



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
2175 University Avenue, Suite 201E  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4927

<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-2020-00110</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Sourdough Creek</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 Ashley Kraetsch at (907) 458-1606 or by email at: [Ashley.M.Kraetsch@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ashley.M.Kraetsch@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**APPLICANT:** Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) (Attention: Brett Nelson)

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 23, T. #7 N., R. 1 W., Copper River Meridian; Latitude 62.374° N., Longitude -145.365° W.; near Glenallen, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to extend the service life and improve the safety of two sections of the Richardson Highway.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant has proposed to rehabilitate the Richardson Highway between mileposts 138 & 148 by repaving the road, fixing sections of damaged embankment, grading drainage ditches, replacing failing culverts, resurfacing Sourdough Creek Bridge and replacing bridge approach and transition guard rails. Additionally, a portion of roadway at

milepost 134 would be realigned towards the east, away from an eroding riverbank bluff. This portion of the project would occur in three phases necessary to thaw and drain the permafrost (Phase I), accelerate and consolidate settlement (Phase II), and construct and pave the new road (Phase III). The work for both the milepost 138 to 148 rehabilitation and milepost 134 realignment is scheduled to take place congruently. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-6), dated March 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 their avoidance measures will include actions such as completing bridge resurfacing and slope flattening work above the ordinary high water mark of existing channels, and maintaining existing drainage patterns where possible by replacing existing 24 inch culverts with 36 inch culverts to ensure sufficient capacity, reduction of scour, and habitat connectivity. Additionally, best management practices such as silt fences and vegetative buffers would be in place to promote erosion and sediment control, and proper U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines would be followed to avoid vegetation clearing during migratory bird nesting season windows.

b. Minimization: In an attempt to minimize wetland impacts, the applicant will be placing material stockpiles and staging areas within uplands and previously disturbed areas, and completely restoring any wetlands that are temporarily impacted. A majority of wetland impacts will be limited to those located along the roadway embankment, and areas that have been previously disturbed.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: Given the stated efforts to avoid and minimize wetland impacts, ADOT&PF has not proposed any compensatory mitigation 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 construction area within the Richardson Highway right-of-way between mileposts 138 & 148, as well as the construction corridor within the proposed realignment footprint at milepost 134. 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 has received a copy of ADOT's coordination stating this determination and SHPO's concurrence – USACE will adopt this coordination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

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 (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 crosses a stream which reaches confluence with Sourdough Creek, which is within the known range of the Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

This PN initiates EFH consultation with the NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning 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.

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 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

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.

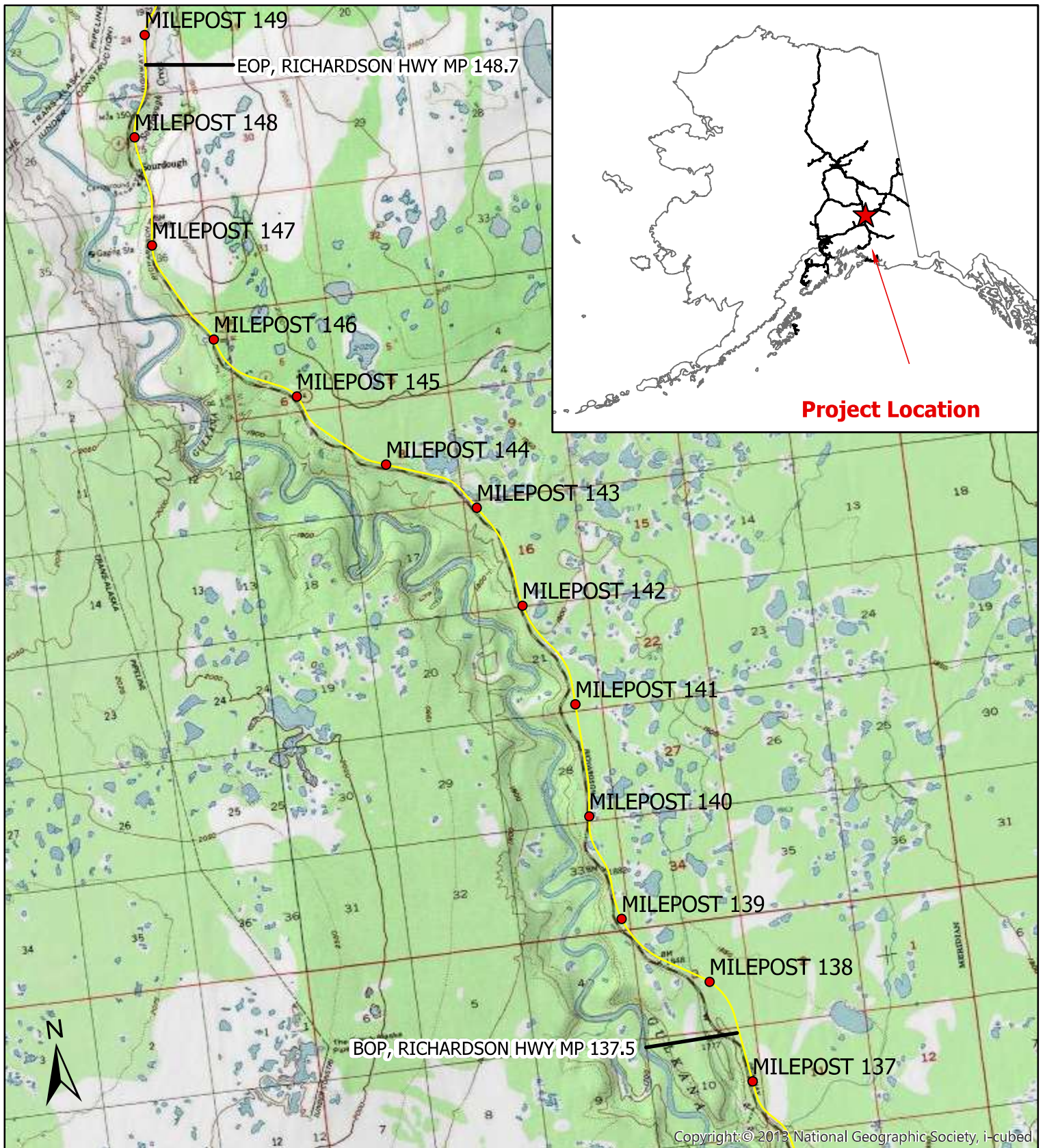
Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice (PN) Reference Number **POA-2020-00110, Sourdough Creek**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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.

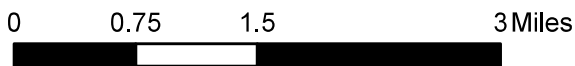
Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above or via email to [dec-401cert@alaska.gov](mailto:dec-401cert@alaska.gov) by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice. All comments should include 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.



Sec. 3, 4, 10, T7N, R1W  
 Sec. 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 21, 28, 33, T8N, R1W  
 Sec. 6, T8N, R1W  
 Sec. 1, T8N, R2W  
 Sec. 24, 25, 36, T9N, R2W

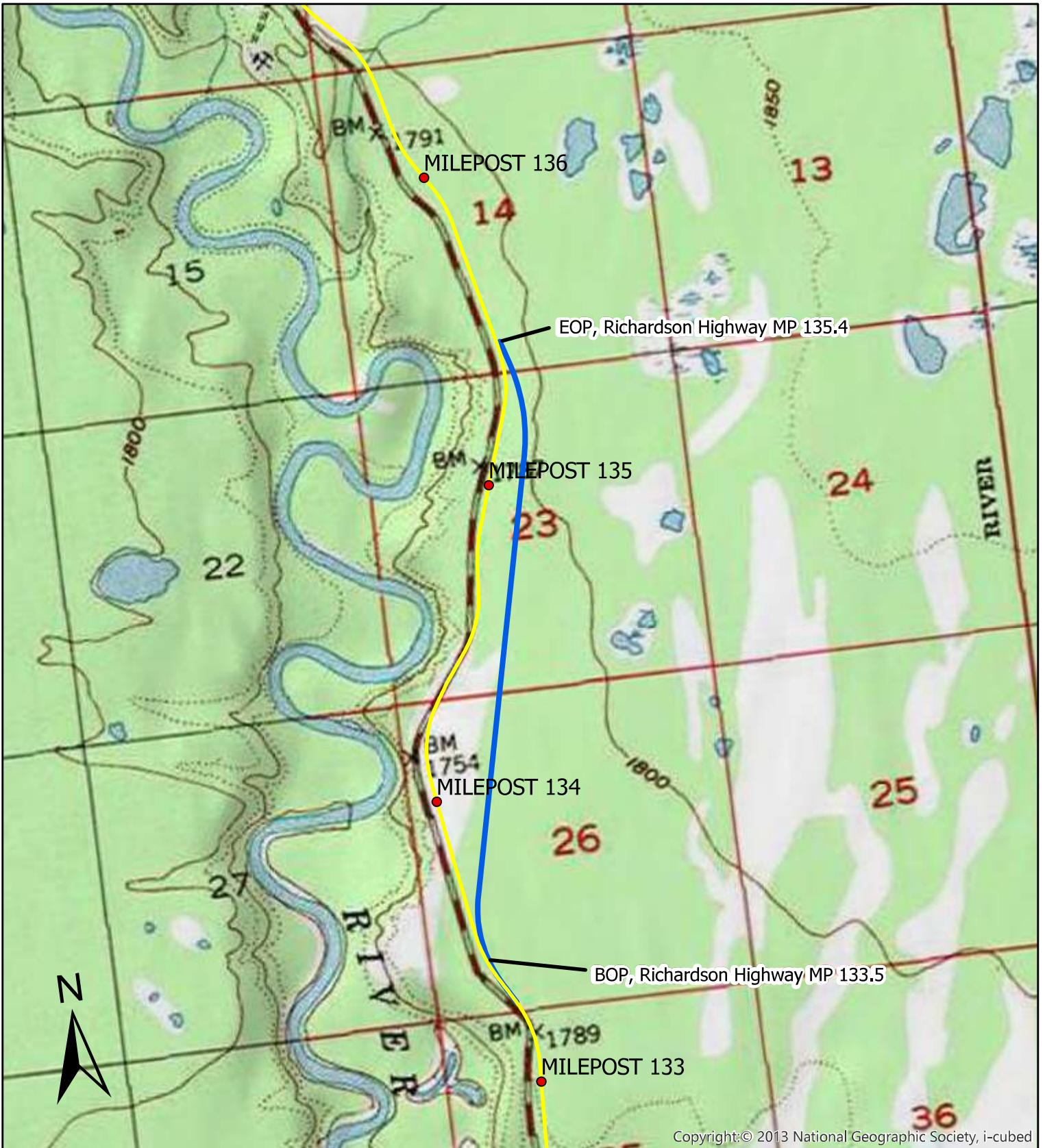


STATE OF ALASKA  
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

File No.: POA-2020-00110  
 Waterway: Multiple Crossings  
 Proposed Activity: Richardson Highway  
 MP 138-148 Rehabilitation


March 2020

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Sec. 14, 23, 26, 35, T7N, R1W  
 Proposed re-alignment

