



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:	November 26, 2019
EXPIRATION DATE:	December 26, 2019
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-1996-00874-M29
WATERWAY:	Sakoonang Channel

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 Mary Romero at (907) 753-2773, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at: Mary.R.Romero@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., Ms. Kate Dodson, PO Box 100360, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, (907) 265-6181

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 32, T. 12 N., R. 5 E., Umiat Meridian; USGS Quad Map Harrison Bay B-2; Latitude 70.3471° N., Longitude 150.93107° W.; approximately eight miles north of Nuiqsut, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is the expansion of the Alpine Airstrip to decongest and accommodate safe maneuvering, loading and unloading of aircraft at the existing Alpine airstrip apron.

PROPOSED WORK: ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI), proposes the placement of 14,250 cubic yards (CY) of fill material into 1.3 acres of jurisdictional Palustrine emergent wetlands to expand the existing Alpine airstrip apron. 14,000 CY of clean gravel fill material would be placed within a 263' x 166' rectangular area (these are the top of pad dimensions, wetland impact dimensions would be 299' x 174'). The proposed project is needed to reduce congestion and accommodate safe maneuvering, loading and unloading of aircraft at the existing Alpine airstrip apron. An additional 250 CY of permanent erosion protection will be placed around the perimeter of the pad expansion during the first construction season to provide protection from a flood event. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-6), dated October 15, 2019.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Beginning next spring, Bombardier Dash 9 –Q400 aircraft will be used to shuttle personnel to and from CD1. Current service from Lockheed C130 Hercules, Otter, Casa, DC-6s and seasonally up to 3 helicopters will continue. The expansion is required for events when multiple aircraft are at CD1 at the same time, particularly when the larger aircraft such as the C130 Hercules and Dash 8 – Q400 are on the ground at the same time. Efficient and safe loading and unloading of the aircraft is a primary driver for this expansion request.

An existing materials site would be utilized for extracting gravel. The product Soil-Sement will be mixed with the fill gravel to act as a fugitive dust suppressant and a soil stabilizer.

The applicant would like to start work beginning in the 1st quarter of 2020 and complete it by the end of 2020.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: 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 applicant has stated that due to the abundance of wetlands on the North Slope and the project vicinity, avoiding all fill discharges into wetlands is not practicable. Upon approval, some proposed avoidance measures include site design/selection, use of existing infrastructure, use and construction of ice roads, and winter construction:

Site design/selection

- The project avoids discharge of fill to streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds.
- No defined stream channels or anadromous fish drainages will be crossed by the expansion.
- Fill area boundaries will be clearly delineated to avoid unnecessary impacts during construction from fill placement and equipment maneuvers.

Use of existing infrastructure

The Alpine Airstrip Apron Expansion project will utilize various components of existing Alpine and commercial infrastructure, including:

- Personnel will be housed in existing camps and/or hotels during construction and operations, eliminating the need to design a larger CD1 pad to accommodate the footprint of additional permanent housing.
- The project will utilize the existing airstrips for transporting equipment and personnel to the area. No new airstrips are proposed for the project.

Use of construction of ice roads

- The seasonal Alpine Resupply Ice Road System will be used to transport the gravel from an existing commercial gravel source to CD1 pad utilizing typical Maxi-Haul end-dumps to avoid permanent impacts to Waters of the U.S. (WTOUS). CPAI has managed gravel hauls of less than 100,000 CY utilizing typical Maxi-Haul end-dumps on numerous occasions without incident.
- Ice roads are routed to avoid shrub areas and minimize stream crossings where possible.

Winter construction

All Alpine airstrip apron expansion construction will occur during winter when soils are frozen. Access to the area for construction activities will be via the existing gravel pad. Gravel harvest and construction will be conducted in a single winter season to avoid the need for construction of a gravel stockpile pad.

- b. Minimization: The applicant stated the following measures were taken to minimize impacts.

Design, Erosion Control, Training

- The product Soil-Sement will be mixed with the fill gravel to act as a dust suppressant and a soil stabilizer to further reduce fugitive dust and potential erosion.
- Gravel roads are watered to minimize dust and maintain integrity of the roads.
- The airstrip apron expansion is designed to reduce the fill quantity and footprint in existing and identified wetlands while providing safe operations.
- The airstrip apron expansion depth of gravel will be at least 5 feet. A minimum of 5 ft of gravel is required to maintain the thermal integrity of the underlying permafrost.
- The proposed project will continue to follow the Alpine Facilities Erosion Control Plan. The Alpine Facilities Erosion Control Plan outlines procedures for operation, monitoring, and maintenance of various erosion control methods.
- The facility design and equipment layout will be optimized.
- Gravel for the project will be purchased from an existing commercial gravel source, eliminating the need to develop a new gravel source within the project vicinity.

Equipment

The proposed project has been designed to reduce impacts from equipment by using machinery and techniques that are specifically designed to minimize wetland impacts. Specifically, these include the following:

- Machines with specially designed wheels or tracks, and the use of mats under heavy equipment will be used to reduce wetland surface compaction and rutting.
- Specialized equipment will be used to construct and maintain ice roads so that construction can occur during the winter months to avoid associated impacts. Only approved tundra travel vehicles will be utilized.

- c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant is not offering any compensatory mitigation because of the relatively small footprint when compared to the vast acreage of similar wetlands and they don't believe any should be required.

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 cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the complete project area. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application 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. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*). Additionally the project is within critical habitat for the Polar bear.

We have determined the described activity may affect the polar bear, Steller's and spectacled eider. We have initiated the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 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 National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

No EFH species are known to use 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 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.

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 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.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(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 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

Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program (WDAP) / 401 Certification

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WDAP/401 CERTIFICATION
555 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617
PHONE: (907) 269-6285 | EMAIL: dec-401cert@alaska.gov

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.

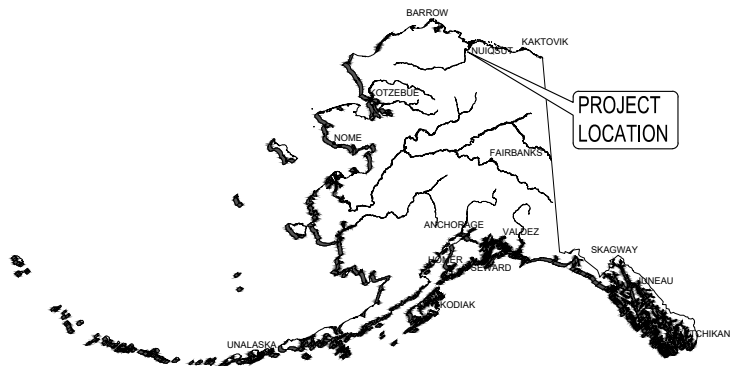
Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice (PN) Reference Number **POA-1996-00874-M29, Sakoonang Channel**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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.

