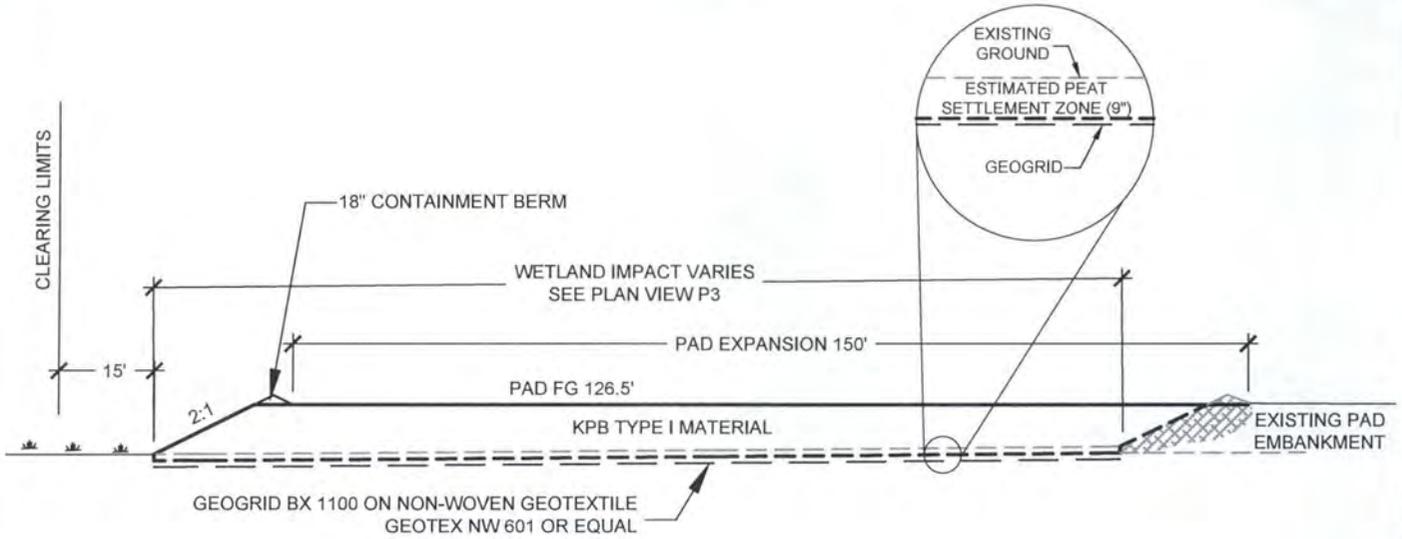
DATE: 1/20/2017

DRAWN BY: BGB

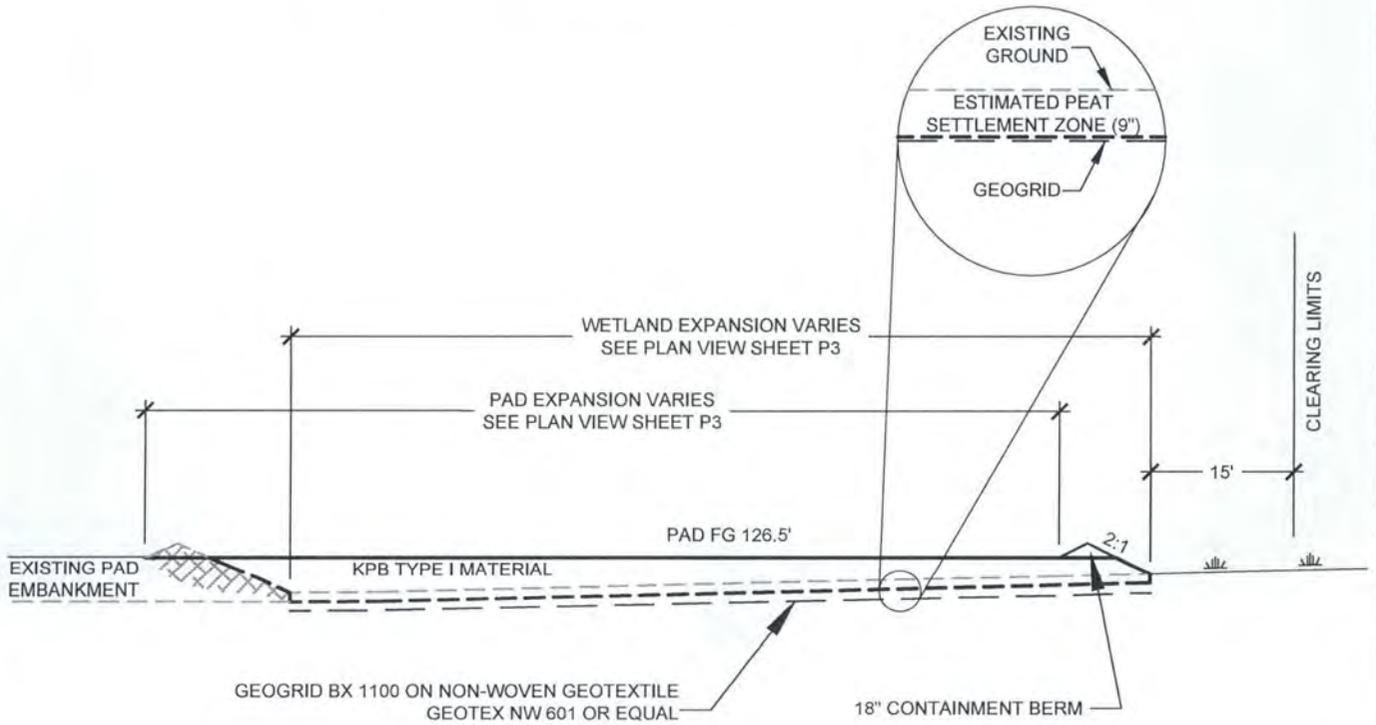
SCALE: 1" = 800'

