

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

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: February 13, 2020

EXPIRATION DATE: February 28, 2020

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2003-00502

WATERWAY: Knik Arm

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 Ms. Arianne Logwood at (907) 753-5556, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at: arianne.n.logwood@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

<u>APPLICANT</u>: Municipality of Anchorage, Port of Alaska, 2000 Anchorage Port Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99501

AGENT: HDR, Inc., Attention: Mr. Paul McLarnon, 2525 C Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

<u>LOCATION</u>: The project site is located within Knik Arm at the Port of Alaska, Section 7, T. 13 N., R. 3 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Anchorage A-8X; Latitude 61.234° N., Longitude -149.893° W.; in Anchorage, Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska.

<u>PURPOSE</u>: The applicant's stated purpose is to replace the existing Petroleum Oil Lubricants Terminal (POL1), which is more than 50 years old, severely corroded, and marginally safe with a new Petroleum and Cement Terminal (PCT). The POL1 is the only bulk cement—handling facility in Alaska and the primary terminal for receipt of refined petroleum products.

<u>PROPOSED WORK</u>: The applicant proposes to construct the PCT, a new pile supported structure consisting of a loading platform, access trestle, mooring dolphins with connecting catwalks, and utility, petroleum, and cement pipelines. Approximately, 276 piles of varying diameters (24-inch up to 144-inch), will be installed via impact and/or vibratory hammer methods. All temporary piles will be removed after each construction season. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-10), dated February 2020.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</u> Existing conditions and applicable project history: The proposed PCT project is a single component of the larger, multi-phase Port of Alaska's Modernization Project (PAMP). A State of Alaska water quality certification was last issued on April 6, 2018. Additional permit history is below.

Department of the Army (DA) permit number POA-2003-00502, Ship Creek: Issued on August 24, 2005, to discharge approximately 1,075,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged and fill material within 27 acres of intertidal area north of existing Port facilities, for the construction of a transit/staging area for Department of Defense cargo deployment.

POA-2003-00502-M1, Cook Inlet: Issued on November 3. 2005, authorized the modification of Special Condition 13, which was related creation of an escrow account to fund compensatory mitigation projects.

POA-2003-00502-M2 (formerly known as POA-2003-502-N), Cook Inlet: Issued on August 10, 2007, authorized the discharge of fill material over 20.5 acres of wetlands associated with the development of the Cherry Hill and North End Runway borrow pits; the dredging of approximately 258,000 CY of sediment over approximately 21 acres necessary for the construction of the expanded dock and the discharge of the material at the existing Port of Anchorage maintenance dredging disposal site; and the discharge of approximately 9,663,420 CY of clean fill material over 111 acres of intertidal and nearshore, subtidal waters of Knik Arm necessary for the construction of the expanded dock.

POA-2003-00502-M3, Cook Inlet: Issued on August 3, 2010, authorized the removal of Special Conditions V-1 and V-2.

POA-2003-502-M4, Cook Inlet: Issued on September 17, 2010, authorized the change of Special Condition VIII-1 concerning the compensatory mitigation funds.

POA-2003-00502-M5, Cook Inlet: Issued on March 16, 2010, authorized winter maintenance dredging to be done three times at the TOTE Berth; in February, March, and April 2011. The maximum amount of sediment moved per time will be 200 CY.

POA-2003-00502-M6, Cook Inlet: Was a request for the authorization of dredging and disposal of more than a million cubic yards. This modification was not issued and the request was withdrawn on June 17, 2011.

POA-2003-00502-M7, Cook Inlet: Issued on August 15, 2011, authorized an additional 50,000 CY of dredging and associated disposal necessary to allow safe inspection of sheet piles. In

addition, the Port requests authorization of discharge of 15,000 CY of filter rock and Class IV armor rock to harden the South Backlands Stabilization (SBS) (1,500 feet in length, an area of 7,500 square yards) to prevent shoreside erosion.

POA-2003-00502-M8, Knik Arm: Issued March 9, 2016, authorized the installation of up to (10), 48-inch steel pipe piles and hydroacoustic monitoring of in-water sound propagation parameters (e.g., transmission loss, water depth) during pile installation.

POA-2003-00502-M9, Knik Arm: Issued on January 10, 2017, authorized the construction of the SBS project. The SBS project proposed to discharge approximately 54,700 CY of fill material into 4.6 acres of Waters of The United States (WOUS).

