

KENAI FIELD OFFICE Regulatory Division (1145) CEPOA-RD 44669 Sterling Highway, Suite B Soldotna, Alaska 99669-7915

## Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: Augus

August 16, 2021

**EXPIRATION DATE:** 

September 16, 2021

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 

POA-1965-00034

WATERWAY:

**Resurrection Bay** 

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States (U.S.) as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this Public Notice (PN) should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the Project Manager's email as listed below or to: regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this PN to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Andy Gray at (907) 753-2722 or by email at: Andrew.A.Gray@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Jason Davis, Turnagain Marine Construction

AGENT: Robin Reich, Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc.

<u>LOCATION</u>: The project site is located within Section 2, T. 1 S., R. 1 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Seward A-7; Latitude 60.1184° N., Longitude 149.4277° W.; Seward Passenger Terminal, in Seward, Alaska.

<u>PURPOSE</u>: The applicant's stated purpose is to replace the Alaska Railroad Corporation Passenger Dock so that it can safely accommodate larger cruise ships, provide off-season mooring of freight vessels, and maintain a terminal space to process cruise passengers.

<u>PROPOSED WORK</u>: The applicant proposes to discharge 350,000 cubic yards (CY) of gravel and recycled concrete fill into 3.3 acres below the Mean High Water Mark (MHW) of Resurrection Bay, a navigable water of the U.S, for the purpose of upgrading the Alaska Railroad Corporation passenger dock. In addition, 15,000 CY of sediment would be dredged in waters of the U.S. directly adjacent to the dock to a depth of -38-feet below the 0.0-foot benchmark. The dredged material would be used as fill and placed back within the footprint of the solid fill dock. The final solid fill dock would be 1200-feet long by 120-feet wide.

## The proposed project would remove:

- The existing fenders.
- Nine hundred 14-inch diameter steel piles (920 would remain and act as soil anchors for the in-place fill).
- Ten 20-inch diameter steel piles that compose two mooring dolphins.
- The entire existing concrete deck will be removed, crushed and re-used as earthen fill.
- Portions of the concrete pile caps.
- Up to 5,000 CY of riprap obstructions along 200 feet of shoreline below the High Tide Line on both sides of the existing dock (Up to 0.09 acres).
- Up to 10,000 CY of material would be dredged in the area along the existing dock (approximately 1.10 acres).
- Submerged navigational obstructions within 120 feet of both sides of the proposed dock area (part of the proposed dredging).

## The proposed project would install:

- Three hundred (300) of the removed 14-inch-diameter steel piles to act as additional soil anchors within the fill footprint of the new solid fill dock.
- Two hundred twenty (220) permanent 36-inch H-beam steel soldier piles to guide concrete Panels.
- Two hundred twenty (220) permanent 12-foot wide by 24-inch-thick concrete panels.
- Two (2) permanent 42-inch diameters fender piles.
- Discharge 350,000 CY of gravel and recycled concrete fill (placed in two phases) to fill a total of approximately 3.3 acres.
- Install dock components such as bull rail, fenders, mooring cleats, pre-cast concrete dock surface, passenger walkway, handrail, and mast lights.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-16), dated August 3, 2021.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: The existing passenger terminal building is proposed to be removed and replaced.

<u>APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION</u>: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the U.S. from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

- a. Avoidance: The purpose of the project is to construct a dock that accommodates large cruise ships and their passengers during summer months and cargo vessels in the off season. The project is needed to provide safe harbor for large cruise ships and other large vessels docking in Seward. To meet the project purpose and need the Project must be constructed within waters of the United States. The project will be located within the already industrialized section of Resurrection Bay.
- b. Minimization: The project uses the most compact design practicable (with the least number of piles and smallest size of piles) to minimize impacts to waters of the United States.
- c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant stated compensatory mitigation is expected and will be determined together with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) through the permitting process.

<u>WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION</u>: 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.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: 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 cultural resources in the permit area. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the Corps at this time. The Corps has not made a determination of effect at this time and coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be completed as necessary. 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.

<u>ENDANGERED SPECIES</u>: The project area is within the known or historic range of the species listed below:

Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), and Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)

We have determined the described activity may affect the above listed species. We will initiate the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

with 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.

<u>ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT</u>: 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 below listed species:

Alaska Plaice (Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus)

Alaska Skate (Raja binoculata)

Aleutian Skate (Bathyraja aleutica)

Arrowtooth Flounder (Atheresthes stomias)

Atka Mackerel (Pleurogrammus monopterygius)

Bering Skate (Beringraja binoculata)

Bigmouth Sculpin (Hemitripterus bolini)

Black Rockfish (Sebastes melanops)

Blackspotted Rockfish (S. melanostictus)

Chinook Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)

Chum Salmon (O. keta)

Coho Salmon (O. kisutch)

Dark Rockfish (S. melanops)

Dover Sole (Solea solea)

Dusky Rockfish (S. ciliatus)

Flathead Sole (Hippoglossoides elassodon)

Great Sculpin (Myoxocephalus polyacanthocephalus)

Greenstriped Rockfish (S. elongatus)

Harlequin Rockfish (S. variegatus)

Longspine Thornyhead Rockfish (S. altivelis)

Northern Rock Sole (Lepidopsetta polyxystra)

Northern Rockfish (S. polyspinis)

Octopus (Octopoda)

Pacific Cod (Gadus macrocephalus)

Pacific Ocean Perch (S. alutus)

Pink Salmon (O. gorbuscha)

Pygmy Rockfish (S. wilsoni)

Quillback Rockfish (S. maliger)

Redbanded Rockfish (S. babcocki)

Redstriped Rockfish (S. proriger)

Rex Sole (Glyptocephalus zachirus)

Rosethorn Rockfish (S. helvomaculatus)

Rougheye Rockfish (S. aleutianus)

Sablefish (Anoplopoma fimbria)

Sharpchin Rockfish (S. chrysomelas)

Shortraker Rockfish (S. borealis)

Shortspine Thornyhead Rockfish (S. alascanus)

Silvergrey Rockfish (S. brevispinis)

Sockeye Salmon (O. nerka)
Southern Rock Sole (Lepidopsetta bilineata)
Walleye Pollock (Gadus chalcogrammus)
Yellow Irish Lord (Hemilepidotus jordani)
Yelloweye Rockfish (S. ruberrimus)
Yellowfin Sole (Limanda aspera)

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 NMFS may have concerning the 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 PN 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.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: 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)(l) 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 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 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.

