



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: | January 24, 2022 |
| EXPIRATION DATE: | February 23, 2022 |
| REFERENCE NUMBER: | POA-2021-00577 |
| WATERWAY: | Yukon 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.

All comments regarding this Public Notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the Project Manager's email as listed below or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the Public Notice reference number listed above.

All comments 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.

APPLICANT: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), Attention: Brett Nelson, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709. Brett.Nelson@alaska.gov. 907-451-2238.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 19, 24, 25, and 30, T. 23N., R. 76W; Kwiguk A-3; Seward Meridian; Latitude 62.060833° N., Longitude 163.301833° W.; in Saint Mary's, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to upgrade existing aviation facilities at Saint Mary's Airport to meet current FAA safety and capacity guidelines.

PROPOSED WORK: Discharge 37,000 cubic yards of gravel into 2.6-acres of wetlands to construct the following: Resurface unpaved Runway 17/35 and extend the Runway Safety Area's (RSA's) length north by approximately 450 feet. Resurface unpaved Runway 6/24 and widen existing RSA embankment by approximately 35 feet and extend embankment approximately 60 feet beyond the existing embankment of the west end of Runway 6. Resurface unpaved Taxiways A and B, the transient apron, and the unpaved portion of the main apron. Repave the main asphalt apron. Replace navigation aids. Construct drainage improvements. Replace and widen two culverts on the Yukon River Access Road. Rehabilitate airport lighting.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-9), dated December 1, 2021.

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: Due to the location of airport property, surrounded by wetlands, complete avoidance of impacts to wetlands and waters of the U.S. is not possible to meet the project's purpose and need.
- b. Minimization: Site access would be via the existing road system to limit impacts to existing vegetation. Construction limits would be staked and clearly demarcated. Natural vegetation would be retained where possible. Topsoil, seeding, and vegetation would be placed to rehabilitate disturbed areas. Topsoil would consist of a blend of organic material grubbed from the project site. Native plant seeds would be used. Clean fill from a permitted source would be used for construction. Fill would be limited to the amount necessary to meet the project's purpose and need. Wetland water quality would be protected during construction through best management practices, including: The contractor would begin temporary and permanent stabilization measures (including slope tracking, seeding, and mulch) as soon as practicable, but within at least 14 days on areas where construction has temporarily or permanently ceased. Sediment prevention measures would be placed, maintained, and remain in place until fill and other exposed earthwork attributable to the project are stabilized and revegetated. The contractor would be required to prepare and execute a DOT&PF approved Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (based on DOT&PF's Erosion Sediment Control Plan).
- c. Compensatory Mitigation: Compensatory wetland mitigation is not proposed given the avoidance and minimization measures incorporated into the project, and the makeup of the Saint Mary's area: The Saint Mary's area is characterized by tundra interspersed with boreal forests, and Saint Mary's is surrounded by the more than 22 million-acre Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge that consists of vast, flat wetland/tundra complex interspersed by ponds, lakes, and rivers. About 15.4 million acres (70%) of the refuge is 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 lead Federal agency, ADOT&PF, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will review ADOT&PF's documentation and either concur with their documentation or continue to work with them until any issues are resolved. A permit for the described work will not be issued until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Corps concurs with ADOT&PF's work or documentation.

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). There are no EFH species in the project area. We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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



PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK 99501-2617
Phone: 907-269-6285 | Email: DEC-401Cert@alaska.gov

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 (CWA) 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 CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request for a CWA §401 Water Quality Certification of a Department of the Army Permit application, Corps of Engineers' Reference Number POA-2021-00577, Yukon River, has been received for the discharge of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the United States (WOUS), including wetlands, as described in the Corps public notice and project figures/drawings (18 AAC 15.180).

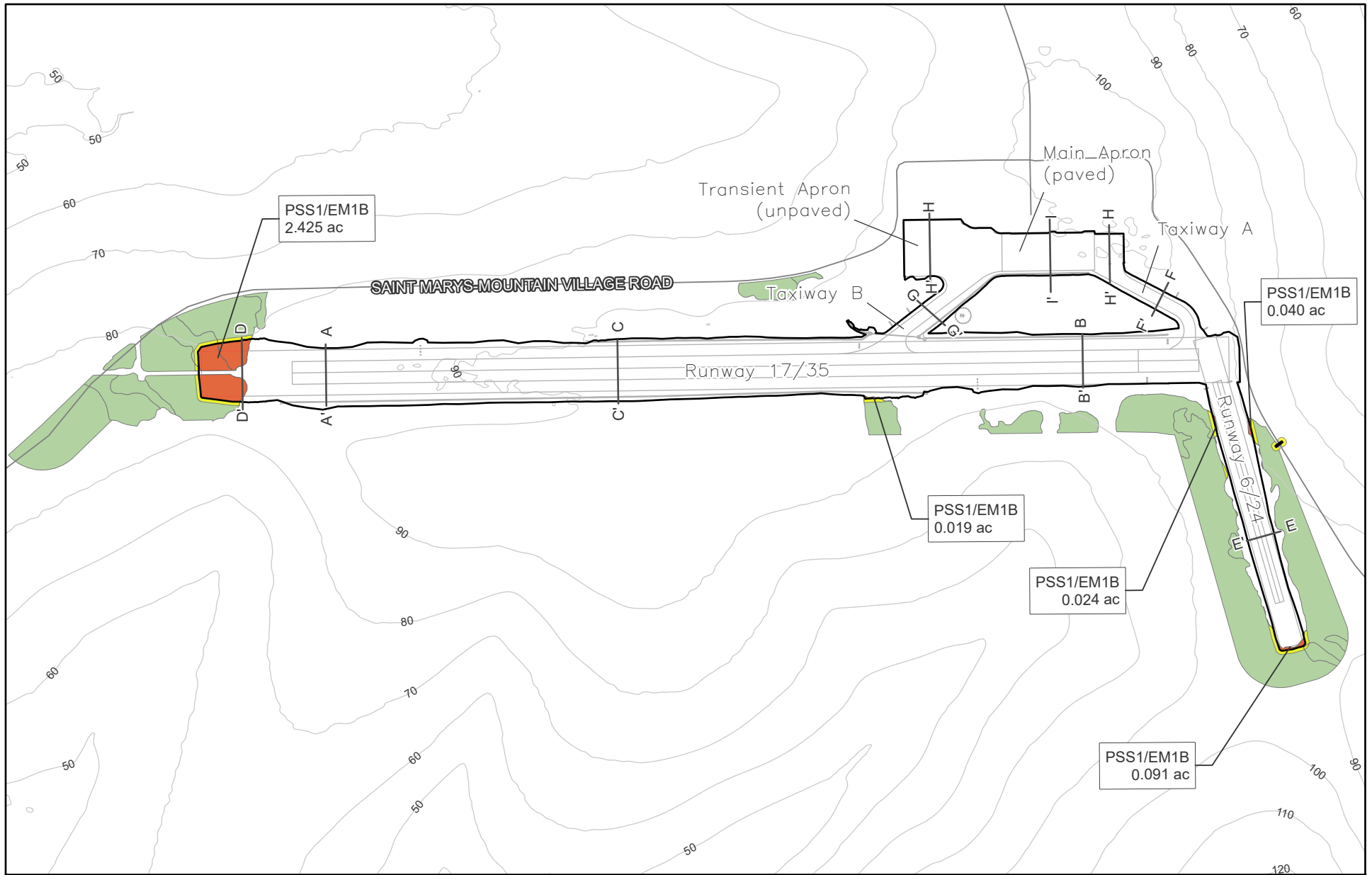
Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to water quality, may submit comments electronically via email to DEC-401cert@alaska.gov by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's public notice. All comments need to include the Corps public notice reference number in the subject heading. Physically mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

The permit application and associated documents are available for review. For inquiries or to request copies of the documents, contact dec-401cert@alaska.gov, or call 907-269-6285.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact ADA Coordinator Brian Blessington at 907-269-6272 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 5 days of the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

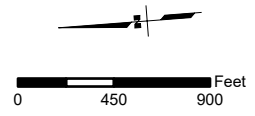


Applicant: State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
 File No.: POA-2021-00577
 Waterway: Yukon River
 Proposed Activity: Airport Improvement Project
 T23N R76W Section 19 & 30; T23N R77W Section 13, 24, 25, & 36
 Seward Meridian
 Lat.: 62.061746° N Long.: 163.300774° W
 Sheet: 2 of 9

