



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:** June, 11 2008  
**EXPIRATION DATE:** July, 10 2008  
**REFERENCE NUMBER:** POA-2006-1880  
**WATERWAY:** AKUTAN HARBOR

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 Jack Hewitt at (907) 753-2708, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at jack.j.hewitt@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, 4111 Aviation Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

AGENT: HDR Alaska, Inc., 2525 C Street, Suite 305, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

LOCATION: The project sites are located within Sections 6 and 7, T. 70 S., R. 110 W., and Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, T. 70 S., R. 111 W., Seward Meridian on Akun Island, and Section 9, T. 70 S., R. 112 W., Seward Meridian on Akutan Island, USGS Quad Map Unimak A-5, in Akutan, Alaska.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: The proposed project is sited within the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to construct a new airport and support facilities for the community of Akutan.

PROPOSED WORK: Construct a land based airport on Akun Island. A hovercraft would be utilized to ferry people and goods between Akun Island and the community of Akutan, on Akutan Island. A new hovercraft storage and maintenance facility would be located at the head of Akutan Harbor. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plans, 6 sheets, dated November 2007.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Akutan is a remote community in the eastern Aleutian Islands, 35 miles east of Unalaska and 766 miles southwest of Anchorage. There are no roads linking Akutan to other communities and use of the existing seaplane facility is restricted by adverse weather conditions. The proposed land based airport would allow flights during inclement weather, and provide additional passenger and cargo services for the community. The proposed work on Akun Island includes construction of a 4,500' long by 75' wide paved runway; 5,100' long by 150' wide runway safety area (RSA); a 300' long by 35' wide taxiway; a 90,000 square feet (sf) apron and aircraft turnaround area; a 50' by 60' snow removal equipment building; a 24' wide by 3,000' long two-lane all-weather gravel road for travel between the airport and hovercraft landing site at Surf Beach; and a 150' by 150' hovercraft landing pad at Surf Beach. The proposed work on Akutan Island includes construction of a 100' by 120' hovercraft storage and maintenance facility; a 150' by 150' maneuvering pad; and a 100' by 375' ramp to the water. The runway, taxiway, and RSA on Akun Island would require the discharge of approximately ( $\approx$ ) 400,000 cubic yards (cy) of fill material into  $\approx$  10.3 acres of wetlands; the road would require a discharge of  $\approx$  3,075 cy of material into  $\approx$  0.41 acre of wetlands/waters of the U.S. The hovercraft storage/maintenance facility, pad and ramp at the head of Akutan Harbor would result in a discharge of  $\approx$  12,600 cy of material into  $\approx$  1.3 acres of wetlands/waters of the U.S. The complete project, as proposed, would discharge  $\approx$  415,875 cy of fill material into  $\approx$  12.11 acres of wetlands/waters of the U.S.

MITIGATION: The applicant has conducted extensive coordination to mitigate the potential adverse impacts this project would have on resources at the proposed project site. The facility has been configured to avoid and reduce the footprint of fill sited within wetlands/waters of the U.S. The project proposes no wetland modifications for the purpose of eliminating bird hazards. In accordance with the 2003 Memorandum of Agreement on mitigation and airport improvement projects in Alaska, wetland impacts are compensated for at a rate of \$500 per acre. At this rate, with 12.1 acres of proposed impacts, the total amount of compensatory mitigation for the project would equal \$6,050. The applicant has offered to increase the amount compensatory mitigation to \$43,960, based on the recommendation by the Conservation Fund.

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.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CERTIFICATION: Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone, Management Act of 1972, as amended by 16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3), requires the applicant to certify the described activity affecting land or water uses in the Coastal Zone complies with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. A permit will not be issued until the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management, Department of Natural Resources has concurred with the applicant's certification.

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 four registered or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. They have been designated UNI-00033, UNI-00099, UNI-00103, and UNI-00104. Property UNI-00103 has been determined to be within the project area. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was executed between ADOT/PF and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). 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 the Steller's sea lion, humpback whale, and Steller's eider. Preliminarily, the described activity may affect threatened or endangered species, or modify their designated critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 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). Preliminarily, the described activity may affect 9.5 acres of freshwater habitat and 1.09 acres of marine habitat in the project area. This Public Notice initiates EFH consultation with the NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning EFH 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, Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

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District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT  
550 WEST 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SUITE 705  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3559  
PHONE: (907) 269-7470/FAX: (907) 269-3981

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR  
CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE  
ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. POA-2006-1880, Akutan Harbor, will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

This project is being reviewed for consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program. Written comments about the consistency of the project with the applicable ACMP statewide standards and district policies must be submitted to the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management (DCOM). For information about this consistency review, contact DCOM at the address or phone number above, or visit the ACMP web site at <http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us//Projects/projects.html>.

# 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

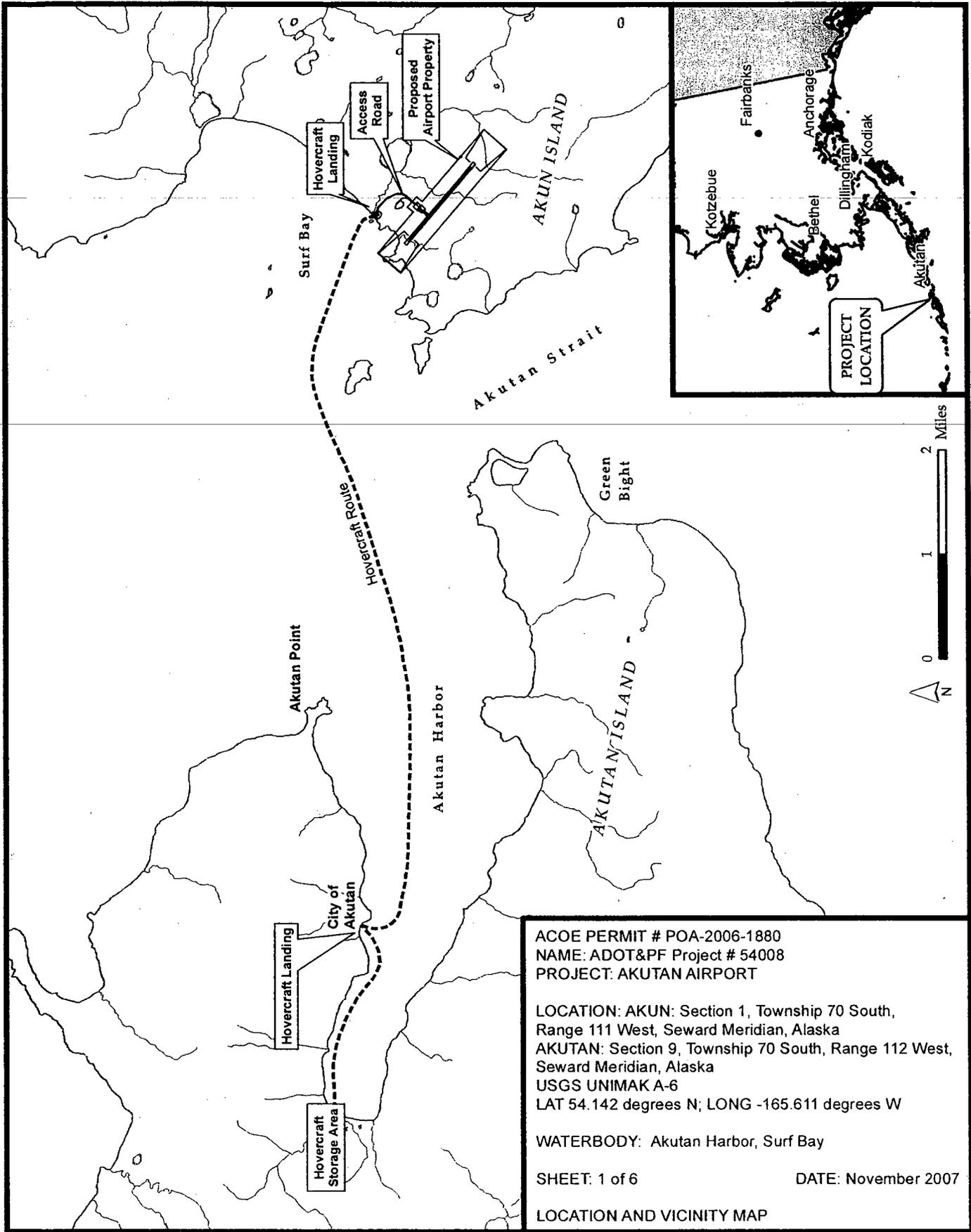
**NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR  
STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION**

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-2006-1880, Akutan Harbor, 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.



