



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: 9 September 2008

EXPIRATION DATE: 9 October 2008

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2005-1585

WATERWAY: Tuluksak 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 (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 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), P.O. Box 16900, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900. Contact Dan Golden at (907) 269-0537.

LOCATION: The project site is located in Tuluksak, Alaska; within Sections 26, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, T. 12 N., R. 66 W., Seward Meridian; at Latitude 61.090° N., Longitude 160.927° W.; and which can be noted on USGS topographic map Russian Mission A-6.

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

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to improve aviation safety by providing a new airport in Tuluksak that would meet current Federal and State aviation standards for Community Airports.

PROPOSED WORK: Excavate approximately 249,200 cubic yards (cy) of silty sand from a sandbar at the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Tuluksak Rivers. Approximately 150,000 cy of material would be removed from below the ordinary high water mark. Approximately 20 acres of the 112-acre sandbar would be impacted. The material would be used to construct embankments for the new airport and airport access road. All airport improvements would be constructed in uplands except for 0.4 acre of palustrine wetland which would be filled with 1,725 cy of material for the access

road construction. Work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated June 2008.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Excavation at the sand bar material site would occur in winter to avoid impacts to fish. Material haul would be over the frozen river ice to the shoreline barge landing which would be protected by a snow and/or ice ramp.

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: 1) The airport runway and safety area improvements were aligned to avoid all wetlands, (only the access road would affect 0.4 acre of wetland); 2) Material excavation at the sand bar and haul to the barge landing would be conducted in winter to avoid adverse impacts to fish and habitat; 3) The excavated sandbar would be graded to eliminate fish entrapment at the conclusion of activity there or if operations cease for more than 2 weeks; 4) Clearing of brush and trees would occur before May 5 or after July 25 of any year to avoid impacts to nesting migratory birds; 5) In accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Corps, ADOT&PF and Federal Aviation Administration, \$10,000. would be directed to the Alaska Wetland 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 no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the proposed project areas. The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer stated on January 8, 2007, that No Historic Properties would be Affected by the proposed project. 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. 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 EFH 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).

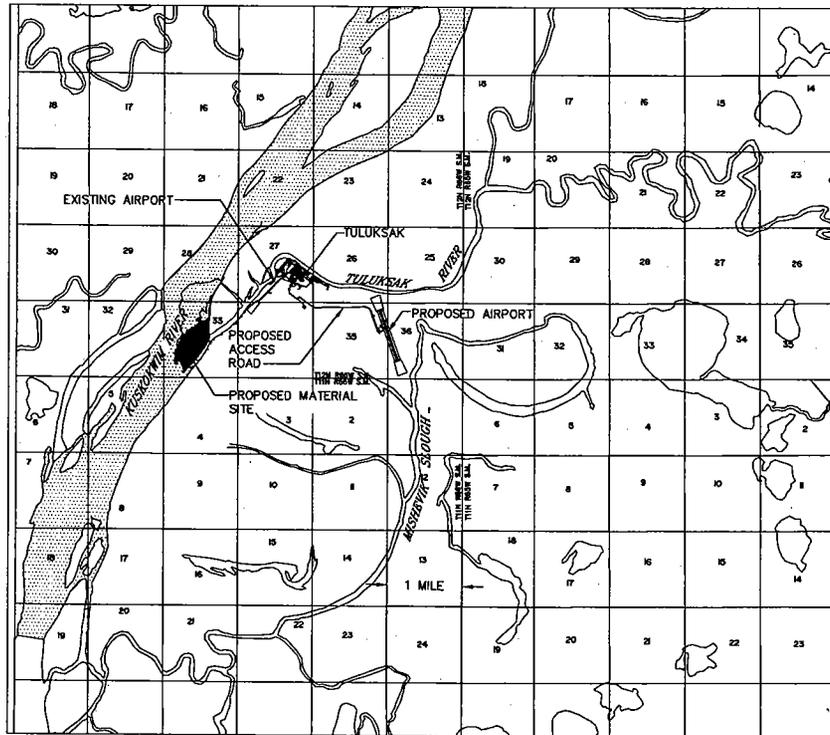
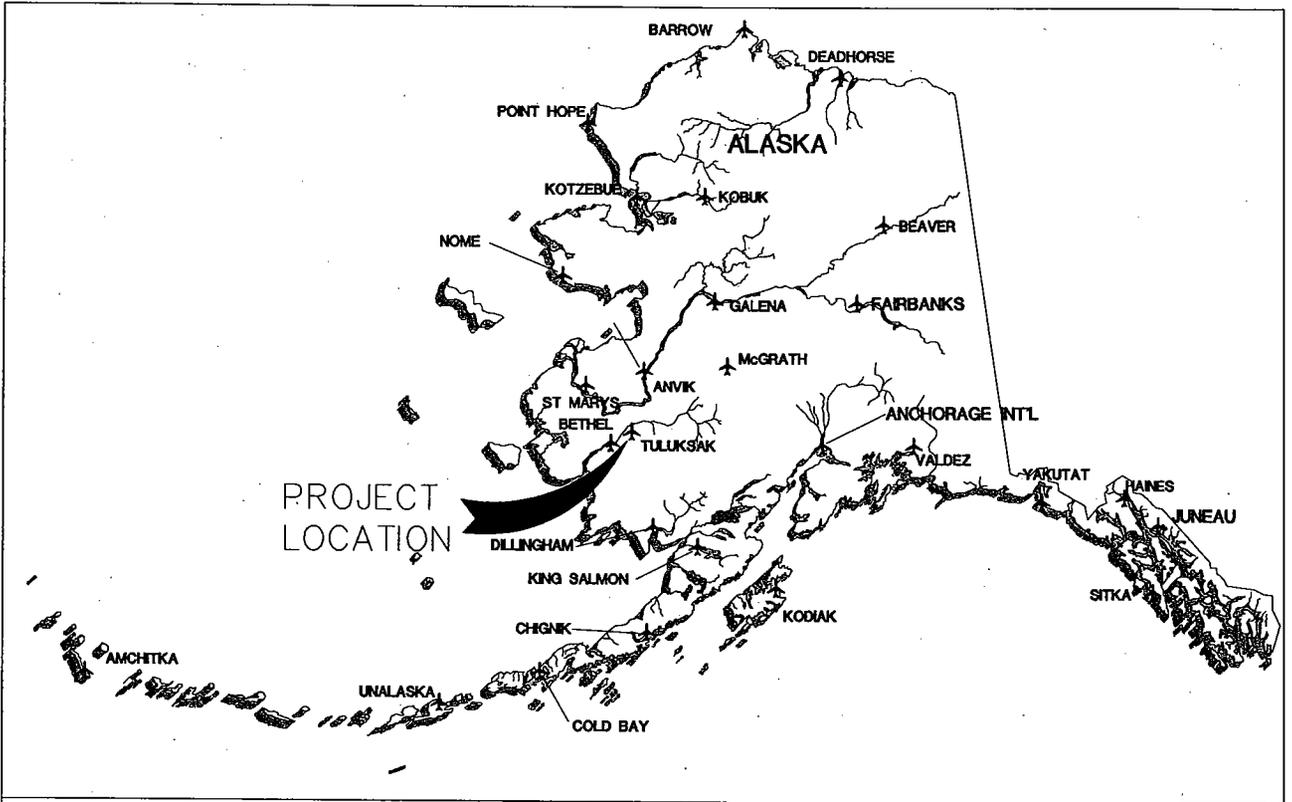
(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

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.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

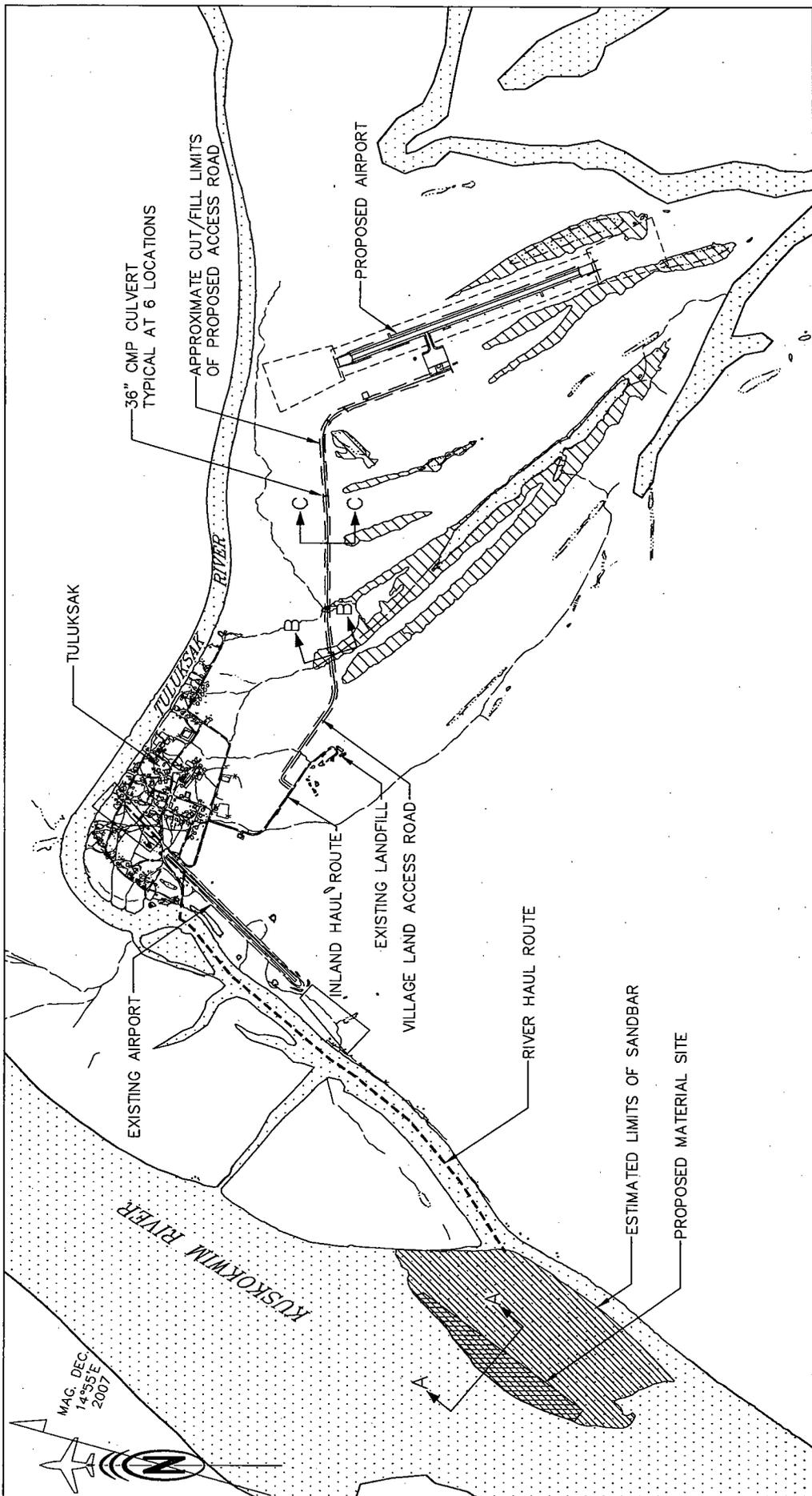
project\1247.01\Preliminary Engineering\CORP_Permit--Vicinity, 1=1000, 06/19/08 αREF:051847ndkandSTATUS-8-05-05, 51247EXRW, 51247TOPO, COEBORDA



VICINITY MAP
 USGS RUSSIAN MISSION (A-6), ALASKA
 T12N R66W
 SECTIONS 26-27, 33-36
 SEWARD MERIDIAN



PROPOSED: TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION
 MATERIAL SITE
 NEAR: TULUKSAK, ALASKA
 BY: DOT&PF / CENTRAL REGION
 4111 AVIATION DRIVE
 ANCHORAGE, AK 99502
POA-2005-1585-M2
 DATE 06/19/08 SHEET 1 OF 4



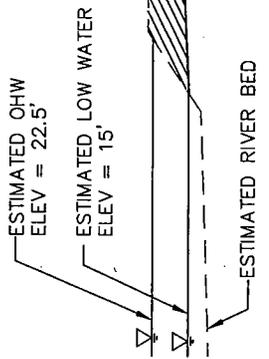
PROPOSED: TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION MATERIAL SITE

NEAR: TULUKSAK, ALASKA

BY: DOT&PF / CENTRAL REGION
4111 AVIATION DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99502

POA-2005-1585-M2
DATE 06/19/08

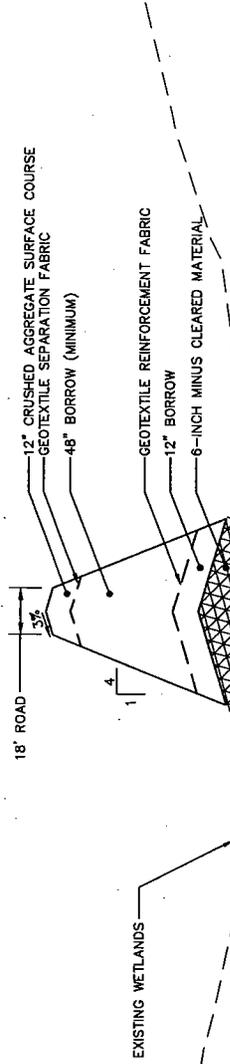
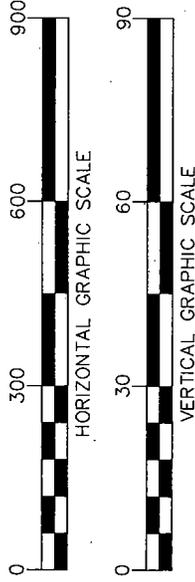
Project\1247\01\Primary Engineering\CORP_Permit-Plan, 1=1000, 06/19/08 at 14:05 by nak
XREF: 51247-LANDSTATUS-8-05-05, 51247DES, 51247TRPO, C0FB080A2, IMAGE



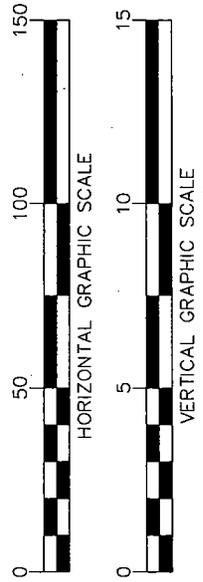
NOTES

1. FINISHED GROUND SHALL BE SLOPED TO PREVENT PONDING.
2. VERTICAL DATUM IS NAVD88 (ALASKA 2006).

SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B



PROPOSED: TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION MATERIAL SITE
 NEAR: TULUKSAK, ALASKA
 BY: DOT&PF / CENTRAL REGION
 4111 AVIATION DRIVE
 ANCHORAGE, AK 99502
POA-2005-1585-M2
 DATE 06/19/08

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF COASTAL AND OCEAN MANAGEMENT

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

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-2005-1585, Tuluksak River**, 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-2005-1585, Tuluksak 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.