



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Special Public Notice

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	September 22, 2025
EXPIRATION DATE:	October 22, 2025
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2025-00203
WATERWAY:	Colville River Delta

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

SUBJECT: This notice is to inform interested parties that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Regulatory Division (USACE) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Colville Delta 8 (CD8) Project (Project) and of the beginning of scoping for the Project. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., USACE is requiring the preparation of an EIS prior to making a permit decision for the Project. USACE may ultimately make a determination to permit or deny the Project or a modified version of the Project. As required by NEPA, USACE is publishing this special public notice to announce our Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS to inform and solicit comments from the public.

LOCATION: The proposed Project would be located at Section 8,9, T. 10N., R. 5 E., Umiat Meridian; Point Roberts OE N; Latitude 70.23308° N., Longitude 150.90090° W.; near Nuiqsut, Alaska.

APPLICANT: ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI)
P.O. Box 100360, 700 G Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

CPAI proposes to further develop hydrocarbon resources from its existing oil and gas leases in the Colville River Unit. The CD8 Project would target the Narwhal reservoir and include construction of a new 15-acre drillsite on a gravel pad, a 0.5-acre tie-in pad near Colville Delta 4 North (CD4N), a 6-mile gravel access road from Colville Delta 4 (CD4) to the drillsite, and 21

total miles of pipelines on 2.5 miles of new vertical support members (VSMs) and 5.4 miles on existing VSMs connecting to existing Colville River Unit infrastructure, and associated utilities.

Drillsite facilities would include wellhead shelters and drilling material storage and well work equipment. The drillsite is sized to accommodate up to 40 wells. Tie-in pad infrastructure would include a pig launcher and receiver, a metering skid, pipe rack, laydown area, and a communications tower.

The Project would potentially recover 90 million barrels of oil. The applicant would produce multiphase product from the drillsite and transport it to the Alpine Central Facility via multiphase pipelines for processing. Water and gas separated from the oil would be transported back to the drillsites via water and gas injection pipelines to be reinjected back into the subsurface formation to help maintain pressure and enhance oil production. These construction activities would permanently impact approximately 65.9 acres and temporarily impact approximately less than 0.1 acres of aquatic resources. For a more detailed Project description, please refer to the Project website, www.CD8EIS.com, to review the complete application.

SCOPING: Federal agencies, tribal, State, and local governments; agencies, and offices; the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party are requested to comment on the scope of this EIS. Specifically:

- a. Identify other potential alternatives to the proposed action that should be considered, including any additional avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures.
- b. Identify significant issues that should be addressed.
- c. Identify any data, studies, information, or analysis regarding impacts to waters of the U.S., physical and chemical resources, other biological resources, or socioeconomic impacts, or other impacts affecting the human environment relevant to the proposed action.
- d. Information on any current or planned activities in, or in the vicinity of the proposed action, and their potential impacts on the proposed action or the affected environment of the proposed action.

Comments should be as specific as possible and should provide as much detail as necessary to fully inform USACE of the commenter's position. Commenters should explain why the issues raised are important to the consideration of potential environmental impacts and alternatives to the proposed action, as well as economic and employment impacts, and other impacts affecting the quality of the human environment.

All mailed submissions should be post marked no later than the expiration date of this Notice and electronic submissions should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the development of the EIS.

Scoping comments may be submitted in written form to the project website: www.CD8EIS.com, by email: CD8EIS@dowl.com, or by mail: CD8 EIS Comments, USACE – Alaska District, Regulatory Division, P.O. Box 6898, JBER, AK 99506-0898, or comments may be submitted

verbally to a court reporter at a scoping meeting. All written comments should include the project name, Colville Delta 8 (CD8) Project in the subject.

USACE intends to hold five (5) public scoping meetings to make it convenient for the public to provide input into this process. Meetings will be held in the following locations on the following dates:

Fairbanks: Monday, September 29, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Westmark Hotel & Conference Center, 813 Noble Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Nuiqsut: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM
Kisik Community Center, 2230 Second Avenue, Nuiqsut, AK 99789

Utqiagvik: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Iñupiat Heritage Center, 5421 North Star Street, Utqiagvik, AK 99723

Virtual Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Access link will be posted on the project website: www.CD8EIS.com

Anchorage: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Wilda Marston Theater, Z.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, AK 99503

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose of the project as stated by the permit applicant is to construct the infrastructure necessary for the safe and economic (i) production of commercial quantities of oil and gas resources from lands leased by CPAI for oil and gas development in the southeastern portion of the Colville River Unit and (ii) transportation of those resources to market via the Alpine Central Facility, consistent with applicable laws and legal obligations. Development and production of oil and gas from the project is necessary to access subsurface resources that cannot be reached from existing and currently permitted drillsites.