POA-2003-00502-M10, Knik Arm: Was a request for the authorization of the Northern Extension Stabilization Project. This modification was not issued and the request was withdrawn on June 18, 2017.

POA-2003-00502-M11, Knik Arm: Issued May 25, 2018, authorized the discharge of approximately 14,800 CY of fill material in the intertidal zone below the High Tide Line (HTL) in-situ mixing of soil below the mean high water mark (MHWM) into approximately 1.0 acre of WOUS to construct a temporary work pad. The temporary work pad will be removed at the end of the construction season.

POA-2003-00502-M12, Knik Arm: Issued January 2, 2019, authorized a) transitional dredging of 575,000 CY of material and transport and discharge of the material into the Corps of Engineers (Corps) Anchorage Harbor open water dredge material placement area (DMPA), b) landside utilities instillation, c) the removal of 10 test piles, and d) removal of two drill castings.

POA-2003-00502: Permit Amendment 13, issued May 16, 2019, authorized a) reduction in dredge depths, b) allow for a bulldozer to be used for transitional dredging, and c) allow temporary stockpiling of excavated material (not to exceed 5,000-CY at any given time and three months) below the HTL and MHWM of Knik Arm.

POA-2003-00502: Permit Amendment 14, issued 22 May 2019, authorized the removal, relocation and expansion of the South Floating Dock.

<u>APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION</u>: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to WOUS from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

- a. Avoidance: Avoidance of impacts to WOUS was limited by geographic and logistic constraints. Given the physical requirements of locating a port on a waterbody, complete avoidance of WOUS was not feasible for the project.
 - b. Minimization: Impacts to waters of WOUS was minimized through use of a pile

supported structure instead of an extension of the coastline. The number of piles was minimized to that necessary to construct a seismically resilient PCT, while maximizing the life of the structure in order to minimize the need for future in-water work. During further design and construction work planning, the following changes were made to the PCT to reduce ocean floor disturbance and mitigate impacts to marine mammals from impact hammering:

- The emergency access trestle was removed.
- Five, 48-inch-diameter piles from the access trestle were removed along with five, 48-inchdiameter platform piles.
- (20), 36-inch fender piles have been removed from the design.
- (16), 24-inch battered piles were eliminated in Phase 1 construction.
- Two dolphins (each having eight 48-inch-diameter battered pile group) were removed.
- Additional modifications to the design include a new dolphin design made up of 144-inch diameter monopiles.
- All permanent piles are on average 30 feet shallower since conceptual design.
- c. Compensatory Mitigation: Compensatory mitigation is not proposed.

<u>WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION</u>: 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.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: 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 portions of Knik Arm and the immediately adjacent upland where the PCT is proposed to be constructed. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the 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.

<u>ENDANGERED SPECIES</u>: The project area is within the known or historic range of the endangered Cook Inlet Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of Beluga Whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) and proposed designated critical habitat of the threatened Mexico DPS of Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

We have determined the described activity may affect the endangered Cook Inlet DPS of Beluga Whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) and proposed designated critical habitat of the threatened Mexico DPS of Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). 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.

<u>ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT</u>: 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 Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Chum Salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), Sockeye Aalmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), 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 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.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: 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.

<u>EVALUATION</u>: 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)(l) 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 Corp 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.

<u>AUTHORITY</u>: 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).

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.

