



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

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:** November 17, 2017

**EXPIRATION DATE:** December 18, 2017

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** POA-1987-733-M34

**WATERWAY:** Kuparuk River

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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.

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 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](mailto:Jason.D.Brewer@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this notice.

**APPLICANT:** Hilcorp Alaska, LLC; POC: Deborah Fleming; 3800 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in Milne Point Unit, within Sections 7 & 8, T. 13 N., R. 10 E., Umiat Meridian; USGS Quad Map Beechey Point B-5; Latitude 70.4967° N., Longitude 149.6353° W.; approximately 35 miles northwest of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to expand L-Pad to provide space for the installation of three Titan 130 Turbines skids, piping for diesel fuel and fuel gas supply to the Titans, fuel gas metering skid, two 1130 barrel Diesel Tank containment for emergency start-ups, electrical equipment rooms and switchgear rooms, and five additional development wells. The turbines are needed to provide power for adding new production wells in the western part of Milne Point Unit.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge 27,905 cubic yards (cy) of gravel into approximately 2.3 acres of wetlands for the expansion of L-Pad in the Milne Point Unit. The expansion would provide a foundation for adding three Titan 130 turbine skids, a fuel gas metering skid, two 47,460-gallon diesel tanks and containment basins, piping for diesel and fuel gas supply to the turbines, three electrical equipment rooms, a switchgear room, and up to five additional development wells. The electrical skid near the entrance to L-Pad would also be expanded. The skid expansion and new fuel pipelines would require the installation of up to eleven 12-inch diameter vertical support members (VSMs) in the tundra. Electrical and communication cables connected to the electrical skid would be relocated and buried in a 65-foot long trench between the skid and the proposed pad expansion supporting the Titan turbines.

The proposed wetland impacts include approximately: 1.14 acres for pad expansion along southerly edge (Titan turbines), 0.2 acre for pad expansion along easterly edge (fuel tanks), 0.95 acre for pad expansion along northerly edge (development wells), 0.003 acre for VSMs, and a 65-foot trench (buried cables).

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-6), dated November 2017.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This pad has been modified numerous times since 1988. The original permit was issued to Conoco, Incorporated on March 29, 1988. The permit was subsequently modified on August 3, 1988, May 3, 1990, May 6, 1991, May 20, 1991, November 27, 1991, and July 8, 1993, to place gravel fill into approximately 117 acres of wetlands to construct six new well pads (G, H, I, J, K, and P) with associated facilities; expand an existing well pad (L); construct approximately nine miles of access road in the Milne Point Unit (MPU) on the North Slope of Alaska; expand a previously authorized pad to accommodate two units to heat oil produced from G, H, I, and J pads; and construct a beach to be used as a pipeline corridor.

The permit and modifications were transferred to BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. on April 19, 1994. On September 23, 1994, the permit was modified to include the following: the placement of 43,500 cy of gravel fill material into 3.2 acres of tundra wetlands to construct a 320' x 370' (surface area) addition on the northwest side of existing MPU, L-Pad. The expansion area is level with the existing pad with 2:1 side slopes. A modification on September 27, 2012, authorized the discharge of 7,850 cubic yards (CY) of material into 0.62 acre, for the expansion of the edges of the L-Pad to accommodate emergency access.

The permit was transferred to Hilcorp Alaska LLC on September 4, 2014.

The last modification, on September 7, 2016, was for the discharge of 17,000 CY of fill material into 1.66 acres of wetlands to expand L-Pad.

Other applications or permits which may be required for work described in this Notice:

- Alaska Department of Natural Resources Unit Plan of Operations/North Slope (LO/NS) Amendment; The previous L Pad expansion in 2016 was authorized by LO/NS 83-085 dated 6/30/2016.
- North Slope Borough (NSB) Development Permit;
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Minor General 1 Air Quality Control Permit under 18 AAC 50.502(c)(1) for a new source and 18 AAC 50.508(5) for an Owner Requested Limit;
- Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) permits to drill and sundry approvals

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: All the existing gravel pad space on L Pad is required for existing operations. Since the entire region is comprised of wetlands, impacts to wetlands could not be avoided while adding the turbines and other infrastructure. Hilcorp would avoid some impacts to wetlands by drilling wells directly on the existing gravel pad and adding VSMS on the existing gravel pad to the extent possible.

