



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	December 16, 2021
EXPIRATION DATE:	January 14, 2022
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-1965-00043
WATERWAY:	Cook Inlet

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.

All comments regarding this Public Notice 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 Public Notice reference number listed above.

All comments 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 Andrew Gray at (907) 753-2722 or by email at Andrew.a.gray@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Hilcorp, Alaska LLC; Dan Polito

AGENT: SLR Consulting; Michelle Turner

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 34, T. 8 N., R. 12 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Kenai C-4 and D-4; Starting at Latitude 60.7368° N., Longitude 151.3490° W and ending at Latitude 60.7946° N., Longitude 151.4978° W.; near Nikiski, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to satisfy the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) compliance order and allow the Middle Ground Shoal (MGS) to continue producing oil and gas, as well as decreasing the future likelihood of fatigue or abrasion leaks on these pipelines.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to lay 6.49 miles of dual (2) new 8" diameter pipelines from the MGS platform A to the MGS onshore facility, below the Mean High Water Mark (MHW) of the Cook Inlet (19.7' above the 0.0' contour) for the purpose of transporting oil and gas.

Inter-tidal Zone Work-

Beginning at the Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), both new pipelines would be buried in a 478' long by 10' wide by 3' deep trench which would entail temporary side-casting up to 317 cubic yards (CY) of beach material into 0.09 acres waters of the U.S. below the High Tide Line (HTL) of the Cook Inlet. The trenched area would be returned to pre-construction contours.

Marine work-

A 200' section of the existing pipeline would be removed from each end (at MGS platform A, and at MGS onshore facility), and the remainder would be abandoned in place. As part of the abandonment process, each abandoned pipeline has been cleaned using the static sheen test procedure (EPA Method 1617), and no additional cleaning would be required per PHMSA regulations. Dual (2) new 8" diameter pipelines would be laid from the MGS platform A to the tie-in location on the beach below the MGS onshore facility, for a total distance of 6.49 miles. The pipelines would be laid on the sea floor of the Cook Inlet and would be pinned to the seafloor with Seacrete bags. Seacrete bags would be placed in 76 locations (See figure 6 of 8) along the pipeline route. Each location would include a discharge of 1.78CY of Seacrete, for a total discharge of up to 136CY of Seacrete along the route of the pipelines.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-8), dated December 13, 2021.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This work is being directed via Amended Corrective Action Order CPF No. 5-2021-019-CAO by the PHMSA.

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:

Due to the location of existing pipelines within the marine waters of Cook Inlet (from MGS Onshore Facilities to MGS Platform A), avoiding all fill discharges into waters of the United States (WOUS) is not practicable. Construction activities would result in temporary discharges of fill material in the transition zone where the pipeline will be buried and placement of the pipeline onto the Cook Inlet seafloor.

b. Minimization:

Site selection and design – Project components were designed to avoid and/or minimize impact to WOUS whenever practicable.

- The site was selected to make the most use practicable of previously disturbed areas. The pipeline will be laid within the existing pipeline right-of-way to the extent practicable and will connect to existing infrastructure. The onshore/transition zone area is within previously disturbed areas which will minimize vegetation clearing necessary.
- An installation analysis was conducted to identify the best possible pipeline installation method for this area of Cook Inlet. As result of this analysis, the pipeline route was straightened to remove a bend in the original pipeline route, resulting in the following benefits:
 - A shorter pipeline.
 - Avoiding subsea obstacles (a large pinnacle is located along the historic route).
 - The replacement pipeline will access the shore at a non-perpendicular angle, increasing bottom stability.
 - The replacement pipeline will tie in directly or with very minimal spool piece length.

Installation Techniques – Impacts will be minimized by using the following pipeline installation techniques.

- The new pipelines will be installed on the sea floor instead of being buried in a trench, except in the nearshore tidal transition zone. Sandbags will be used to ensure that the pipelines do not move from their designed locations. This will reduce discharges to WOUS during placement of the pipe by limiting the area of trenching and pipe burial.
- Pipeline trenching and placement of the pipeline within the trench will use a pipeline plow, limiting the width of the trench reducing discharges to WOUS.
- Rig mats or similar may be temporarily required on the beach to support heavy equipment used during site preparation and pipeline installation.
- Ground-disturbing activities in the transition zone will be conducted using best management practices to minimize discharges of pollutants, including sediment, in storm water both during

c. Compensatory Mitigation: Hilcorp believes that compensatory mitigation is not appropriate or practicable for this project due to the small amount of WOUS impacted and due to the high level of sediment common in Cook Inlet waters.

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 cultural resources in the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the footprint of the proposed project. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time. The Corps is awaiting the submittal of a cultural resource survey by the applicant and will proceed as applicable after the survey has been received. The Corps has not made an effect determination for the proposed project at this time. This application will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and ACHP, as required by regulation. 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 Endangered Cook Inlet Beluga Whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*), and it's designated critical habitat.

We have determined the described activity may affect the endangered species listed above, and its designated critical habitat. We will initiate the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act 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.

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 below species:

Alaska plaice (*Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus*)
Flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*)
Walleye pollock (*Theragra calcogramma*)
Yellowfin sole (*Limanda aspera*)
Dover sole (*Microstomus pacificus*)
Northern rock sole (*Lepidopsetta polyxystra*)
Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*)
Rex sole (*Glyptocephalus zachirus*)
Southern rock sole (*Lepidopsetta bilineata*)
Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)
Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*)
Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)
Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)
Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

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 authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(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 are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK 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 (CWA) 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 CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request for a CWA §401 Water Quality Certification of a Department of the Army Permit application, Corps of Engineers' Reference Number POA-1965-00043, Cook Inlet, has been received for the discharge of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the United States (WOUS), including wetlands, as described in the Corps public notice and project figures/drawings (18 AAC 15.180).

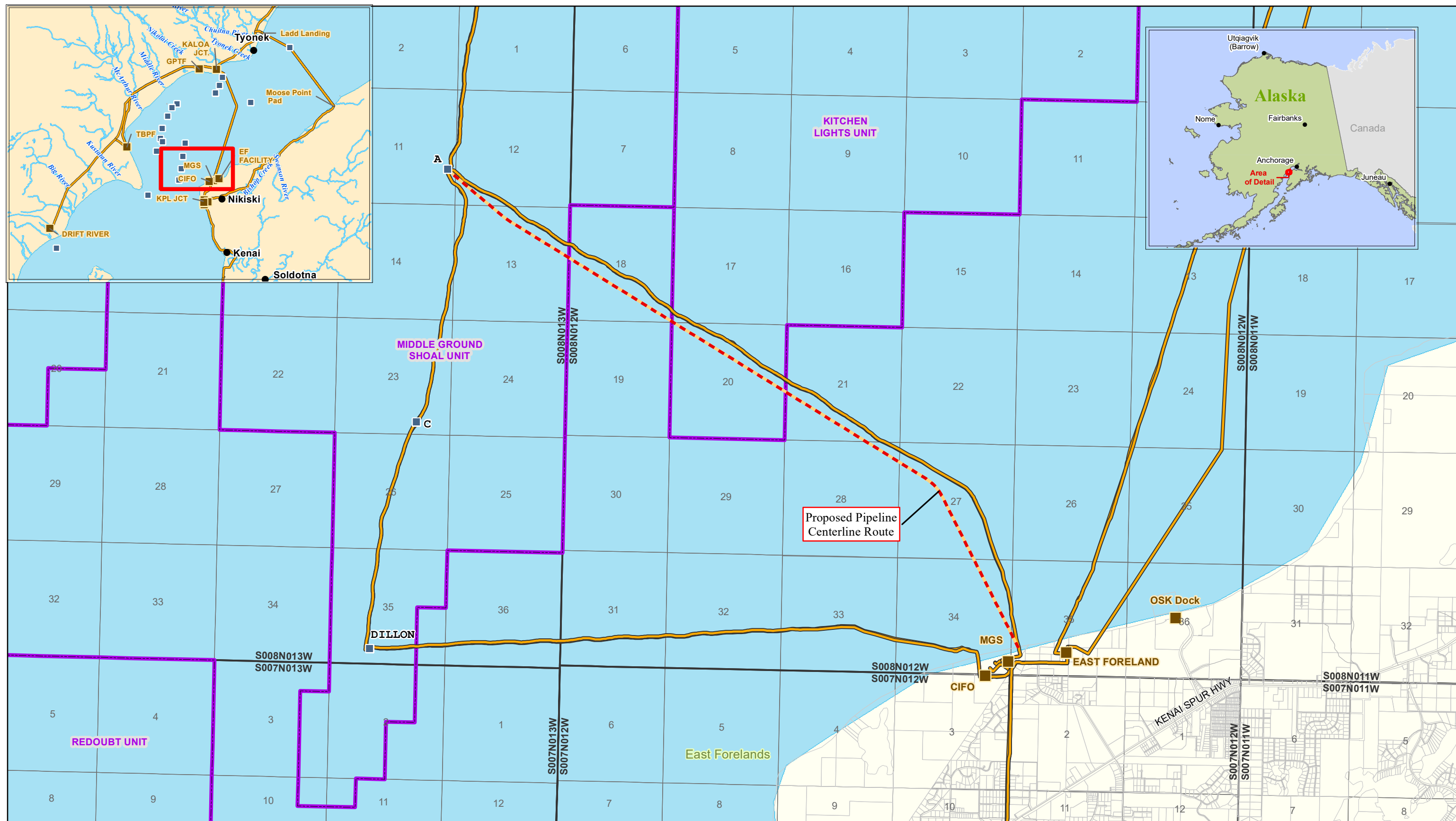
Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to water quality, may submit comments electronically via email to DEC-401cert@alaska.gov by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's public notice. All comments need to include the Corps public notice reference number in the subject heading. Physically mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

The permit application and associated documents are available for review. For inquiries or to request copies of the documents, contact dec-401cert@alaska.gov, or call 907-269-6285.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 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 ADA Coordinator Brian Blessington at 907-269-6272 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.

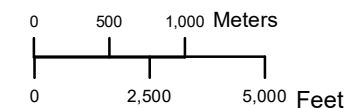


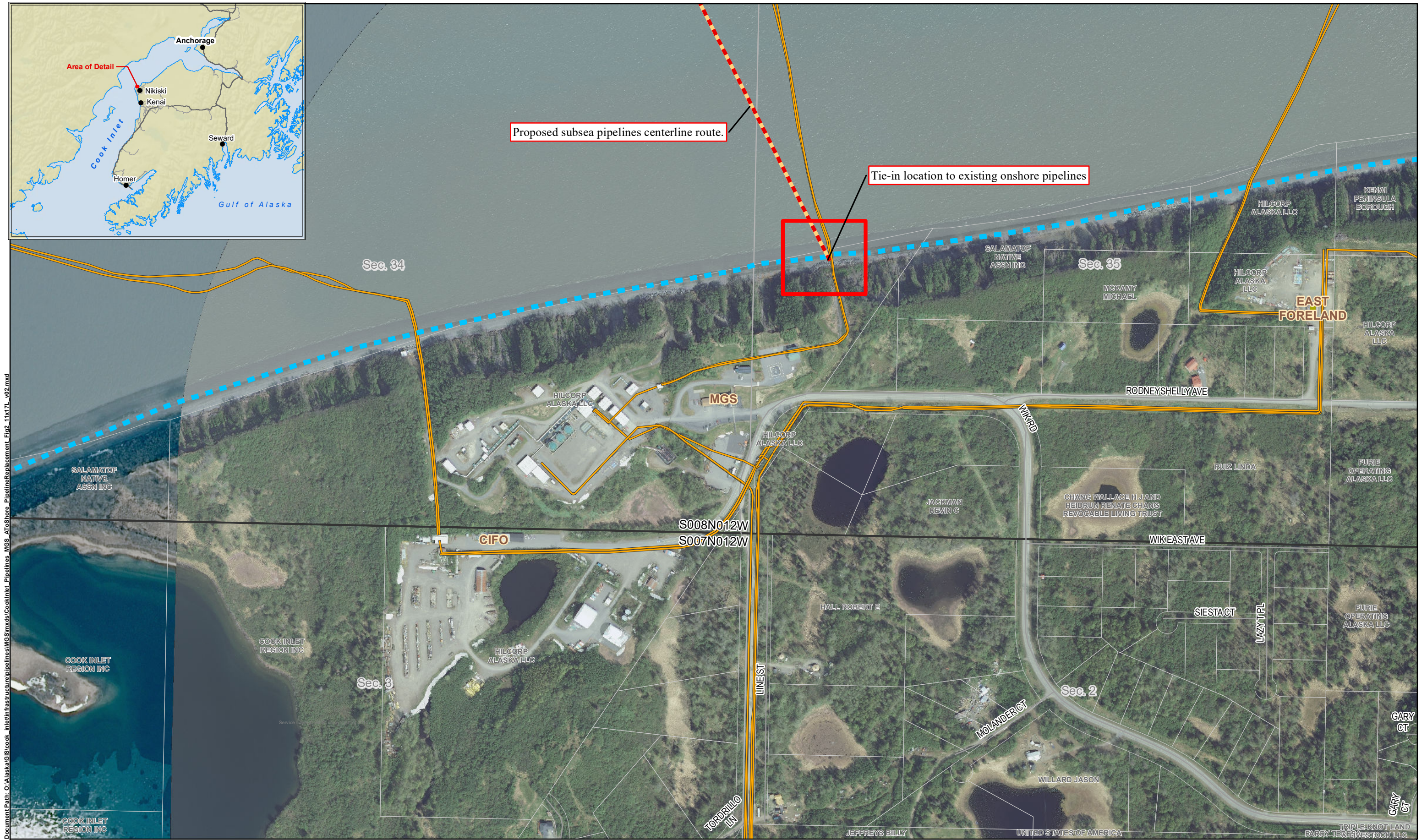
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MGS Pipeline Replacement Project Vicinity Area Figure 1

Legend

- Proposed Pipeline Centerline Route
- The Blackfin Group (28 SEPT 2021)
- Existing Pipelines
- Offshore Platform
- Hilcorp Onshore Facilities
- Parcels
- Oil and Gas Units





Document Path: O:\Alaska\GIS\cook_inlet\infrastructure\pipelines\MGS\mxd\Cook Inlet Pipelines MGS ATOS Shore Pipeline Replacement Fig2 11x17L_v02.mxd



Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

Map Date: 10/4/2021

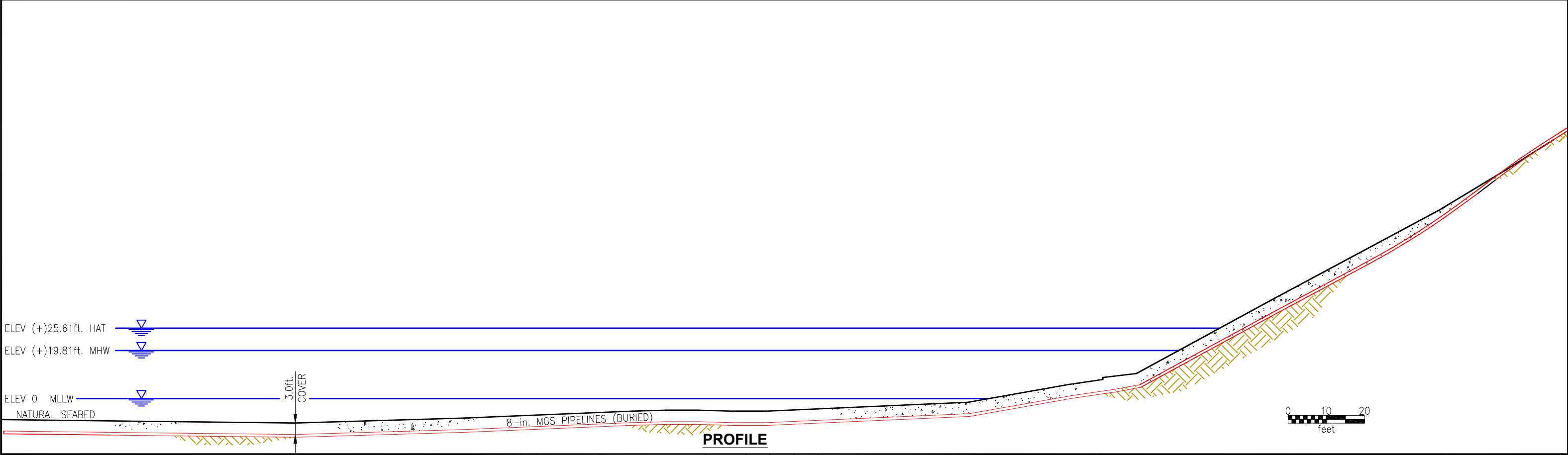
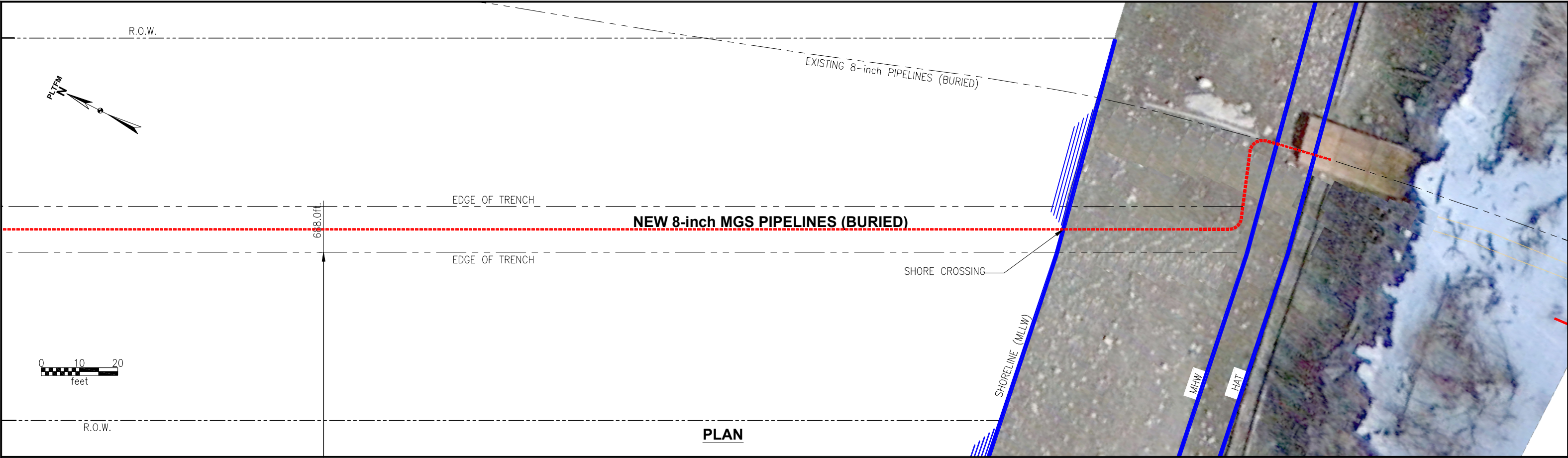
**MGS Pipeline Replacement Project
Nearshore Area Map
Figure 2**

- Proposed Pipeline Centerline Route
- The Blackfin Group (28 SEPT 2021)
- MHW Line (NOAA)
- Onshore Facilities
- Existing Oil and Gas Pipelines

Map Scale 1:4,800
1 inch = 400 feet @ 11 x 17 page size
0 300 600 Feet



PLOT: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 4:23:48 PM BY: TRAVIS POTEET LAST SAVE: 12/8/2021 4:22:50 PM BY: TPOTEET FILE NAME: Z:\ACTIVE PROJECTS\21053-HILCORP MGS PIPELINE DESIGN\06 ENG\OFF DWG\21053-1-G-0010-RD ONSHORE APPROACH PLAN AND ELEVATION



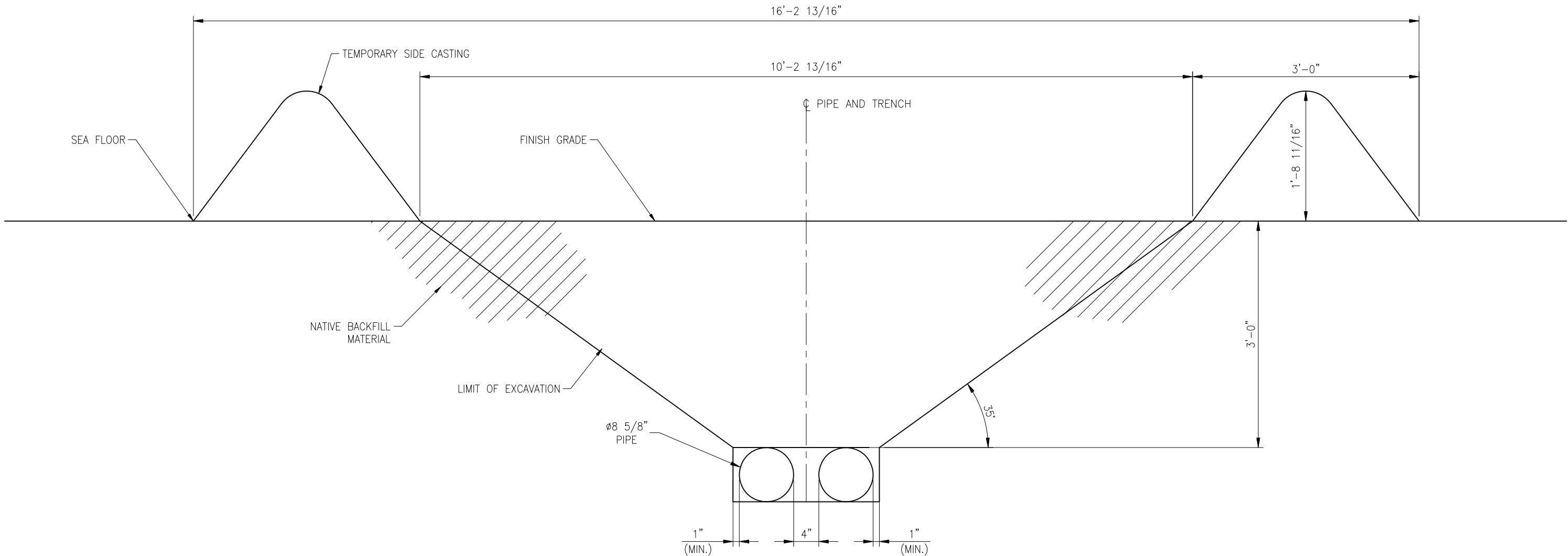