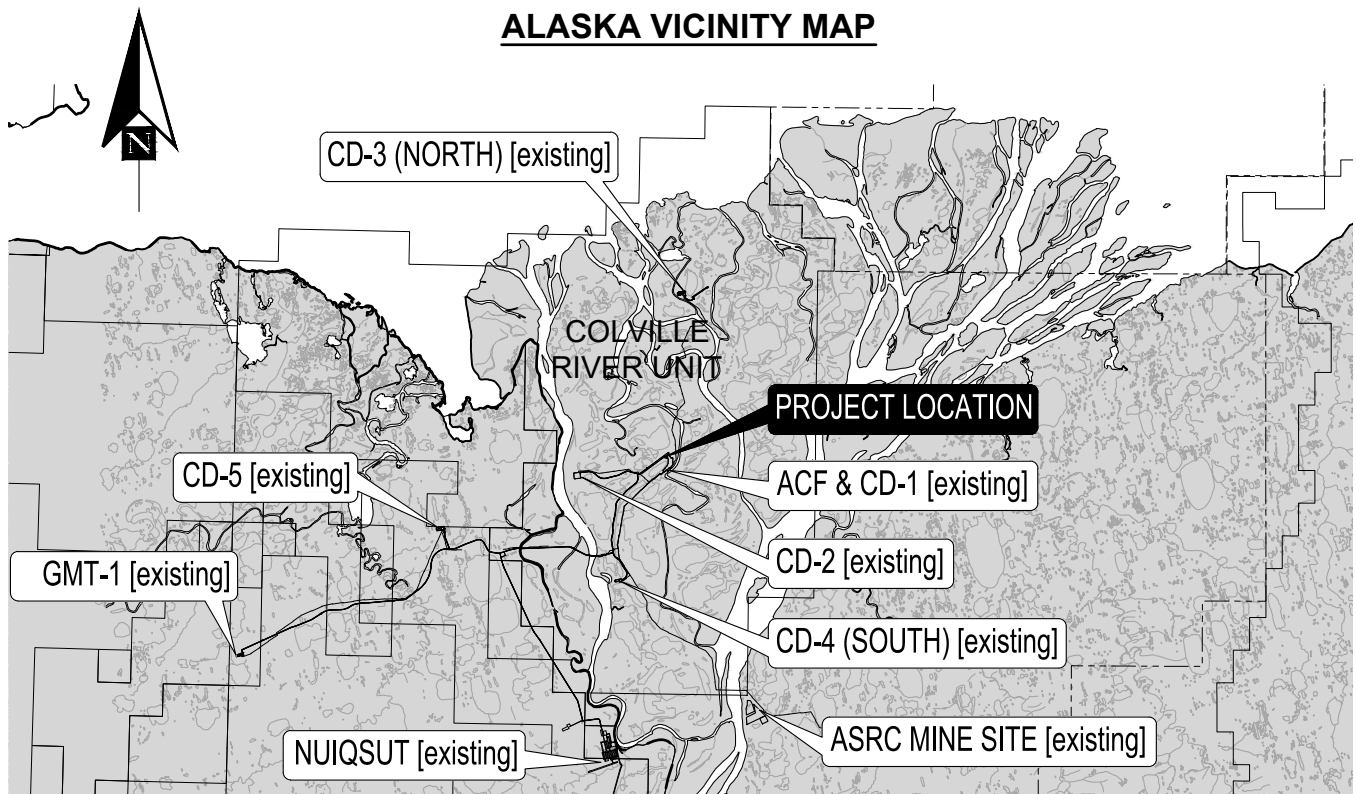
Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above or via email to dec-401cert@alaska.gov by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above. Mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

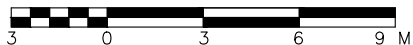
The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact Theresa Zimmerman at 907-465-6171 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 5 days of the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.



ALASKA VICINITY MAP



ALPINE VICINITY MAP



PURPOSE:
EXPAND AN EXISTING AIRSTRIP APRON
FOR OILFIELD DEVELOPMENT

DATUM: BPMSL, NAD83 ASP ZONE 4

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:
1. KUUKPIK VILLAGE CORPORATION
2. STATE OF ALASKA DEPT. OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

REFERENCE: POA-####-####

APPLICANT: CONOCOPHILLIPS
2019 ALASKA, INC (CPAI)

LOCATION: SEC. 32, T12N, R5E
UMIAT MERIDIAN
LAT: 70° 20' 50"
LONG: 150° 55' 53"

PROPOSED: ALPINE AIRSTRIP APRON
EXPANSION

IN: COLVILLE RIVER UNIT
NEAR/AT: ALPINE
COUNTY: ANS BOROUGH
STATE: ALASKA

SHEET 1 of 6
10-15-19

KUUKPIK VILLAGE CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 89187
NUIQSUT, AK 99789
(907) 480-6220
ATTN: JOE NUKAPIGAK