b. Minimization: Hilcorp's proposal to expand an existing gravel pad minimizes impacts that would occur to construct a completely new gravel pad to support the proposed developmental wells, turbines, and other infrastructure. The proposed expansion has been designed to use the absolute minimum amount of gravel discharge in the smallest area possible while providing a safe working area for drilling and power generation. The seasonal ponds that would be affected are there in part as a result of the existing pad development and snow push areas. Hilcorp is using an existing piperack and existing VSMS to the extent possible for the diesel supply line and return line. Hilcorp is using the existing electrical skid at the entrance to L Pad to the extent possible, but the electrical skid will require an expansion for the new power facilities.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: Hilcorp has investigated compensation, and at this time Hilcorp does not believe compensation is required. Through Avoidance and Minimization, Hilcorp has worked to limit the impacts to wetlands.

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 footprint of the gravel discharged into wetlands for pad expansion. 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*), Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*). The project is also within designated Critical Habitat for polar bear.

We have determined the described activity may affect the threatened Steller's eider, spectacled eider, polar bear and its designated critical habitat. 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.

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 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

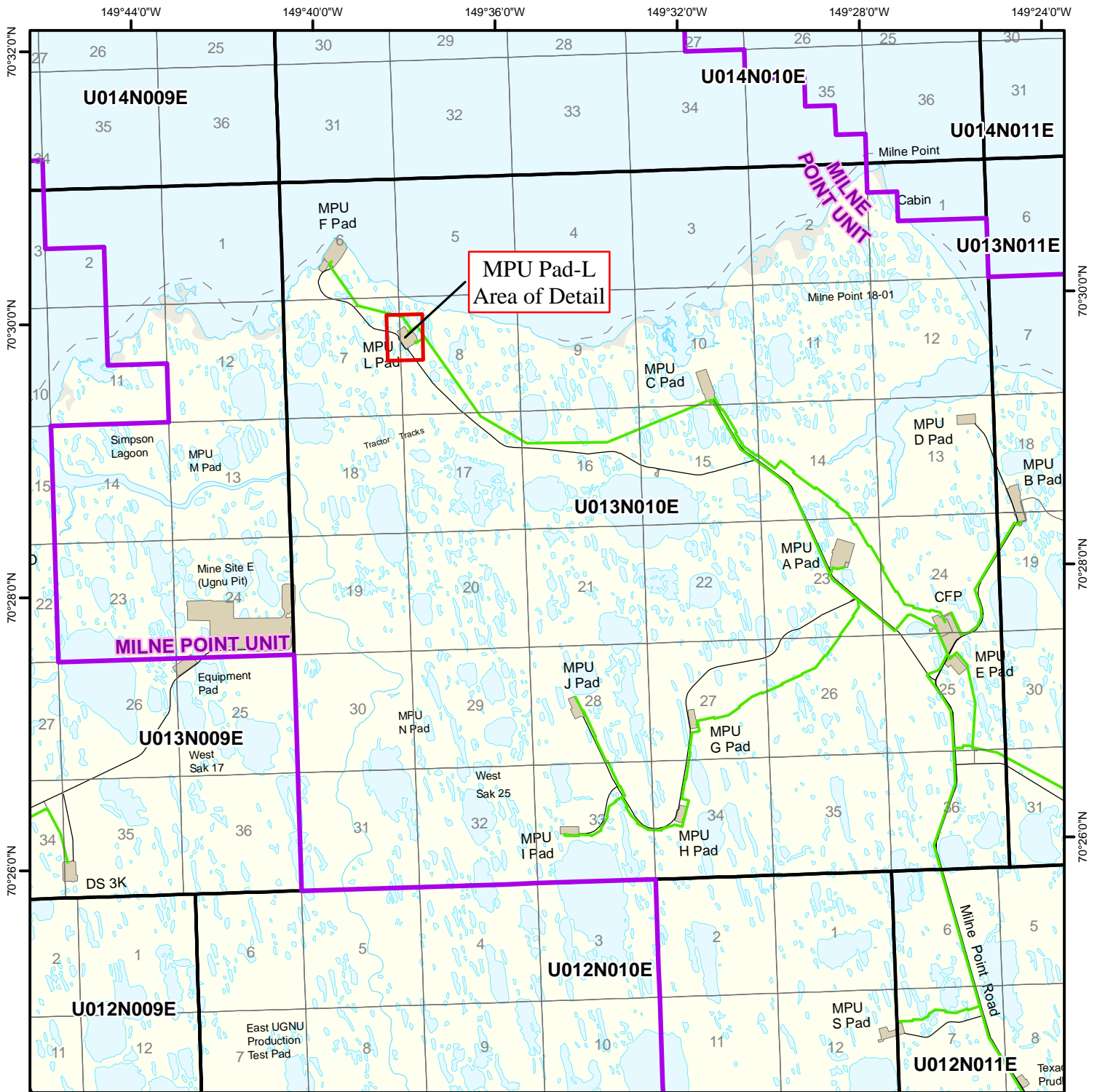
## **NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION**

