



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

ANCHORAGE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
645 G Street, Suite 100-921
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	MARCH 1, 2019
EXPIRATION DATE:	MAY 30, 2019
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2017-00271
WATERWAY:	MULTIPLE

Interested parties are hereby notified that Pebble Limited Partnership (PLP) has submitted a Department of the Army permit application requesting authorization under Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) to perform work in or affect navigable waters of the United States (U.S.) and under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S.

PLP's project information is described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings (Figure 1, dated September 28, 2018; Figure 2, dated September 6, 2018; Figure 3, dated September 28, 2018; Figure 4, dated October 10, 2019; and Figures 5-11, dated January 2019).

APPLICANT: Pebble Limited Partnership, 3201 C Street, Suite 505, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503

LOCATION: PLP's proposed project location is in southwest Alaska, near Iliamna Lake, approximately 200 miles southwest of Anchorage and 60 miles west of Cook Inlet. The mine site and a majority of the proposed supporting infrastructure would be located in the Lake and Peninsula Borough with the remainder of supporting infrastructure located in the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

PURPOSE:

PLP's stated purpose is to produce commodities, including copper, gold, and molybdenum, from the Pebble Deposit, which is a naturally occurring concentration of copper-gold-molybdenum and other valuable minerals, in a manner that is commercially viable using proven technologies that are suitable for the remote project location.

PROPOSED WORK:

PLP proposes the following activities which would require Department of the Army (DA) authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA): the discharge of 524,000 cubic yards of gravel and rip rap for the construction of a causeway/wharf; installation of two lighted navigation buoys; installation of six mooring buoys at two separate locations below the mean high water mark of the Cook Inlet; and installation of 104-miles of natural gas pipeline across the Cook Inlet; construction of two ferry terminals on Lake Iliamna; installation of four mooring/navigation buoys in Lake Iliamna; and installation of 18-miles of natural gas pipeline below the ordinary high water mark of Lake Iliamna.

PLP proposes the following activities which would require DA authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act: the permanent placement of dredged or fill material into 3,555.4 acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, and the temporary placement of dredged or fill material in to 518.3 acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, for the construction of an open pit mine, tailings and water storage impoundments, power plants, rock source sites, mineral processing facilities, a port facility, roads, ferry terminals, and a natural gas pipeline.

The 12-inch diameter natural gas pipeline would originate on the Kenai Peninsula and would extend across the Cook Inlet, lying south of St. Augustine Island, to just north of Amakdedori Creek, in Kamishak Bay. The pipeline would come ashore at the proposed port at Amakdedori and parallel the proposed road and ferry route to the mine site. The port site would consist of a fill pad in the uplands area and a 1,900 foot long, sheetpile and gravel filled causeway/wharf. A road corridor would extend from the port, to a ferry terminal on the south side of Lake Iliamna, west of Kokhanok. A ferry would run between the south ferry terminal and a north ferry terminal, located east of Upper Talarik Creek. A road corridor would extend from the north ferry terminal to the proposed mine site. Spur roads are proposed from the proposed road corridor to connect to the existing road north of the Village of Iliamna and from the road corridor to Kokhanok.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PLP is proposing to develop an open-pit mine with a conventional drill, blast, truck, and shovel operation. The total size of the proposed mine area would be 8 miles long by 4.8 miles wide, covering an area of 8,086 acres.

Ferry terminals and a daily ferry crossing are proposed on Iliamna Lake.

Between Amakdedori Port and the south ferry terminal, including materials sites and Kokhanok Spur Road, the proposed transportation corridor would be 37 miles long by up to 300 feet wide. Between the north ferry terminal and the mine site, including Iliamna Spur Road, the proposed transportation corridor would be 29 miles long by up to 300 feet wide. The transportation corridors area includes the pipeline trench and the entire construction footprint.

The pipeline construction area for the marine portion and the Lake Iliamna portion of the pipeline, including the trench and any areas where trenched material would be temporarily sidecast, would be up to 30 feet wide.

Amakdedori Port and ancillary facilities would be up to 40 acres in size.

The Pebble Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) can be viewed at: pebbleprojecteis.com.

An initial list of required permits and approvals, and the agencies responsible for their issuance, are listed in Appendix E of the DEIS.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: PLP has proposed mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the U.S. from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material. These measures are summarized in Chapter 5 and Appendix M of the DEIS.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. cannot proceed 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: To date, investigations into the presence or absence of potentially eligible historic properties have included consulting the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs); reviews of previous studies, historic and ethnographic sources; interviews of local informants regarding cultural resources; field surveys at the proposed mine site and port site; a desktop study of the proposed transportation corridor; place name research; and landscape modeling to identify areas with low potential to contain archeological resources. There are potentially eligible historic properties in the permit area and within the vicinity of the permit area. Further information on the investigation into potentially eligible historic properties is provided in the DEIS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has made an Adverse Effect determination for the proposed project based upon the presence of potentially eligible historic properties in the permit area and the reasonable expectation that these potentially eligible properties would be affected by the undertaking. This application is being coordinated with State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other consulting parties. Any comments concerning archeological or historic data that may be affected by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final decision.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the range of the Cook Inlet beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), northern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris kenyoni*), Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*).

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on the endangered short-tailed albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) and the Cook Inlet beluga whale (*Delphinapterus*

leucas), and on the threatened Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

We have determined the described activity may affect the endangered Western North Pacific Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), northern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris kenyoni*), and the threatened Mexico DPS of the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). In addition, the proposed project may adversely modify designated critical habitat for the Cook Inlet beluga whale and the northern sea otter. Draft Biological Assessments of the potential impacts to species managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are included in Appendices G and H of the DEIS. We have initiated consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with USFWS and NMFS. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife 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 sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), Atka mackerel (*Pleurogrammus monopterygius*), three Gulf of Alaska skate species (Rajidae), octopus, Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*), three sculpins (Cottidae), walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*), 20 rockfish species (*Sebastes* spp.), eight flatfish species, sharks, more than eight forage fish, squid, grenadiers, and Weathervane scallop (*Patinopecten caurinus*).

