



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>July 31, 2017</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>August 30, 2017</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2016-44</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Chukchi Sea</b>

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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 Jason Brewer at (907) 753-2823, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at Jason.D.Brewer@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**APPLICANT:** Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. (ASTAC); POC: Charlie Carpenter, 4300 B Street, Suite 501, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (907) 564-2650

**AGENT:** Travis/Peterson Environmental Consulting, Inc.; POC: Edmond Packee, Jr., 329 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709, (907) 455-7225

**LOCATION:** The project site is located at Latitude 71.27472° N., Longitude 156.80741° W.; from the Wiley Post-Will Rogers Memorial Airport head west until you reach Apayauk Street, then turn left and follow the road south around the end of the runway for approximately 0.5 miles to Nunavaaq Road and turn right. Continue southwest for approximately 0.5 mile and the project site is on the south side of the road in Barrow, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to "fill approximately 1.5 acres of wetlands for the construction of a gravel pad. Initially, the gravel pad would be used for equipment and material storage. Ultimately, the pad would be used as the operations center for ASTAC's

Barrow business unit, and include a warehouse (3,600 square foot), crew living quarters (5,000 square foot), and administrative offices and equipment building (3,500 square foot).”

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge 7,025 cubic yards of fill into 1.5 acres of palustrine wetlands to construct a gravel pad for an operations center. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-3), dated July 11, 2017.

APPLICANT PROPOSED 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.

a. Avoidance: The applicant states “the disturbance of wetlands for gravel pad installation within wetland areas is unavoidable. There are no existing upland areas available to ASTAC that would allow project purposes to be met.”

b. Minimization: The applicant states “the project footprint has been minimized to the amount practicable. The 3:1 slopes are the maximum stable slope configurations in the Barrow area based upon experience with similar pads in the past.”

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant states “due to the small permanent impact, no compensatory mitigation is envisioned at this time. The wetlands within the project site are located immediately adjacent to an existing gravel road and there are two nearby industrial developments. The wetlands in the project site have a relatively low value compared to other wetlands close to the area.”

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 footprint of the gravel pad and the area immediately adjacent where heavy equipment would operate during construction of the pad. 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*), spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*), Steller’s eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and Critical Habitat for polar bear.

We have determined the described activity may affect the polar bear, spectacled eider, and Steller's eider. We will initiate 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 NMFS 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. We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in 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 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 authority:

(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 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  
401 Certification Program  
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

## **ANCHORAGE**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION  
555 CORDOVA STREET  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617  
PHONE: (907) 269-7564/FAX: (907) 334-2415