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-1987-733-M34, Kuparuk River, 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.



Project Location:  
Milne Point Unit - L Pad

Latitude (Decimal Degrees): 70.496717, NAD 1983  
Longitude (Decimal Degrees): -149.63534, NAD 1983

Alaska State Plane Zone 4, NAD 1983  
X = 1685008.82  
Y = 6031280.49

Sec. 7-8, T13N, R10E, Umiat Meridian

ADL#: 025509  
Adjacent Property Owner: State of Alaska

POA-1987-733-M34  
FIGURE: 1

**Legend**

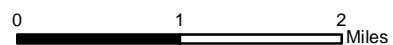
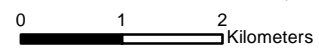
- Existing Pipeline (Above Ground)
- Gravel Footprint
- Oil and Gas Unit Boundary

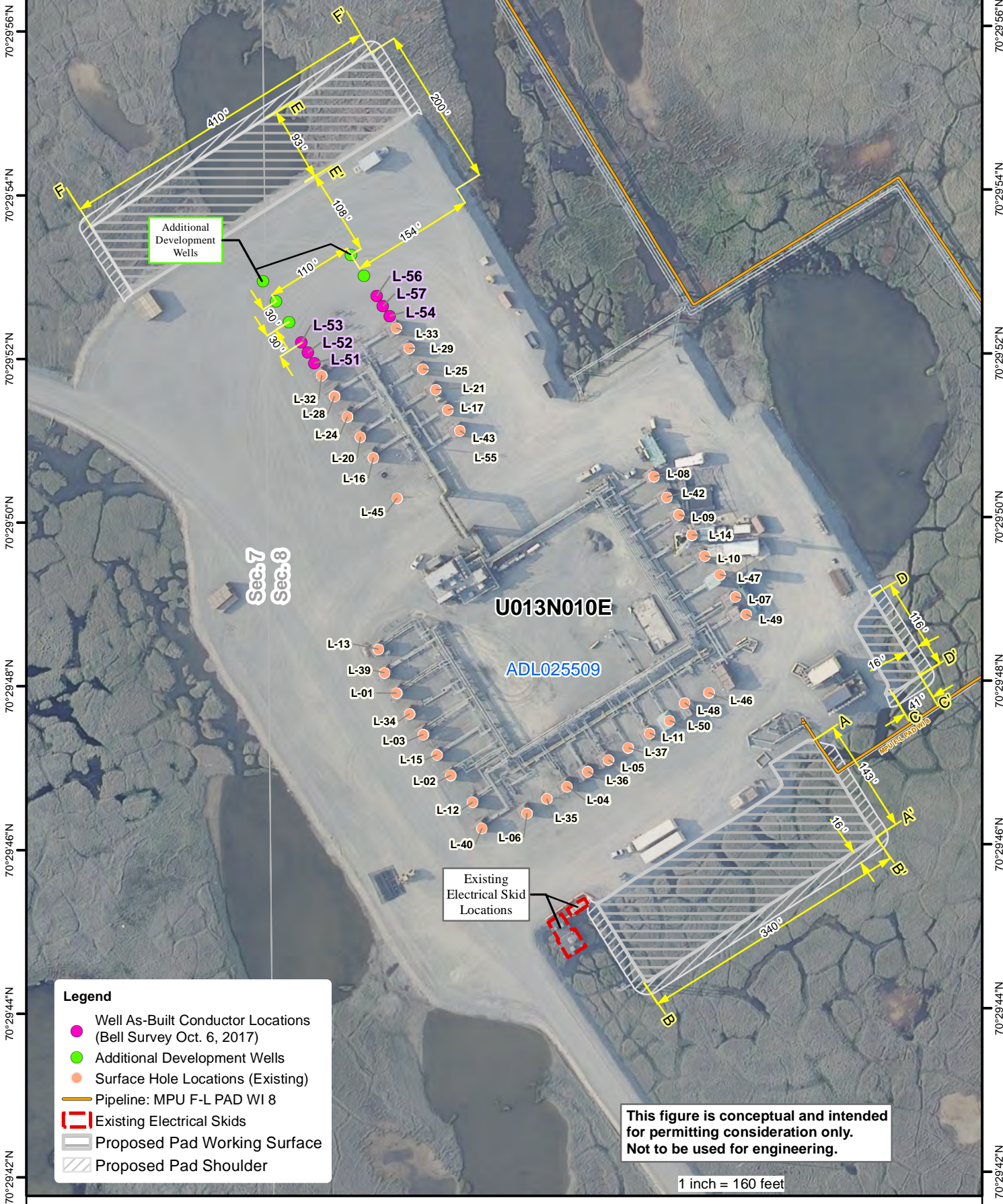


Map Date: November 2017

**Milne Point Unit  
MPU PAD-L  
Gravel Expansion for Power  
and Development Wells  
Vicinity Map**

Alaska State Plane Zone 4 NAD 1983 (Feet)





- Legend**
- Well As-Built Conductor Locations (Bell Survey Oct. 6, 2017)
  - Additional Development Wells
  - Surface Hole Locations (Existing)
  - Pipeline: MPU F-L PAD WI 8
  - ▭ Existing Electrical Skids
  - ▭ Proposed Pad Working Surface
  - ▭ Proposed Pad Shoulder

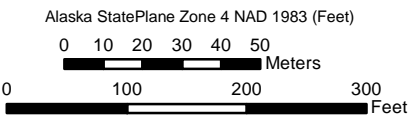
This figure is conceptual and intended for permitting consideration only. Not to be used for engineering.

1 inch = 160 feet



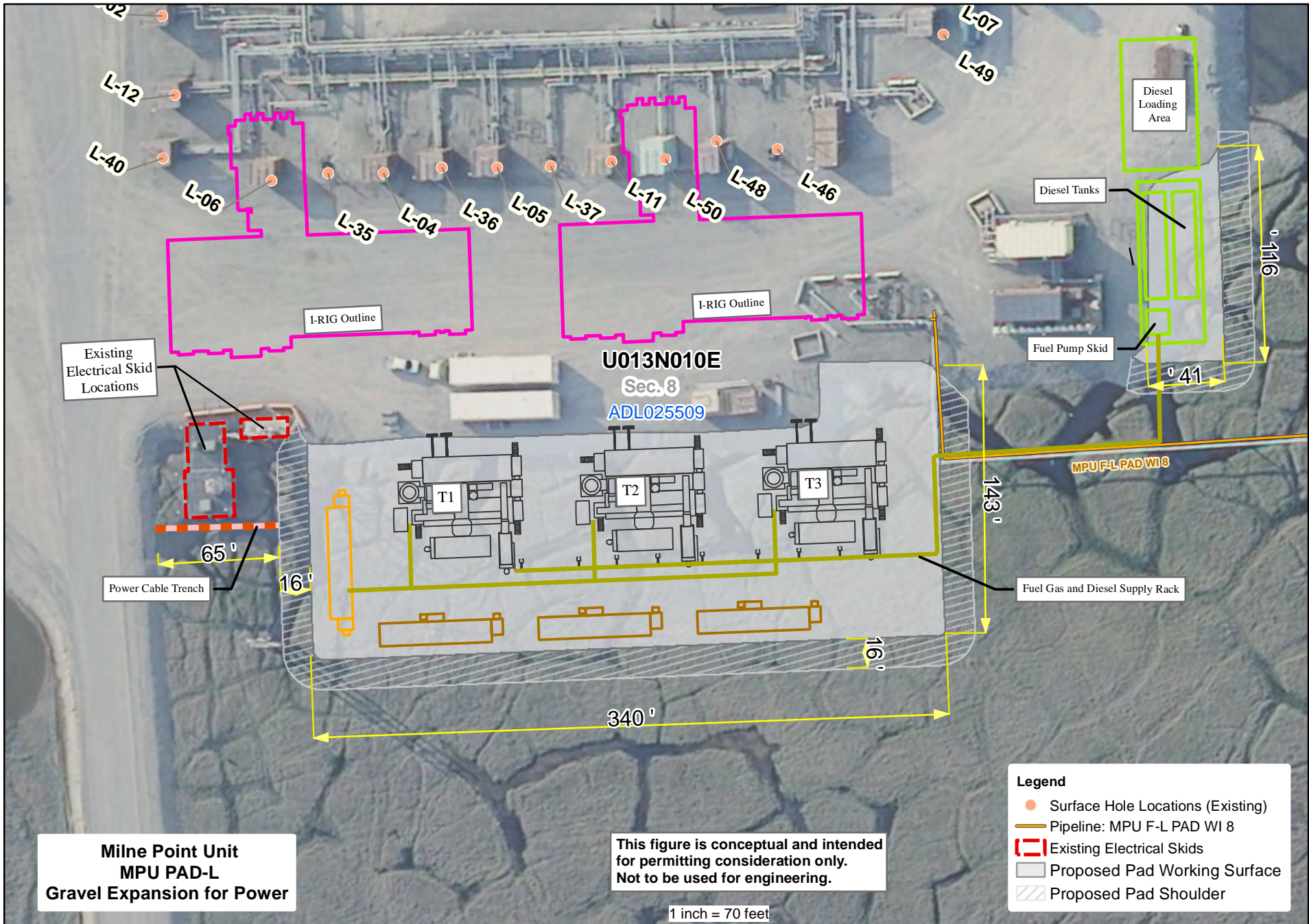
Map Date: November 2017

**Milne Point Unit  
MPU PAD-L  
Gravel Expansion for Power  
and Development Wells**



POA-1987-733-M34  
FIGURE: 2





**Milne Point Unit  
MPU PAD-L  
Gravel Expansion for Power**

**This figure is conceptual and intended for permitting consideration only. Not to be used for engineering.**

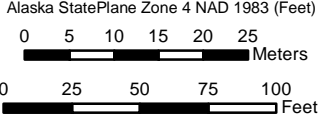
- Legend**
- Surface Hole Locations (Existing)
  - Pipeline: MPU F-L PAD WI 8
  - ▭ Existing Electrical Skids
  - ▭ Proposed Pad Working Surface
  - ▨ Proposed Pad Shoulder

