APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): April 9, 2014

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Alaska District, POA-2008-550 Channel C

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Borough: Fairbanks North Star Borough City: North Pole State: Alaska Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format, NAD-83): Lat. 64.7647° N, Long. 147.3655° W; Universal Transverse Mercator: N/A; Within section(s) 4, T. 2 S., R. 2 E., Fairbanks Meridian Name of nearest water body: Channel C Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Chena Slough

- Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): N/A
- Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request. \boxtimes
- Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form.

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- \boxtimes Office (Desk) Determination. Date: November 25, 2013
- $\overline{\boxtimes}$ Field Determination. Date(s): July 15, 2010

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There Are no "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Explain:

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There Are "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

1. Waters of the U.S.

- a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): ¹
 - TNWs, including territorial seas
 - Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
 - Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
 - Impoundments of jurisdictional waters
 - Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands
- b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area: Non-wetland waters: linear feet: width (ft) and/or acres Wetlands: 14.0 acres
- c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Not Applicable. Elevation of established OHWM (if known):
- Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³ 2.

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain:

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW:

Summarize rationale supporting determination:

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, fill out Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the water body⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the water body has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

 (i) General Area Conditions: Watershed size: Pick List Drainage area: 3,850 acres Average annual rainfall: 12 inches Average annual snowfall: 60 inches

(ii) Physical Characteristics:

(a) <u>Relationship with TNW:</u>
 □ Tributary flows directly into TNW.
 □ Tributary flows through **Pick List** tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are 1-2 river miles from TNW.
Project waters are 1-2 river miles from RPW.
Project waters are 1-2 aerial (straight) miles from TNW.
Project waters are 1-2 aerial (straight) miles from RPW.
Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:

Identify flow route to TNW⁵: Subject wetland contributes shallow subsurface flow to Channel C, the RPW, which leads directly to Chena Slough, the TNW.

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

Tributary stream order, if known: 1

(b)	General Tributary (Tributary is:	Characteristics (check all that a ☐ Natural ☑ Artificial (man-made). Ex		hannel C w	as created in 1980 as r	part of the Chena River		
Flood Contro	l Project to drain g	groundwater and reduce floor	ling beh	ind the Tai				
	Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: 4-16 feet Average depth: 8 feet Average side slopes: 2:1							
	Primary tributary s Silts Cobbles Bedrock Other. Exp				Concrete Muck quatic, 1-5% cover in	RPW portion of channel		
Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: some erosion in part due to regular maintenance to remove woody vegetation and beaver dams Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: subtle variation in flow depth and velocity; slow flow and generally low to moderate depth, but supports arctic grayling and other native fish								
low to model	Tributary geometry	y: Relatively straight (approximate average slope): 0		11311				
(c)	Estimate average n	for: Seasonal flow number of flow events in review regime: Channel C is known				er season (typically May		
through Octo	Other information Surface flow is: Di	st a few weeks in spring and f on duration and volume: iscrete and confined. Characte (es. Explain findings: Measure	eristics:					
Subsurface flow: Yes. Explain findings: Measurements by TPECI demonstrate that in both late September 2011 and early June 2012, Channel C was losing flow over a 1.1-mile length, but regaining this flow and even more over the subsequent 0.6 mile length that ends at the confluence with Chena Slough. Thus, some surface flow in the channel infiltrates to join the water table, which is known to lead primarily northwest and north to Chena Slough. Dye (or other) test performed:								
	 ☐ clear, ☐ chang ☐ shelvi ☐ vegeta ☐ leaf li ☐ sedim ☐ water ☐ other 	anks (check all indicators that apply) natural line impressed on the b ges in the character of soil ng ation matted down, bent, or abs tter disturbed or washed away ent deposition staining	ank 🗌	destruction the present sediment s scour multiple o	ce of litter and debris n of terrestrial vegetatio ce of wrack line sorting bserved or predicted flo ange in plant community	w events		
	High Tid oil or fine sl		□ Me □ (e) □	an High Wa survey to av physical ma	ter Mark indicated by: vailable datum;			

(iii) Chemical Characteristics:

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the water body's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break. ⁷Ibid.

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain: Water is typically clear or slightly stained with brown from the moderate amount of organic acids leaching from the sub-basin's vegetation and soil.

Identify specific pollutants, if known: Sulfolane, a toxic industrial solvent, has contaminated the water table throughout most of the sub-basin, but has not been detected in Channel C or Chena Slough.

(iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):

- Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width):
- Wetland fringe. Characteristics:
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: arctic grayling known to use the channel
 - Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: waterfowl, shorebirds, muskrat and other wetland-dependent

animals rely upon the channel and the associated riparian area

2. Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

- (i) Physical Characteristics:
 - (a) General Wetland Characteristics:
 - Properties:

Wetland size: 14.0acres

Wetland type. Explain: PSS1, open tall scrub dominated by bog birch (Betula glandulosa)

Wetland quality. Explain: **low to moderate** Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is: **Intermittent flow**. Explain: **Occasional surface flow during very large hydrologic events, and seasonal shallow subsurface flow via infiltration to shallow water table**

Surface flow is: Overland sheetflow

Characteristics: Evidence of surface flow from 1985 aerial photograph showing flow mainly constrained within an abandoned meander scar.

Subsurface flow: Yes. Explain findings: infiltration below the soil profile to the highly transmissive aquifer, which conveys ground water generally north to northwest and constitutes the primary source of flow in Channel C

Dye (or other) test performed:

- (c) <u>Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:</u>
 - Directly abutting
 - Not directly abutting
 - Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: shallow subsurface flow from wetland to Channel C

Ecological connection. Explain: subject wetland is approximately 1.6 miles east of where the large wetland area west of Peridot Street adjoins Channel C

- Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: wetland separated from Channel C by Peridot Road
- (d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are 1-2 river miles from TNW. Project waters are 1-2 aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: Wetland to navigable waters. Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the 100 - 500-year floodplain.

(ii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: water within the wetland is generally clear, but likely somewhat acidic as influenced by the acidic vegetation

Identify specific pollutants, if known: n/a

(iii) Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):

- Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width):
- Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain:
- Habitat for:
 - Federally Listed species. Explain findings:
 - Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: wood frogs observed to be breeding in nearby area

and likely utilize this site as well for foraging and other activities

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **1**

Approximately (14.0) acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N)Size (in acres)N14.0

Directly abuts? (Y/N)

Size (in acres)

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: The subject wetland, in combination with similarly situated wetlands and Channel C, sequesters pollutants and performs other services sufficient to sustain a significant nexus with Chena Slough, the downstream TNW. See July 23, 2010 significant nexus evaluation and April 15, 2014 MFR response to remand for more detailed discussion.

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:
 TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres.
 Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: acres.

2. RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

- Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial:
- Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: Channel C is known to flow continually through the open water season (typically May through October) and for at least a few weeks in spring and fall when the water is not frozen from top to bottom.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft)
- Other non-wetland waters: acres
- Identify type(s) of waters:

Non-RPWs⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 3.

Water body that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):

 Tributary waters:
 Other non-wetland linear feet width (ft).

- Other non-wetland waters: acres
 - Identify type(s) of waters:

Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 4.

Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.

Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres

- Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 5.
 - Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: 14.0acres

Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 6.

Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres

Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.⁹ 7.

- As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.
- Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or
 - Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or
- Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):¹⁰

⁸See Footnote # 3.

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

		which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce.			
		which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce.			
		Interstate isolated waters. Explain: Other factors. Explain:			
		-			
	Idei	ntify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:			
	Prov	vide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):			
		Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft)			
		Other non-wetland waters: acres			
		Identify type(s) of waters: Wetlands: acres			
	_				
F.	NO	N-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):			
If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engine					
		Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.			
		Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce. Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in <i>"SWANCC</i> ," the review area would have been regulated based <u>solely</u> on the			
	_	"Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).			
	Н	Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: Other: (explain, if not covered above):			
		Other. (explain, if not covered above).			
		vide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR			
		ors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional genent (check all that apply):			
		Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft).			
		Lakes/ponds: acres.			
	Н	Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: Wetlands: acres.			
	_				
		vide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such ading is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):			
		Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft).			
		Lakes/ponds: acres.			
	Н	Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: Wetlands: acres.			
SEC	TIO	NIV: DATA SOURCES.			
<u>DL</u>	/110				
A. 9		PORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked requested, appropriately reference sources below):			
		Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: 1-27-10 & 3-25-10 letters, and 9-8-11 map			
	crea	ited by GJM			
		Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.			
		Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report			
	\square	Data sheets prepared by the Corps: July 15, 2010 data forms			
	Н	Corps navigable waters' study: U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:			
		USGS NHD data			
		USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps			
		Alaska District's Approved List of Navigable Waters U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: Fairbanks D-1			
		USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: Greater Fairbanks Area			
National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: original & 2009 update					
	H	State/Local wetland inventory map(s): FEMA/FIRM maps: \			
		100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)			



 Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): 2007, GoogleEarth & historical
 or Other (Name & Date): April 2010 & August 2011 site photos Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:

Applicable/supporting case law:

Applicable/supporting scientific literature:

Other information (please specify):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: Despite the artificial barrier (Peridot Road) that prevents the subject wetland from directly abutting Channel C, the subject wetland maintains an unbroken hydrologic connection to this RPW via shallow subsurface flow. As stated above, the subject wetland, in combination with similarly situated wetlands and Channel C, sequesters pollutants and performs other services sufficient to sustain a significant nexus with Chena Slough, the downstream TNW.