



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

FAIRBANKS FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
2175 University Avenue, Suite 201E
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4927

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: July 18, 2012

EXPIRATION DATE: August 1, 2012

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2005-598

WATERWAY: Jim 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 **Greg Mazer** at (907) 474-2166, by fax at (907) 474-2164, or by email at Gregory.j.mazer@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709; Mr. Bruce Campbell

LOCATION: The project site is located within Sections 17 and 20, T. 23 N., R. 14 W., Fairbanks Meridian, USGS Quad Map Bettles D-2; Latitude 66.8121° N., Longitude 150.6449° W.; just east of milepost (MP) 137 of the Dalton Highway approximately 35 miles south of Coldfoot, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to increase the runway safety area at both ends of the runway in order to comply with updated Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety regulations.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant would place up to 90,000 cubic yards (cy) of gravel fill into 2.41 acres of jurisdictional wetlands to extend the runway safety areas at each end of the runway by 200 feet. The total area that would be filled, including uplands and wetlands, is 5.27 acres. The proposed permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands include impacts anticipated to occur within the 20-foot wide work area at the toe of the designed slope. Fill material would be imported from the existing Jim River 3 material site (MS 65-9-045-2) located just west of Dalton Highway at MP 145;

gravel extraction would not expand the footprint of the material site or cause any additional impacts to wetlands or other waters. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan, (Sheets 1-5), dated July 13, 2012.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Prospect Creek Airport a state-owned, public-use airport with one gravel-surface runway extending approximately 5,000 feet long and 150 feet wide. The airport mainly supports pipeline operations, but also supports air taxi, general aviation, and scheduled commercial aircraft operations.

The airport is certified under FAA regulations Part 139 to handle aircraft with 30 or more passengers. The runway safety areas on either side of the runway must be extended in order to comply with updated FAA safety regulations.

The site is situated on a relatively flat area at the base of foothills in the Brooks Range. According to an investigation conducted by ABR, Inc. in 2005, the area encompassing the airport is mainly wetlands with some uplands including human-modified, partially vegetated areas associated with the runway and other parts of the airport. The proposed project would directly affect the human-modified, partially vegetated upland and scrub-shrub wetlands dominated by black spruce, in the immediate vicinity of the existing runway.

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: Although much of the project would occur in human-modified, partially vegetated upland, (2.86 acres), the project is unable to avoid placing fill in 2.41 acres of wetland due to the broad expanse of wetland on site.

b. Minimization: Wetland impacts would be minimized by constructing the project on the existing runway embankment to the extent practicable. The proposed fill would be the minimal amount practicable given the height of the existing runway embankment and the recently updated FAA safety standards. The new embankment would be more steeply sloped, (4:1 grade), further minimizing the project footprint and the associated wetland impact. The proposed 20-foot wide work area surrounding the project footprint would be considered part of the permanent impact.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: ADOT&PF proposes to compensate for all unavoidable impacts anticipated for this project through an in-lieu fee mitigation payment. All waters including wetlands in the project area have been rated as Category III (moderate to low functioning) according to the functional categories described in the Alaska Regulatory Guidance Letter RGL ID No. 09-01. The suggested ratio in RGL ID No. 09-01 for preserving moderate to low functioning wetlands under threat (via in-lieu fee) to compensate for impacts to Category III wetlands is 1.5 to 1.

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: 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 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

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. POA-2005-598 Jim River, 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.

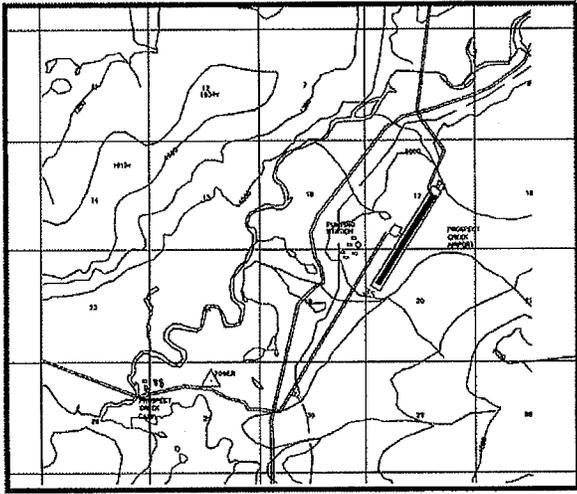
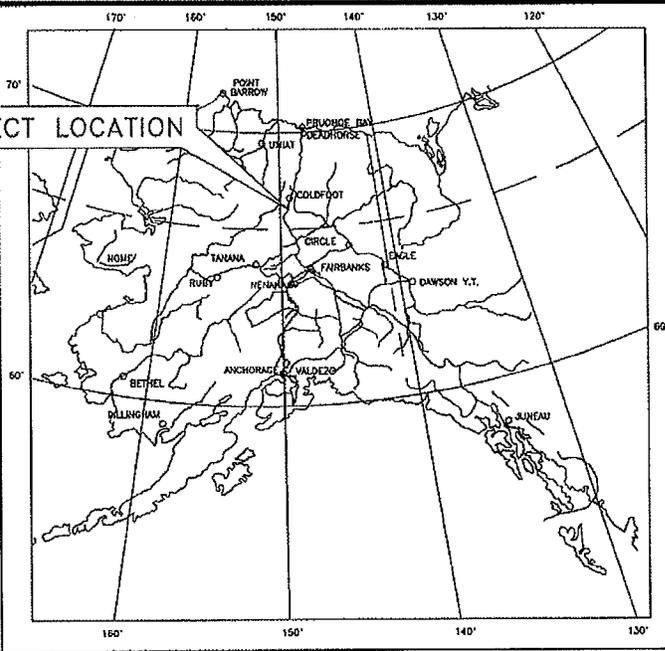
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STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
&
PUBLIC FACILITIES



PROPOSED AIRPORT PROJECT
PROSPECT CREEK AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

PROJECT LOCATION



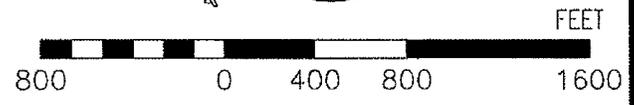
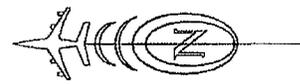
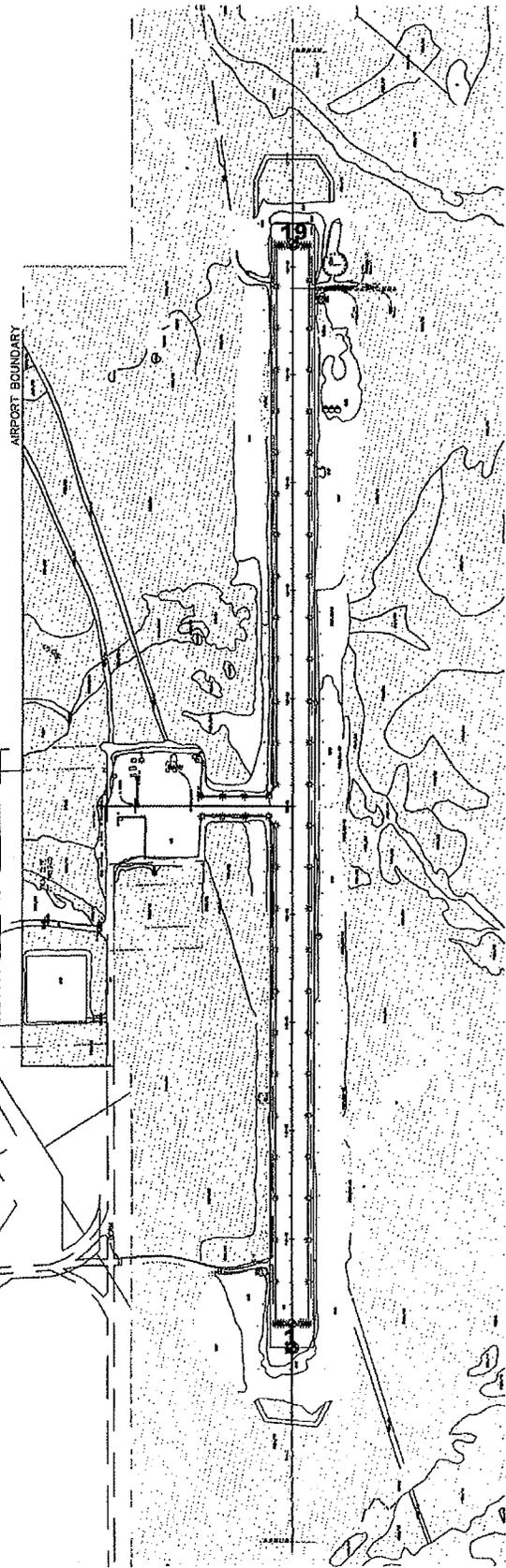
VICINITY MAP

SEC. 17, 19, & 20, T23N, R14W,
FAIRBANKS MERIDIAN USGS BETTLES (D-2)

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
APPLICANT/AGENT: State of Alaska
2301 Peger Rd. Fairbanks, Ak 99709

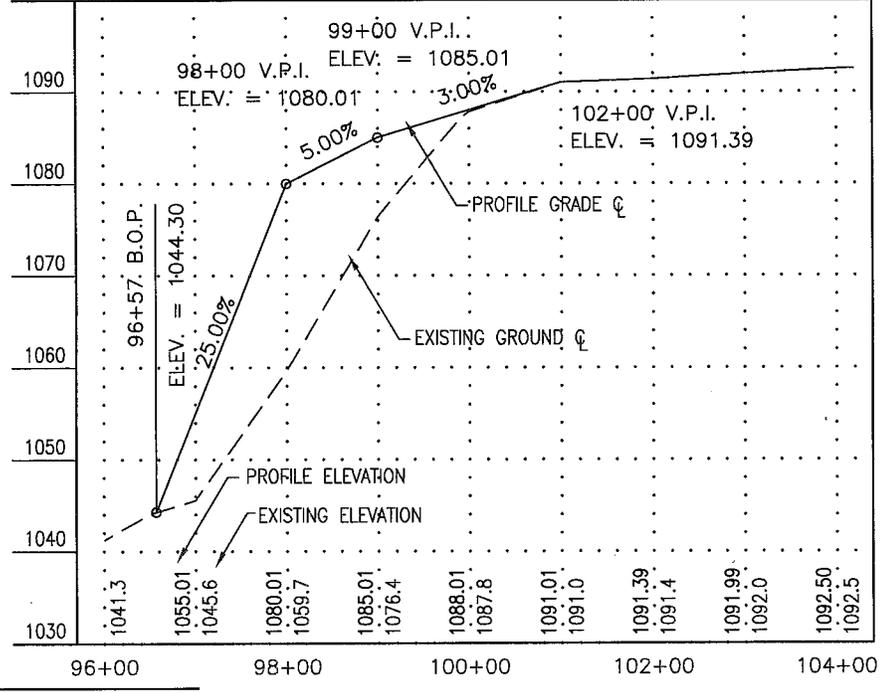
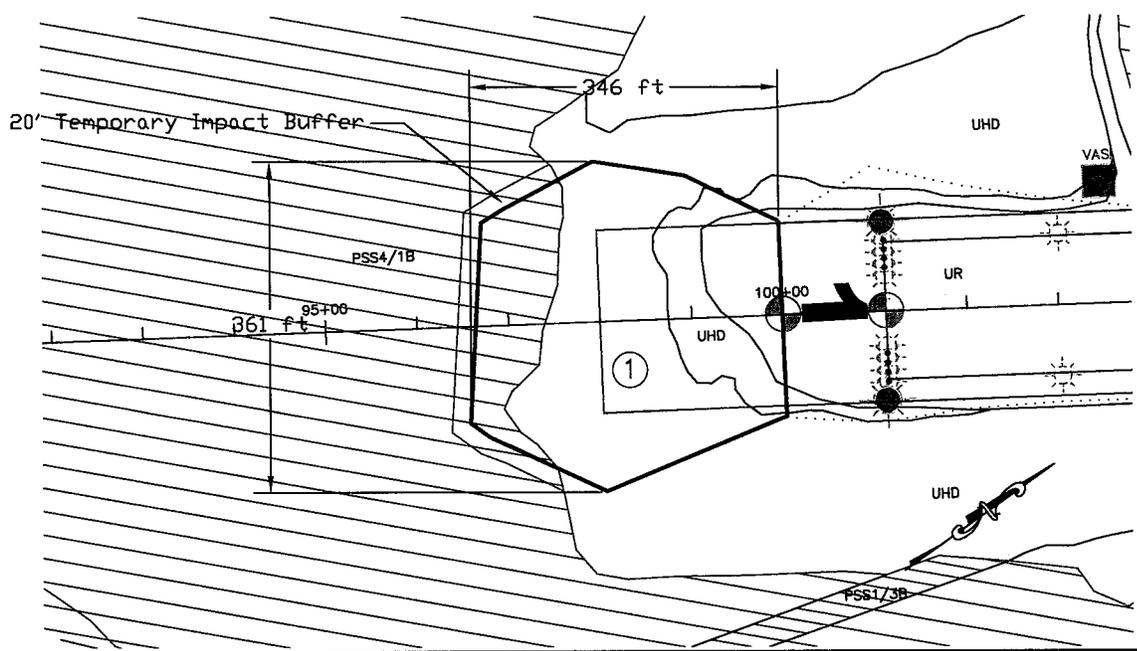
POA-2005-598 Jim River
ADOT&PF
Prospect Creek Airport Improvements
Location and Vicinity Maps
Sheet 1 of 5 July 13, 2012