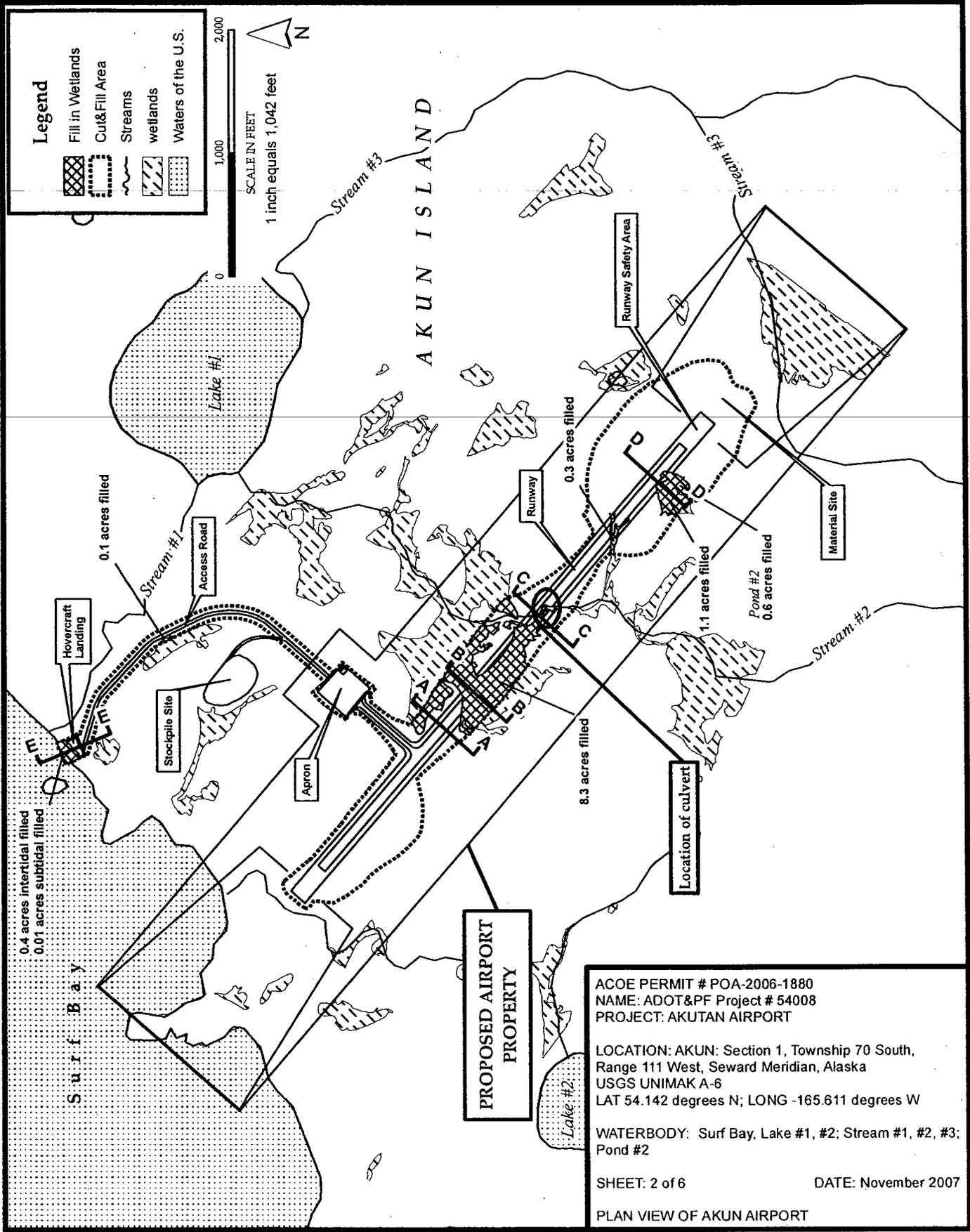
ACOE PERMIT # POA-2006-1880  
 NAME: ADOT&PF Project # 54008  
 PROJECT: AKUTAN AIRPORT

LOCATION: AKUN: Section 1, Township 70 South,  
 Range 111 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska  
 AKUTAN: Section 9, Township 70 South, Range 112 West,  
 Seward Meridian, Alaska  
 USGS UNIMAK A-6  
 LAT 54.142 degrees N; LONG -165.611 degrees W

WATERBODY: Akutan Harbor, Surf Bay

SHEET: 1 of 6 DATE: November 2007

**LOCATION AND VICINITY MAP**



**Legend**

- Fill in Wetlands
- Cut & Fill Area
- Streams
- wetlands
- Waters of the U.S.