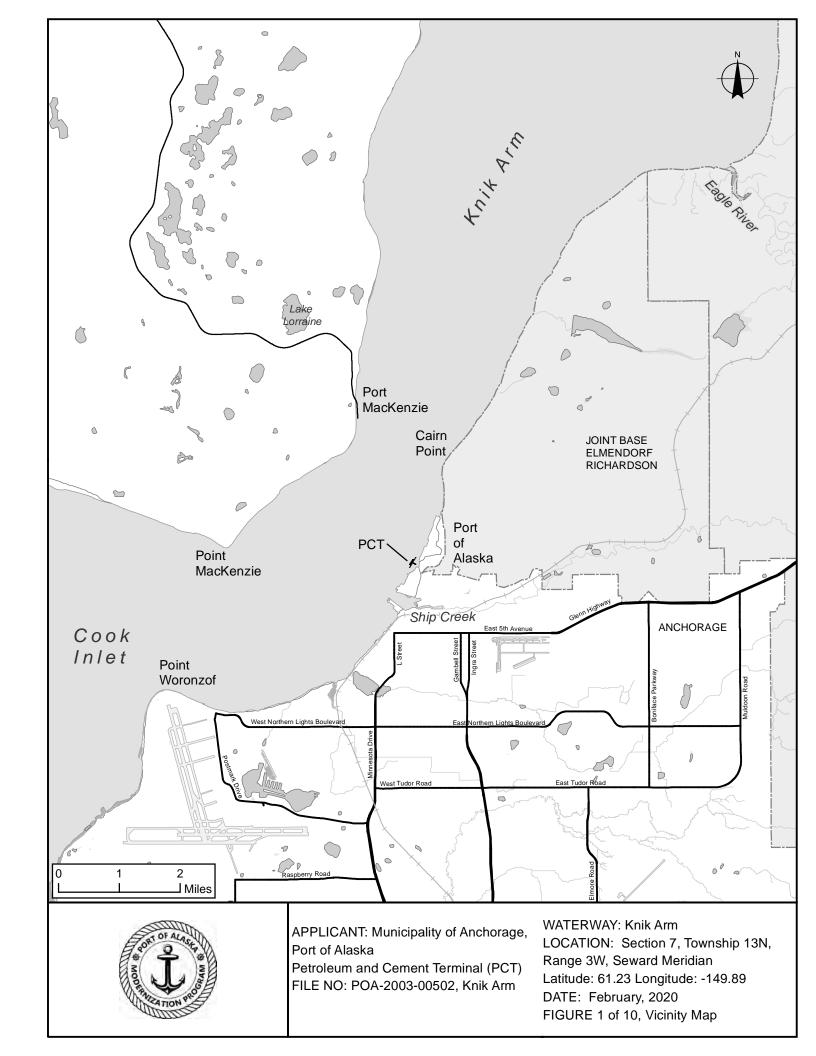
Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice (PN) Reference Number **POA-2003-00502**, **Knik Arm**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

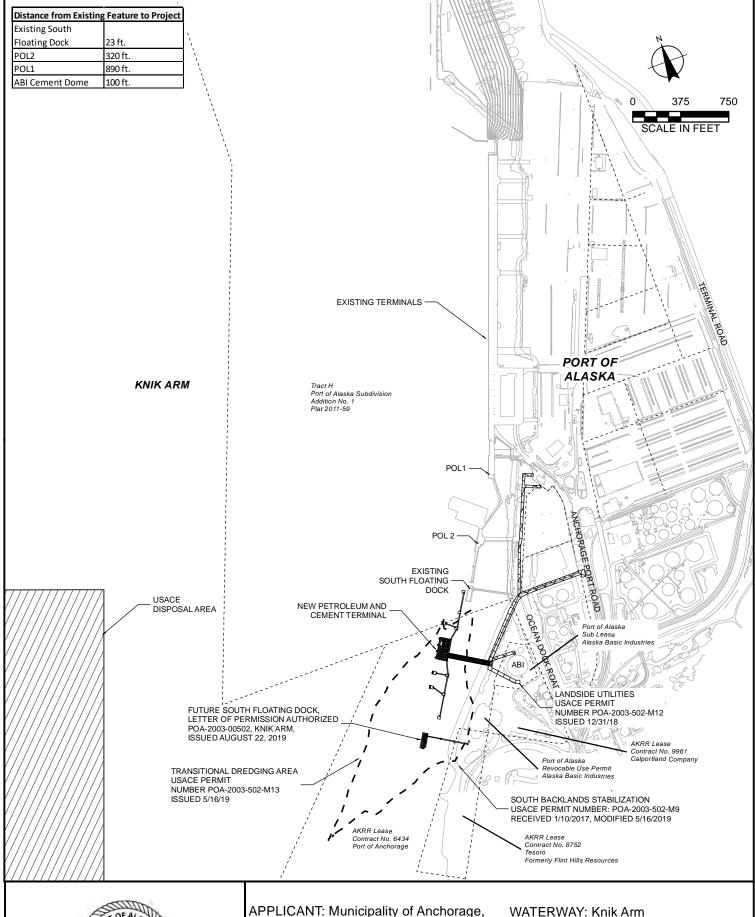
After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

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.