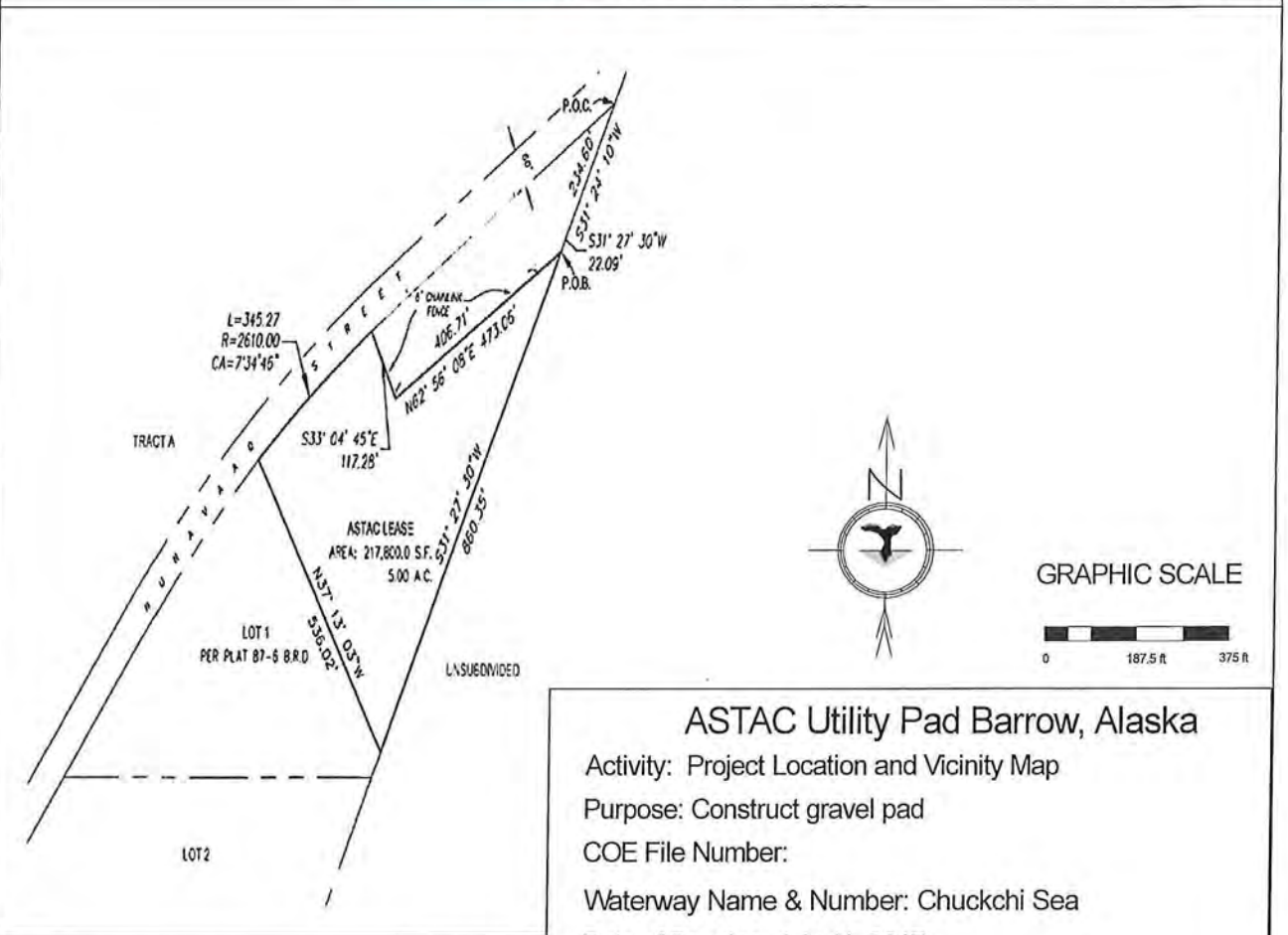
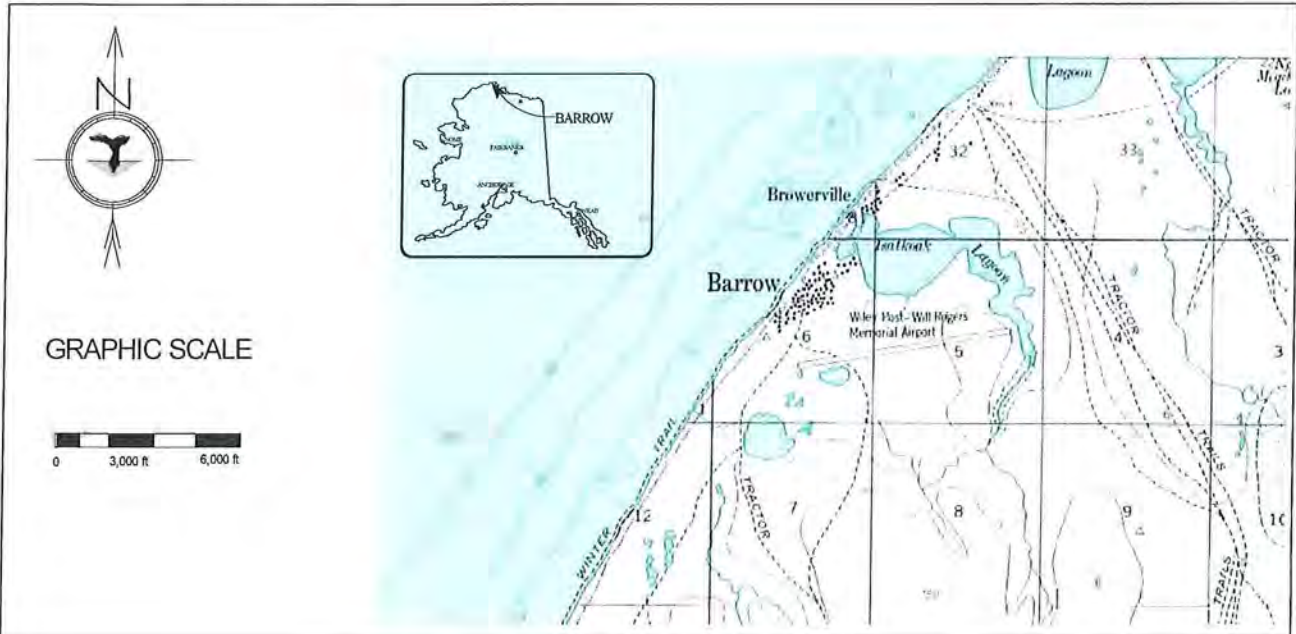
## **NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION**

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-2016-44, Chukchi Sea, 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.

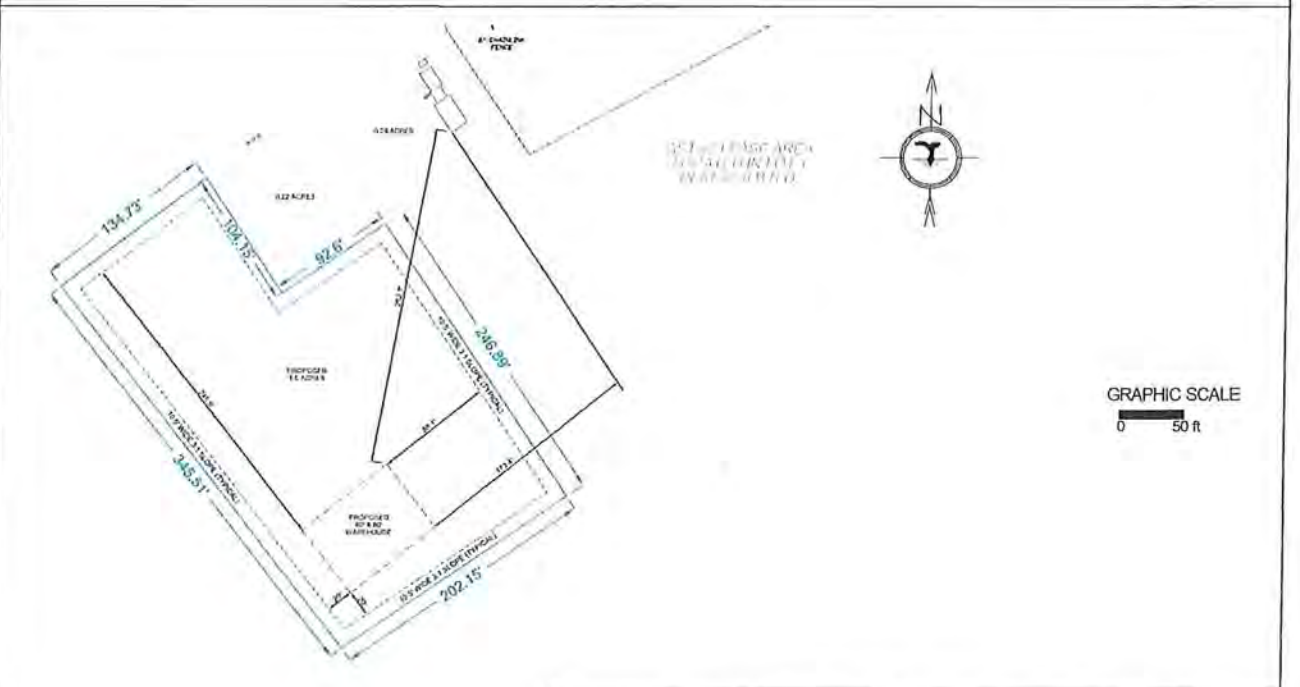
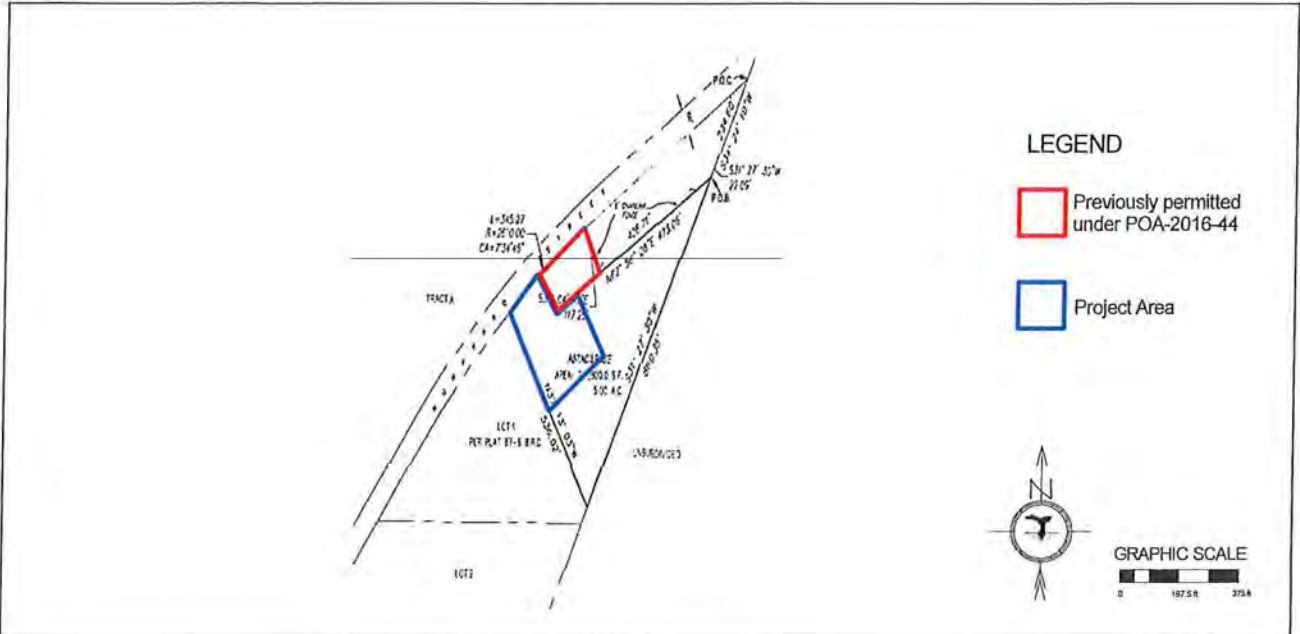
Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.