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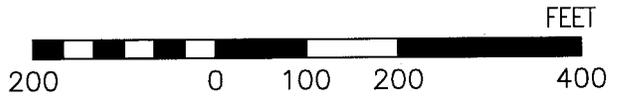
STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
APPLICANT/AGENT: State of Alaska
2301 Peger Rd. Fairbanks, Ak 99709

POA-2005-598 Jim River
ADOT&PF
Prospect Creek Airport Improvements
Wetlands Impact Areas
Sheet 2 of 5 July 13, 2012



LEGEND:

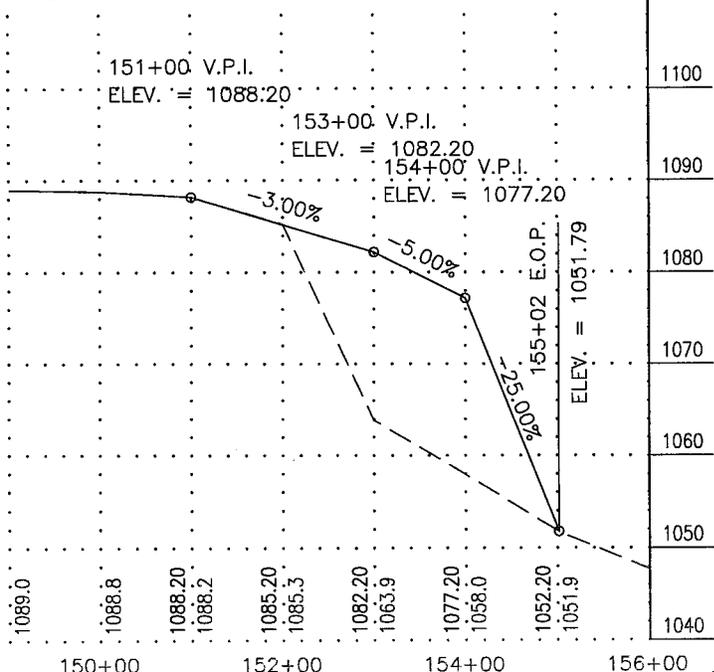
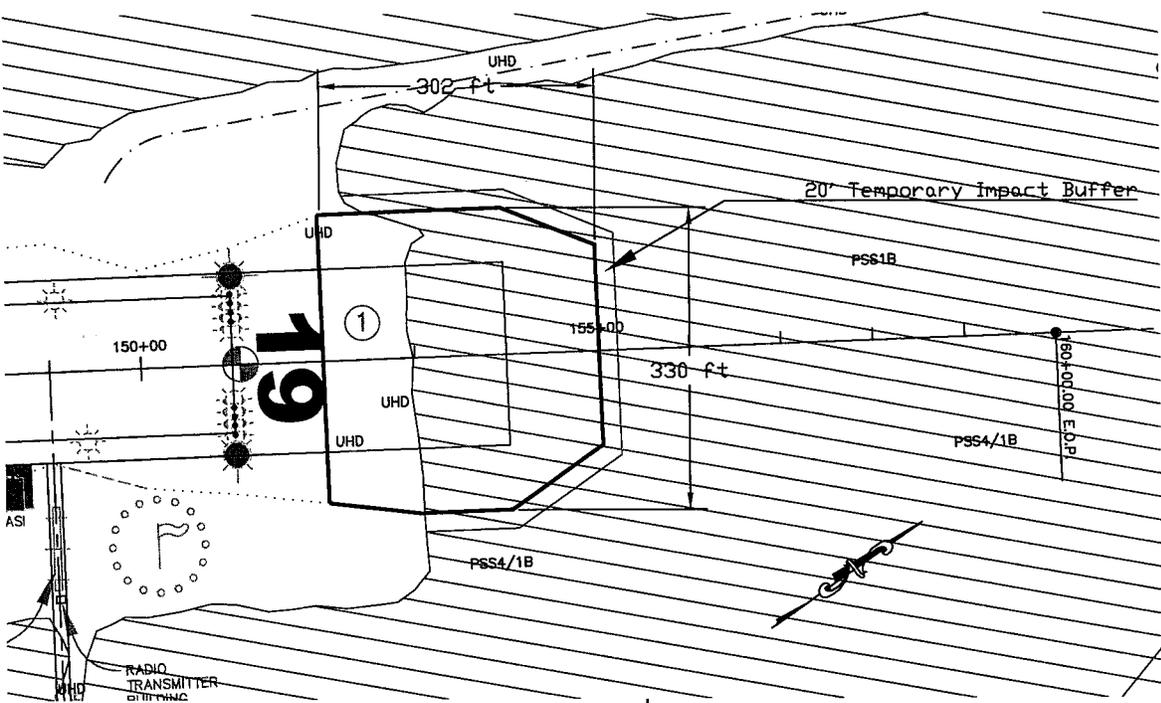
-  WETLANDS
-  PROJECT FOOTPRINT
-  CROSS SECTION REFERENCE. SEE SHEET 4.



STATE OF ALASKA
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
 APPLICANT/AGENT: State of Alaska
 2301 Peger Rd. Fairbanks, Ak 99709

POA-2005-598 Jim River
 ADOT&PF
 Prospect Creek Airport Improvements
 West End Safety Area Plan
 Sheet 3 of 5 July 13, 2012

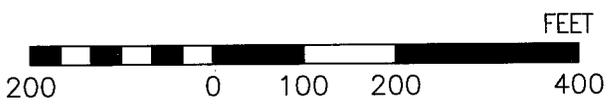
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LEGEND:

-  WETLANDS
-  PROJECT FOOTPRINT
-  CROSS SECTION REFERENCE. SEE SHEET 4.

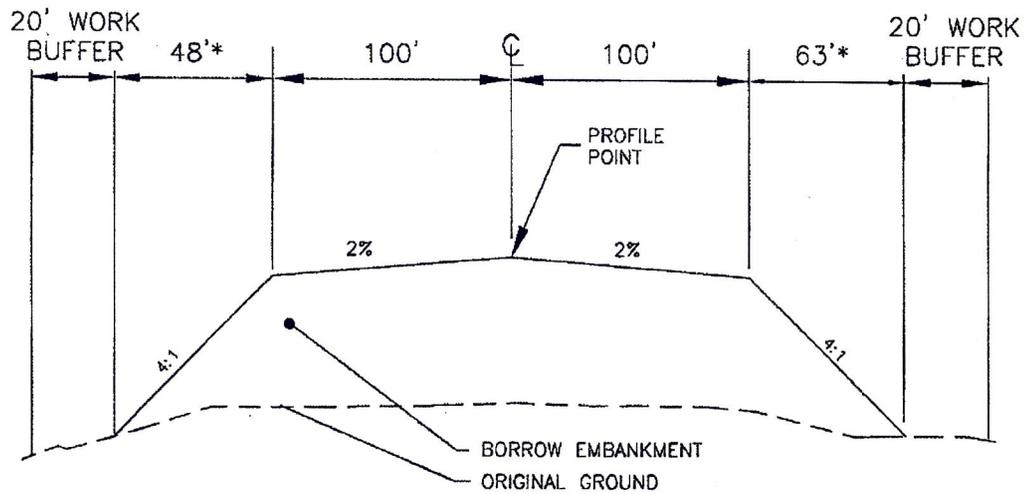
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STATE OF ALASKA
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
 APPLICANT/AGENT: State of Alaska
 2301 Peger Rd. Fairbanks, Ak 99709

POA-2005-598 Jim River
ADOT&PF
Prospect Creek Airport Improvements
East End Safety Area Plan
Sheet 4 of 5 **July 13, 2012**

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SAFETY AREA TYPICAL SECTION

NTS

R/W STA. 96+57.15 TO R/W STA. 100+00.00 AND
R/W STA. 152+00.00 TO R/W STA. 155+01.62

*DIMENSION OF EMBANKMENT WIDTH VARIES, DEPENDANT ON
TOPOGRAPHY; PROVIDED IS MAXIMUM WIDTH ANTICIPATED.

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
APPLICANT/AGENT: State of Alaska
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POA-2005-598 Jim River
ADOT&PF
Prospect Creek Airport Improvements
Safety Area Typical Section
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