We have determined the described activity may adversely affect EFH in the project area for the species listed above. A draft EFH assessment has been included in Appendix I of the DEIS. Any comments or recommendations concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

PUBLIC HEARING: Notice is hereby given that public hearings will be conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District for DA permit application POA-2017-217 under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 U.S.C. 403) for the proposed activity described above.

The hearings will be held at the following dates and times and will be conducted in combination hearings for the DEIS:

March 25, 2019,	3:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Bristol Bay School, Naknek, AK,
March 26, 2019,	3:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Kokhanok Bingo Hall, Kokhanok, AK,

March 27, 2019,	3:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Newhalen School, Newhalen, AK,
March 28, 2019,	3:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Igiugig School, Igiugig, AK,
March 29, 2019,	1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.	New Stuyahok Community Building, New Stuyahok, AK,
April 8, 2019,	3:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.	Tribal Center, Nondalton, AK,
April 9, 2019,	4:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.	Dillingham High School, Dillingham, AK,
April 11, 2019,	3:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.	Homer High School, Homer, AK,
April 16, 2019,	12:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.	Dena'ina Center, Anchorage, AK,

The purpose of the hearings are to acquire information or evidence which is needed to make decisions on the permit application. The presiding officer will be Colonel Phillip J. Borders, District Commander or Lieutenant Colonel Penny M. Bloedel, Deputy District Commander.

Any person will be permitted to submit oral or written statements concerning the permit application, but for accuracy or record, all important facts and statements, should be submitted in writing. The hearing record will be closed on the expiration date of this Public Notice. Communications received in response to this notice are on record and will so remain and will be given the same consideration as the information presented at the hearing. The time limit for oral statements submitted at the hearing will be up to three minutes for parties wishing to speak. Cross-examination of speakers will not be permitted. The proceedings of the hearing will be recorded verbatim.

Copies of the transcript may be purchased from the recorder. A copy will be available for public inspection on pebbleprojecteis.com. All written statements, charts, tabulations, and similar data offered in evidence at the hearing will, subject to exclusion by the presiding officer for reasons of redundancy, be received in evidence and will constitute a part of the record. The transcript of the hearing, together with all evidence introduced at the hearing, will be made a part of the administrative record of the permit application. All matters discussed at the hearing will be fully considered in making a final decision regarding the impact of the applications on the public interest.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline 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.

The USACE is soliciting comments from all interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered

by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal.

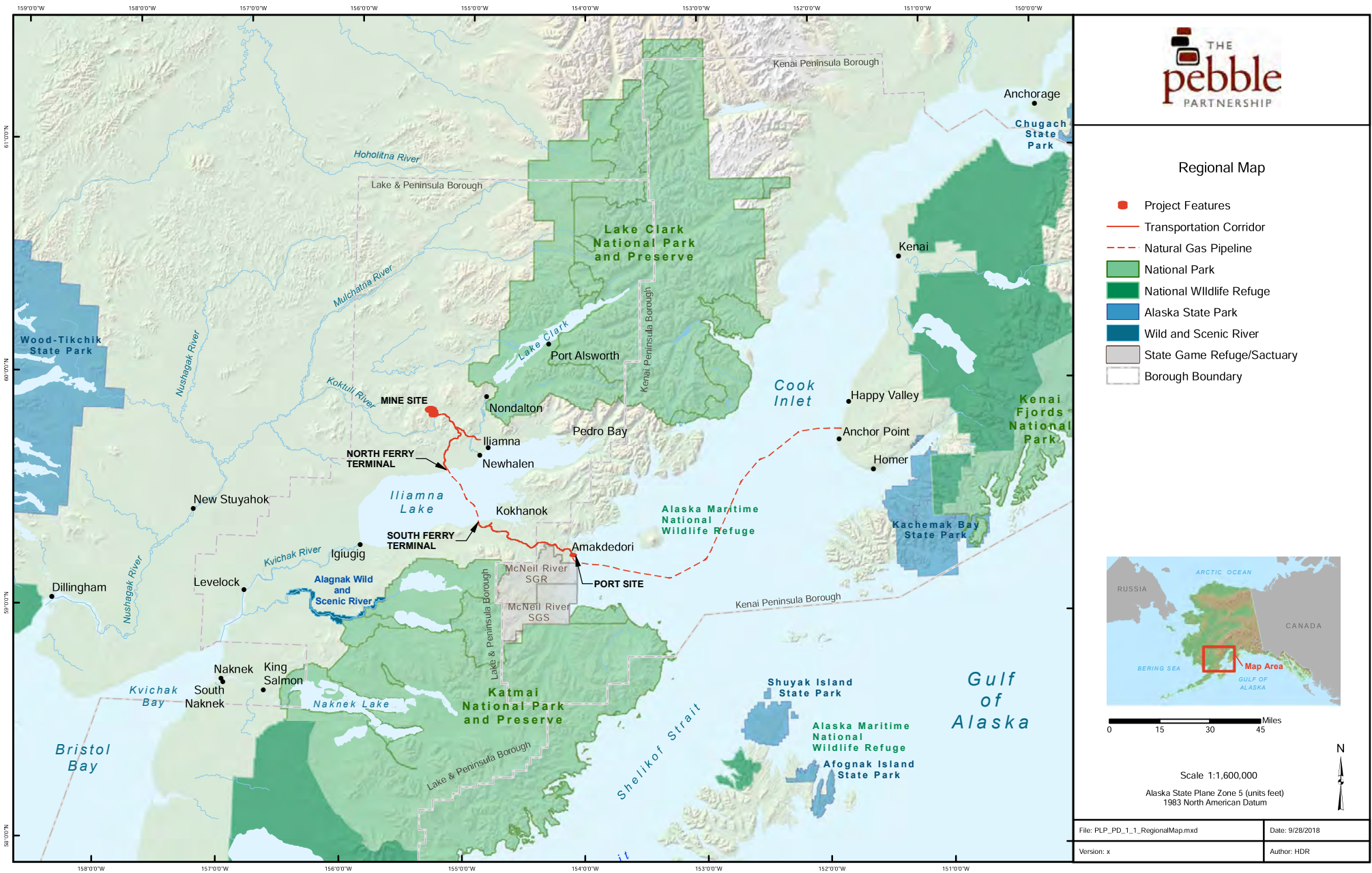
All comments regarding this Public Notice should be sent to USACE, 645 G Street, Suite 100-921, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. All comments should include the Public Notice reference number listed above.