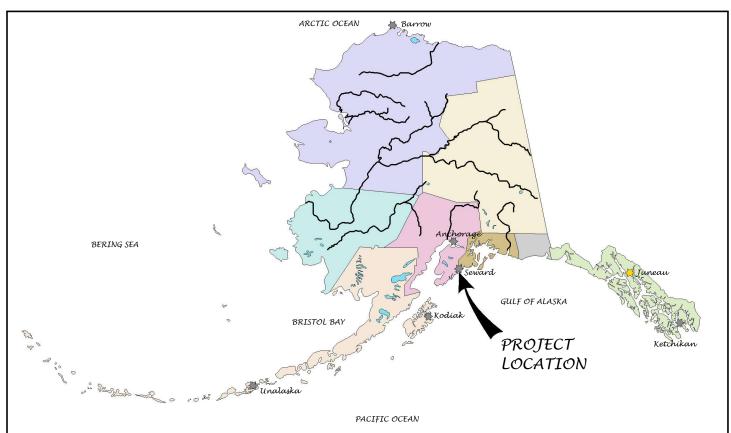
<u>AUTHORITY</u>: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

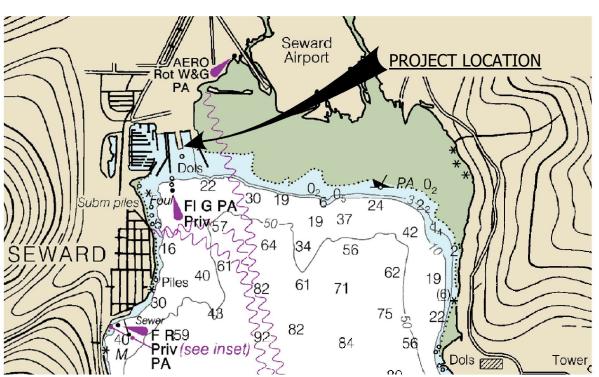
- (X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S. Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).
- (X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures





DUDDOCE

## SEWARD PASSENGER TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

DATUM: 0.0'

HTL = +15.70'

MHW = +9.7' MLLW = 0.00'

-3.50'

LAT =

VICINITY MAP AND LOCATION MAP

JOB NO. 20-004

PROPOSED:

**TURNAGAIN MARINE** 

IN:

**RESURRECTION BAY** 

AT·

DATE:

SEWARD, AK

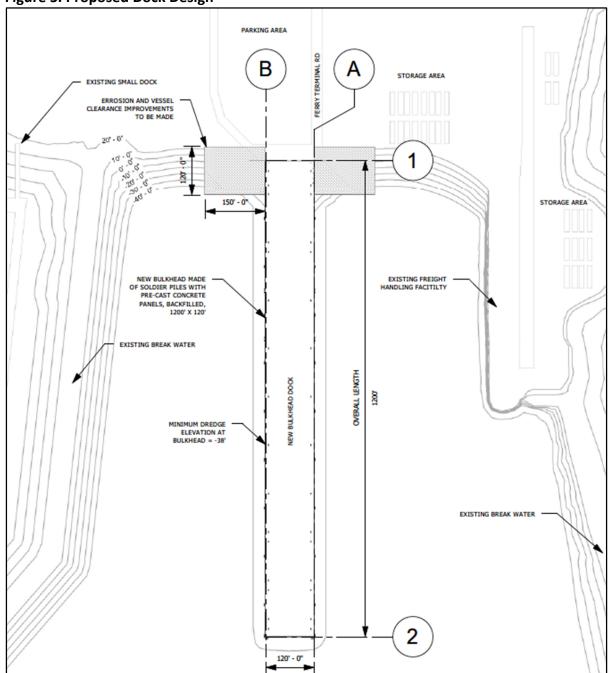
APPLICATION BY:

