



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: March 11, 2013
EXPIRATION DATE: April 11, 2013
REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2012-180
WATERWAY: Norton Sound

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 Estrella Campellone via e-mail at Estrella.F.Campellone@usace.army.mil, or call (907) 753-2518; or by Fax at (907) 753-5567, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: The City of Nome, Post Office Box 281, Division Street, Nome, Alaska 99762; Point of Contact: Ms. Josie H. Bahnke, City Manager, Port of Nome, Phone: (907) 443-6600; Fax: (907) 443-5349; E-mail: admin1@nomealaska.org.

AGENT: Ms. Lisa Baughman, PND Engineers, Inc., 1506 West 36th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. E-mail: LBaughman@pndengineers.com.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 35, T. 11 S., R. 34 W., Kateel River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Nome B-1; Latitude 64.4951° N., Longitude 165.4383° W.; Nome Causeway, Nome, Alaska.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: Port of Nome.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to add additional dock moorage and a Roll on/Roll off (RORO) ramp for loading and off-loading activities. The RORO would have an accessible ramp at elevations of +6.5 feet and would be designed to carry wheeled cargo on and off the vessel on their own wheels. The dock would be located between the West Gold Dock and the City Dock at the Port of Nome's Outer Harbor. It would be designed to add container storage close to the RORO ramp and to allow berthing of the large barges without significantly encroaching into the navigational channel.

The proposed project would require the placement of 53,000 cubic yards of fill in approximately 1.45 acres of intertidal and subtidal waters. The project would also require the excavation of 13,800 cubic yards of armor and sandy/gravelly material

from approximately 1.14 acres of intertidal and subtidal waters. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-7), dated February 22, 2013 and sheet 8 dated September 11, 2012.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Excavating activities are proposed to dredge large armor rocks and sandy/gravelly material in preparation for construction of the bulkhead face's steel anchor walls. Salvaged armor material excavated from intertidal and subtidal waters would be placed in nearby uplands (see sheet 1) and would be reused for future projects. Sandy/gravelly material dredged from the bulkhead footprint would be sidecasted in the fill areas outside of the bulkhead footprint. Once dredging is completed, face sheets and tailwall sheets would be installed to construct the dock cell. The cell would be then backfilled to above 0-foot elevation and compacted using a vibrocompaction probe (see sheet 8). New layers would be placed on top and compacted using traditional methods.

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 and minimization: The site was select taking into account it would not exacerbate present wave reflection and interference conditions. Also, construction of a dock with a steel bulkhead face and supporting steel anchor walls would help to keep the filling material confined. To avoid impacts to the navigation channel, dredging will not occur below -23 feet below Mean Lower Low Water. Silt curtains may be required depending on material and evidence of turbidity. The applicant is coordinating with Alaska Department of Fish and Game to determine fish windows for dredging or fill work.
- b. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant is proposing In-Lieu Fee mitigation is proposed to offset unavoidable impacts on waters of the U. S. caused by the proposed construction of the moorage dock and RORO ramp.

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 registered or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. They have been designated NOM-146 (NRE), NOM-177 (NDE), and NOM-178 (NDE). Because they have 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 Kittlitz's Murrelet (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*) (candidate species), Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*) (threatened species), and Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*) (threatened species).

We are currently gathering information regarding these species and have yet to make a determination of effect. Should we find that the described activity may affect the species listed above, and/or its/their designated critical habitat, we will

follow the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Any comments the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service 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 five species of salmon: Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Pink (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), and Sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*).

We are currently gathering information regarding these species and have yet to make a determination of effect. Should we find that the described activity may affect the species listed above, we will follow the appropriate course of action under Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Any comments the National Marine Fisheries Service may have concerning essential fish habitat 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
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-2012-180, Norton Sound, 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.