All comments should be post marked no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Shane McCoy at (907) 753-2712, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at poaspecialprojects@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

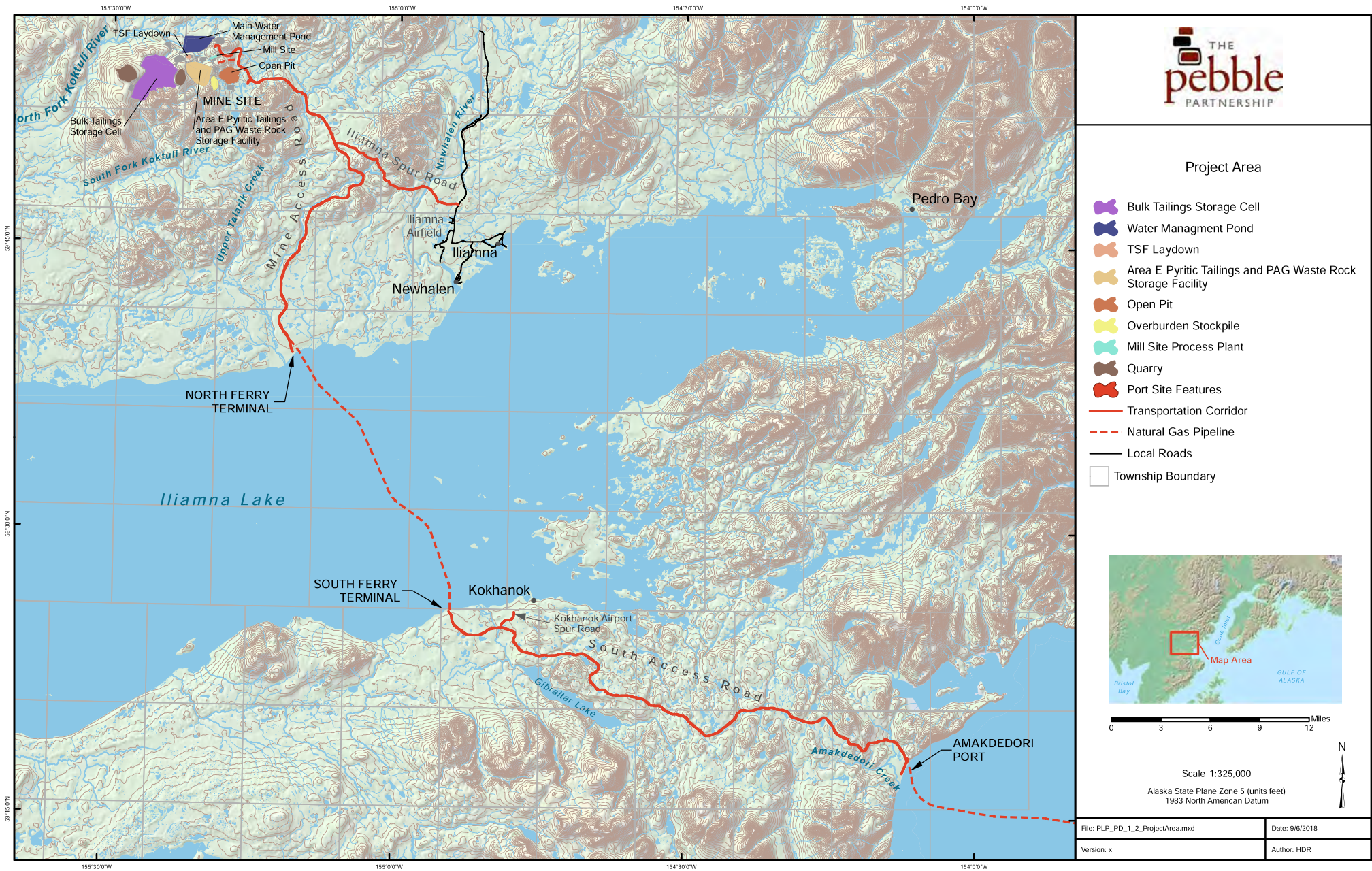
District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

POA-2017-271, Pebble Project, Public Notice Figure 1 of 11



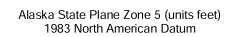
POA-2017-271, Pebble Project, Public Notice Figure 2 of 11



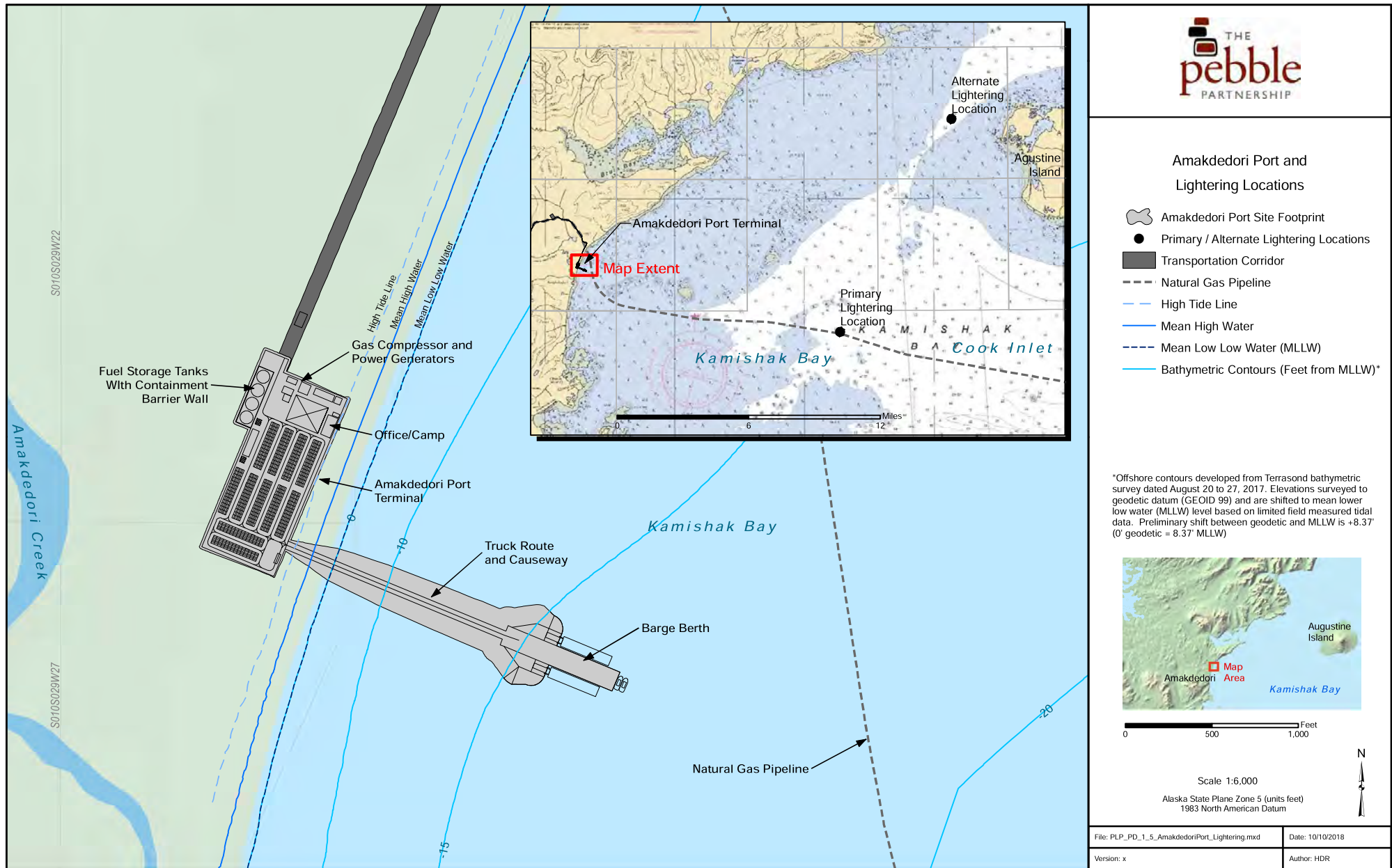
This topographic map illustrates the Mill Site, featuring a grid of UTM coordinates (T 35 R 35W to T 35 R 36W and T 45 R 35W to T 45 R 36W) and elevations ranging from 500 to 550 meters. The site includes several key areas and structures:

- Water Management and Treatment:** WTP 1, WTP 2, Potable Water Well Field, Main Water Management Pond, Open Pit Water Management Pond, and multiple Sediment Ponds.
- Storage and Processing:** Growth Medium Stockpile, Mill Camp and Administration Buildings, Mill Site Process Plant, Mill Site Power Plant, Mill Site Crusher and Conveyor, Mill Site Container Yard, Mill Site Laydown Area, Truck Shop Pad, Open Pit, Open Pit Overburden Stockpile, Area E Pyritic Tailings And PAG Waste Rock Storage Facility, Area E Embankment, Bulk Tailings Storage Facility, TSF Overburden Stockpile, TSF Main Embankment, and TSF Laydown.
- Infrastructure and Landmarks:** Quarry A, Quarry B, Quarry C, Landfill and Incinerator, Seepage Collection System, Seepage Recycle Pond, Seepage Recycle Pond, and Seepage Recycle Pond.