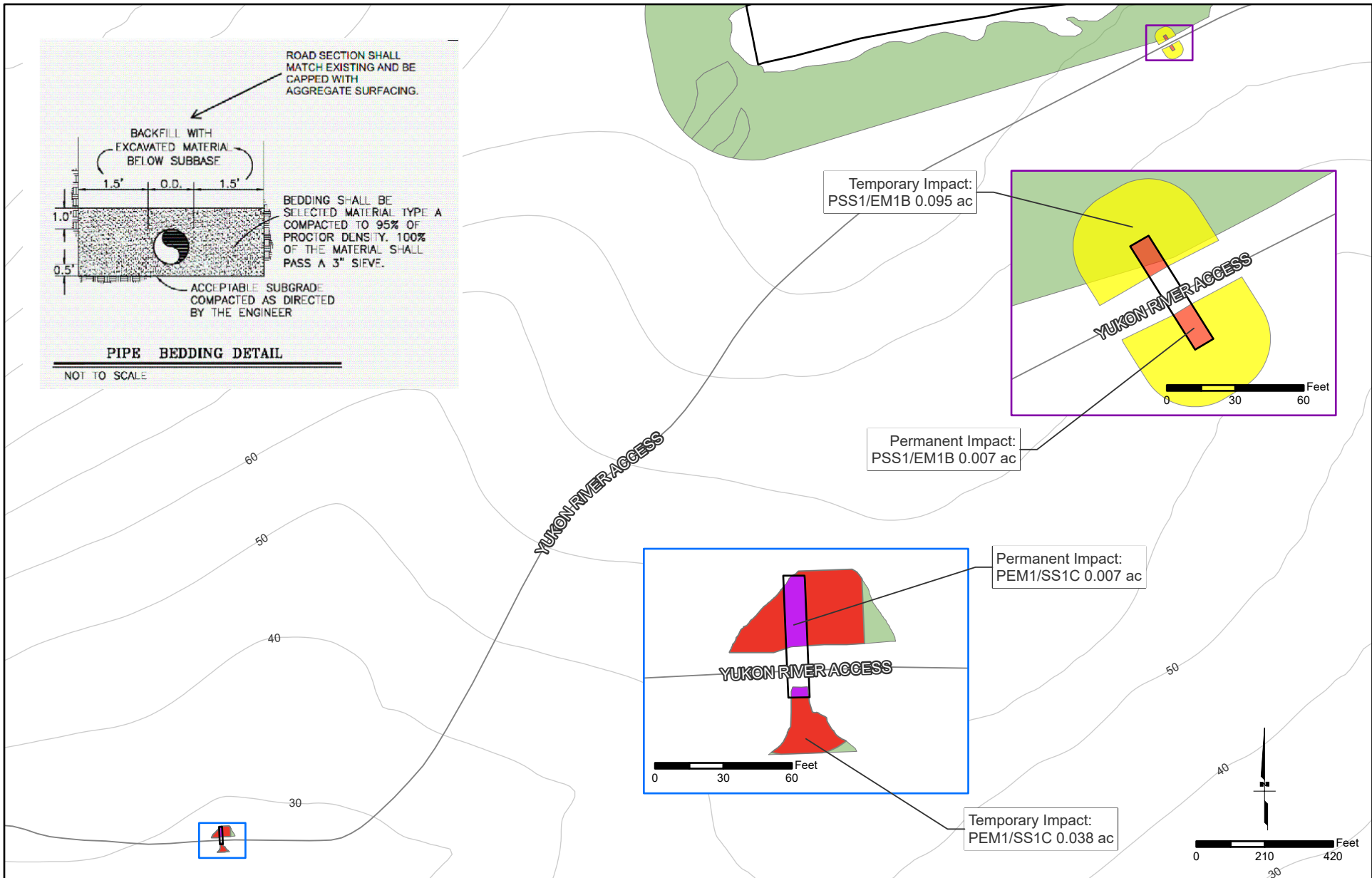
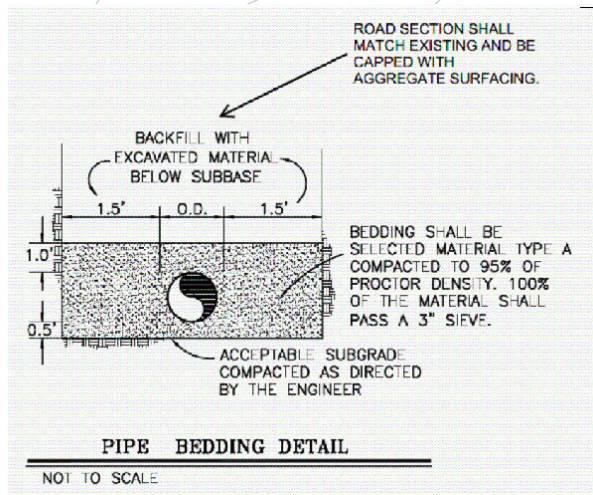
Date: 12/1/2021

- DOT&PF Road
- DOWL Mapped Wetland
- Airport Layout
- Project Grading Limits
- Impacted Wetland (Cowardin)**
- Temporary Impacted Wetland* (Cowardin)**

- PSS1/EM1B
- PSS1/EM1B (0.123 ac)



