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

C.	PROJECT LOCATIO	N AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:	
	State: Alaska	Borough: Fairbanks North Star Borough	City: North Pole
	Center coordinates of si	te (lat/long in degree decimal format, NAD-83):	Lat. 64.7720° N, Long. 147.3710° W;

Universal Transverse Mercator: N/A; Within section(s) 4, T. 2 S., R. 2 E., Fairbanks Meridian

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Alaska District, POA-2010-190 Channel C

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.

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):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: November 25, 2013

Field Determination. Date(s): August 18, 2011

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	TIC	
1.	waters	or the	U.S.	

a.	Indica	ite presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): '
		TNWs, including territorial seas
		Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
		Relatively permanent waters ² (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
	\boxtimes	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: 1.55 acres

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Not Applicable.

Elevation of established OHWM (if known):

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

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.2 and 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 body 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) Relationship with TNW:

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 o	rder, if known: 1		
	Tributary is:	Characteristics (check all that apply ☐ Natural ☐ Artificial (man-made). Explai groundwater and reduce flooding ☐ Manipulated (man-altered). Explains	n: Channel C behind the Ta	was created in 1980 as part of the Chena River anana River Levee and Moose Creek Dam.
	Tributary propert Average widt Average dept Average side	h: 8 feet	mate):	
	Primary tributary s Silts Cobbles Bedrock Other. Ex			☐ Concrete ☐ Muck aquatic, 1-5% cover in RPW portion of channel
			ighing banks].	Explain: some erosion in part due to regular
maintenance		vegetation and beaver dams	e variation in	flow depth and velocity; slow flow and generally
low to moder	ate detphy, but su Tributary geometr	pports arctic grayling and other ny: Relatively straight (approximate average slope): 0.1 %	ative fish	now depth and velocity, slow now and generally
(c)	Estimate average r	for: Seasonal flow number of flow events in review are regime: Channel C is known to f		greater) y through the open water season (typically May
through Octo			when the wate	r is not frozen from top to bottom
		on duration and volume: iscrete and confined. Characteristi	cs:	
	Subsurface flow: \	Yes. Explain findings: Measureme	nts by TPECI	demonstrate that in both late September 2011
				aining this flow and even more over the us, some surface flow in the channel infiltrates to
	r table <u>, wh</u> ich is kı	nown to lead primarily northwest		
	☐ Dye (or o	ther) test performed:		
		anks (check all indicators that apply): natural line impressed on the bank ges in the character of soil ing ation matted down, bent, or absent tter disturbed or washed away ment deposition staining	destructi the prese sediment scour multiple	ence of litter and debris on of terrestrial vegetation ence of wrack line t sorting observed or predicted flow events nange in plant community
		-		
	High Tic	le Line indicated by: scum line along shore objects hell or debris deposits (foreshore) cal markings/characteristics gauges (list):	Mean High W ☐ survey to ☐ physical n	at of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply): Vater Mark indicated by: available datum; narkings; I lines/changes in vegetation types.
(iii) Che	emical Characteris	tics:		

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		logical Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):
foot wie		Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): artificially cleared of most trees and shrubs; typically 20-30 either side of channel
ieet wit		Wetland fringe. Characteristics:
	Ħ	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. Ch	aract	eristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW
(i)		sical Characteristics:
	(a)	General Wetland Characteristics:
		Properties: Wetland size: 1.55acres
		Wetland type. Explain: PEM1C dominated by sedge, PEM1A dominated by bluejoint reedgrass
		Wetland quality. Explain: low
		Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:
	(b)	General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:
.1 11		Flow is: Intermittent flow. Explain: Occasional surface flow during very large hydrologic events, and seasonal
snamow	subsi	urface 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 abar	idone	d meander scar
		Colombia dan Var Englis dalim Indianata kalamata ali madila da da kishla dan misina a mida milia
convov	gran	Subsurface flow: Yes. Explain findings: Infiltration below the soil profile to the highly transmissive aquifer, which nd water generally north to northwest and constitutes the primary source of flow in Channel C
conveys	grou	Dye (or other) test performed:
	(c)	Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:
		Directly abutting
		Not directly abutting Not directly abuttand by the decision of the second of the seco
		 ☑ Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: shallow subsurface flow from wetland to Channel C ☑ Ecological connection. Explain: subject wetlands are approximately 1.6 miles east of where the large
wetland	l area	west of Peridot Street adjoins Channel C
	- 112 011	Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: wetlands 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)	Che	emical Characteristics:
	Cha	racterize 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
	Ider	by the acidic vegetation ntify specific pollutants, if known: n/a
	iuci	titry specific polititants, it known. It/a
(ii	i) Biol	logical Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):
		Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width):
		Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain:
	\boxtimes	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 u	tilize t	his site as well for foraging and other activities
unu meny u		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: 2
Approximately (1.55) acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)	Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)
N	1.35		
N	0.2		

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 wetlands, in combination with similarly situated wetlands and Channel C, sequester pollutants and perform other services sufficient to sustain a significant nexus with Chena Slough, the downstream TNW. See September 7, 2011 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):

1.	TNWs and	Adjacent Wetlands.	Check all that	apply and provide	size estimates in	review area:
	TNWs:	linear feet	width (ft), Or,	acres.		
	■ Wetland	s 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:
	3.	Non-RPWs ⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 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: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres Identify type(s) of waters:
	4.	Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 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
	5.	Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 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: 1.55acres
	6.	Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. 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
	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).
Е.	DE	DLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, GRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY CH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): ¹⁰

 $^{^8} See$ Footnote # 3. 9 To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

	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:
	Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:
	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: Wetlands: acres
F.	NON-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 Engineers 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 "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR). Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: Other: (explain, if not covered above):
	Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: Wetlands: acres.
	Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: Wetlands: acres.
SEC	CTION IV: DATA SOURCES.
A. :	SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below): Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: September 1, 2011 map created by GJM Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant. Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report. Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report Data sheets prepared by the Corps: August 18, 2011 data forms 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 State/Local wetland inventory map(s): FEMA/FIRM maps:

 $^{^{10}}$ 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.

	100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
\boxtimes	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:
\boxtimes	Applicable/supporting case law: Great Northwest, Inc. v. United States Army Corps of Engineers, D. Alaska, 4:09-cv-0029-
RRI	3, Order of Summary Judgment, June 8, 2010 (Beistline, J.)
	Applicable/supporting scientific literature:
	Other information (please specify):

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