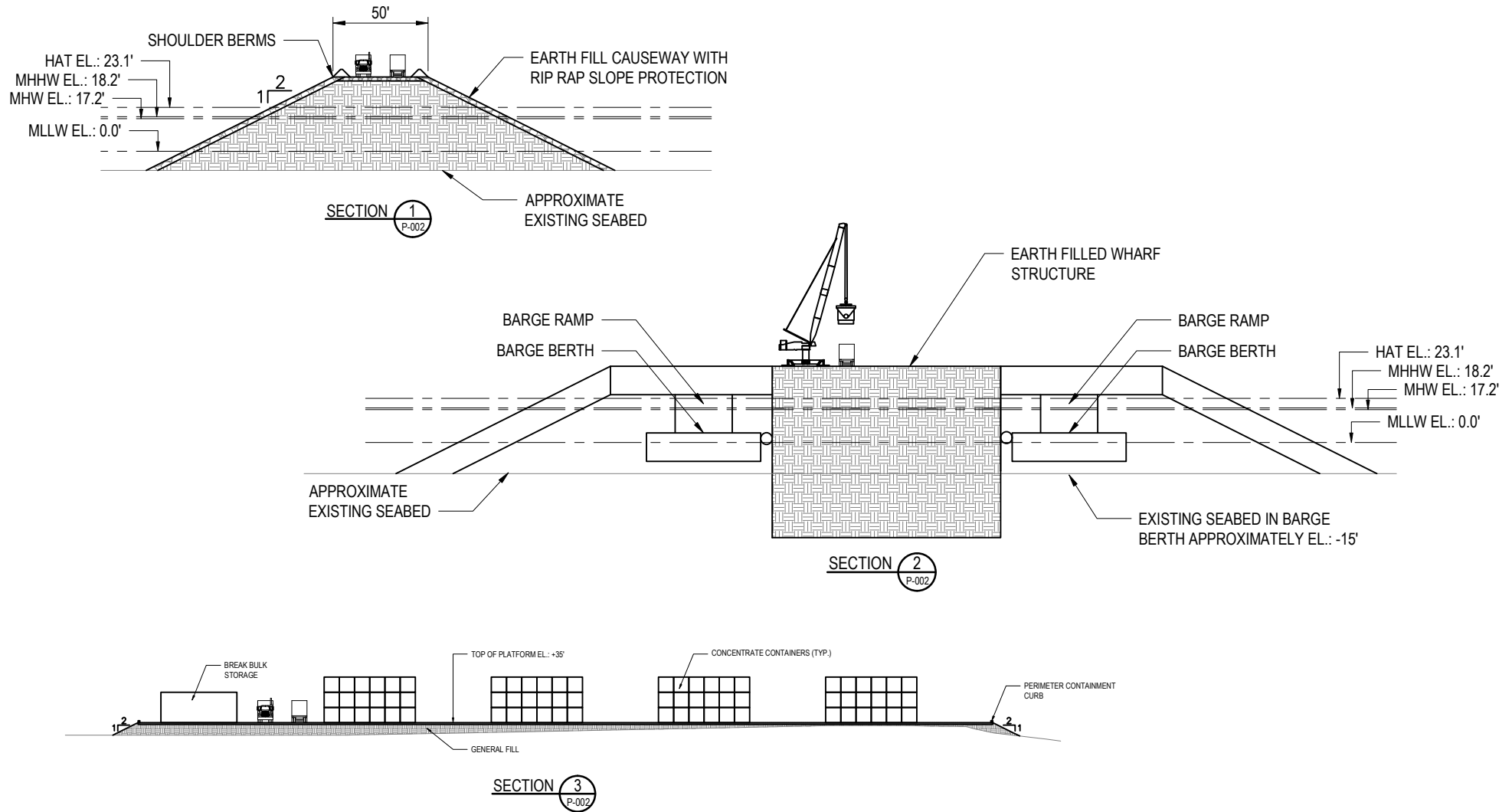
The map also shows various embankments (TSF Main Embankment, TSF South Embankment, Area E Embankment) and a network of roads and trails connecting the different facilities.