SCALE IN FEET  
1 inch equals 1,042 feet

0 1,000 2,000

N

**PROPOSED AIRPORT  
PROPERTY**

ACOE PERMIT # POA-2006-1880  
NAME: ADOT&PF Project # 54008  
PROJECT: AKUTAN AIRPORT

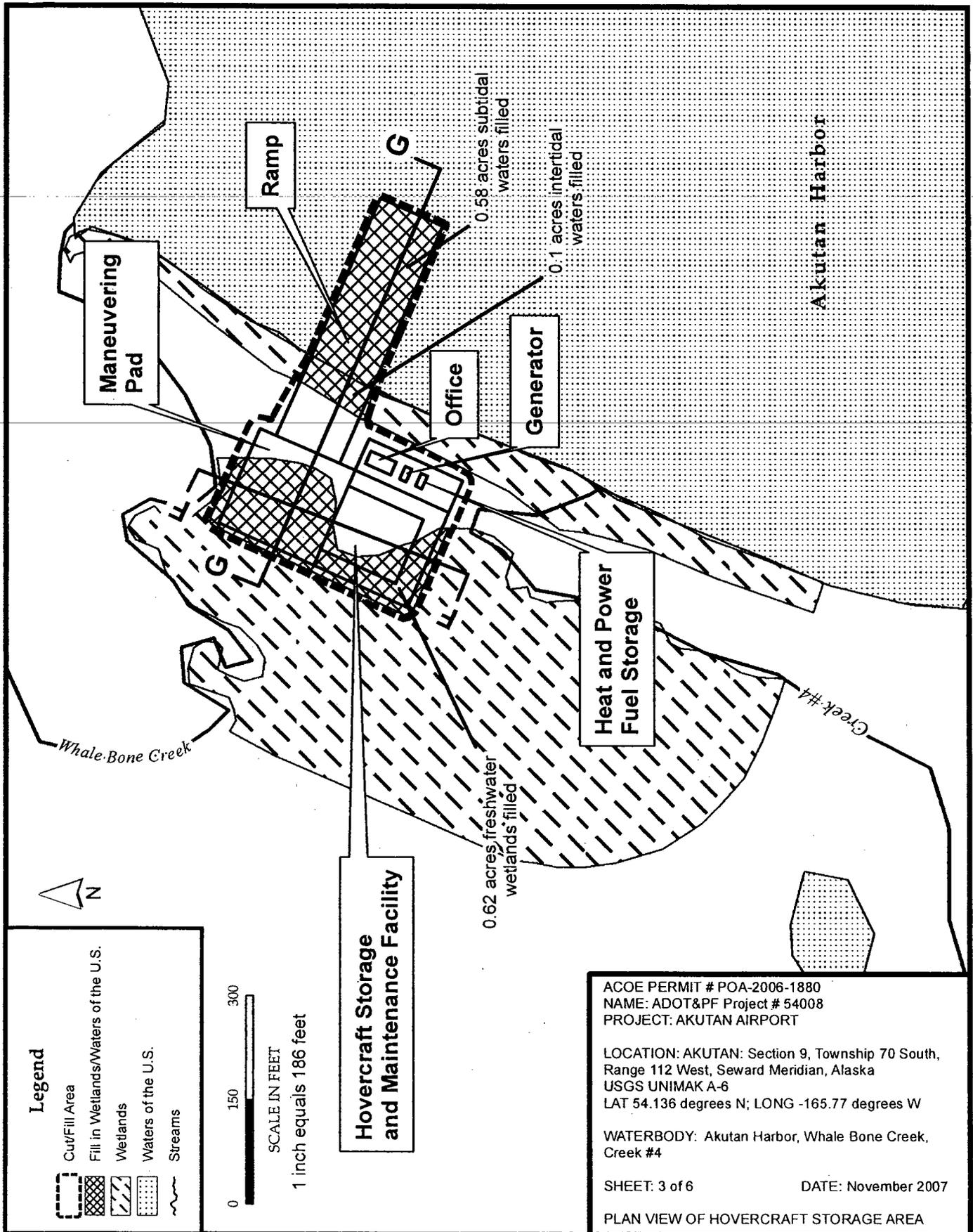
LOCATION: AKUN: Section 1, Township 70 South,  
Range 111 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska  
USGS UNIMAK A-6  
LAT 54.142 degrees N; LONG -165.611 degrees W

WATERBODY: Surf Bay, Lake #1, #2; Stream #1, #2, #3;  
Pond #2

SHEET: 2 of 6

DATE: November 2007

PLAN VIEW OF AKUN AIRPORT



**Legend**

-  Cut/Fill Area
-  Fill in Wetlands/Waters of the U.S.
-  Wetlands
-  Waters of the U.S.
-  Streams



SCALE IN FEET

1 inch equals 186 feet

**Hovercraft Storage  
and Maintenance Facility**

0.58 acres subtidal  
waters filled

0.1 acres intertidal  
waters filled

0.62 acres freshwater  
wetlands filled

Akutan Harbor

Creek #4

ACOE PERMIT # POA-2006-1880  
NAME: ADOT&PF Project # 54008  
PROJECT: AKUTAN AIRPORT

LOCATION: AKUTAN: Section 9, Township 70 South,  
Range 112 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska  
USGS UNIMAK A-6  
LAT 54.136 degrees N; LONG -165.77 degrees W

WATERBODY: Akutan Harbor, Whale Bone Creek,  
Creek #4

SHEET: 3 of 6

DATE: November 2007

PLAN VIEW OF HOVERCRAFT STORAGE AREA

**SECTION D-D**

Cut Condition

150' WIDE RUNWAY SAFETY AREA

10' DITCH BOTTOM

Existing Ground

extent of wetlands

75' WIDE RUNWAY

CULVERT CROSSES AT MID-POINT AT THIS SECTION

Slope for cross-runway culvert = 4.8%

Culvert

3:1 slope

3:1 slope

**SECTION C-C**

Fill Condition

wetlands

**TYPICAL RUNWAY CROSS-SECTIONS**

NOT TO SCALE

75' WIDE RUNWAY

3:1 slope

3:1 slope

extent of wetlands

**SECTION B-B**

Fill Condition

75' WIDE RUNWAY

3:1 slope

3:1 slope

extent of wetlands

**SECTION A-A**

Fill Condition

ACOE PERMIT # POA-2006-1880  
NAME: ADOT&PF Project # 54008  
PROJECT: AKUTAN AIRPORT

LOCATION: AKUN: Section 1, Township 70 South,  
Range 111 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska  
USGS UNIMAK A-6  
LAT 54.136 degrees N; LONG -165.77 degrees W

SHEET: 4 of 6

DATE: November 2007

TYPICAL SECTIONS - RUNWAY

SECTION E-E

Existing Ground

Edge of Pad  
Elevation = 9'

150' Landing Pad

Edge of Pad  
Elevation = 1'

5%

Extent of Waters of the U.S.  
(Surf Bay)