PROJECT NO. 177001

SHEET



**A**  
**2** PAD TYPICAL SECTION  
 SCALE: 1" = 30' - FACING NORTHWEST



**B**  
**2** PAD TYPICAL SECTION  
 SCALE: 1" = 20' - FACING NORTHEAST



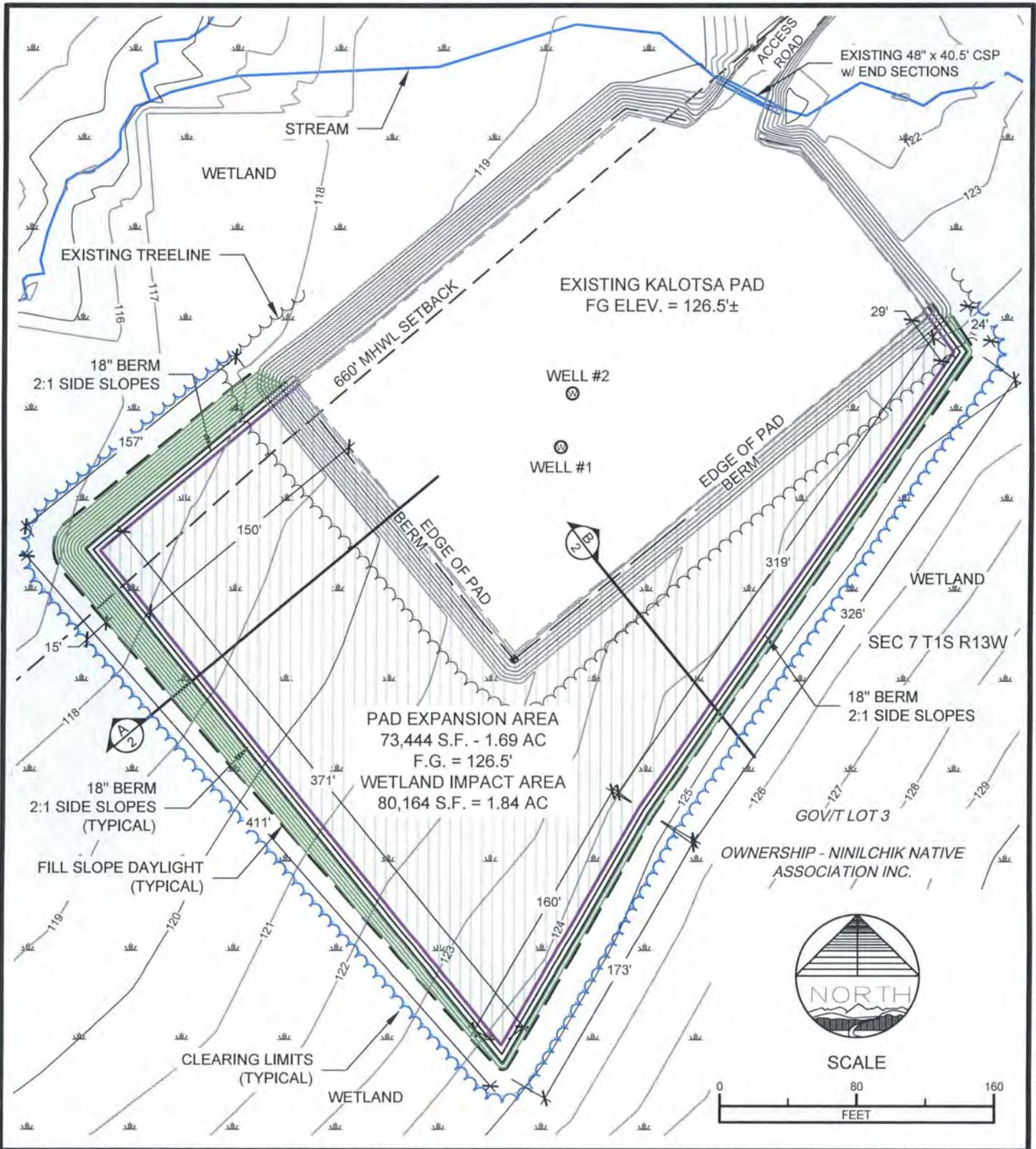
ENGINEERING - TESTING  
 SURVEYING - MAPPING  
 P.O. BOX 468  
 SOLDOTNA, AK. 99669  
 VOICE: (907) 283-4218  
 FAX: (907) 283-3265  
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LOCATION	SECTION 7, T1S, R13W, S.M., AK
PROJECT	KALOTSA 2017 PAD EXPANSION
APPLICANTS	HILCORP ALASKA <small>3800 CENTERPOINT DRIVE, STE. 100, ANCHORAGE, AK 99503</small>



Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

REVISION	-
DATE	1/20/2017
DRAWN BY	BGB
SCALE	AS SHOWN
PROJECT NO.	177001
SHEET	



PAD EXPANSION AREA  
73,444 S.F. - 1.69 AC  
F.G. = 126.5'  
WETLAND IMPACT AREA  
80,164 S.F. = 1.84 AC



ENGINEERING - TESTING  
SURVEYING - MAPPING  
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LOCATION	SECTION 7, T1S, R13W, S.M., AK
PROJECT	KALOTSA 2017 PAD EXPANSION
APPLICANTS	HILCORP ALASKA 3800 CENTERPOINT DRIVE, STE. 100, ANCHORAGE, AK 99503



REVISION: -
DATE: 1/20/2017
DRAWN BY: BGB
SCALE: 1" = 80'
PROJECT NO. 177001
SHEET