Port of Alaska

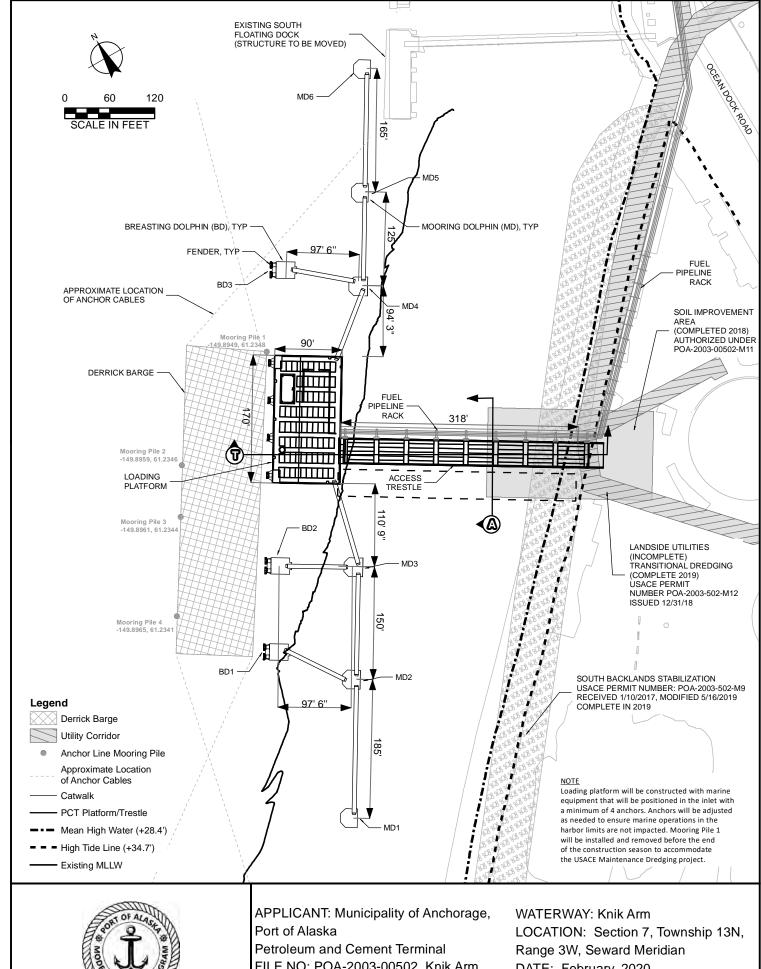
Petroleum and Cement Terminal FILE NO:POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm

LOCATION: Section 7, Township 13N,

Range 3W, Seward Meridian

DATE: February, 2020

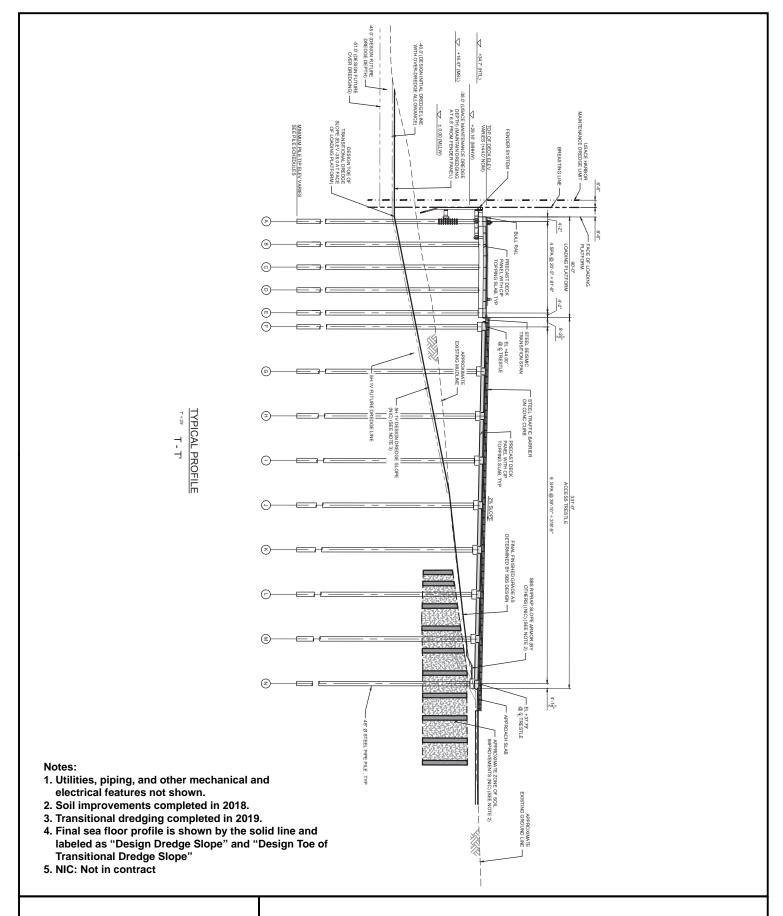
FIGURE 2 of 10, Overall Site Plan



FILE NO: POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm

DATE: February, 2020

FIGURE 3 of 10, New PCT Plan





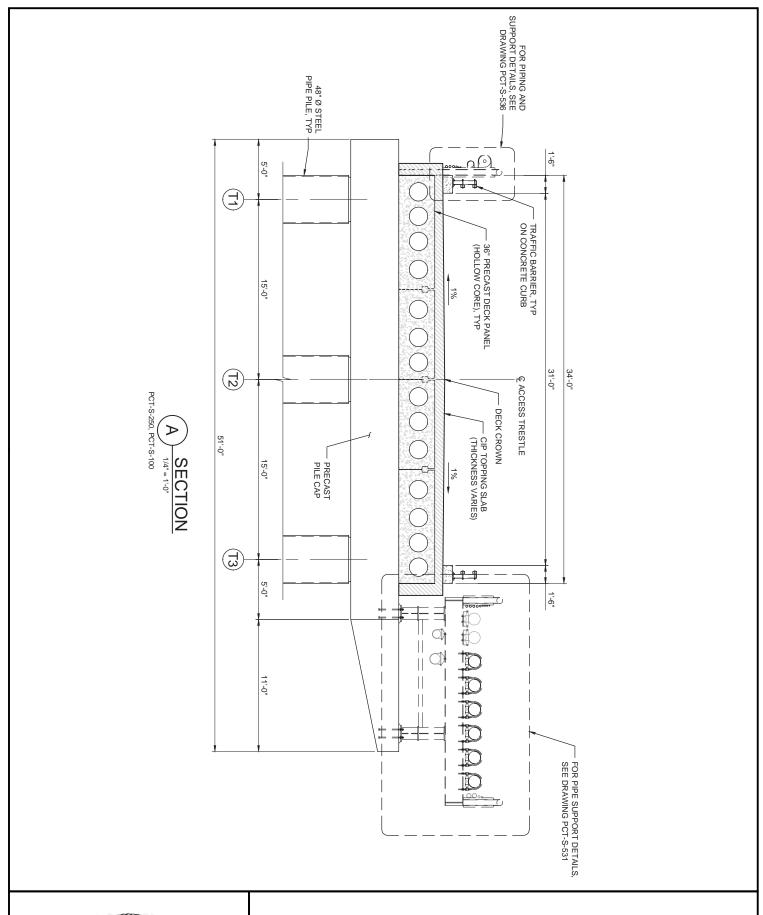
APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage, Port of Alaska

Petroleum and Cement Terminal FILE NO:POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm WATERWAY: Knik Arm

LOCATION: Section 7, Township 13N,

Range 3W, Seward Meridian DATE: February, 2020

FIGURE 4 of 10, Typical Section





Port of Alaska

Petroleum and Cement Terminal FILE NO:POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm

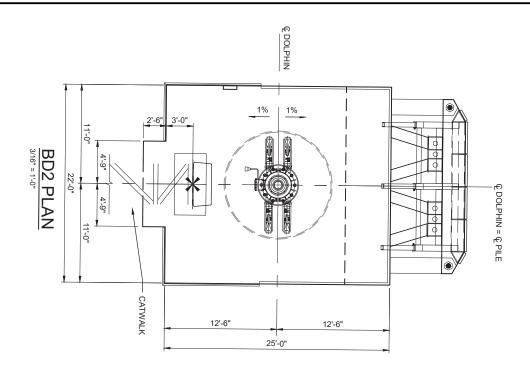
WATERWAY: Knik Arm

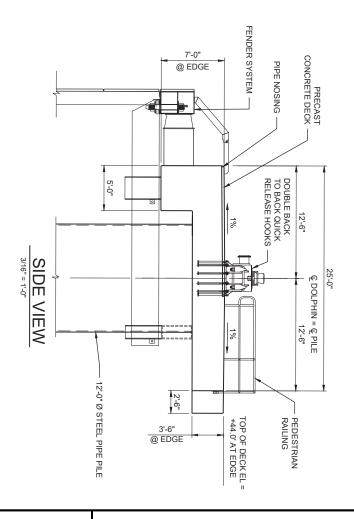
LOCATION: Section 7, Township 13N,

Range 3W, Seward Meridian

DATE: February 2020

FIGURE 5 of 10, Access Trestle and Fuel Pipe Rack Cross Section







Port of Alaska

Petroleum and Cement Terminal FILE NO:POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm

WATERWAY: Knik Arm

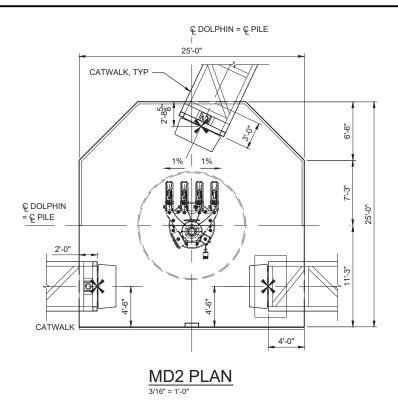
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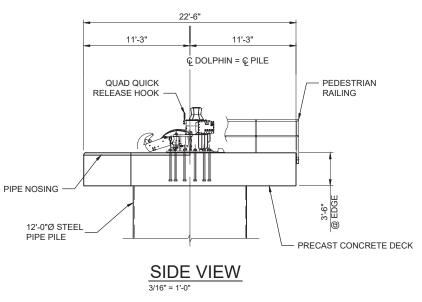
Range 3W, Seward Meridian

DATE: February, 2020

FIGURE 6 of 10, Breasting Dolphin

Details





NOTE: CATWALKS NOT SHOWN FOR CLARITY.

MOORING DOLPHIN



APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage,

Port of Alaska

Petroleum and Cement Terminal FILE NO:POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm

WATERWAY: Knik Arm

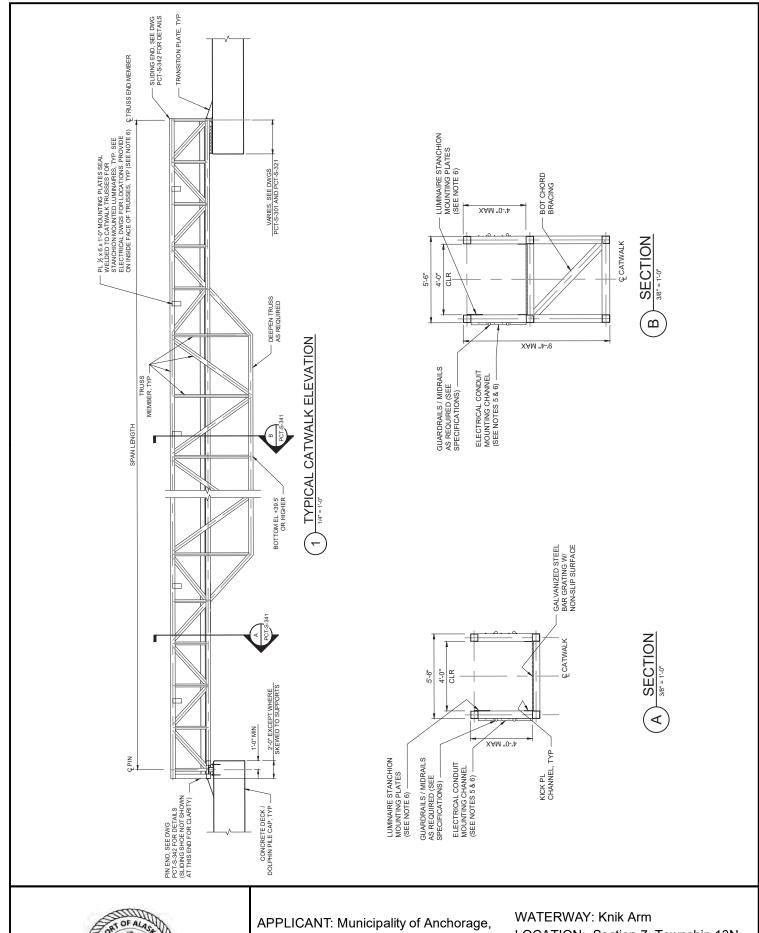
LOCATION: Section 7, Township 13N,

Range 3W, Seward Meridian

DATE: February, 2020

FIGURE 7 of 10, Mooring Dolphin

Details



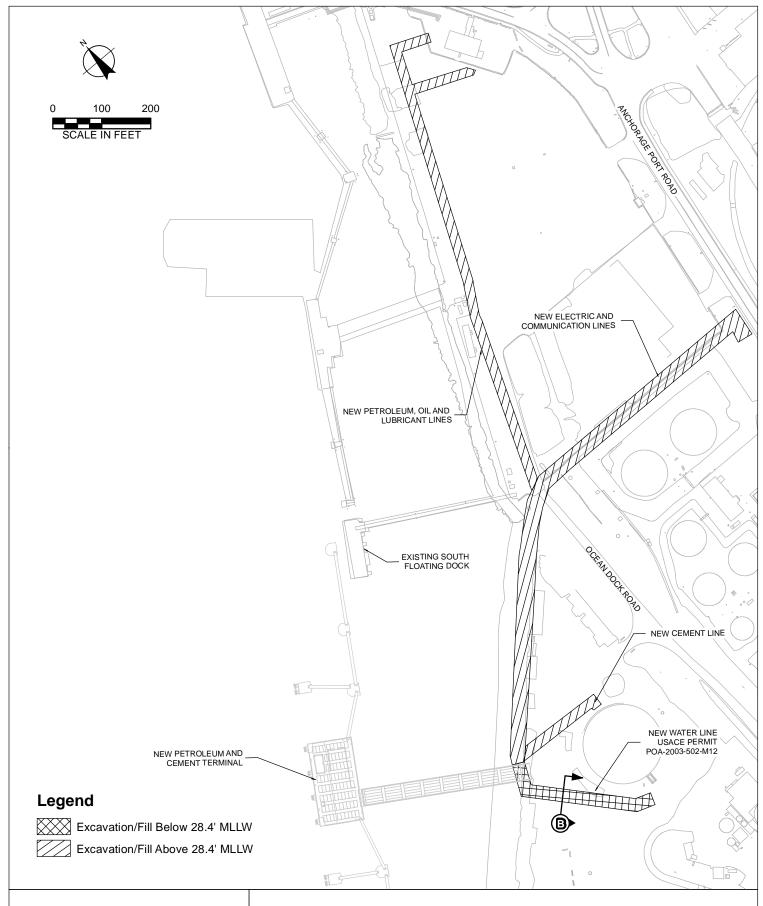


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Petroleum and Cement Terminal FILE NO:POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm LOCATION: Section 7, Township 13N,

Range 3W, Seward Meridian

DATE: February, 2020 FIGURE 8 of 10, Catwalk Detail





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Petroleum and Cement Terminal FILE NO: POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm

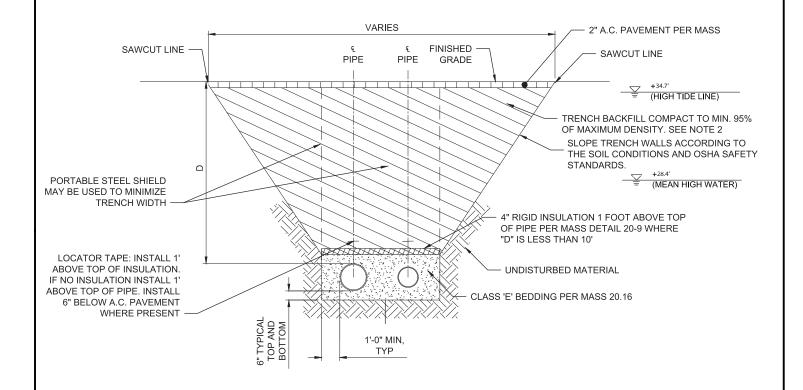
WATERWAY: Knik Arm

LOCATION: Section 7, Township 13N,

Range 3W, Seward Meridian

DATE: February, 2020

FIGURE 9 of 10, New Landside Utilities







Port of Alaska

Petroleum and Cement Terminal FILE NO: POA-2003-00502, Knik Arm

WATERWAY: Knik Arm

LOCATION: Section 7, Township 13N,

Range 3W, Seward Meridian

DATE: February, 2019

FIGURE 10 of 10, Trench Backfill and

Bedding Layout