



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:	October 30, 2012
EXPIRATION DATE:	November 30, 2012
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2012-764
WATERWAY:	Andreafsky 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 Mary Leykom at telephone (907) 753-2711, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at mary.f.leykom@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC), 4831 Eagle Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99503; phone Brent Petrie at (907) 561-7927.

AGENT: CRW Engineering Group LLC, 3940 Arctic Boulevard, Anchorage, Alaska 99502; phone Wende Wilber at (907) 646-5665.

LOCATION: The project site is located between St. Mary's and Pitkas Point, Alaska, in NE ¼ Section 32, T. 23 N., R. 76 W., Seward Meridian; at Latitude 62.033° N., Longitude -163.233° W.; and which can be found on USGS quad map Kwiguk A-3.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: The project is located within the outside boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to install a 900 kW wind turbine to supplement the existing diesel-powered electrical power generation for customers in St. Mary's and Pitkas Point.

PROPOSED WORK: The installation of a 900 kW wind turbine would require the following: placing 7,200 cubic yards (cy) of gravel fill to construct a 1,275-foot by 30-foot access road, and placing 6,100 cy of fill to construct the 150-foot by 250-foot turbine pad. A new 1,650-foot long overhead power line would be installed

between the turbine and the existing power line. A total of 2.4 acres of wetland would be filled. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated September 2012.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Gravel fill material would be obtained at one of four existing borrow pits between St. Mary's and St. Mary's airport. Additional permitting would be required if fill is placed in jurisdictional wetlands at the selected pit.

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: Locations for wind turbine installation are driven by wind resource availability, aviation, terrain, and existing electrical infrastructure. The three suitable wind turbine sites for this project were all located in wetlands.

b. Minimization: One large turbine was chosen instead of three smaller turbines which reduced wetland fill acreage. An existing road provides most of the needed project access. Best Management Practices would be employed eliminating and reducing impacts on-site and to adjacent areas.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant states that no compensatory mitigation is proposed because: non-wetland alternative sites are not available, the impacts to the aquatic environment have been minimized, and the project reduces dependence on burning fossil fuels and the associated emissions and potential for petroleum spills.

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. Project information has been 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. Therefore, no further 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). 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 permit decision will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts and 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. 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. Activities involving 404 discharges, will be denied if the discharge 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 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. Comments received will be considered by us 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