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
3700 AIRPORT WAY
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709
ATTN: JEANNE PROULX



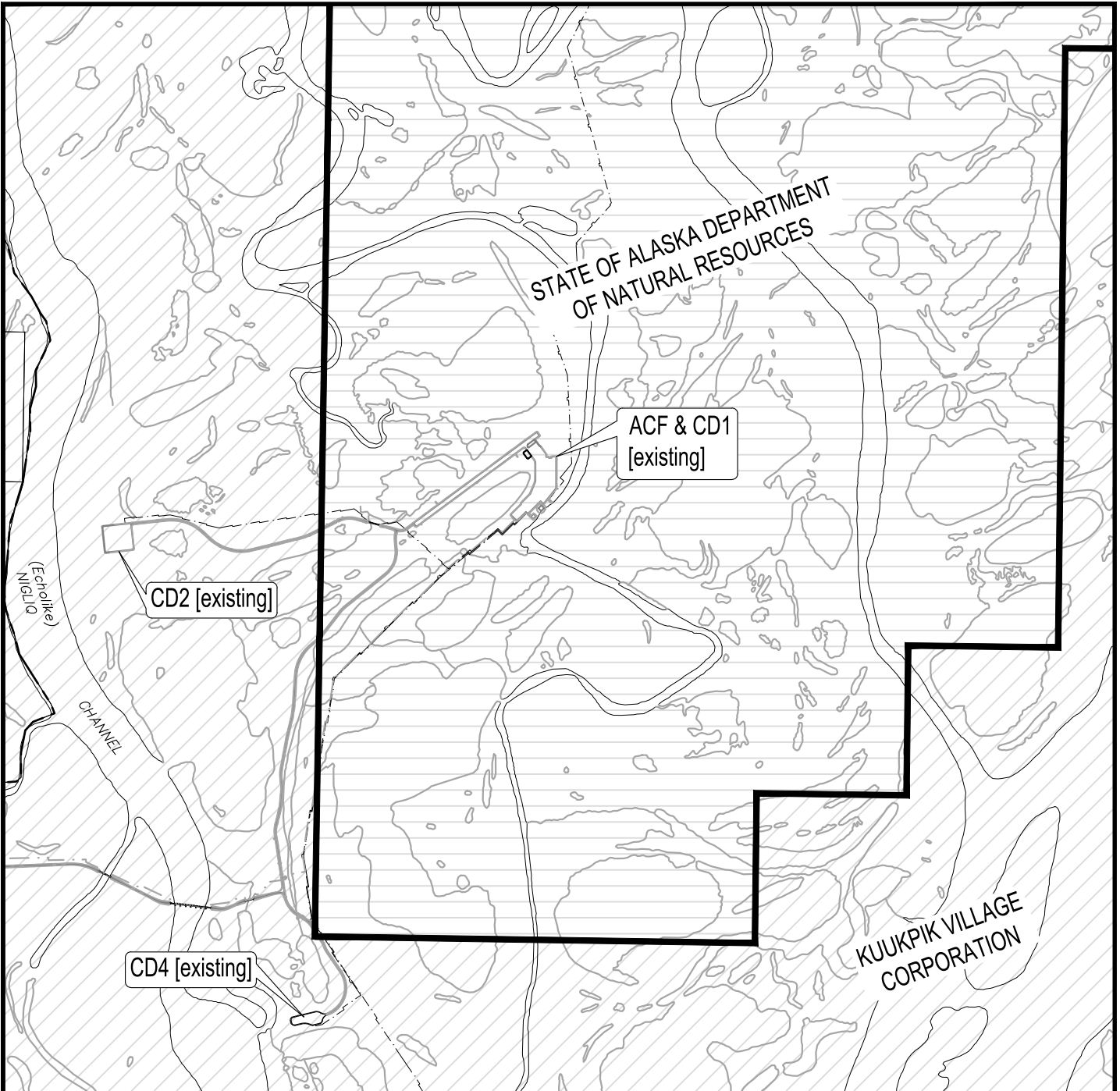
REFERENCE: POA-####-#####
APPLICANT: CPAI

PROPOSED: ALPINE AIRSTRIP
APRON EXPANSION

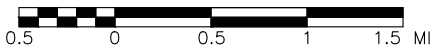
AT: ALASKA

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ADJACENT LAND OWNERS



ADJACENT LAND OWNERS MAP



THIS MAP PROJECTION IS BASE UPON ALASKA STATE PLANE, NAD 83. THIS MAP IS BASED ON DATA PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND CONOCO PHILLIPS ALASKA, INC.

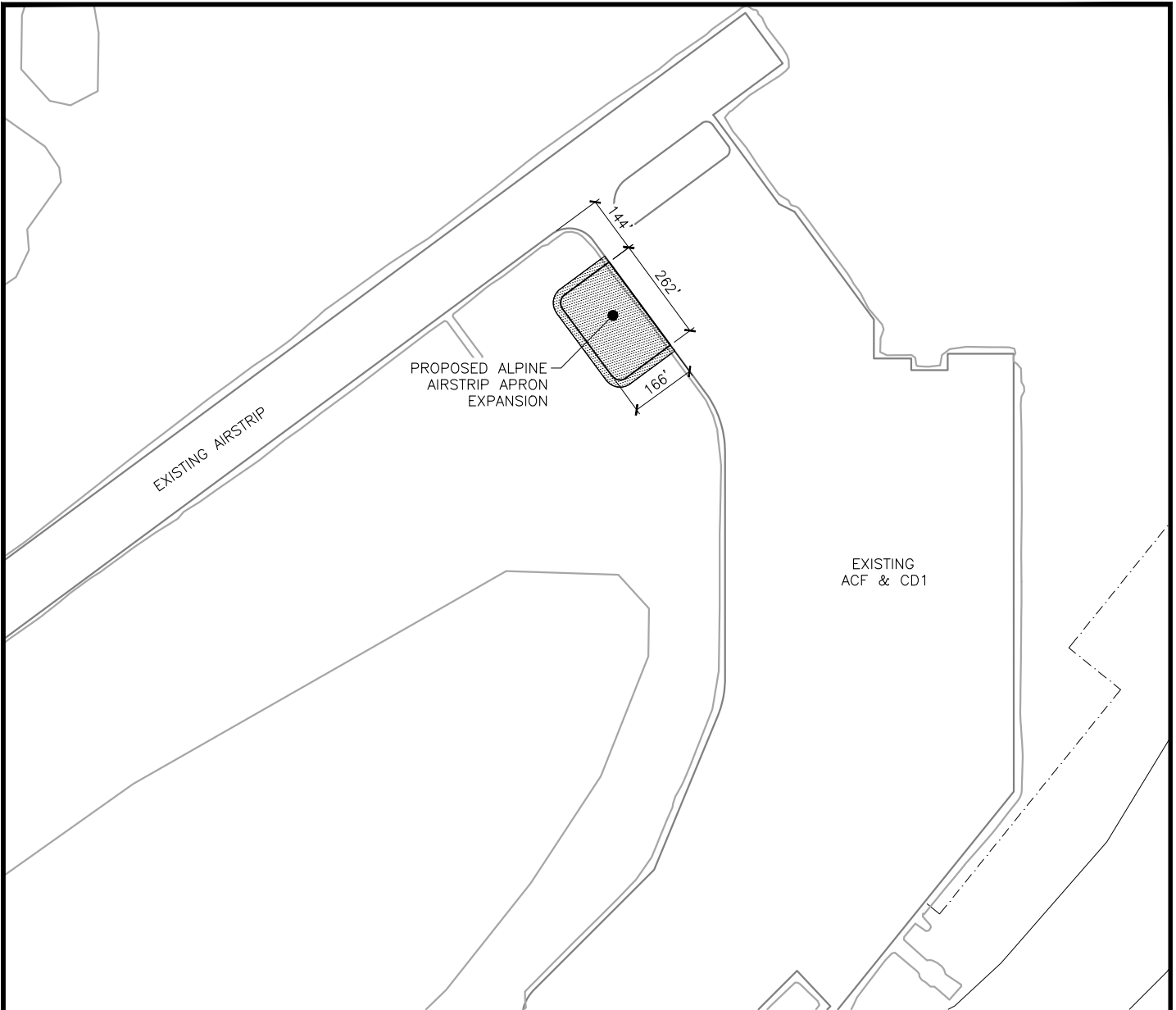