* Temporary Wetland Impact is 25-ft offset from impacted palustrine wetland

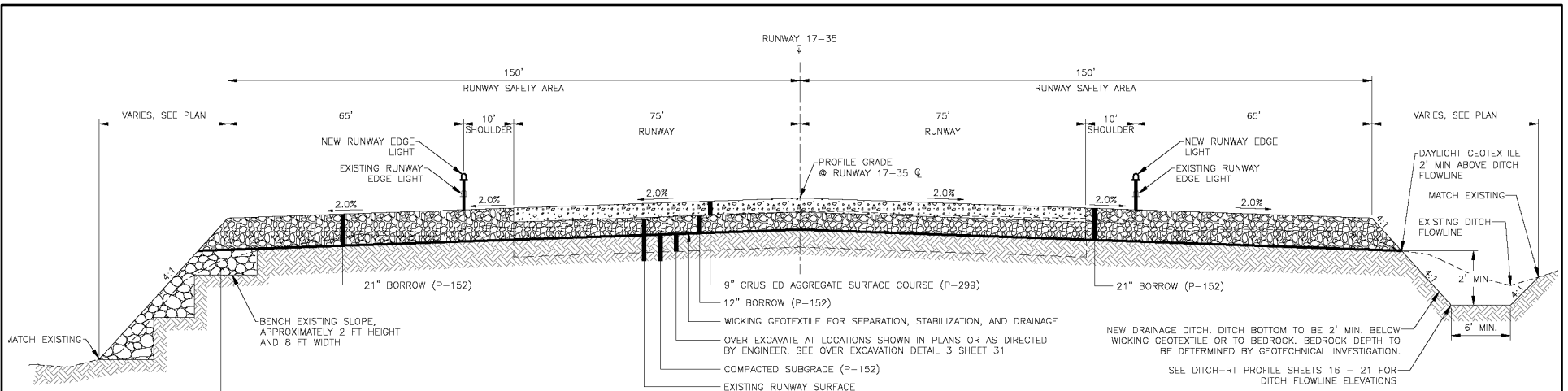


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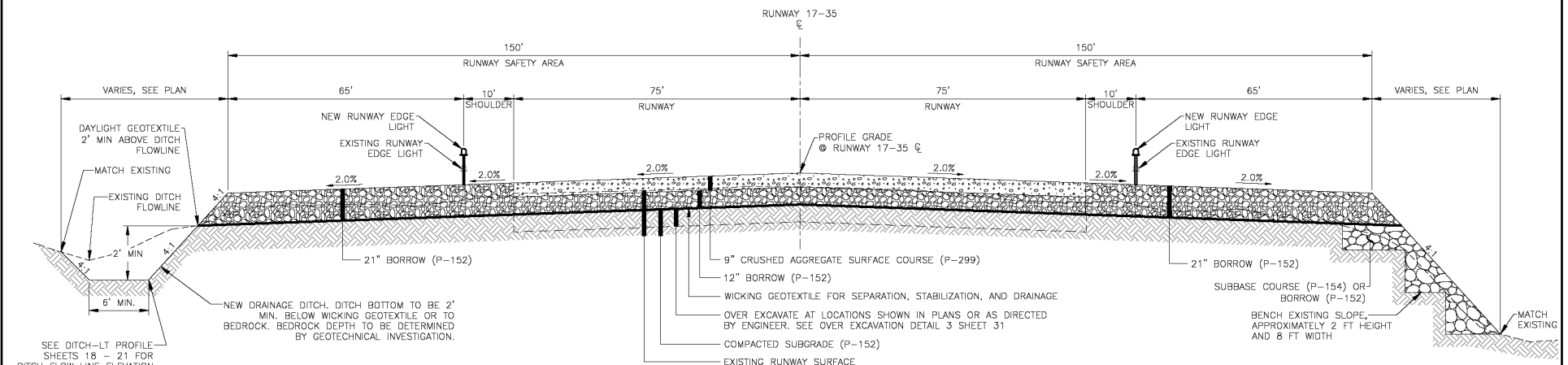
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- 🟡 PSS1/EM1B

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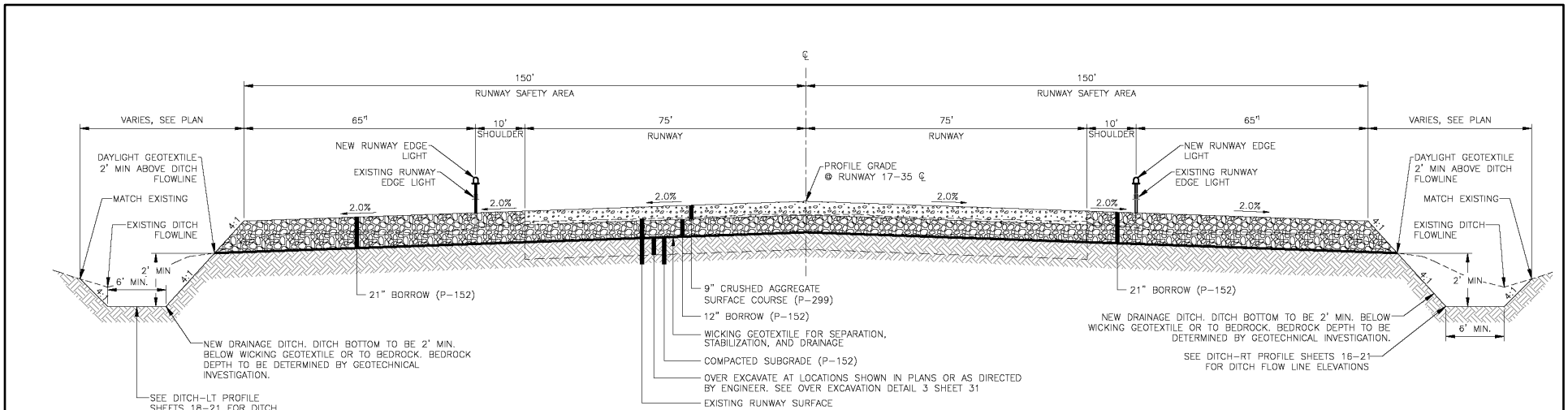
A-A' UNPAVED RUNWAY 17/35 TYPICAL SECTION (NOT TO SCALE)