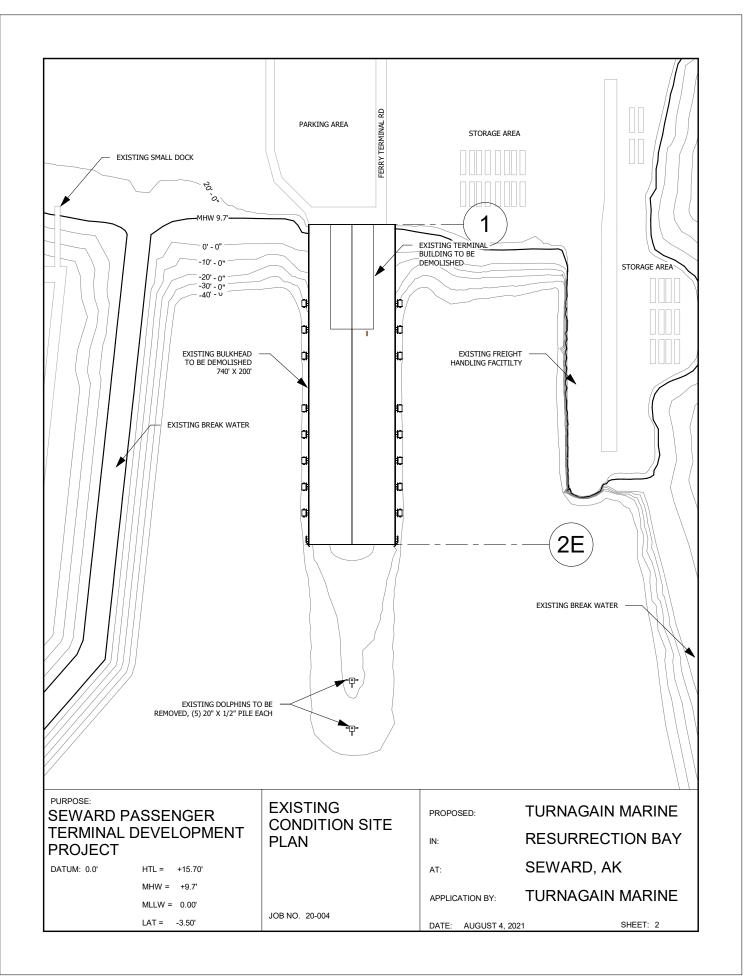
**TURNAGAIN MARINE** 

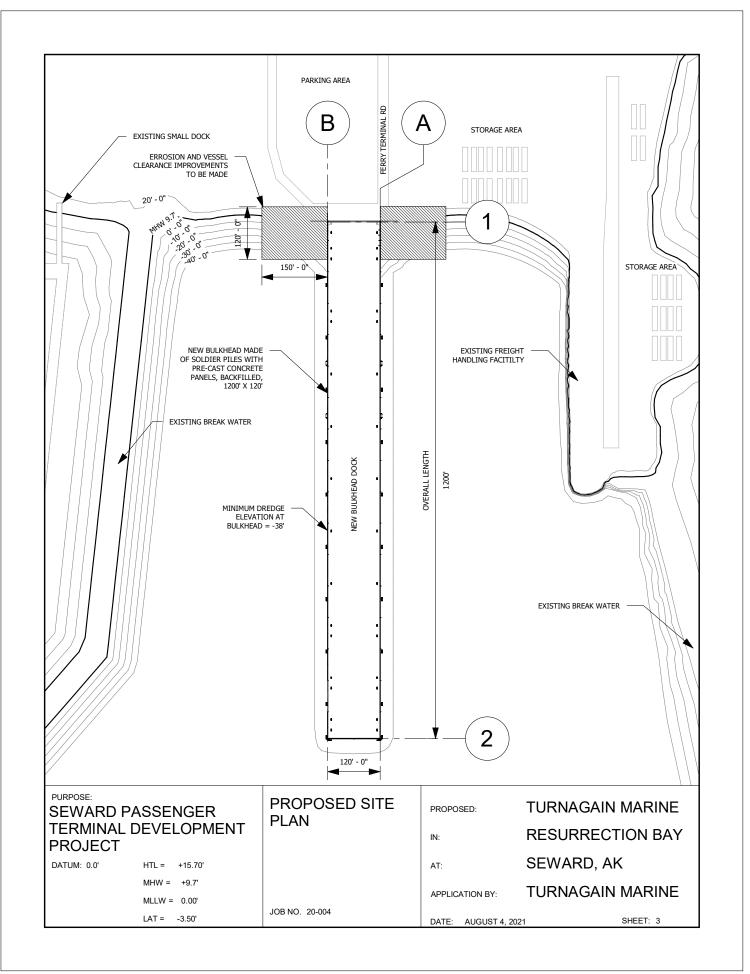
MARCH 29, 2021

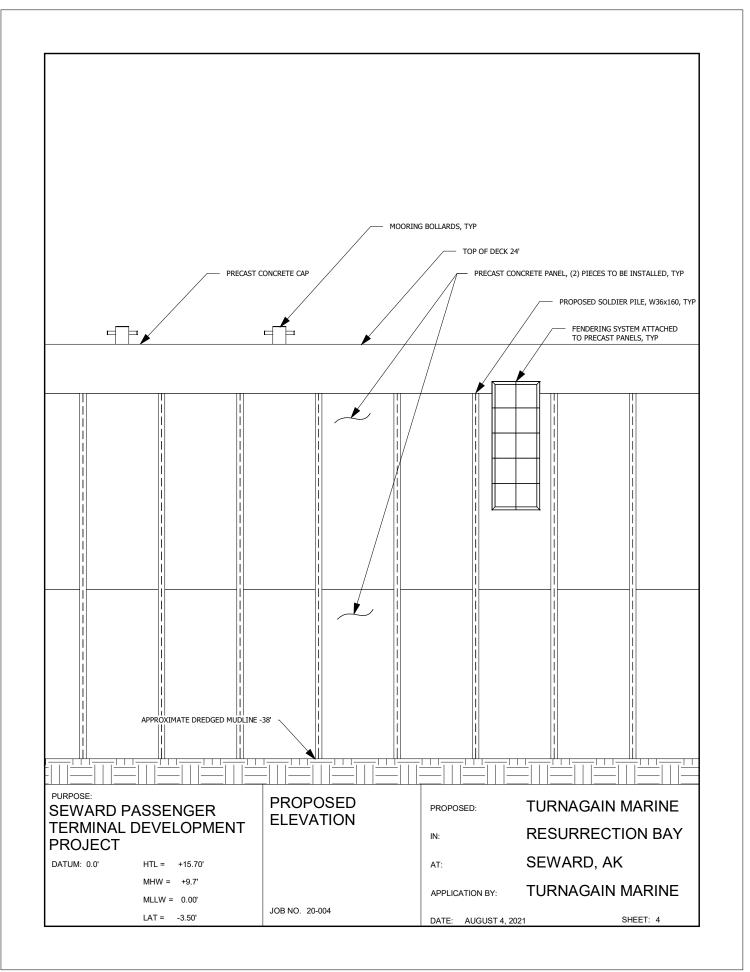
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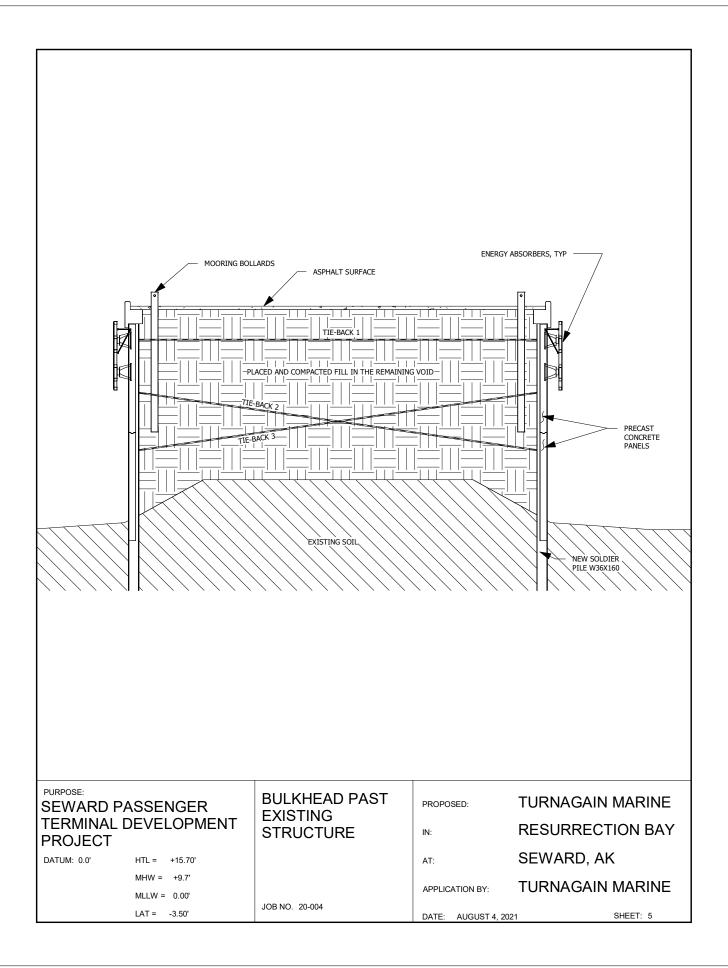
Figure 5. Proposed Dock Design