High Tide Line

Mean High Water

# HOVERCRAFT LANDING PAD CROSS-SECTION - AKUN ISLAND

NOT TO SCALE

ACOE PERMIT # POA-2006-1880  
NAME: ADOT&PF Project # 54008  
PROJECT: AKUTAN AIRPORT

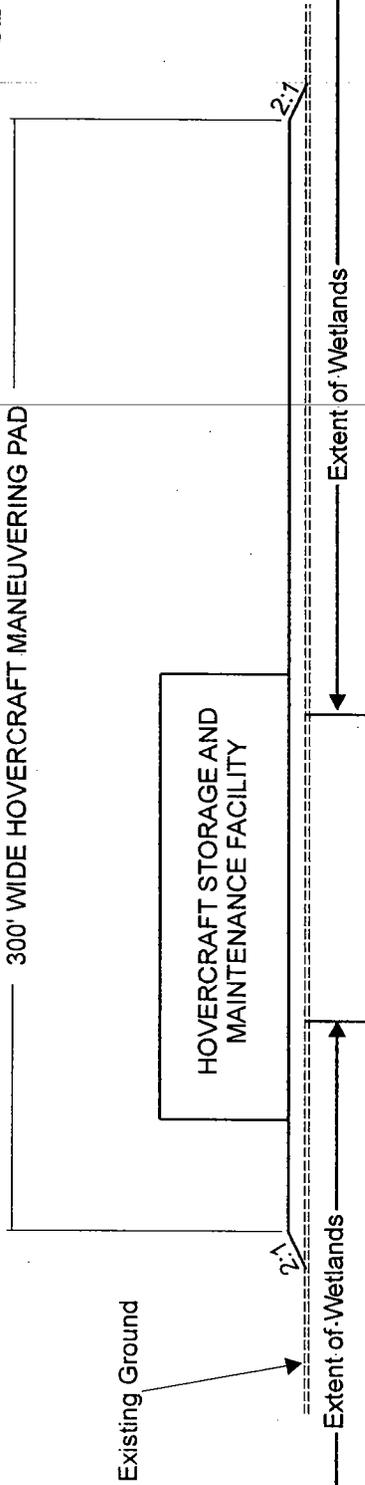
LOCATION: AKUN: Section 1, Township 70 South,  
Range 111 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska  
USGS UNIMAK A-6  
LAT 54.136 degrees N; LONG -165.77 degrees W

SHEET: 5 of 6

DATE: November 2007

TYPICAL SECTIONS - HOVERCRAFT LANDING PAD

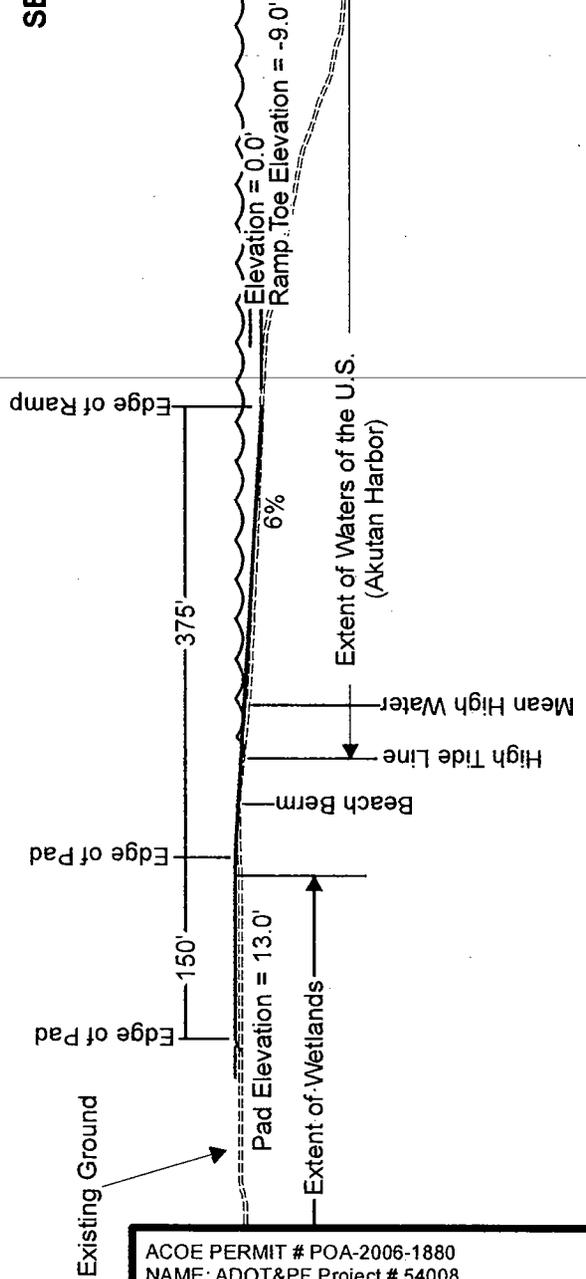
SECTION F-F



HOVERCRAFT STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY AND PAD CROSS-SECTIONS - AKUTAN ISLAND

NOT TO SCALE

SECTION G-G



ACOE PERMIT # POA-2006-1880  
 NAME: ADOT&PF Project # 54008  
 PROJECT: AKUTAN AIRPORT

LOCATION: AKUTAN: Section 9, Township 70 South,  
 Range 112 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska  
 USGS UNIMAK A-6  
 LAT 54.136 degrees N; LONG -165.77 degrees W

SHEET: 6 of 6

DATE: November 2007

TYPICAL SECTION - HOVERCRAFT PAD