REFERENCE: POA-####-#####
 APPLICANT: CPAI

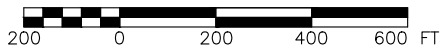
PROPOSED: ALPINE AIRSTRIP
 APRON EXPANSION

AT: ALASKA

SHEET **3** of **6** 10-15-19



ALPINE AIRSTRIP APRON PLAN



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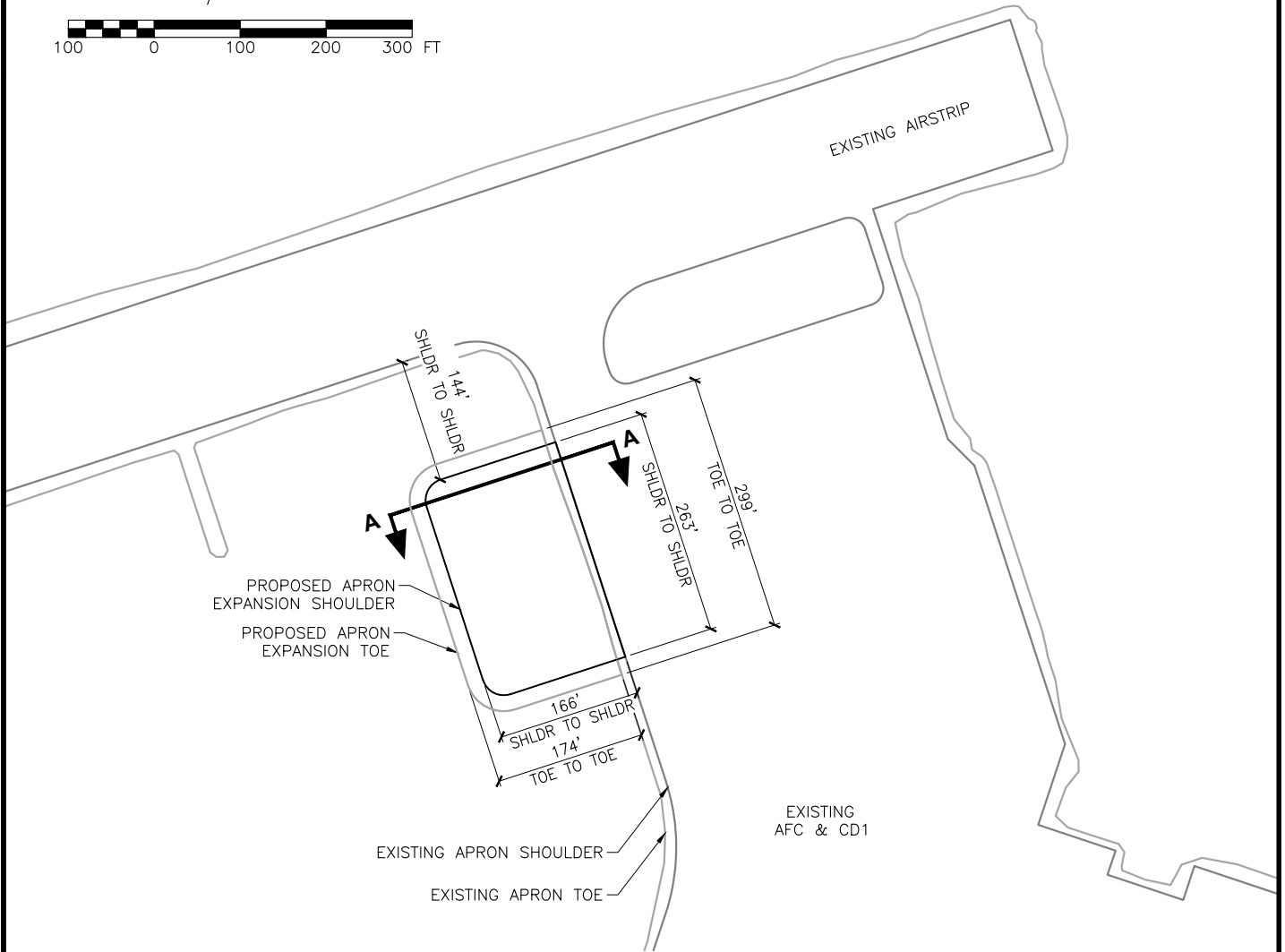
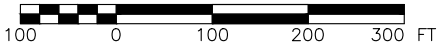
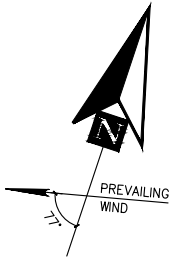