1 inch = 70 feet

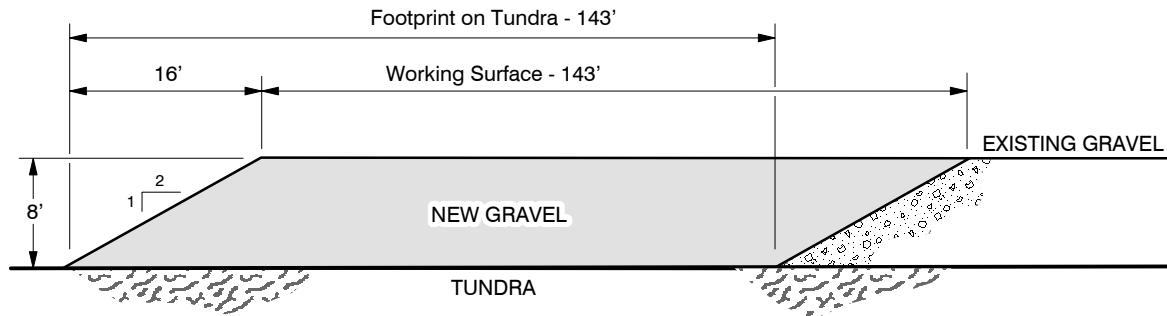


Map Date: November 2017

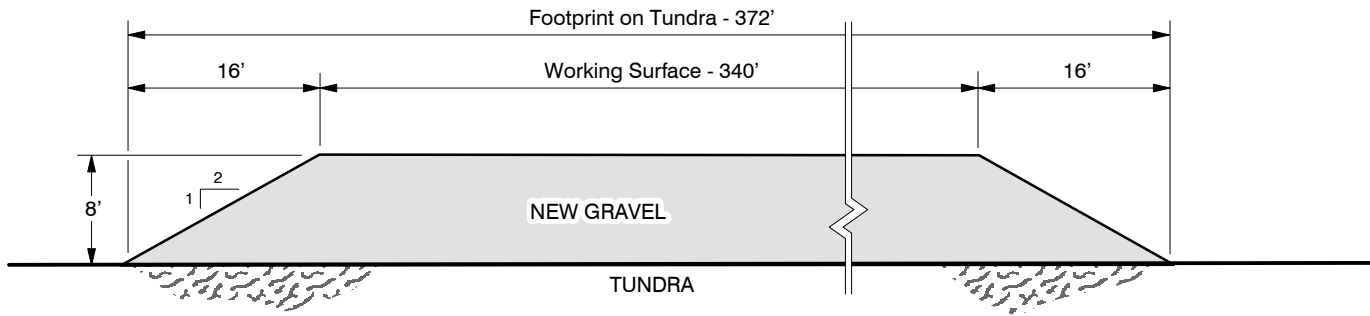
- Pad Expansion Components**
- Electrical Equipment Room
  - Fuel Gas and Diesel Supply Rack
  - Diesel Fuel Supply
  - Switch Gear Room
  - Power Cable Trench
  - I-RIG Footprint
  - Titan Turbines (T1-T2-T3)



POA-1987-733-M34  
FIGURE: 3