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A	ISSUED FOR COMMENT	05 OCT 21	SMS	BXN	GCT	
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HILCORP ALASKA, LLC	
8-inch MGS PIPELINES	
SHORE APPROACH PLAN AND ELEVATION	
DRAWING NUMBER: 21053-1-G-0010	SHEET#: 1/1 REV. D

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TRENCH CROSSING

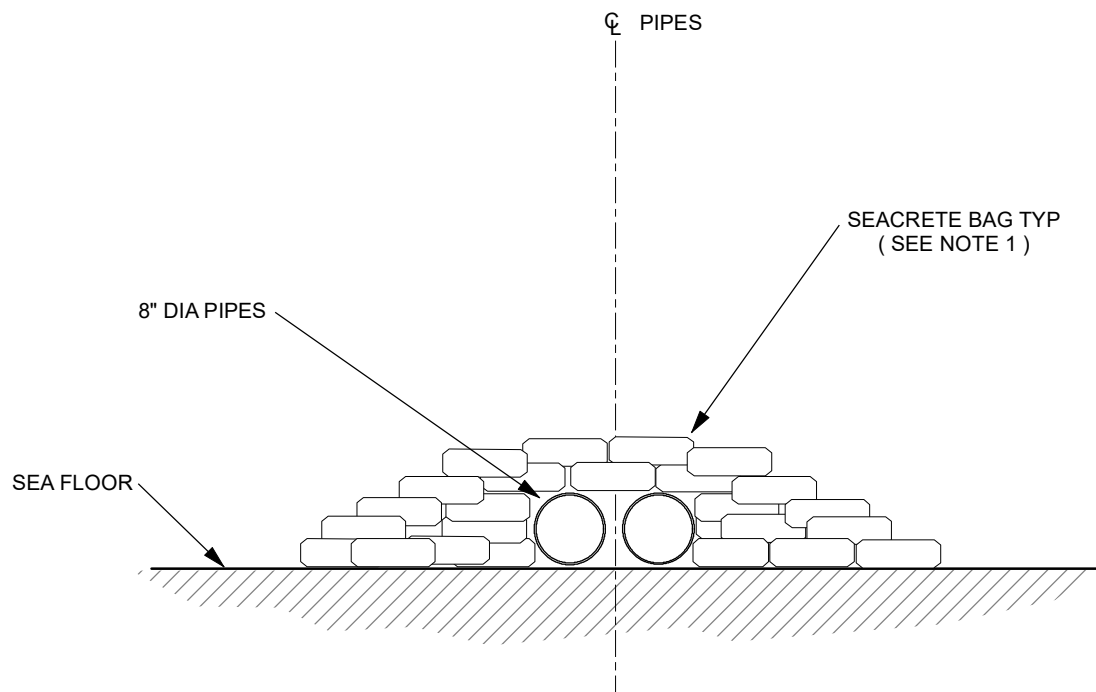
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HILCORP ALASKA, LLC
 MGS PIPELINE
 PIPELINE TRENCH
 PROFILE

DRAWN BY: T. POTEET	DATE: 08 DEC 21	DRAWING NUMBER: 21053-1-P-0010	SHEET#: 1/1	REV. B
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NOTES:

1. SEACRETE BAGS ARE 0.5 CUBIC FEET IN SIZE.

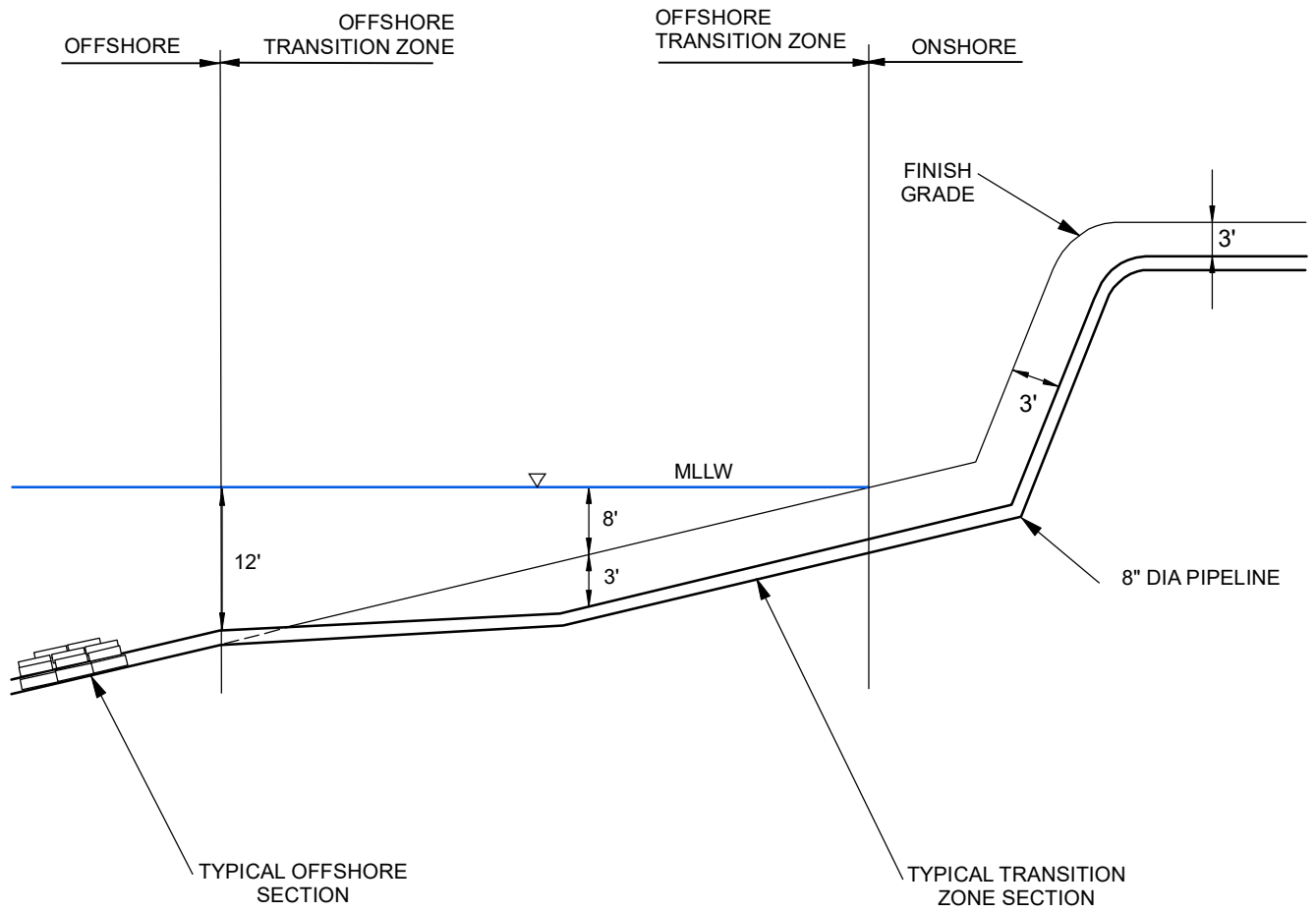
HILCORP ALASKA, LLC

**MGS PIPELINE
REPLACEMENT PROJECT
PINNED PIPELINE CROSS SECTION**

DATE:
October 2021

SCALE:
NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE:
5



HILCORP ALASKA, LLC

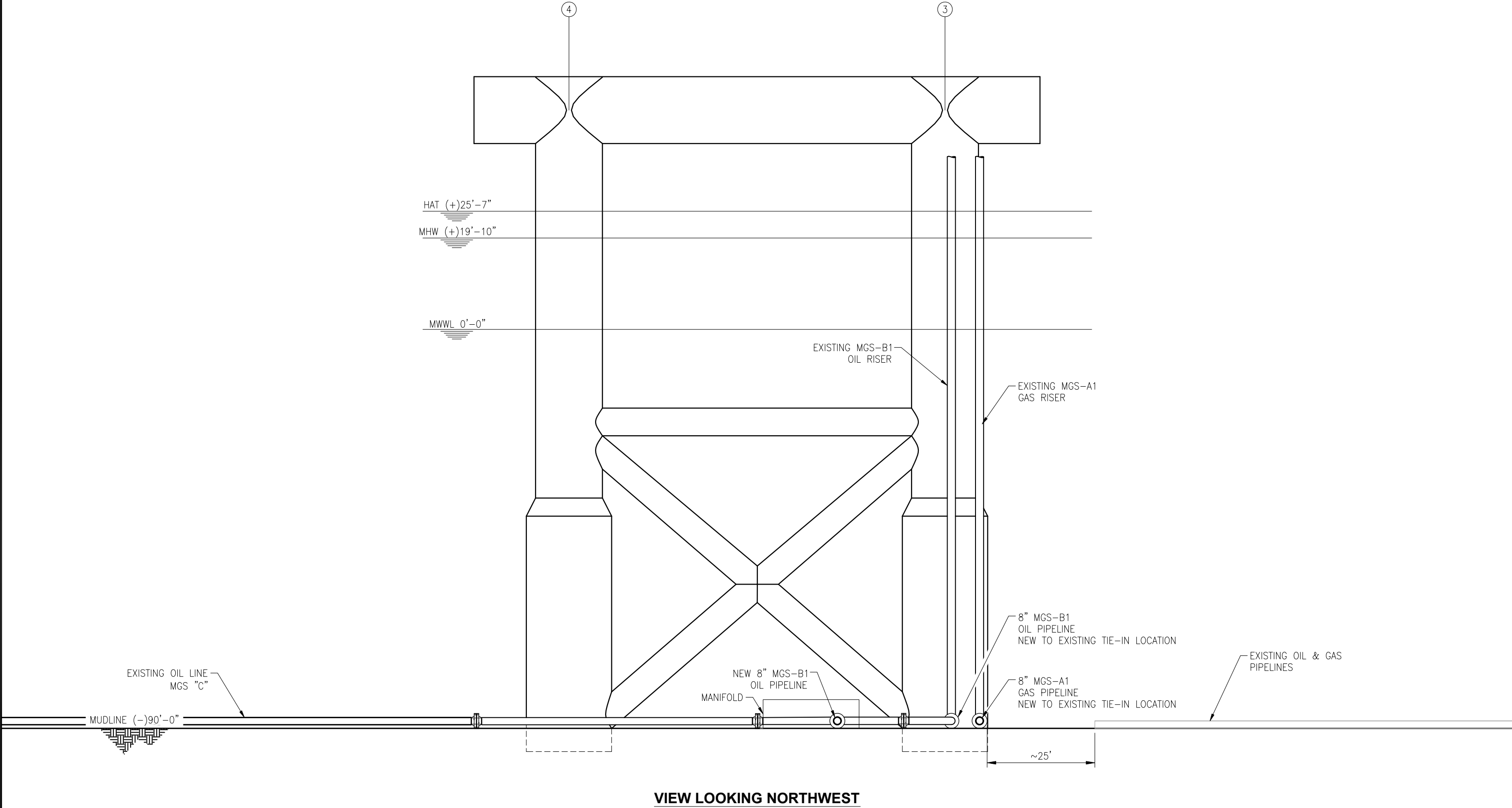
**MGS PIPELINE
REPLACEMENT PROJECT
TRANSITION ZONE
CROSS SECTION**

DATE:
October 2021

SCALE:
NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE:
3

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www.blackfinoffshore.com	HILCORP ALASKA, LLC		
	MGS PIPELINE		
	PLATFORM "A"		
	SUBSEA ELEVATION		
DRAWING NUMBER:	21053-1-N-0018	SHEET#:	REV.
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