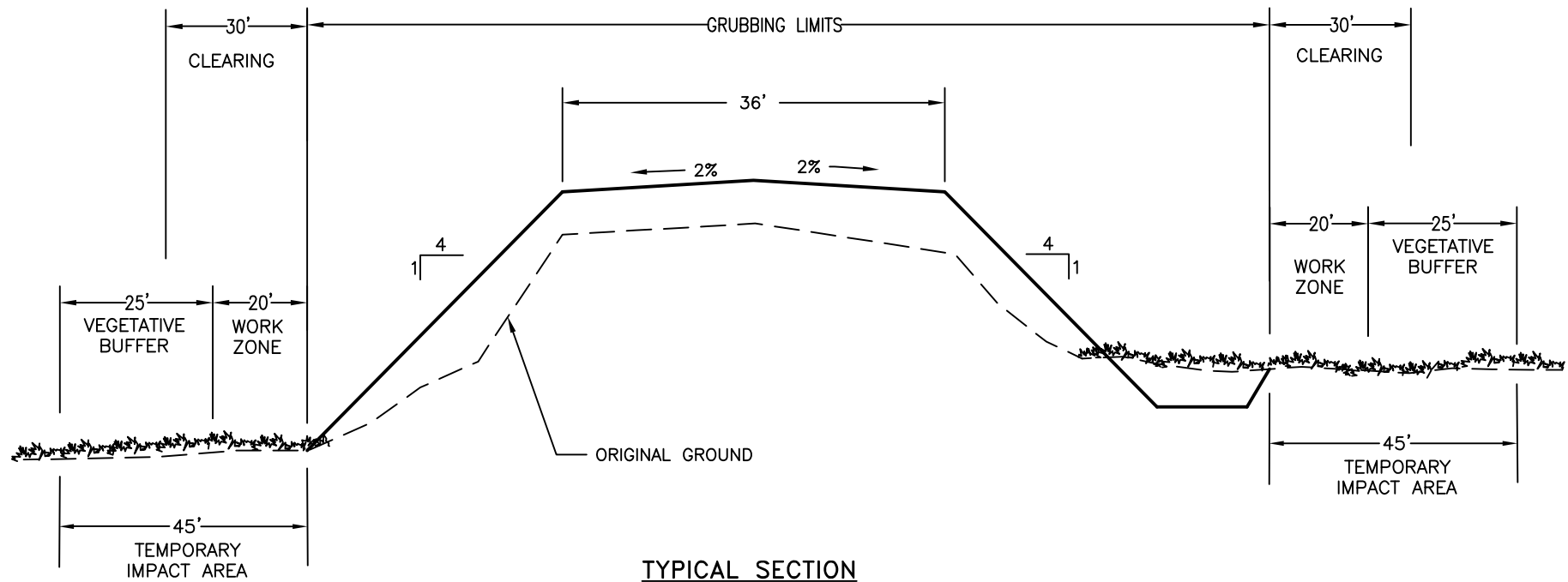


STATE OF ALASKA  
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

File No.: POA-2020- 00110  
 Waterway: Multiple Crossings  
 Proposed Activity: Richardson Highway  
 MP 134 Re-alignment

March 2020

Sheet 2 of 6



**TYPICAL SECTION**  
**MP 138-148**

NOTES:

1. THE TEMPORARY IMPACT AREA EXTENDS 45' ON EITHER SIDE OF THE PERMANENT IMPACT AREA, AND IS DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS; THE WORK ZONE, AND THE VEGETATIVE BUFFER. AS SHOWN ABOVE.
2. WORK WITHIN THE WORK ZONE INCLUDES VEGETATIVE CLEARING (NO GRUBBING), AND EQUIPMENT ACCESS TO ALLOW THE CONTRACTOR ADEQUATE ROOM TO CONSTRUCT EMBANKMENT SLOPES.
3. THE NATURAL VEGETATIVE MAT SHALL BE PRESERVED WITHIN THE VEGETATIVE BUFFER ZONE, AND SHALL SERVE AS A BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) TO PROTECT SURROUNDING WETLAND AREAS FROM SEDIMENT RUNOFF.

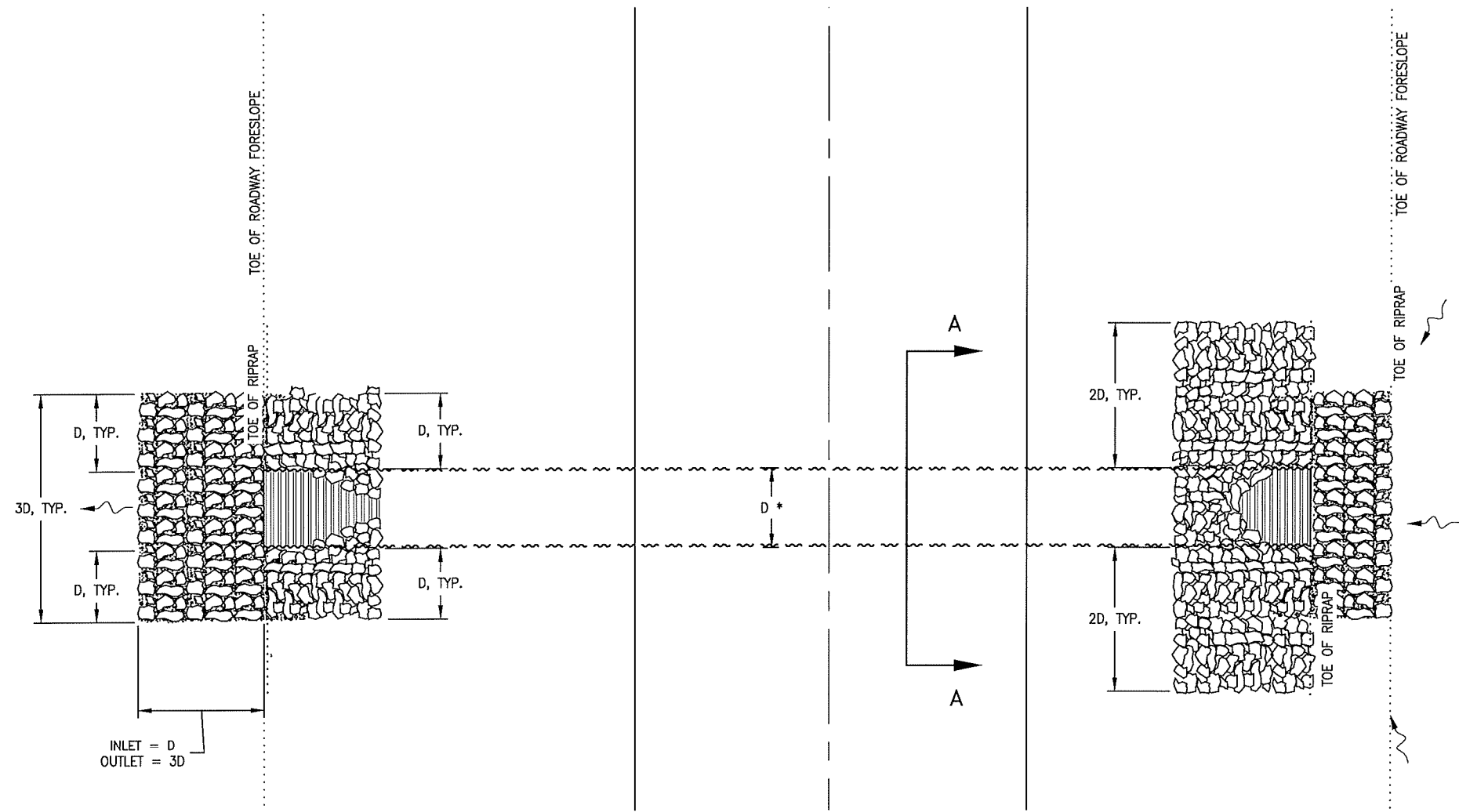
State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

File No.: POA-2020-00110  
Waterway: Multiple Crossings  
Proposed Activity: Richardson Highway MP 138-148 Rehabilitation

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NO.	DATE	REVISION	STATE	PROJECT DESIGNATION	YEAR	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
			ALASKA	0713016 / Z606380000	2020		

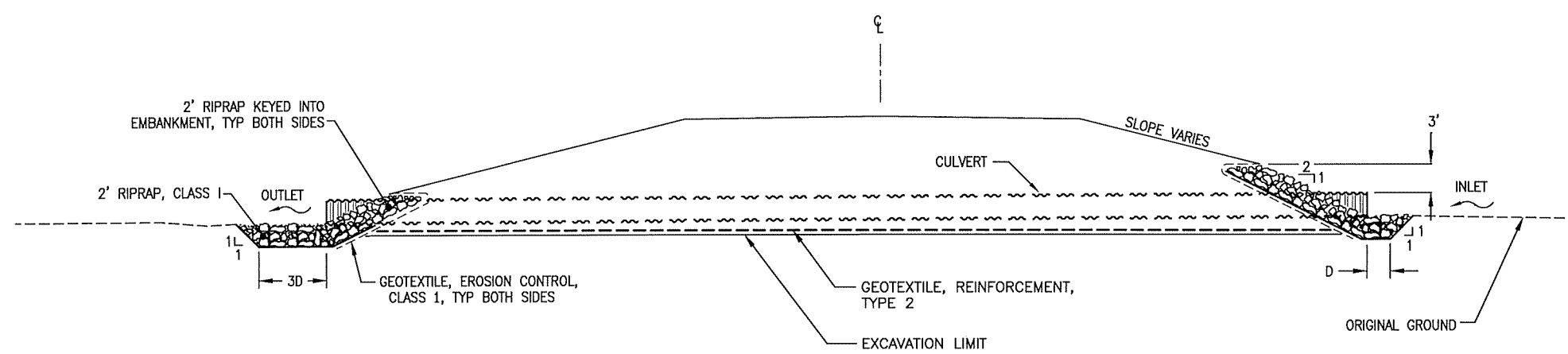


CULVERT RIPRAP APRON - TYPICAL PLAN VIEW

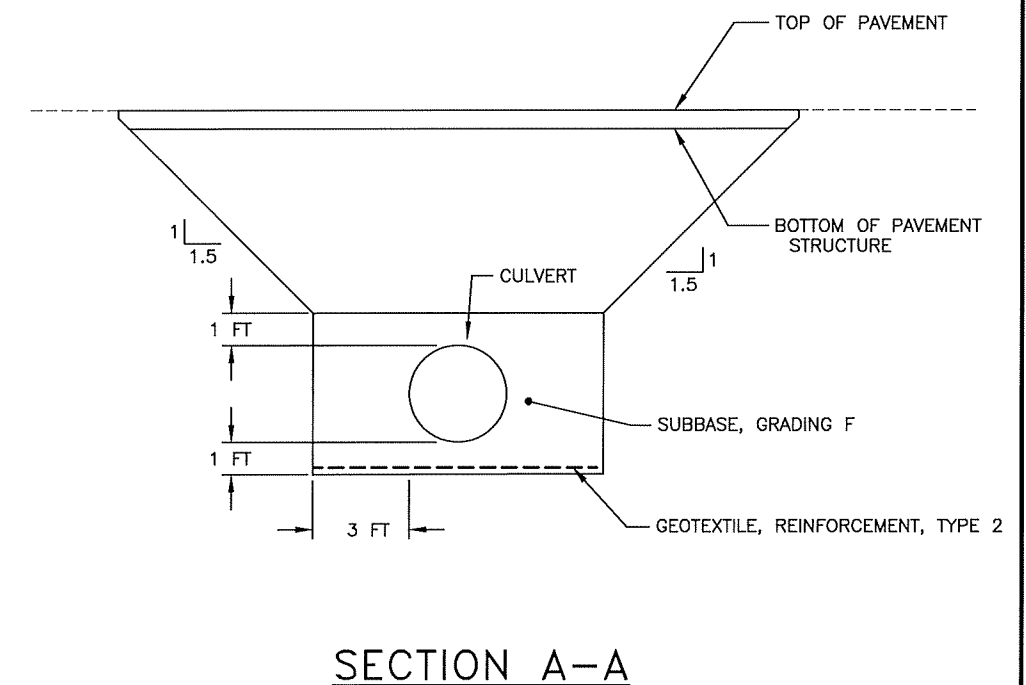
**EMBANKMENT WARP AND CULVERT APRON NOTES:**

1. EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES MAY BE FIELD ADJUSTED BY THE ENGINEER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXISTING CHANNEL FEATURES.
2. CULVERT RIPRAP APRON DETAILS SHOWN ON THIS SHEET ARE SCHEMATIC AND NOT TO SCALE.

\* D = CULVERT DIAMETER



CULVERT RIPRAP APRON - ELEVATION VIEW



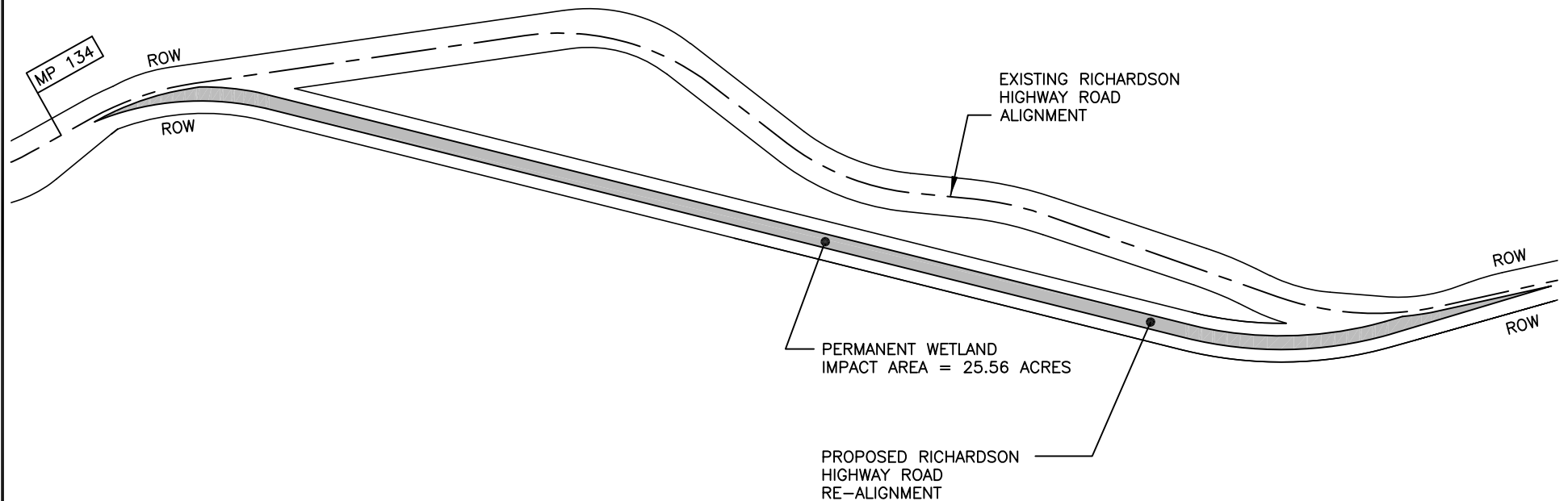
SECTION A-A

State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

File No.: POA-2020-00110  
Waterway: Multiple Crossings  
Proposed Activity: Richardson Highway MP 138-148 Rehabilitation

PLANS DEVELOPED BY: STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES, NORTHERN REGION, 2301 PEGER ROAD, FAIRBANKS, AK 99709 (907)451-2200  
H:\Projects\Rich\_Hwy\_60638\_Rich\_115\_148\06 Design\05 Civil\_3D\03\_90285\_137-148\03 Drafting\Apron Details-EMBANKMENT WARP & CULVERT APRON DETAILS Mon, Feb/03/20 03:28pm

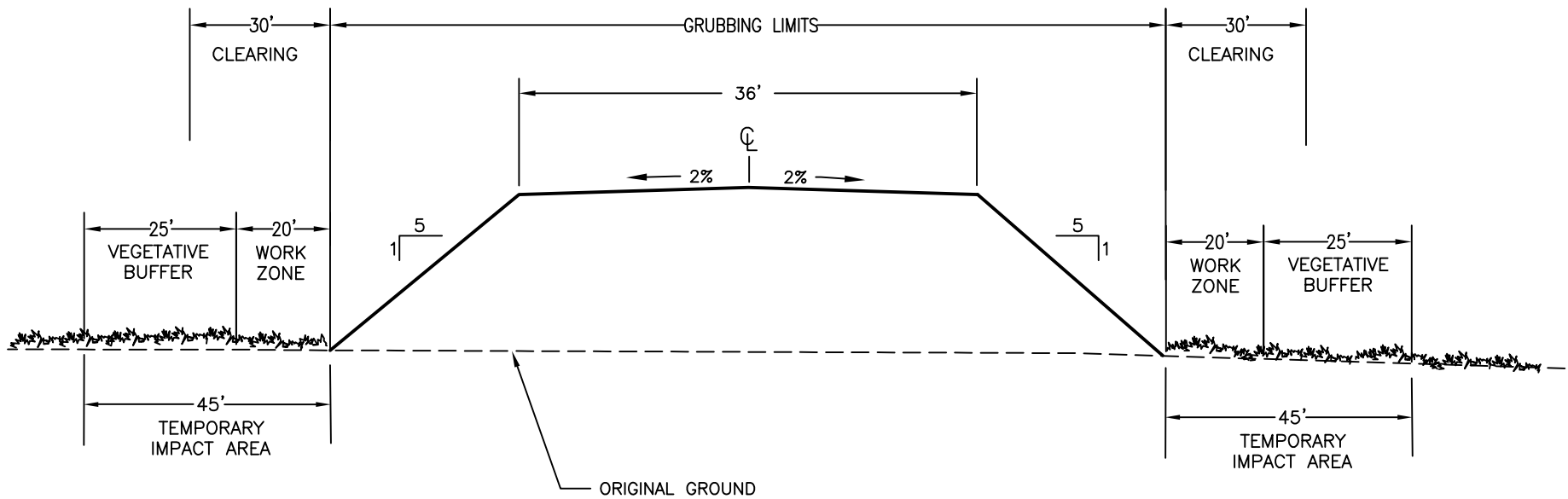
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State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

File No.: POA-2020-00110  
Waterway: Multiple Crossings  
Proposed Activity: Richardson Highway MP 134 Re-alignment

March 2020 Sheet 5 of 6



**TYPICAL SECTION  
MP 134 RE-ALIGNMENT**

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State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

File No.: POA-2020-00110  
Waterway: Multiple Crossings  
Proposed Activity: Richardson Highway MP 134 Re-alignment

March 2020 Sheet 6 of 6