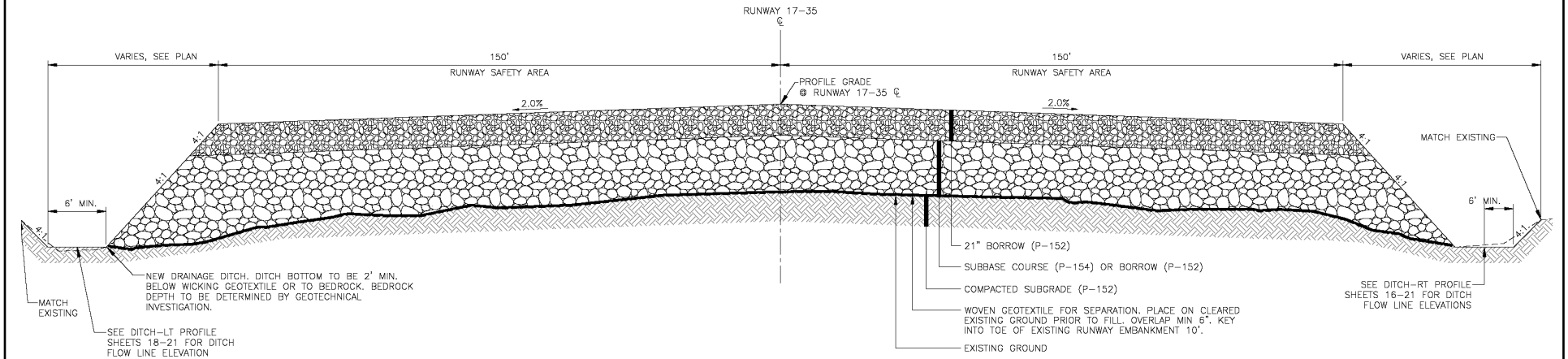
B-B' UNPAVED RUNWAY 17/35 TYPICAL SECTION (NOT TO SCALE)

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 Lat.: 62.061746° N Long.: 163.300774° W
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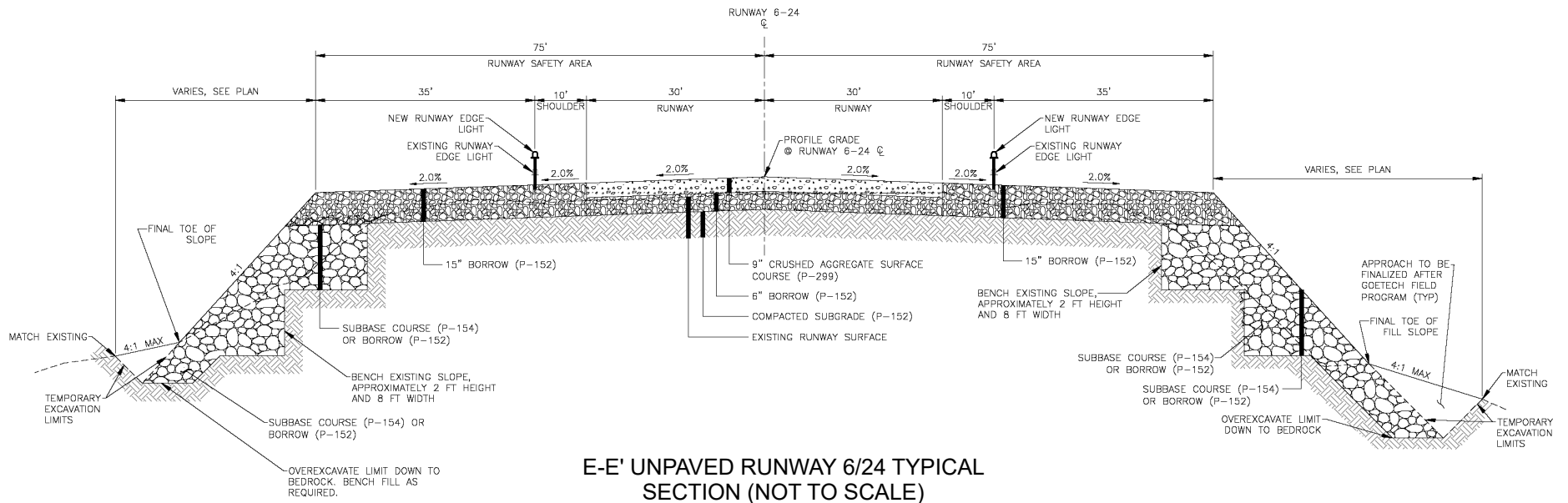
C-C' UNPAVED RUNWAY 17/35 TYPICAL SECTION (NOT TO SCALE)