ALTERNATIVES: A number of alternatives will be evaluated in the EIS, including the applicant's proposed alternative and a No Action alternative, which may entail permit denial, withdrawal, or alternatives that do not require a USACE permit. Additional alternatives to be considered include alternatives that would avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to the environment within the proposed project footprint; alternatives that would avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to the environment outside the footprint; alternatives using alternative practices; and other reasonable alternatives that will be developed through the project scoping process, that also meet the identified purpose and need.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline 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.

The EIS will analyze the potential social, economic, physical, and biological impacts to the affected areas. Numerous issues will be analyzed in depth in the EIS. These issues include, but are not limited to, the construction and operation of the facilities and their effect upon the community of Nuiqsut, subsistence, cultural resources, socioeconomics, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species including critical habitat, and hydrology and wetlands. Alternatives and secondary impacts will also be considered.

LEAD AND COOPERATING AGENCIES: USACE will serve as the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the EIS. Agencies that are invited to act as Cooperating Agencies include the following: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Alaska, the North Slope Borough, the Native Village of Nuiqsut, and the City of Nuiqsut.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS: Other environmental review and consultation requirements include Executive Order (EO) 13175 *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, dated November 6, 2000; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation; and Magnuson-Stevens Act Essential Fish Habitat. Additionally, the proposed project is subject to emergency treatment per Executive Order (EO) 14156, *Declaring a National Energy Emergency*, dated January 20, 2025¹. We are expediting the review of the referenced proposal utilizing the *Alaska District Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Processing of Permit Applications in Emergency Situations Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 14156 and 33 CFR 325.2(e)(4)*, dated 26 March 2025², as approved by Pacific Ocean Division in accordance with 33 CFR 325.2(e)(4).

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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary determinations indicate the proposed activity may affect federally listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. A Biological Assessment will be prepared as part of the Draft EIS, and the appropriate level of consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will be initiated concurrent with the Draft EIS

CULTURAL RESOURCES: USACE has not made an effect determination at this time regarding potential impacts to historic properties. As applicable under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, this application will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties concurrent with the Draft EIS. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that

¹ <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2025-01-29/pdf/2025-02003.pdf>

²

https://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Portals/34/docs/regulatory/specialpns/2025/AlaskaDistrictSOPforProcessingofPermitApplicationsinEmergencySituationsPursuanttoEO14156_26MAR2025.pdf

may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: We are currently gathering information regarding EFH managed species and have yet to make a determination of effect. Should we find that the described activity may adversely affect EFH, then an EFH assessment will be prepared as part of the Draft EIS and consultation initiated in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

LAND AND RESOURCE OWNERSHIP: Kuukpik Corporation owns the surface estate of lands at the drillsite, pipeline tie-in pad, and most of the pipeline, power and fiber optic cables, and gravel road. However, the pipeline, cables, and gravel road will each cross land owned by the State of Alaska, managed through the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. The project will access subsurface mineral resources that are shared by the State of Alaska and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. The proposed drillsite is in the Colville River Unit, however, the pipeline, cables, and gravel road each cross a portion of the Pikka Unit.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIS will analyze the potential social, economic, physical, chemical, and biological impacts to the affected areas. All potential impacts will be considered in the Draft EIS and reasonably foreseeable significant issues will be analyzed in detail.

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. Public scoping meetings are planned to take place in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, and virtually.

SCHEDULE OF DECISION MAKING PROCESS: The District Engineer will complete the environmental impact statement no later than the date that is two years after the date on which the District Engineer determines that the activity requires the issuance of an environmental impact statement. During the process of preparing the environmental impact statement, the District Engineer may publish a draft statement or other materials that in their judgment may assist in fulfilling their NEPA responsibilities. If the District Engineer determines they are not able to meet the deadline prescribed by NEPA section 107(g)(1)(A), 42 U.S.C. 4336a(g)(1)(A), they must consult with the applicant pursuant to NEPA section 107(g)(2), 42 U.S.C. 4336a(g)(2). After such consultation, if needed, and for cause stated, the District Engineer may establish a new deadline and must notify the Division Engineer and Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the deadline extension.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For additional information regarding the proposed project plans and construction, please contact the applicant at the address above.

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).

For further information and/or questions about this notice, the NEPA process or the DA permit decision process, please contact Tyler Marye at the Alaska District, by telephone: 907-753-

5778, by email Tyler.J.Marye@usace.army.mil, or by mail: Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 6898, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, AK 99506-0898. For inquiries from the media, please contact John Budnik, by telephone: (907) 753-2615. To be added to the project mailing list and for additional information, please visit the following website: www.CD8EIS.com.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers