



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

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

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>April 7, 2020</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>May 7, 2020</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2020-00091</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Prudhoe Bay</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 (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](mailto: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 Janet Post at (907) 753-2831, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at: [Janet.L.Post@usace.army.mil](mailto:Janet.L.Post@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**APPLICANT:** Sandy Sears, BP Exploration Alaska, Inc. 900 East Benson Blvd. Anchorage, AK. 99518; [william.sears@bp.com](mailto:william.sears@bp.com); 907.564.5052.

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 12, T. 11 N., R. 14 E. Umiat Meridian; Latitude 70.3200° N., Longitude 148.5001° W.; Prudhoe Bay Unit, near Deadhorse, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to level the ground under the flare pipelines to remedy subsidence issues and to create access to the flare lines for future maintenance.

**PROPOSED WORK:** BP Exploration Alaska, Inc. (BPXA) is proposing to discharge 28,400 cubic yards of clean, gravel fill into 2.82 acres of wetlands within the gas flare pit under the flare pipelines at the Central Compressor Pad (CCP) in the Prudhoe Bay Unit.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-3), dated February 2020.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: State authorizations to be determined, including Alaska Division Oil & Gas Unit Plan Amendment; North Slope Borough Development Permit.

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.

Avoidance: BPXA has reviewed the options regarding how to repair current subsidence issues with respect to the vertical support members which support the gas flare pipelines at the Central Compressor Pad in the Prudhoe Bay Unit. The alternative to placing gravel for current and future maintenance activities would be to build ice roads as necessary during the winter months and perform maintenance activities from these ice roads. The advantage of building permanent gravel access is that maintenance can be done year-round as needed, and the gravel access will help insulate the underlying wetlands and should help slow down permafrost thaw, therefore reducing the amount of maintenance required.

Minimization: BPXA is requesting authorization to fill only the minimum acreage required to safely allow access to lighter duty vehicles which will be used for current and future maintenance activities; Install culverts along the northeast portion of the gas flare pit to allow natural water flow to/from the area that will be impounded by the gravel placement.

Compensatory Mitigation: BPXA stated that they would avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands by constructing an area that can be used to repair current subsidence issues as well as facilitating maintenance in the future. Currently there are no third-party mitigation instruments available within the service area to purchase credits. This proposed project is close to existing gravel roads and pads and the wetlands impacted are of diminished value as a result of flaring activity. Therefore, BPXA proposes that no compensatory mitigation be required for this project.

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 2.82 acre project footprint. 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 Potential to Cause Effects determination for the proposed project.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is not required, however, 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:** The project area is within the known or historic range of the Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*), Stellers Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and Spectacled Eider (*Somateria fischeri*).

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 consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Any comments the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 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 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](mailto: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.

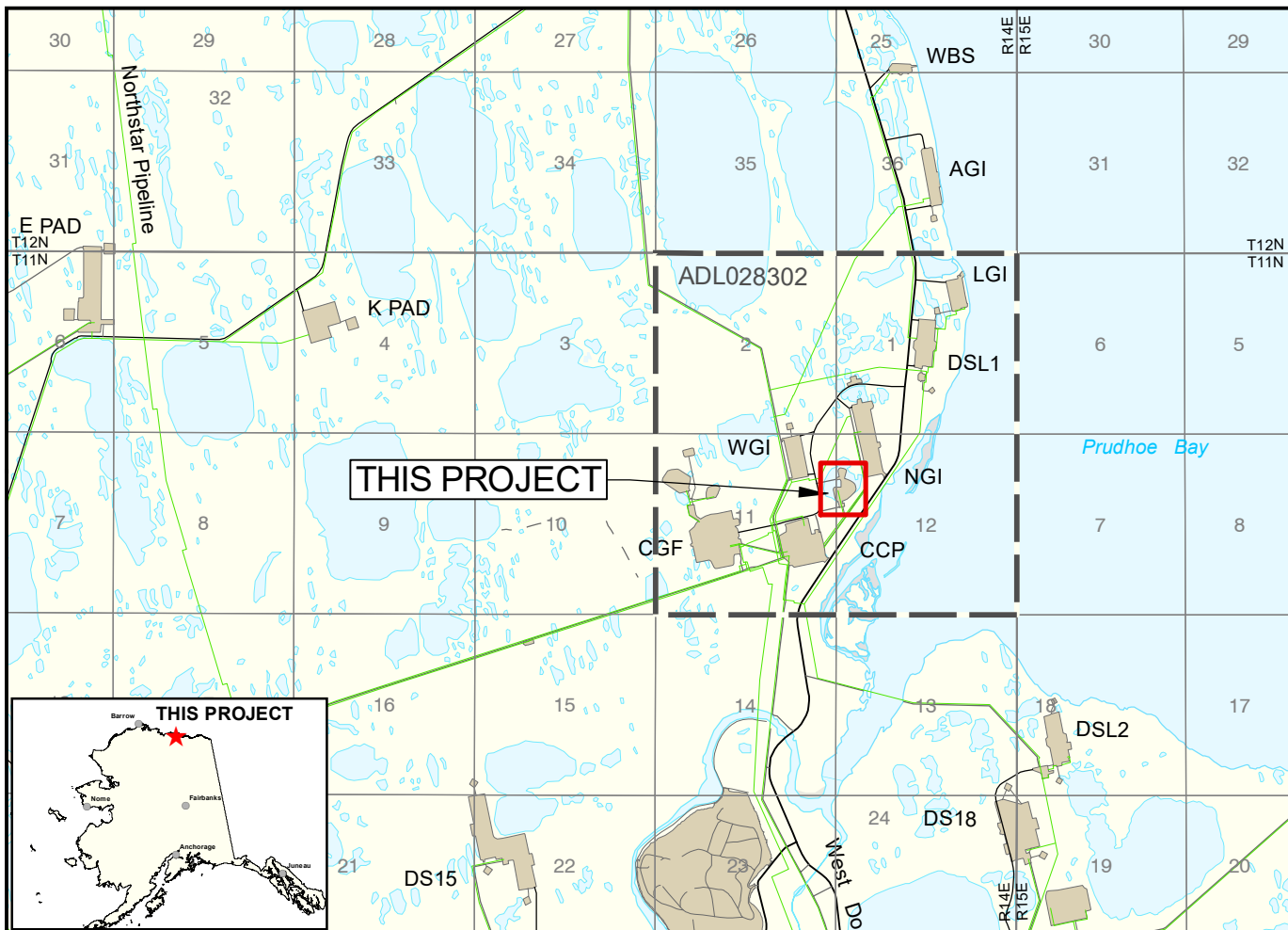
Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice (PN) Reference Number **POA-2020-00091, Prudhoe Bay**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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](mailto: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 Kate Orozco 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.



This map is based on U.S.G.S quad Beechey Point (B-3)  
and on the Unit Operator's Facility Maps.

#### GENERAL PROJECT LOCATION:

PRUDHOE BAY UNIT - CENTRAL COMPRESSOR PAD

NAD83

LAT. = 70° 19' 12.117" / DD 70.320032

LONG. = -148° 30' 0.528" / DD -148.500147

ALASKA STATE PLANE ZONE 4, NAD83

X = 1,825,404.59 FEET

Y = 5,968,760.62 FEET

DATUM: MEAN SEA LEVEL

ADL # 028302 SEC. 12 T11N, R14E UMIAT M.

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER:

STATE OF ALASKA

PURPOSE: FLARE LINES GRAVEL IN FILL

POA-2020-00091

Prudhoe Bay

BP Exploration Alaska Inc.

Sheet 1 of 3

**BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.**

**PRUDHOE BAY UNIT  
CENTRAL COMPRESSOR PAD  
FLARE LINES GRAVEL INFILL  
VICINITY MAP**

DATE:  
February 2020

SCALE:  
1" = 1 Mile

FIGURE:  
1