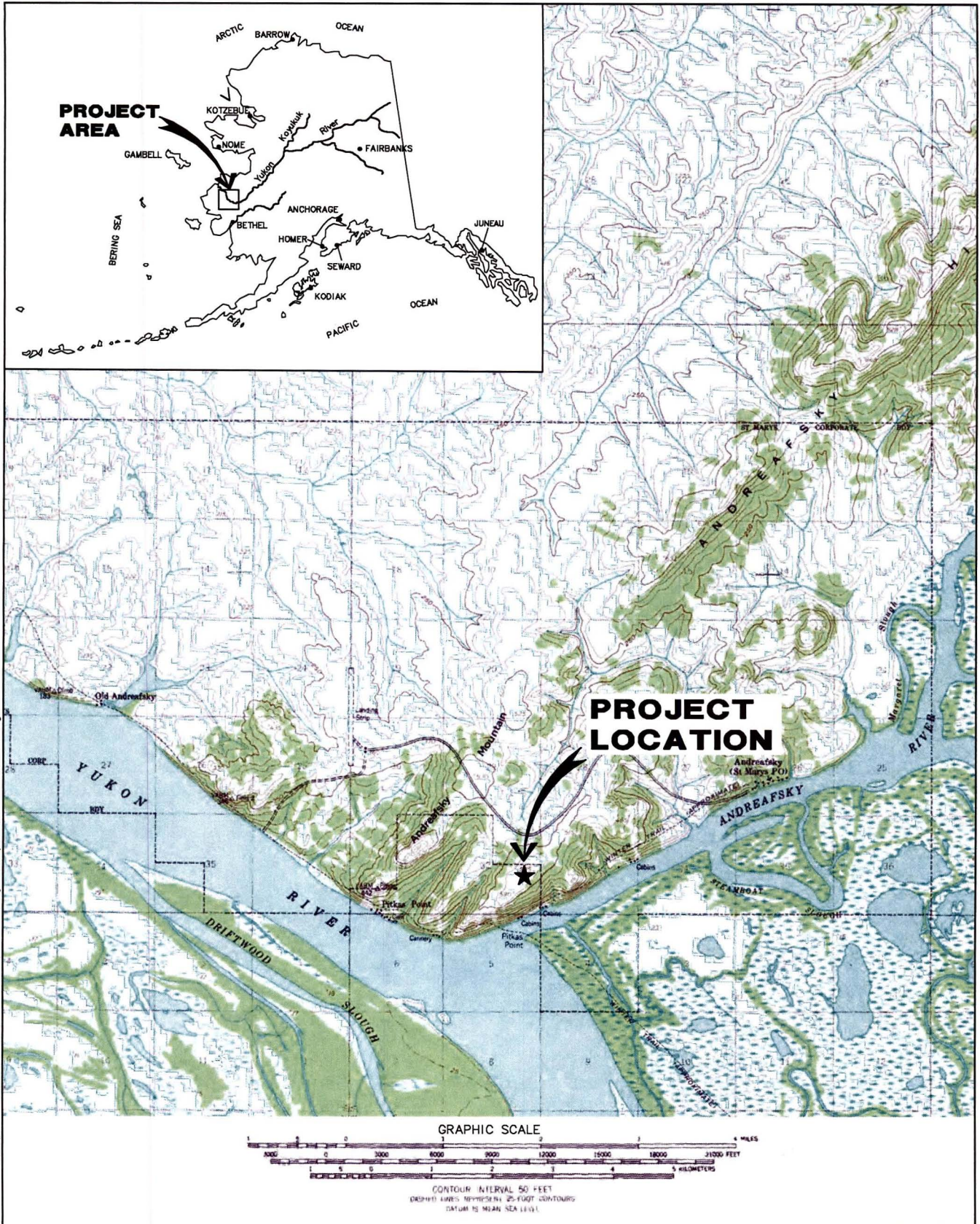
NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR
STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

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-2012-764, Andreafsky 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.



J:\jobsdata\30704.02 AVEC - St. Mary's Wind Project\00 CADD\01 Working Set\30704_02 Base.dwg

APPLICANT:
ALASKA VILLAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
4831 EAGLE STREET
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

AGENT:
CRW ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC
3940 ARCTIC BLVD., SUITE 300
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503