REFERENCE: POA-####-#####
 APPLICANT: CPAI

PROPOSED: ALPINE AIRSTRIP
 APRON EXPANSION

AT: ALASKA

SHEET **4** of **6** 10-15-19



ALPINE AIRSTRIP APRON EXPANSION FOOTPRINT

ALPINE EXPANSION AIRSTRIP APRON QUANTITIES

APRON EXPANSION FOOTPRINT	1.3 ACRES
APRON EXPANSION GRAVEL QUANTITY	14,000 CY
SLOPE PROTECTION QUANTITY	250 CY

NOTE:

1. MINIMUM GRAVEL DEPTH 5.0' WITH 2:1 FILL SLOPES

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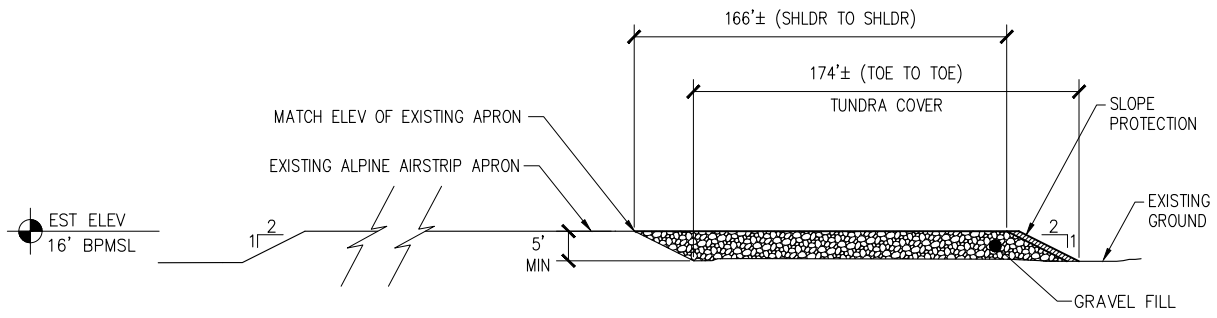


REFERENCE: POA-####-#####
 APPLICANT: CPAI

PROPOSED: ALPINE AIRSTRIP
 APRON EXPANSION

AT: ALASKA

SHEET **5** of **6** 10-15-19



SECTION A-A
ALPINE AIRSTRIP APRON EXPANSION
 NOT TO SCALE

ALPINE PROPOSED AIRSTRIP APRON
EXPANSION SECTIONS



REFERENCE: POA-####-#####
 APPLICANT: CPAI

PROPOSED: ALPINE AIRSTRIP
 APRON EXPANSION

AT: ALASKA

SHEET **6** of **6** 10-15-19