D-D' RUNWAY 17 SAFETY AREA EXPANSION TYPICAL SECTION (NOT TO SCALE)

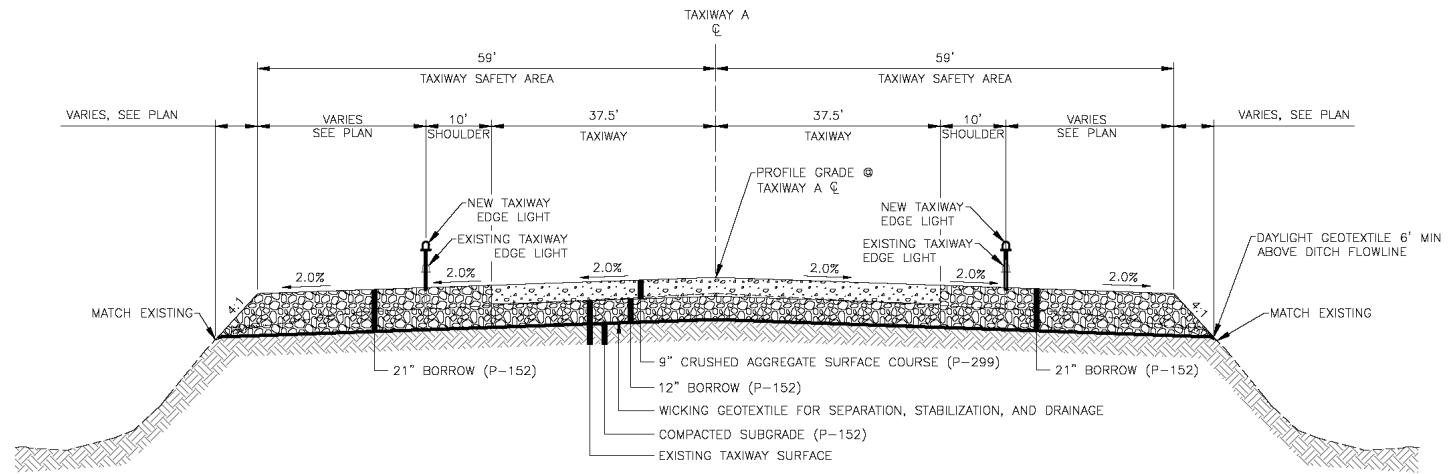
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 Lat.: 62.061746° N Long.: 163.300774° W
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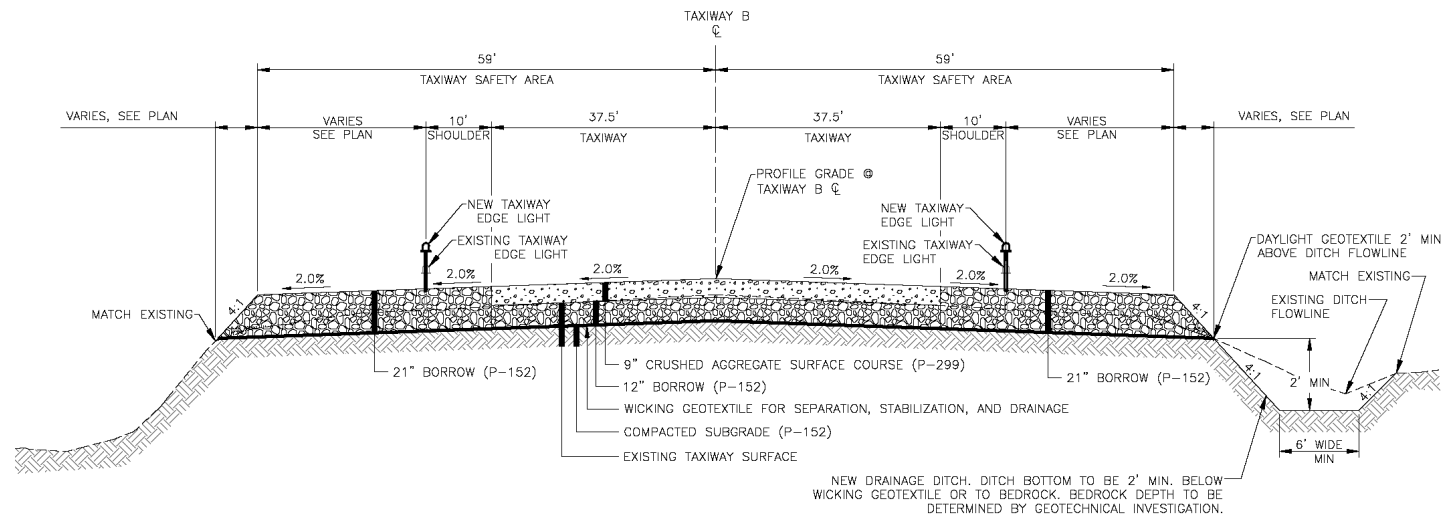