**ST MARY'S/PITKAS POINT
WIND ENERGY PROJECT**

VICINITY MAP

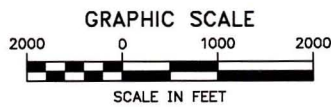
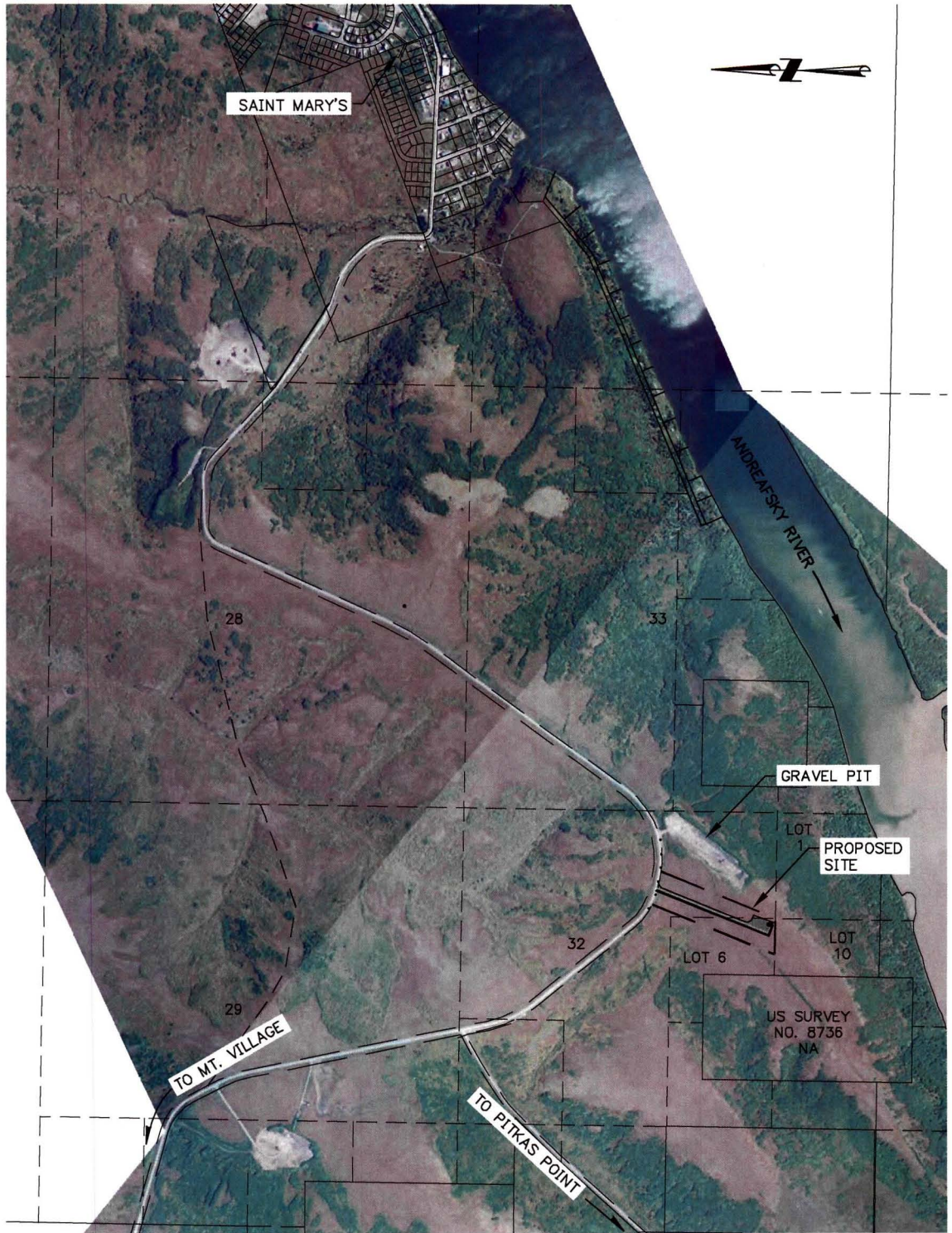
POA-2012-764 Andreafsky River

LOCATION: ST. MARY'S, ALASKA
SEC 32, T. 23 N., R. 76 W.; SM
USGS QUAD: KWIGUK A-3

FIGURE 1 OF 4

SEPT 2012 SCALE: GRAPHIC

J:\jobsdata\30704.02 AVEC - St. Mary's Wind Project\00 CADD\01 Working Set\30704_02 Base.dwg



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ST MARY'S/PITKAS POINT
WIND ENERGY PROJECT