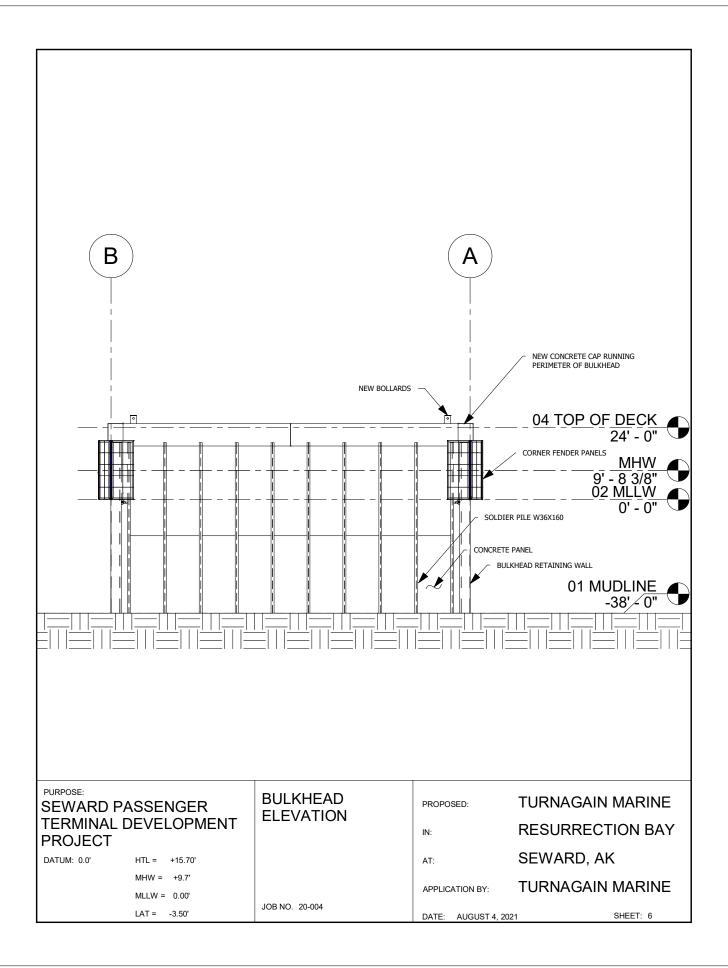


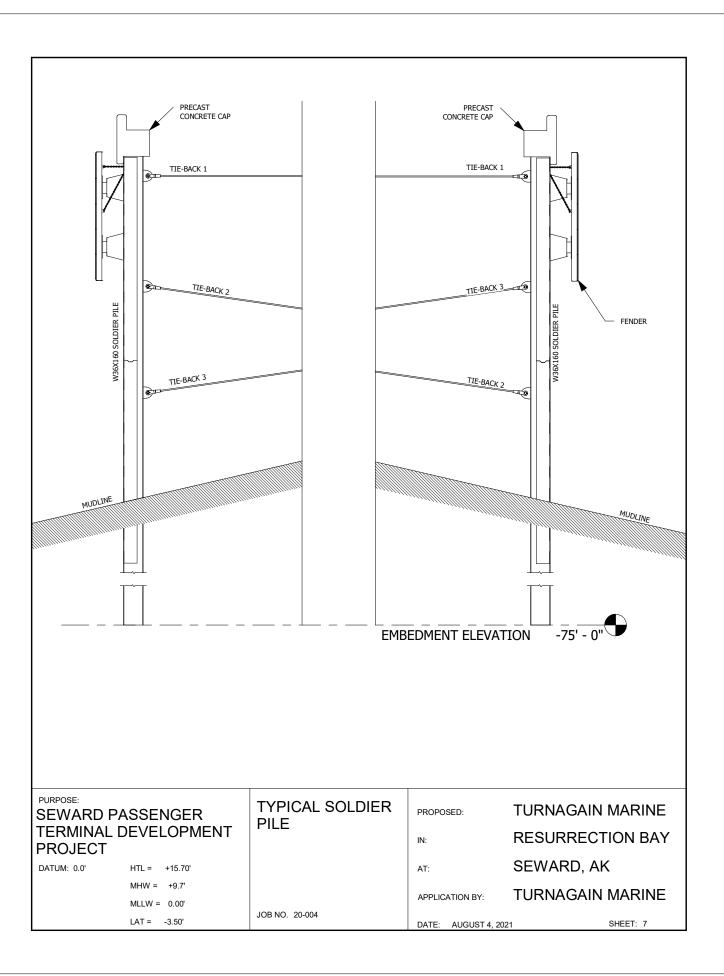


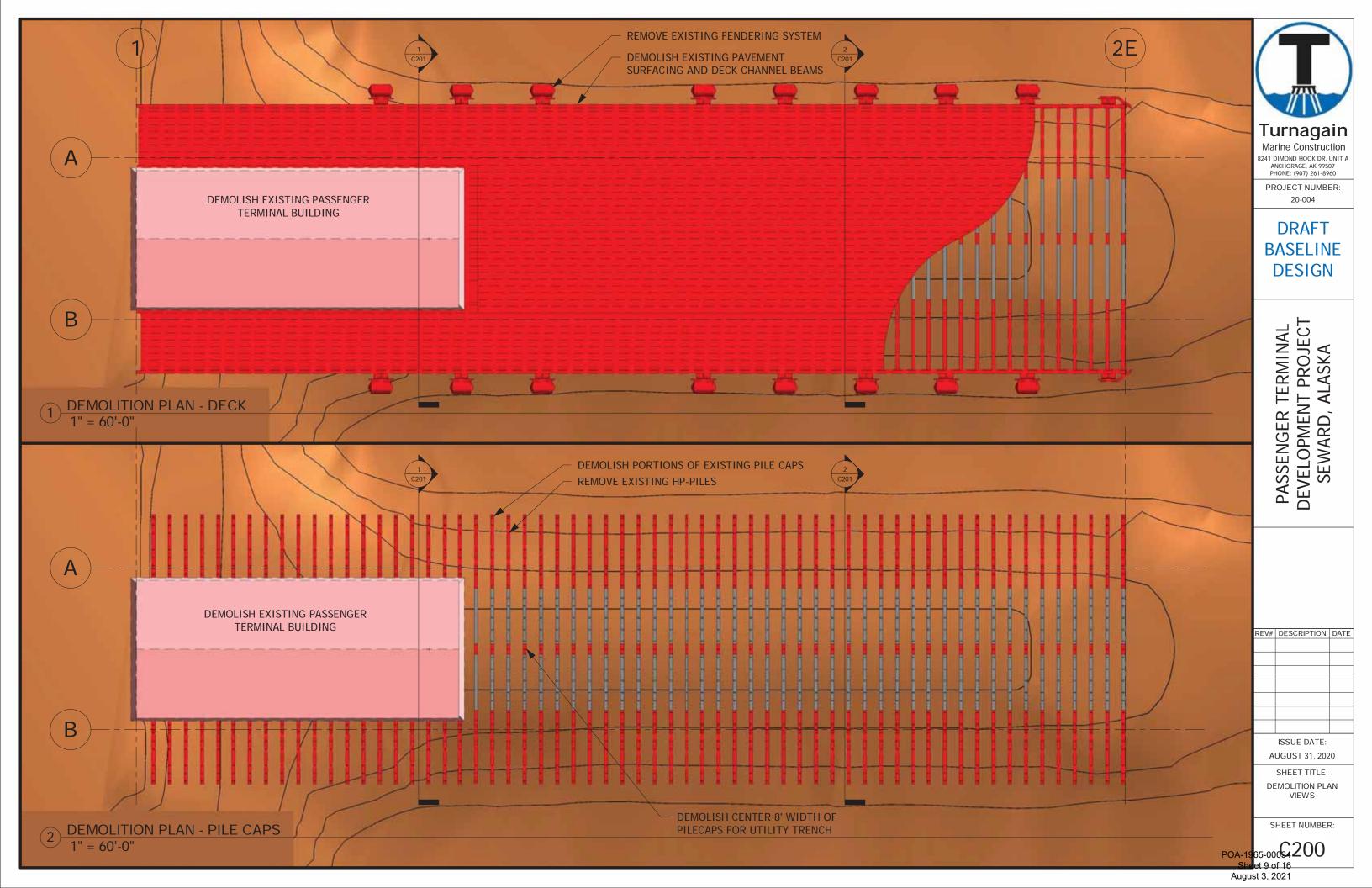


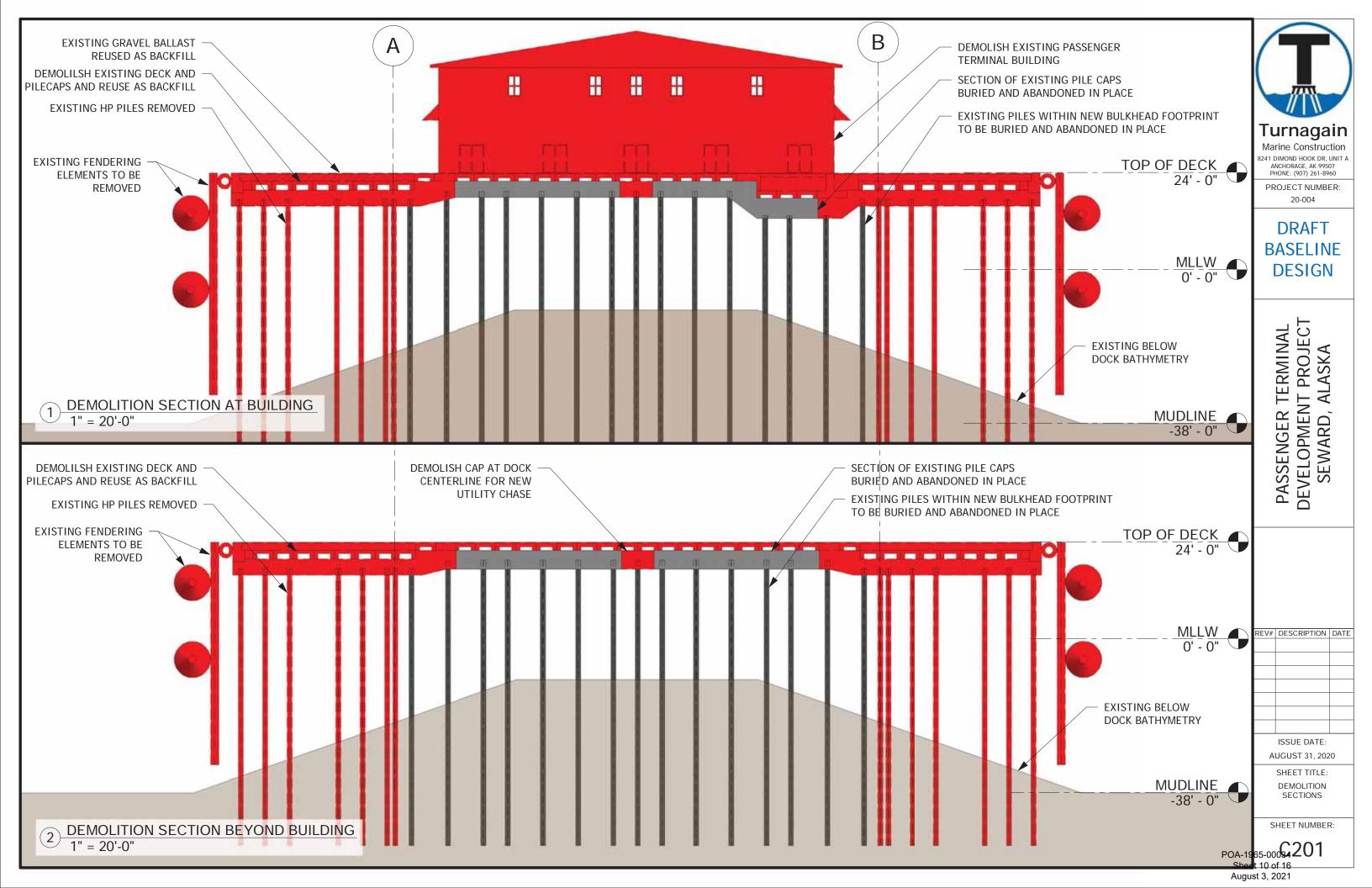


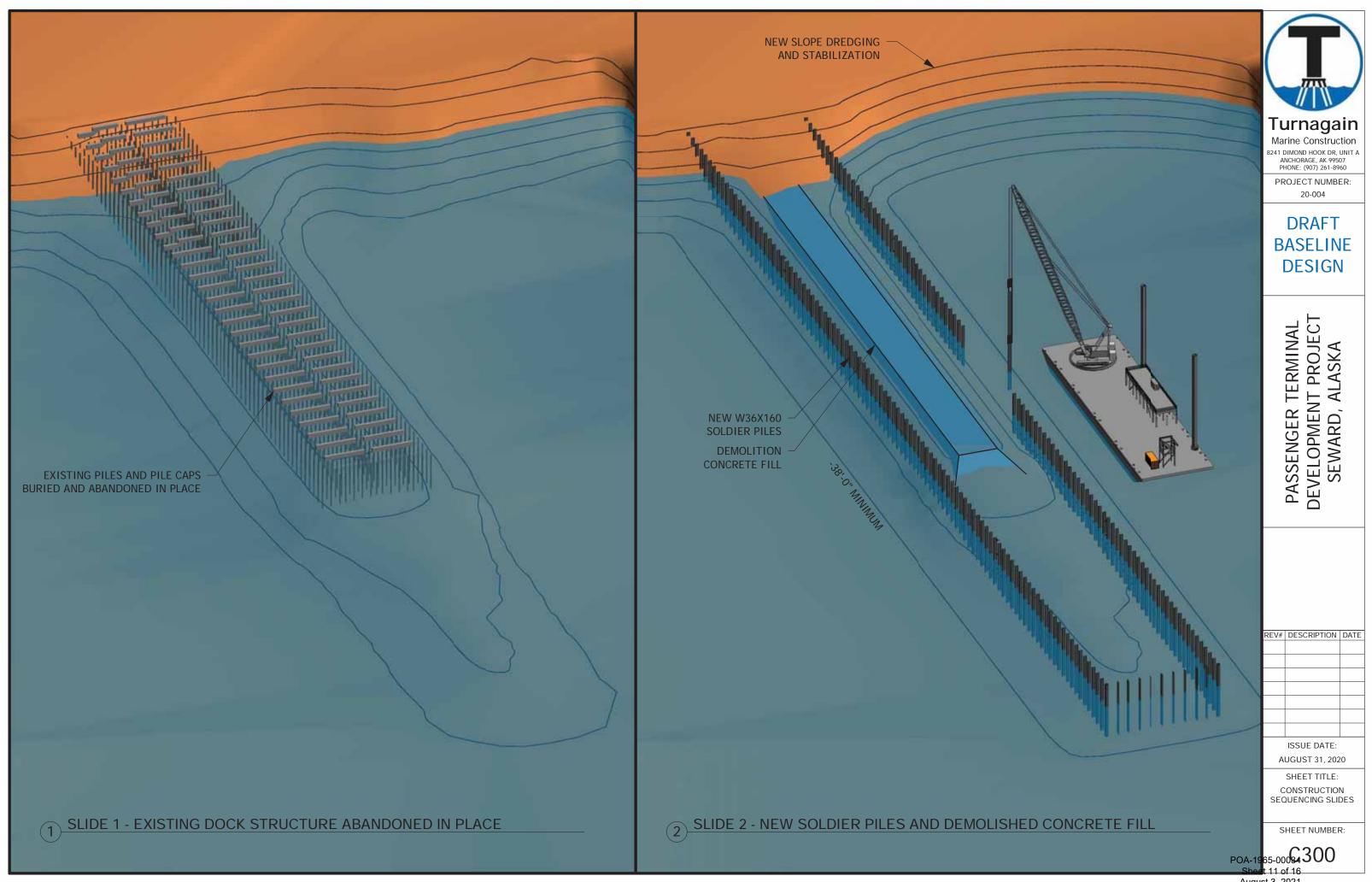




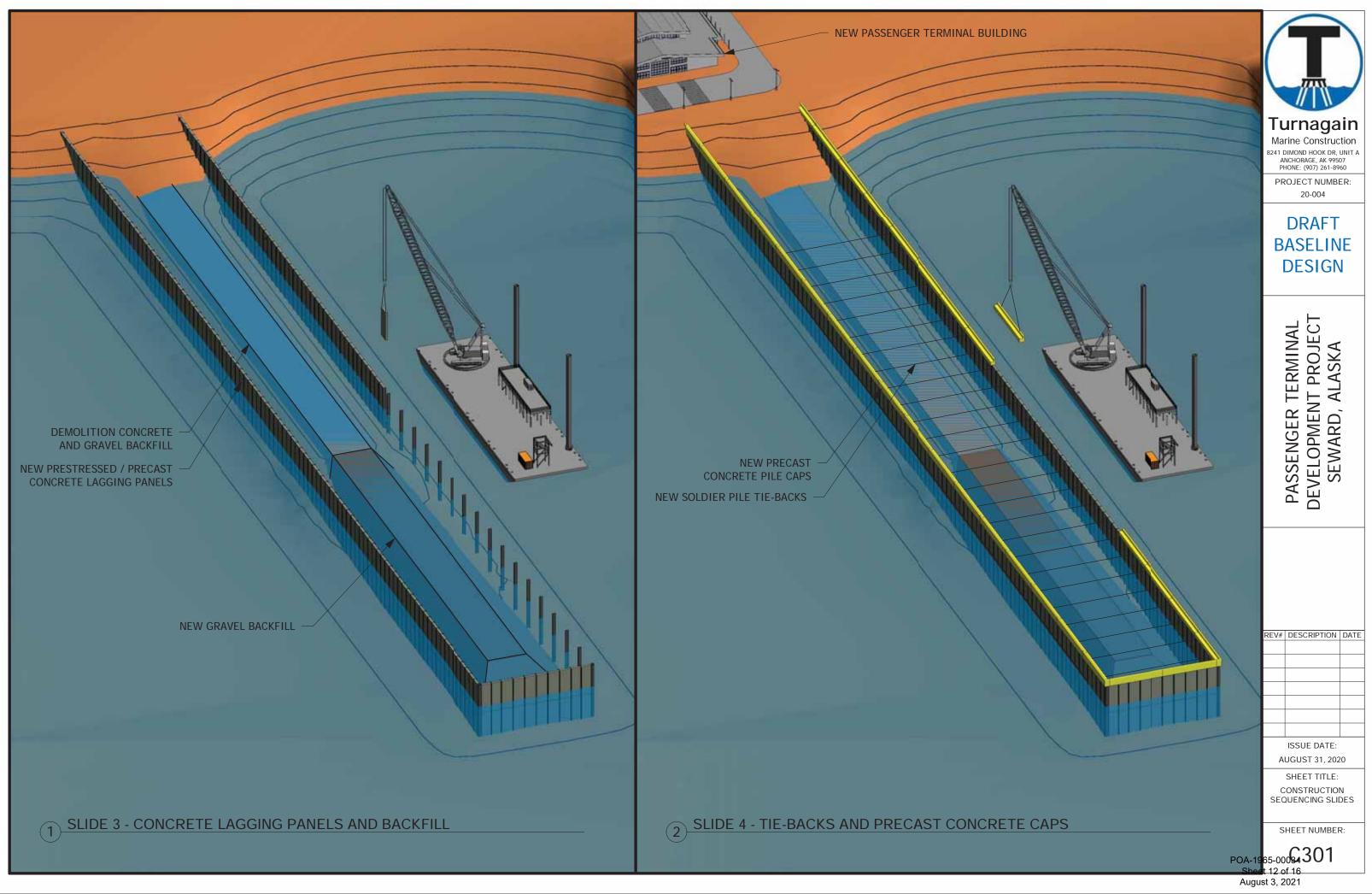


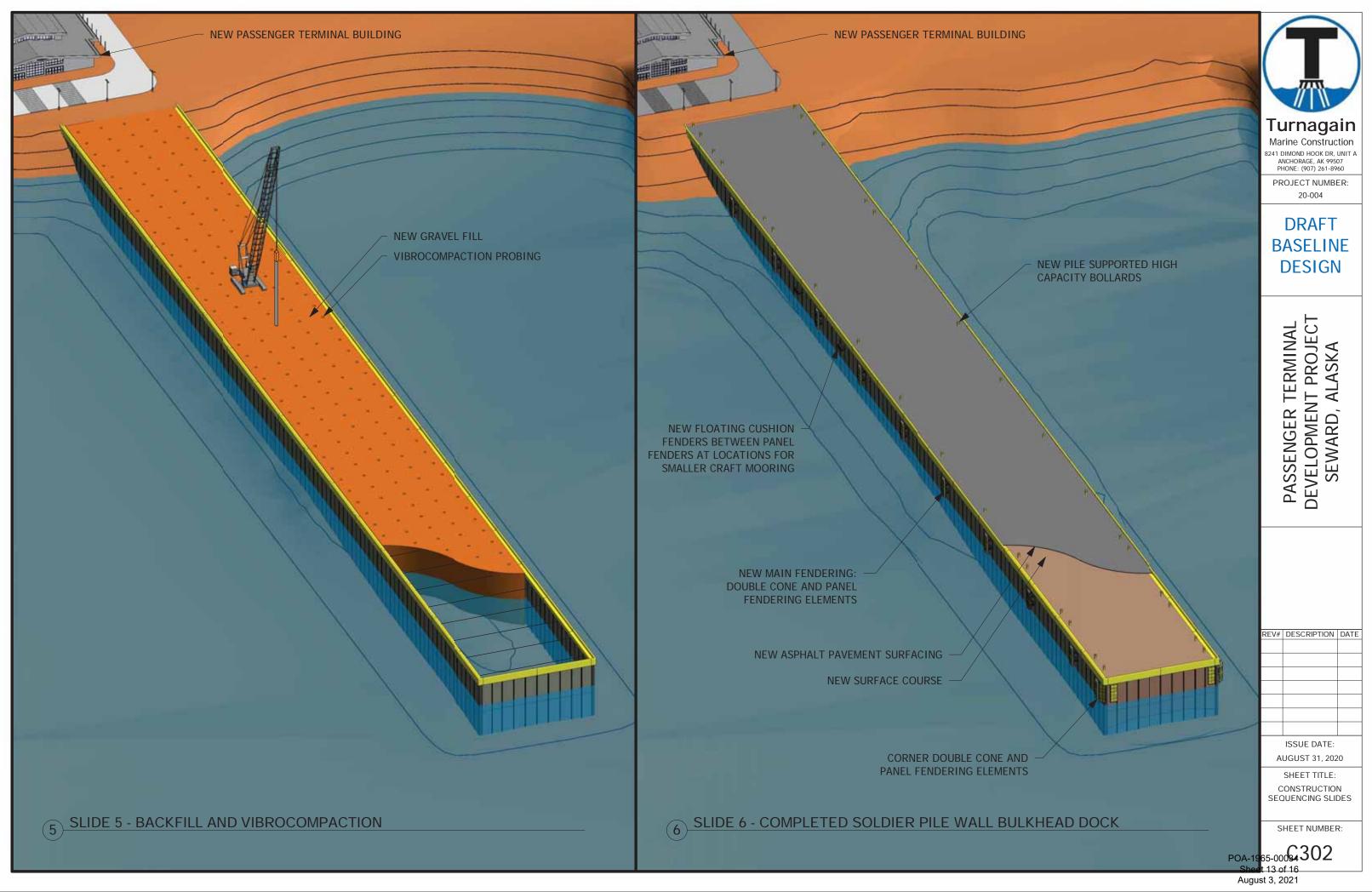






August 3, 2021





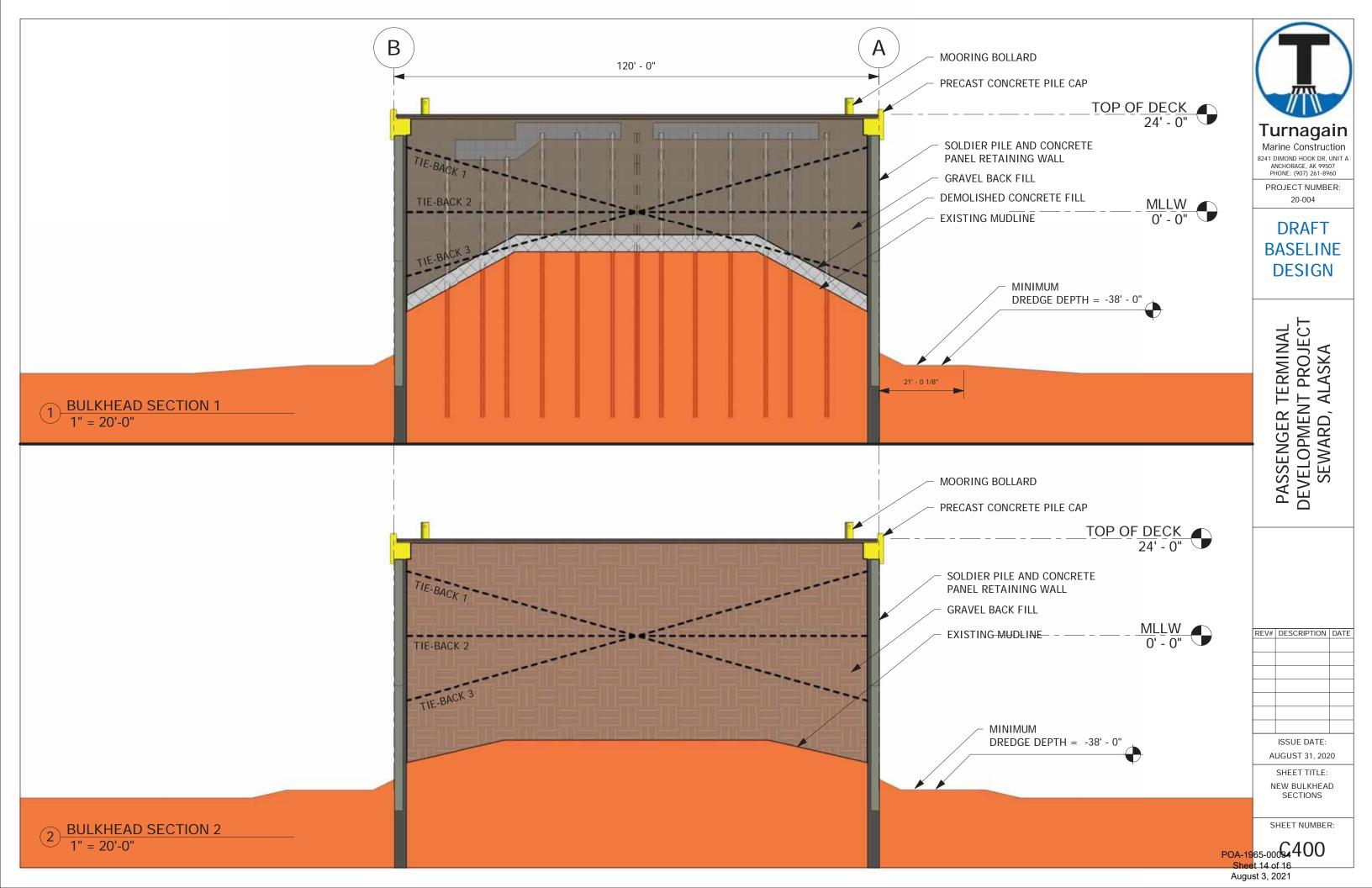


Table 1. Seward Passenger Terminal Expansion Project Dredging and Filling Summary

|                      | Description                             |              |                              |                          |              |  |  |  |
|----------------------|---|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Project<br>Component | Soil Type                               | Area (acres) | Total Quantity (cubic yards) | Total<br>Time<br>(hours) | # of<br>Days |  |  |  |
| Dredging             | Alluvial and Gravel                     | 1.10         | 15,000                       | 72                       | 6            |  |  |  |
| Phase 1: Fill        | Gravel                                  |              | 100,000                      | 850                      | 36           |  |  |  |
| Phase 2: Fill        | Alluvial, Gravel, and recycled concrete | 3.25         | 250,000                      | 1,900                    | 80           |  |  |  |