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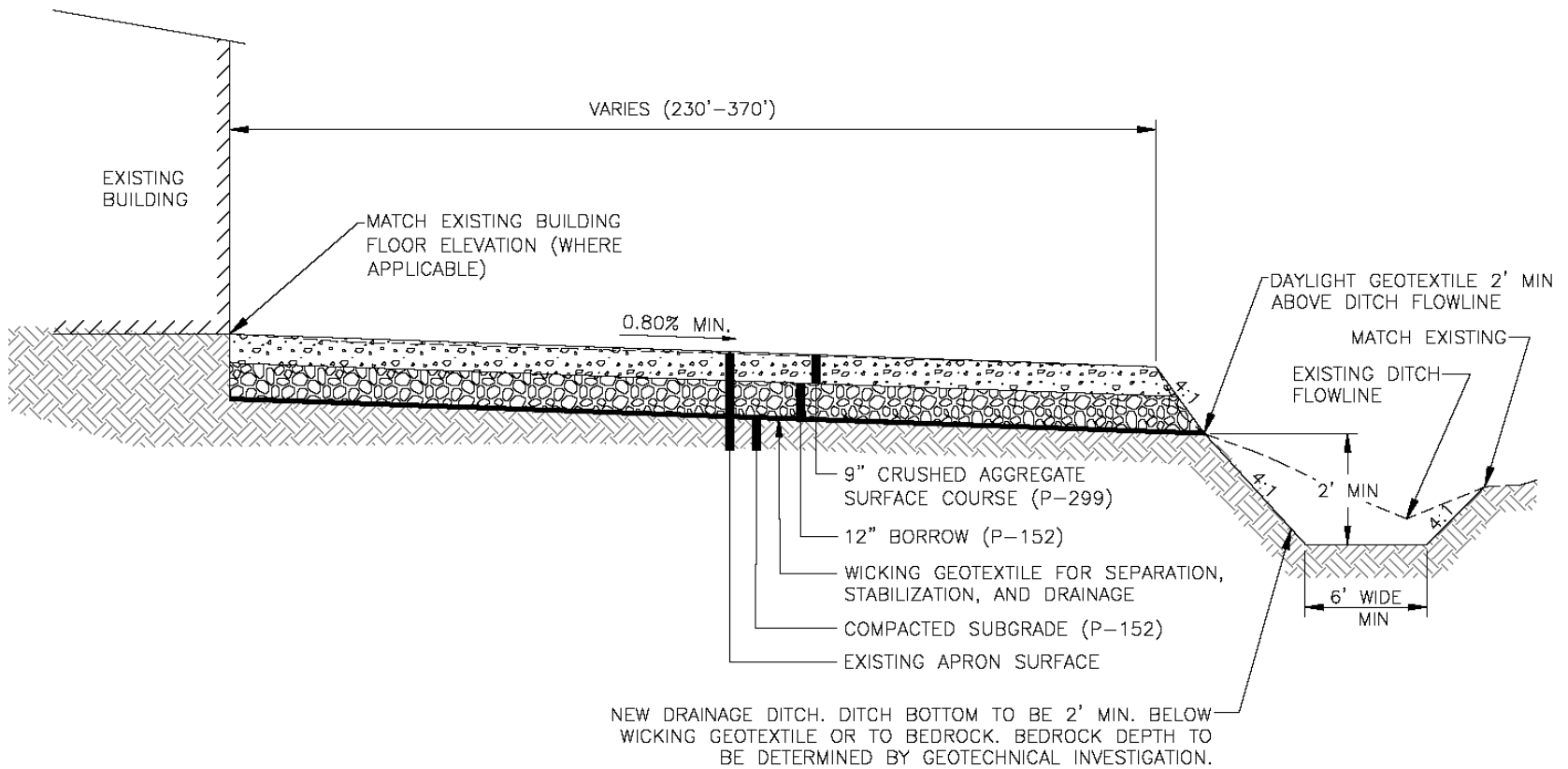