PROJECT AREA MAP

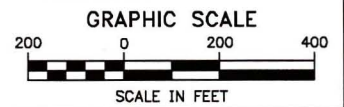
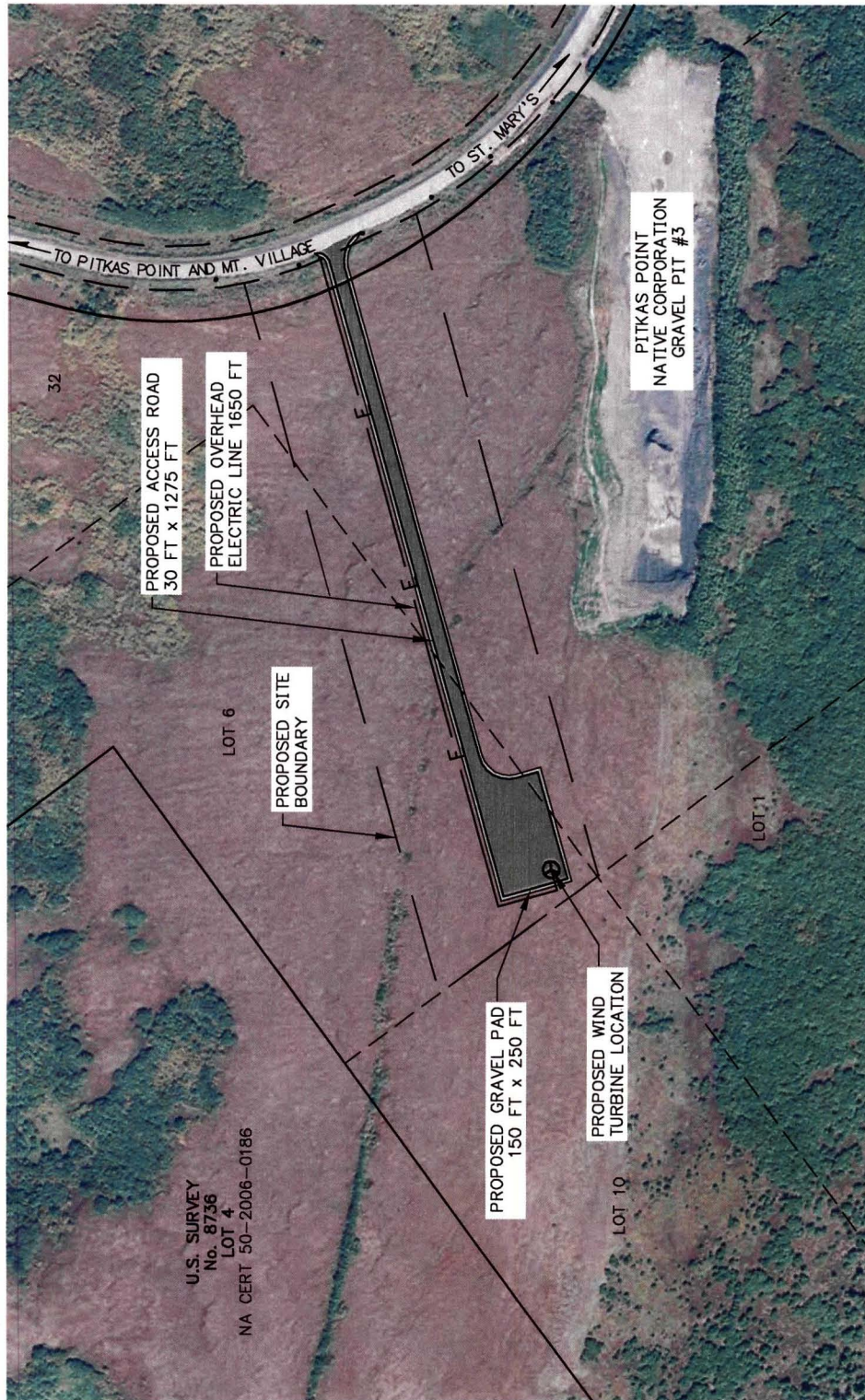
POA-2012-764 Andreafsky River

LOCATION: ST. MARY'S, ALASKA
SEC 32, T. 23 N., R. 76 W.; SM
USGS QUAD: KWIGUK A-3

FIGURE 2 OF 4

SEPT 2012 SCALE: GRAPHIC

J:\jobsdata\30704.02 AVEC - St. Mary's Wind Project\00 CADD\01 Working Set\30704_02 Base.dwg



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ST MARY'S/PITKAS POINT
WIND ENERGY PROJECT