Author: HDR

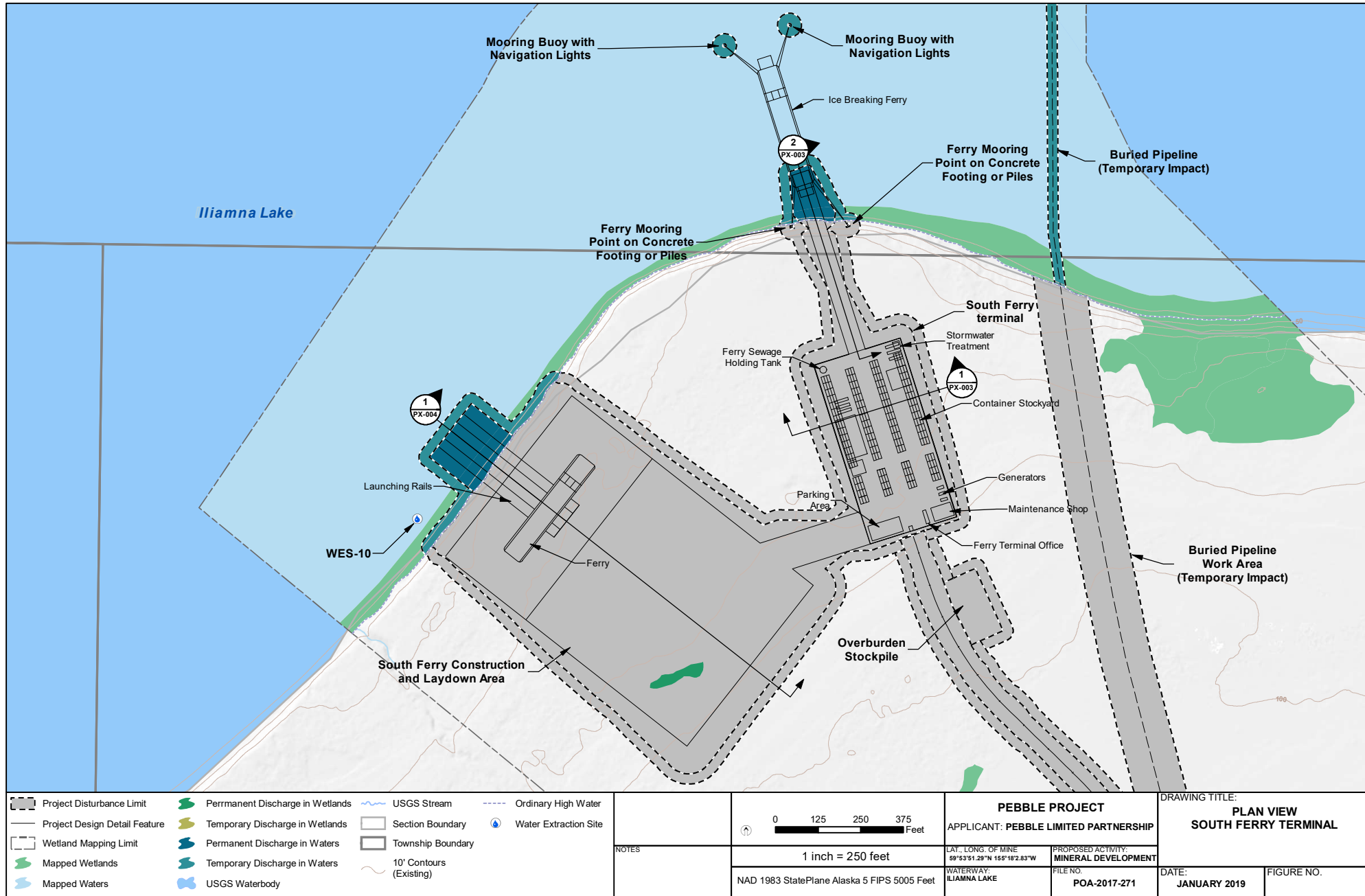


POA-2017-271, Pebble Project, Public Notice Figure 5 of 11

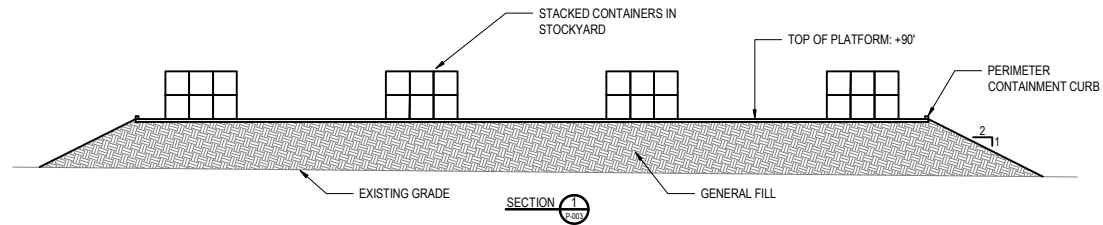


PEBBLE PROJECT		DRAWING TITLE:	
APPLICANT: PEBBLE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP		AMAKDEDORI PORT SITE TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS	
LAT., LONG. OF MINE 59°53'S 129°N 155°18'2.83"W	PROPOSED ACTIVITY: MINERAL DEVELOPMENT		
WATERWAY: AMAKDEDORI CREEK	FILE NO. POA-2017-271	DATE: JANUARY 2019	FIGURE NO.

POA-2017-271, Pebble Project, Public Notice Figure 6 of 11

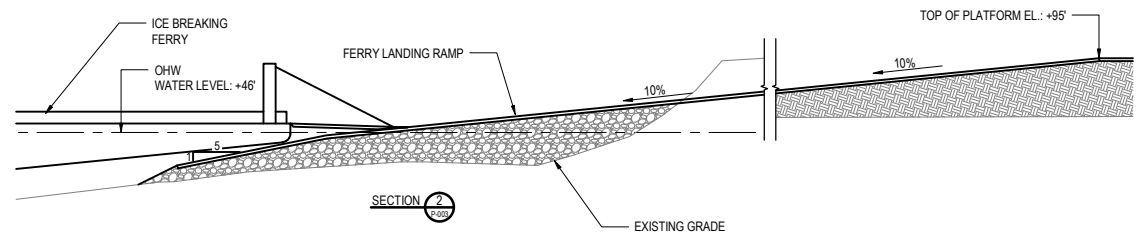


POA-2017-271, Pebble Project, Public Notice Figure 7 of 11



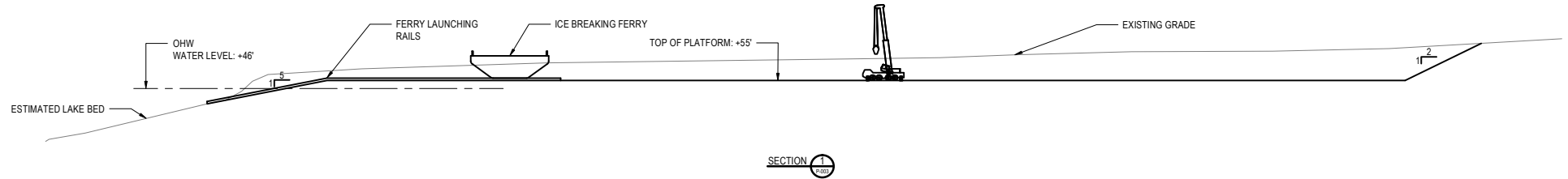
NOTES:

1. DIMENSIONS IN FEET
2. ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET TO GEODETIC DATUM (GEOID 99)
3. HORIZONTAL DATUM TO UTM NAD83, ALASKA STATE PLANE ZONE 5, US SURVEY FEET
4. ORDINARY HIGH WATER (OHW) ELEVATION BASED ON AERIAL PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND USGS TOPO
5. PLATFORM FOR FERRY TERMINAL TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITH ONSITE FERRY CONSTRUCTION



PEBBLE PROJECT		DRAWING TITLE:	
APPLICANT: PEBBLE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP		ILIAMNA LAKE FERRY SOUTH FERRY TERMINAL	
LAT. LONG. OF MINE 59°53'51.29"N 155°18'2.83"W	PROPOSED ACTIVITY: MINERAL DEVELOPMENT		
WATERWAY: ILIAMNA LAKE	FILE NO. POA-2017-271	DATE: JANUARY 2019	FIGURE NO.

POA-2017-271, Pebble Project, Public Notice Figure 8 of 11

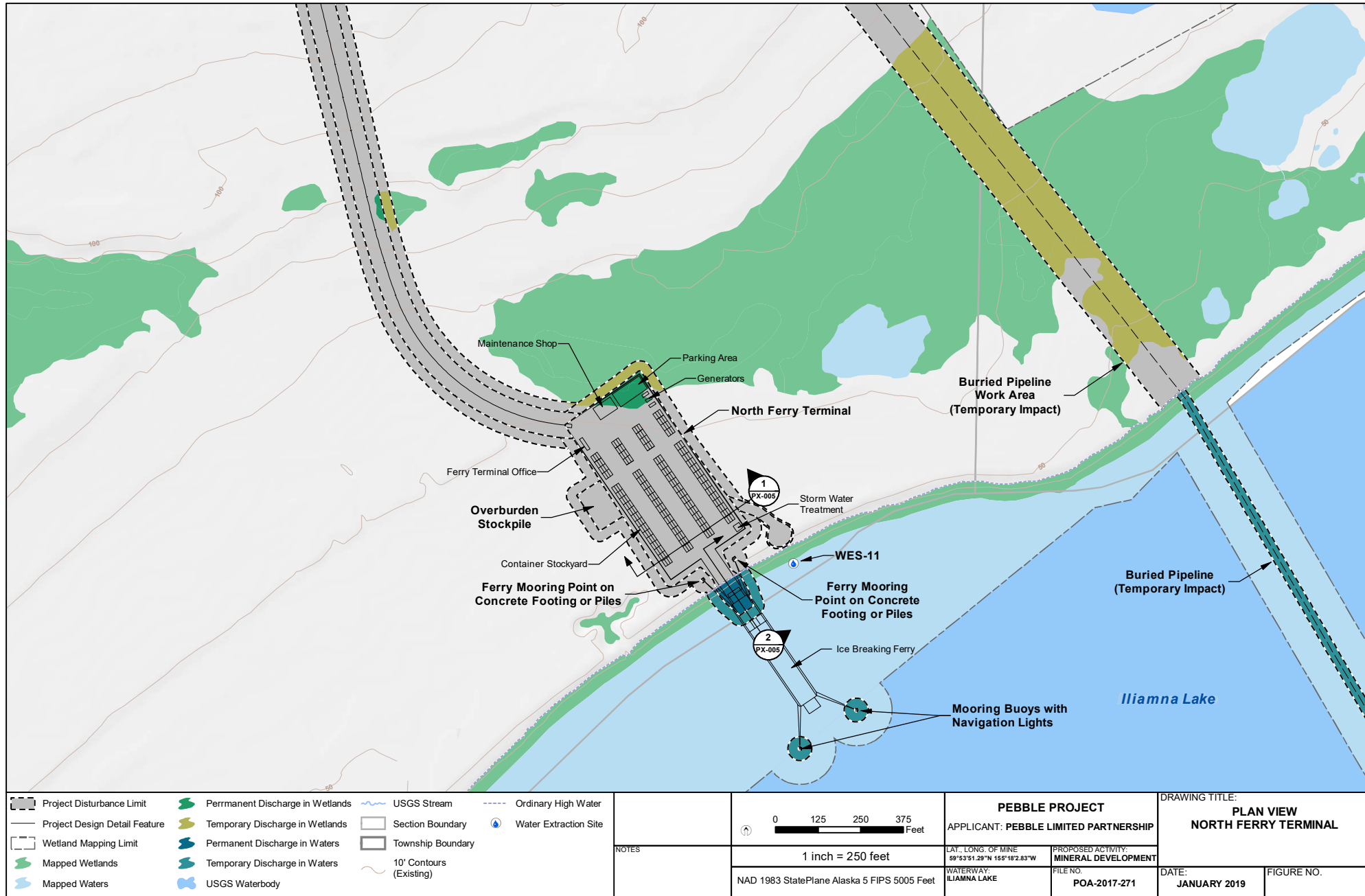


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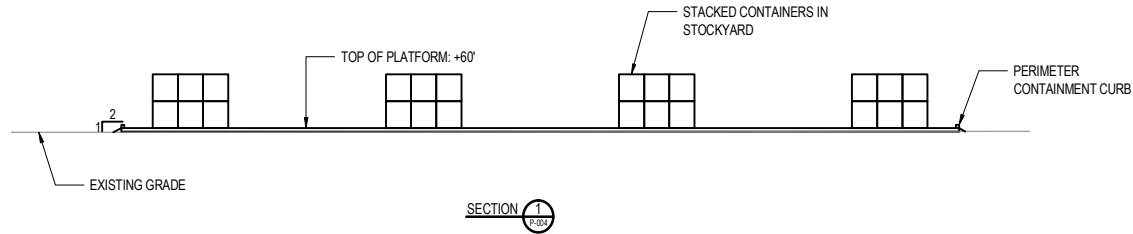
1. DIMENSIONS IN FEET
2. ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET TO GEODETIC DATUM
3. HORIZONTAL DATUM TO NAD83, ALASKA STATE PLANE ZONE 5, US SURVEY FEET
4. ORDINARY HIGH WATER (OHW) ELEVATION BASED ON AERIAL PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND USGS TOPO

PEBBLE PROJECT APPLICANT: PEBBLE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP		DRAWING TITLE: ILIAMNA LAKE FERRY SOUTH FERRY CONSTRUCTION AREA	
LAT., LONG. OF MINE 59°53'51.29"N 155°18'2.83"W	PROPOSED ACTIVITY: MINERAL DEVELOPMENT	DATE: JANUARY 2019	FIGURE NO.
WATERWAY: ILIAMNA LAKE	FILE NO. POA-2017-271		

POA-2017-271, Pebble Project, Public Notice Figure 9 of 11

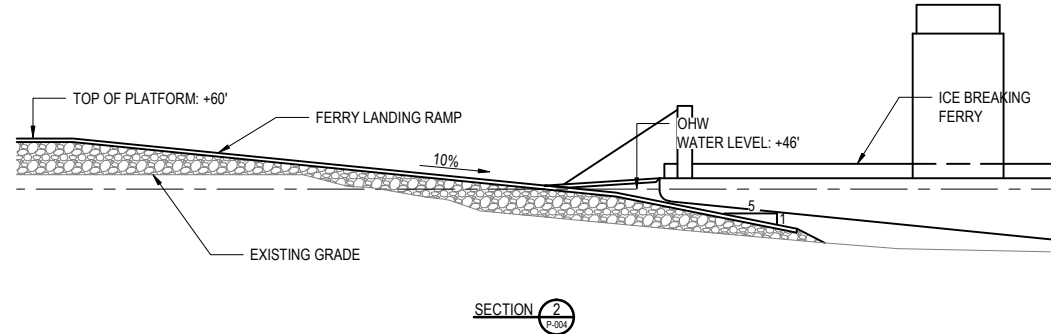


POA-2017-271, Pebble Project, Public Notice Figure 10 of 11

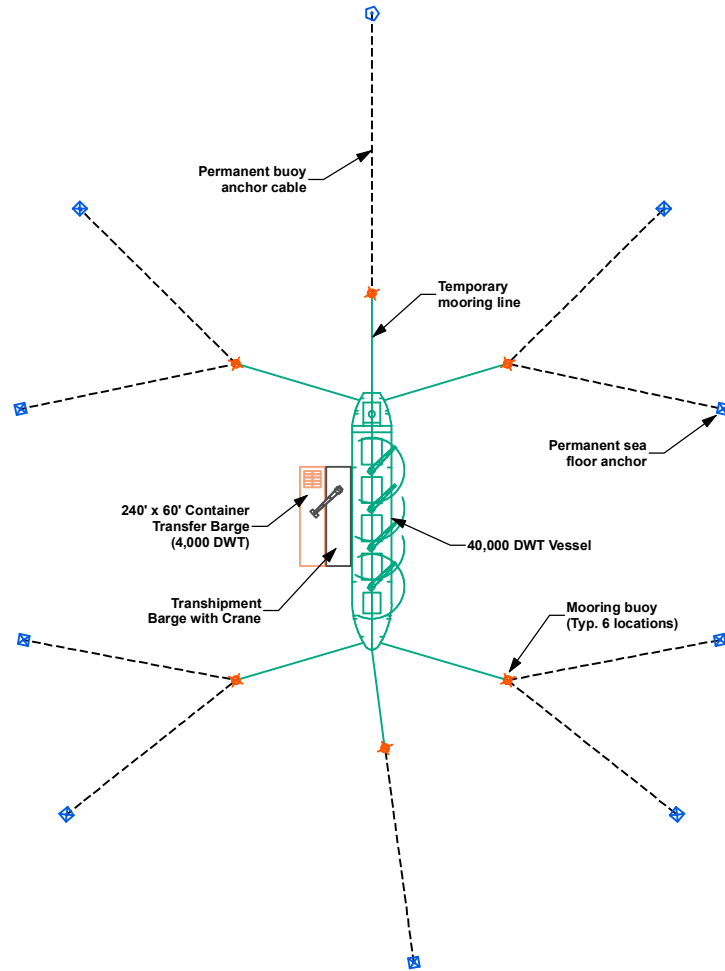


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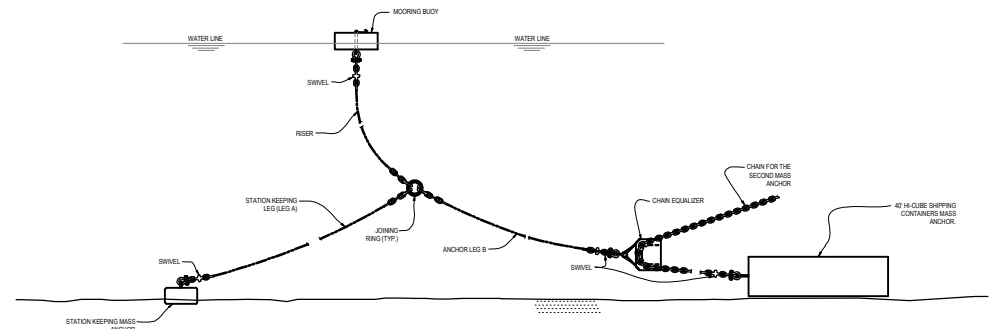
1. DIMENSIONS IN FEET
2. ELEVATIONS ARE IN FEET TO GEODETIC DATUM (GEOID 99)
3. HORIZONTAL DATUM TO UTM NAD83, ALASKA STATE PLANE ZONE 5, US SURVEY FEET
4. ORDINARY HIGH WATER (OHW) ELEVATION BASED ON AERIAL PHOTO INTERPRETATION AND USGS TOPO



PEBBLE PROJECT		DRAWING TITLE:	
APPLICANT: PEBBLE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP		ILIAMNA LAKE FERRY NORTH FERRY TERMINAL	
LAT., LONG. OF MINE 59°53'51.29"N 155°18'2.83"W	PROPOSED ACTIVITY: MINERAL DEVELOPMENT		
WATERWAY: ILIAMNA LAKE	FILE NO: POA-2017-271	DATE: JANUARY 2019	FIGURE NO.



LIGHTERING SPREAD MOORING SYSTEM ARRANGEMENT



TYPICAL ANCHOR DESIGN

PEBBLE PROJECT APPLICANT: PEBBLE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP		DRAWING TITLE: LIGHTERING SPREAD MOORING SYSTEM ARRANGEMENT AND TYPICAL ANCHOR DESIGN	
LAT. LONG. OF MINE 59°52'51.29"N 155°18'2.83"W	PROPOSED ACTIVITY: MINERAL DEVELOPMENT	DATE: JANUARY 2019	FIGURE NO.
WATERWAY: COOK INLET	FILE NO. POA-2017-271		