G-G' UNPAVED TAXIWAY A TYPICAL SECTION (NOT TO SCALE)



F-F' UNPAVED TAXIWAY B TYPICAL SECTION (NOT TO SCALE)

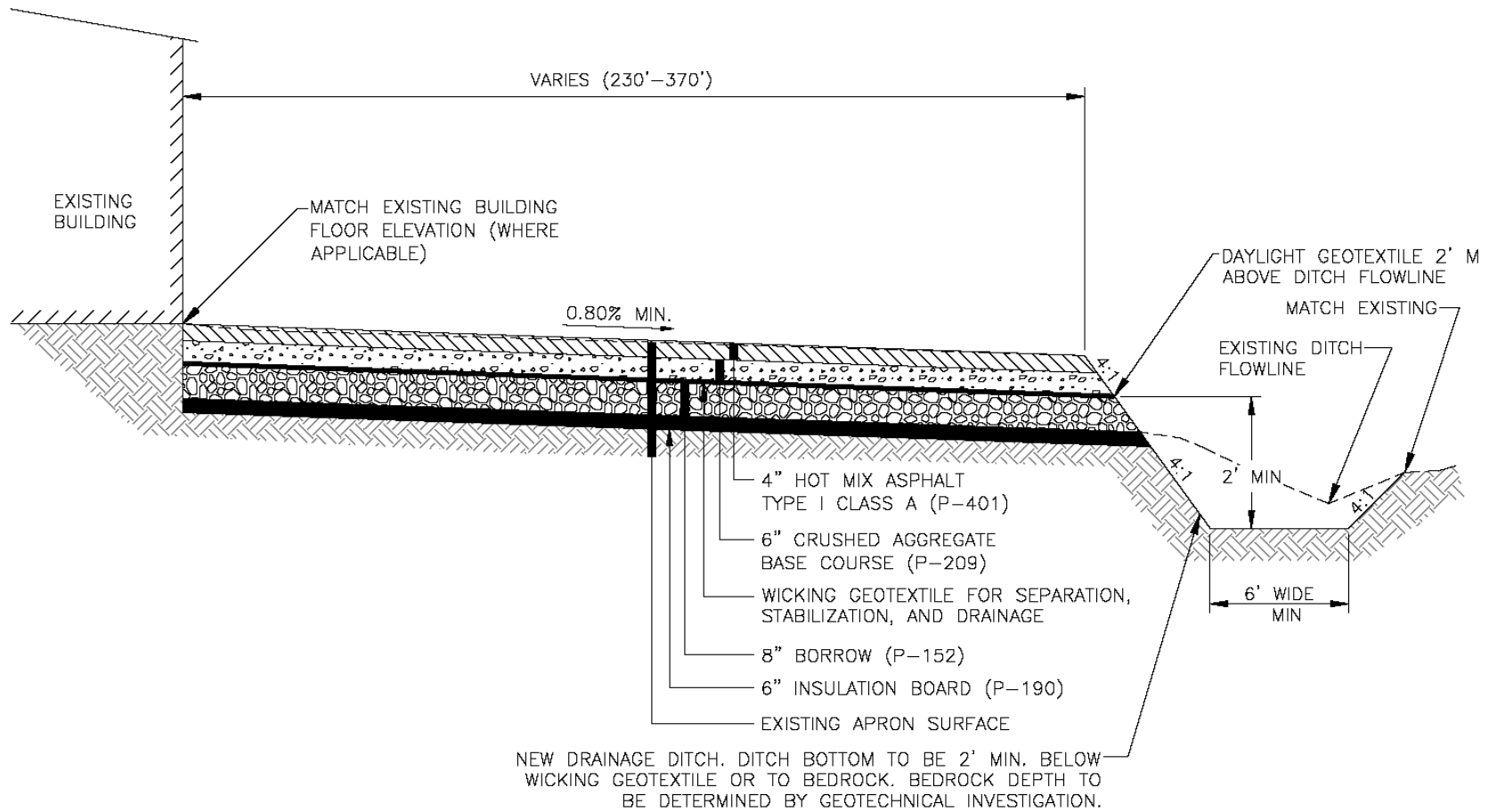
Applicant: State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
 File No.: POA-2021-00577
 Waterway: Yukon River
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 T23N R76W Section 19 & 30; T23N R77W Section 13, 24, 25, & 36
 Seward Meridian
 Lat.: 62.061746° N Long.: 163.300774° W
 Sheet: 7 of 9
 Date: 12/1/2021



H-H' UNPAVED APRON TYPICAL SECTION (NOT TO SCALE)

Applicant: State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
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 Waterway: Yukon River
 Proposed Activity: Airport Improvement Project
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 Sheet: 8 of 9

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I-I' PAVED APRON TYPICAL SECTION (NOT TO SCALE)

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