SITE PLAN

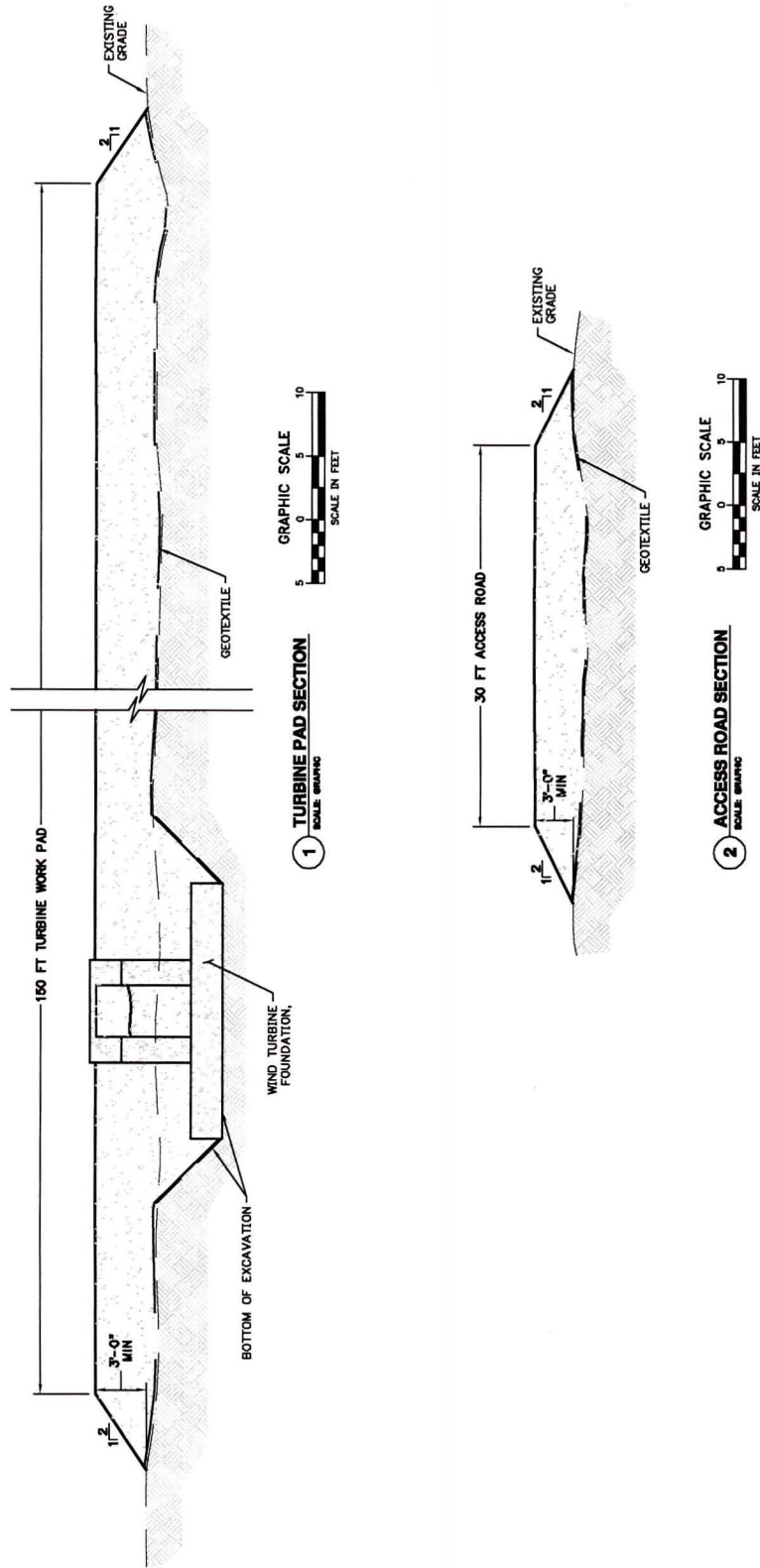
POA-2012-764 Andreafsky River

LOCATION: ST. MARY'S, ALASKA
SEC 32, T. 23 N., R. 76 W.; SM
USGS QUAD: KWIGUK A-3

FIGURE 3 OF 4

SEPT 2012 SCALE: GRAPHIC

j:\jobsdata\30704.02 AVEC - St. Mary's Wind Project\00 CADD\01 Working Set\30704_02 Base.dwg



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ST MARY'S/PITKAS POINT
WIND ENERGY PROJECT

ROAD & PAD SECTIONS

POA-2012-764 Andreafsky River

LOCATION: ST. MARY'S, ALASKA
SEC 32, T. 23 N., R. 76 W.; SM
USGS QUAD: KWIGUK A-3

FIGURE 4 OF 4

SEPT 2012 SCALE: GRAPHIC