**ASTAC Utility Pad Barrow, Alaska**  
 Activity: Project Location and Vicinity Map  
 Purpose: Construct gravel pad  
 COE File Number:  
 Waterway Name & Number: Chukchi Sea  
 Date of Drawing: July 11, 2017  
 Sheet 1 of 3

TRAVIS/PETERSON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.  
 329 2ND STREET  
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

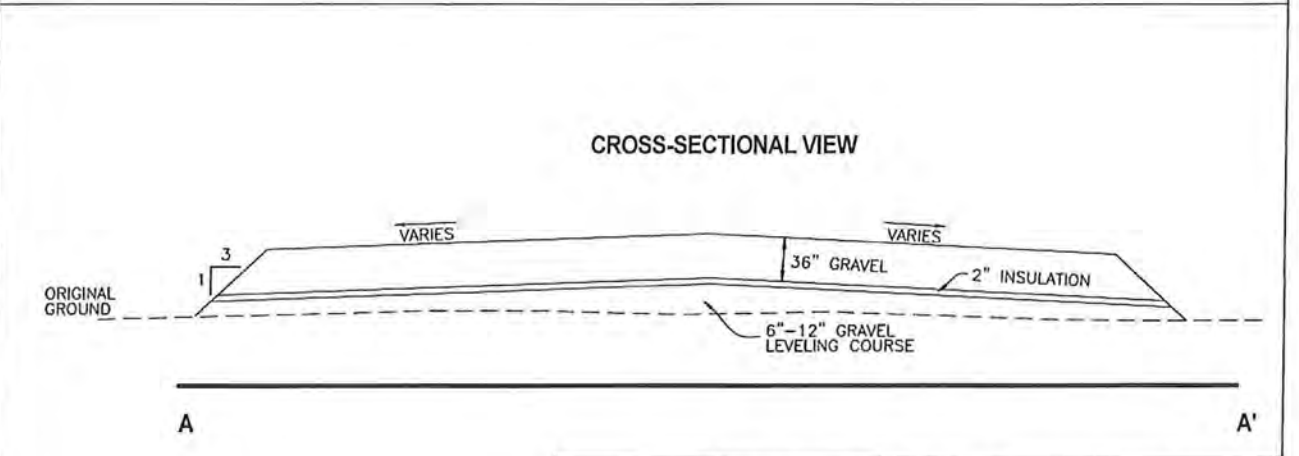
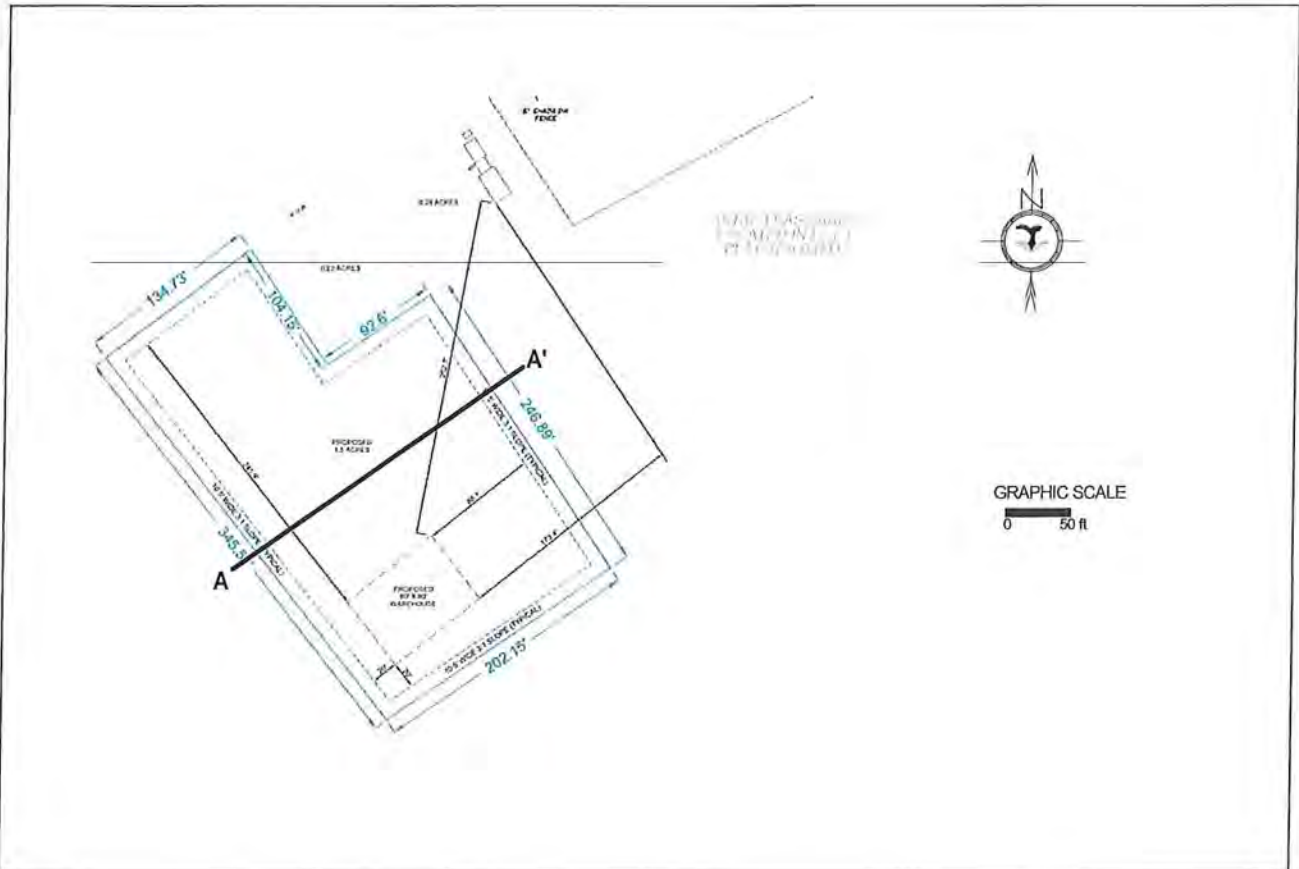
PROJECT No: 1571-03	FILE: 1571/03/FIGURES/Sheet 1 of 3.SKF	DATE: 07/11/2017	
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**ASTAC Utility Pad Barrow, Alaska**  
 Activity: Project Location and Pad Location  
 Purpose: Construct a gravel pad  
 COE File Number:  
 Waterway Name & Number: Chukchi Sea  
 Date of Drawings: July 11, 2017  
 Sheet 2 of 3

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 329 2ND STREET  
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701





**ASTAC Utility Pad Barrow, Alaska**  
 Activity: Site Cross Section  
 Purpose: Construct a Gravel Pad  
 COE File Number:  
 Waterway Name & Number: Chukchi Sea  
 Date of Drawings: July 11, 2017  
 Sheet 3 of 3

TRAVIS/PETERSON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC.  
 329 2ND STREET  
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701

PROJECT No: 1571-03	FILE: 1571/03/FIGURES/Sheet 3 of 3.SKF	DATE: 07/11/2017
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