Table 2. Seward Passenger Terminal Expansion Project Pile Installation and Removal Summary

|                                     | Project Component    |                      |              |              |              |              |              |                |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--|--|
| Description                         | <b>Existing Pile</b> | <b>Existing Pile</b> | Temp Pile    | Temp Pile    | Perm Pile    | Perm Pile    | Perm Pile    | Perm Pile      |  |  |
|                                     | Removal              | Removal              | Installation | Removal      | Installation | Installation | Installation | Installation   |  |  |
| Diameter of Steel Pile (inches)     | 14                   | 20                   | 30           | 30           | 14           | 36           | 42           | Concrete Panel |  |  |
| # of Piles                          | 910                  | 10                   | 100          | 100          | 300          | 220          | 2            | 220            |  |  |
|                                     |                      |                      | Vibratory    | Pile Driving |              |              |              |                |  |  |
| Total Quantity                      | 910                  | 10                   | 100          | 100          | 300          | 220          | 2            |                |  |  |
| Max # Piles Vibrated per Day        | 30                   | 3                    | 6            | 6            | 30           | 5            | 2            |                |  |  |
| Vibratory Time per Pile             | 5 min                | 10 min               | 5 min        | 5 min        | 5 min        | 10 min       | 10 min       |                |  |  |
| Vibratory Time per Day              | 150 min              | 30 min               | 30 min       | 30 min       | 150 min      | 50 min       | 20 min       |                |  |  |
| Number of Days (124 days)           | 31                   | 4                    | 17           | 17           | 10           | 44           | 1            |                |  |  |
| Vibratory Time Total (157<br>hours) | 76 hours             | 1.7 hours            | 8.5 hours    | 8.5 hours    | 25 hours     | 37 hours     | 20 min       |                |  |  |
|                                     |                      |                      | Impact I     | Pile Driving |              |              |              |                |  |  |
| Total Quantity                      |                      |                      |              |              |              | 220          | 2            |                |  |  |
| Max # Piles Impacted per Day        |                      |                      |              |              |              | 5            | 2            |                |  |  |
| # of Strikes per Pile               |                      |                      |              |              |              | 40           | 40           |                |  |  |
| Impact Time per Pile                |                      |                      |              |              |              | 1 min        | 1 min        |                |  |  |
| Impact Time per Day                 |                      |                      |              |              |              | 5 min        | 2 min        |                |  |  |
| Number of Days (45 days)            |                      |                      |              |              |              | 44           | 1            |                |  |  |
| Impact Time Total (4 hours)         |                      |                      |              |              |              | 3.7 hours    | 2 min        |                |  |  |
|                                     |                      |                      | Je           | tting        |              |              |              |                |  |  |
| Total Quantity                      |                      |                      |              |              |              |              |              | 220            |  |  |
| Max # of Panels Installed per       |                      |                      |              |              |              |              |              | 30             |  |  |
| Day                                 |                      |                      |              |              |              |              |              | 30             |  |  |
| Time per Panel                      |                      |                      |              |              |              |              |              | 15 min         |  |  |
| Time per Day                        |                      |                      |              |              |              |              |              | 7.5 hours      |  |  |
| Number of Days (8 days)             |                      |                      |              |              |              |              |              | 8 days         |  |  |
| Jetting Time Total (55 hours)       |                      |                      |              |              |              |              |              | 55 hours       |  |  |