**GRAVEL EXPANSION A-A'**  
Not to Scale



**GRAVEL EXPANSION B-B'**  
Not to Scale

**HILCORP ALASKA, LLC**

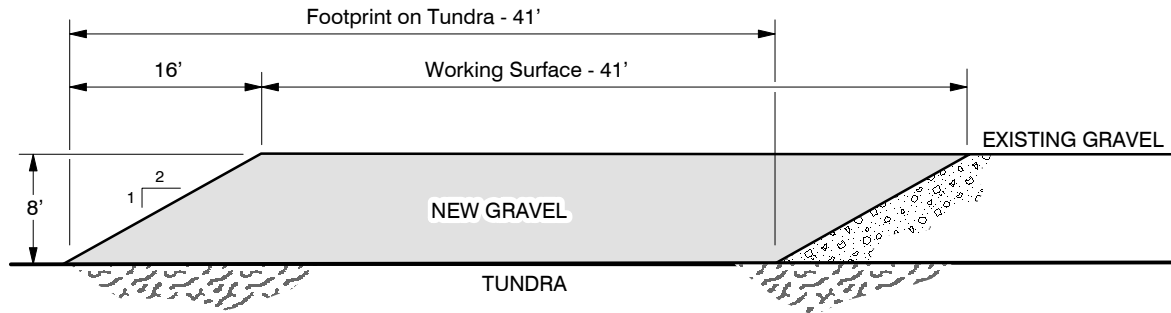
**MILNE POINT UNIT  
L PAD  
GRAVEL EXPANSION FOR POWER  
CROSS-SECTIONS**

DATE:  
November 2017

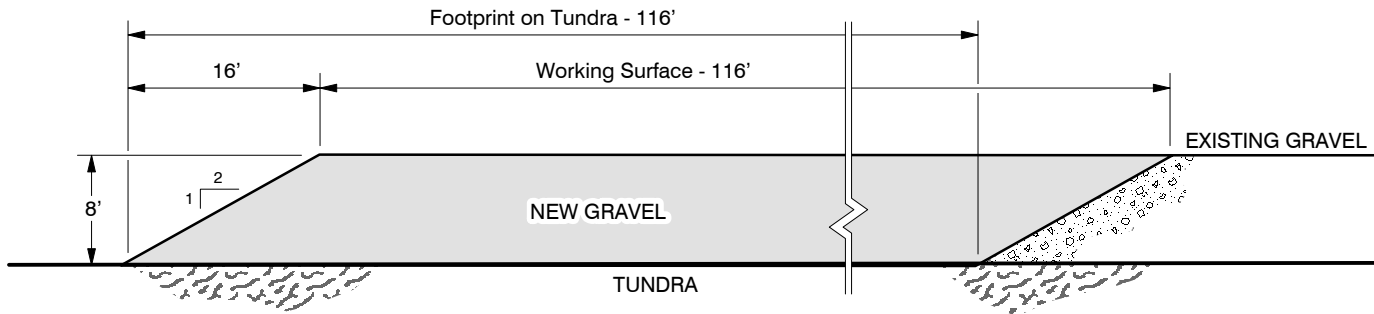
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POA-1987-733-M34  
FIGURE: 4

**ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE**



**GRAVEL EXPANSION C-C'**  
Not to Scale



**GRAVEL EXPANSION D-D'**  
Not to Scale

**HILCORP ALASKA, LLC**

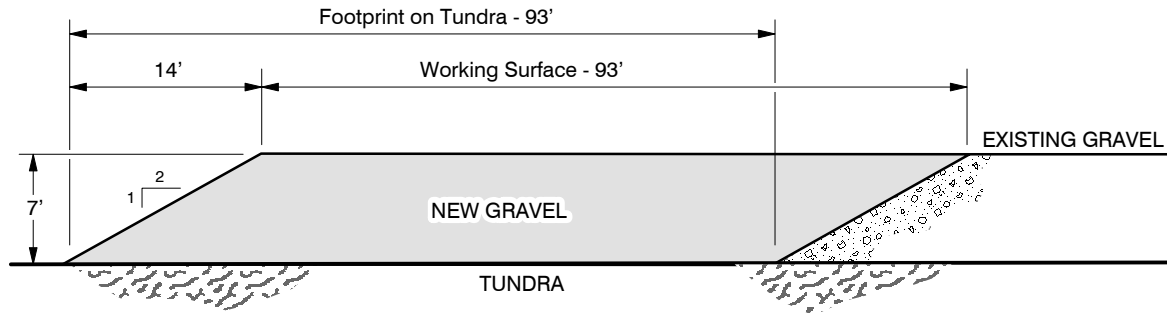
**MILNE POINT UNIT L PAD  
RIG ACCESS GRAVEL EXPANSION  
FOR POWER  
CROSS-SECTIONS**

DATE:  
November 2017

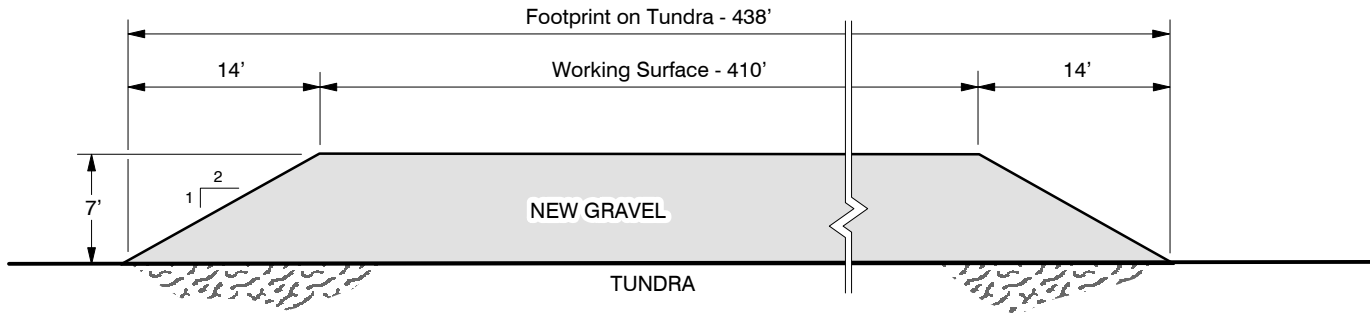
SCALE:  
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POA-1987-733-M34  
FIGURE: 5

**ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE**



**GRAVEL EXPANSION E-E'**  
Not to Scale



**GRAVEL EXPANSION F-F'**  
Not to Scale

**HILCORP ALASKA, LLC**

**MILNE POINT UNIT  
L PAD  
GRAVEL EXPANSION FOR POWER  
AND WELLS CROSS-SECTIONS**

DATE:  
November 2017

SCALE:  
N/A

POA-1987-733-M34  
FIGURE: 6

**ALL DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE**