



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

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

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	July 31, 2024
EXPIRATION DATE:	August 30, 2024
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2003-00502-M24
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 as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice 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 public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Kerri Hancock at (907) 753-2719, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Kerri.C.Hancock@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage, Port of Alaska, 2000 Anchorage Port Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; Contact: Mr. Steve Ribuffo, 907-343-6201, steve.ribuffo@anchorageak.gov

AGENT: HDR, Incorporated, 582 E 36th Avenue, Suite 500, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503; Contact: Mr. Michiel Holley, 907-885-5798, Michiel.Holley@hdrinc.com

LOCATION: The project site is in Knik Arm, at the Port of Alaska, within Section 7, T. 13 N., R. 3 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Anchorage A-8; Latitude 61.240021° N., Longitude 149.890922° W.; in Anchorage, Alaska.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: The project is located within the Port of Alaska and Anchorage Harbor. Anchorage Harbor is a federally maintained harbor in the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), Alaska, near the confluence of the Knik Arm and Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet, and is home to the Port of Alaska, the state of Alaska's primary commercial port. Anchorage Harbor was authorized in 1958 and USACE has dredged Anchorage Harbor annually since 1965 to maintain adequate depths for shipping. To maintain a project depth of -35 feet mean lower low water (MLLW), dredging typically begins in April and continues through October. Dredged materials are transported to the Anchorage Harbor Open-Water Disposal Site located 3,000 feet abeam the dock face. Annual maintenance dredging volumes vary substantially and have approached 2 million cubic yards.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to request authorization of a 10-year maintenance dredging program required to maintain operational safety and navigational access within areas around existing Port facilities and future Port maintenance and construction projects.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is proposing maintenance dredging and disposal to address areas of sediment accretion at all locations where the USACE dredge operations cannot access as well as allow vessels to access and dock at the existing Cargo Terminals, achieve seismic requirements, and provide construction access during the 10-year period of 2025 to 2034. Up to 125,000 cubic yards of material would be dredged from the area each year to -36 feet mean lower low water (MLLW), with a maximum depth of -40 feet MLLW. A hopper and scow would be used to transport dredged material to the USACE Anchorage Harbor Open Water Disposal Area and discharged. The cumulative total over the 10-year period could be as much as 1.25 million cubic yards.

The areas to be dredged include:

- Locations within the boundaries of the Anchorage Harbor Dredging Project where contractor floating gear and related barge anchorages/wires/lines occupy harbor space prohibiting daily access by the USACE contracted dredge;
- Portions of the existing Terminal 2 berth where the discontinuous berthline geometry prevents access by the USACE-contracted dredge (which is constrained from dredging operations within the area described as greater than the 150-degree supplementary angle formed from the Terminal 2 berthline and the position describing the northwestern corner of replacement Terminal 1 and/or the northwestern extent of the contractor floating gear);
- The harbor area north of POL 2 and immediately south of the position describing the southwestern corner of replacement Terminal 1 and/or the southwestern extent of the contractor floating gear;

- The area around the South Floating Dock; and
- Any localized areas of sediment accumulation along the navigable shoreline of the Port's property.

Supplemental maintenance dredging associated with Terminal 2 and POL 2 access would be maintained throughout the construction maintenance dredging season, generally defined as the period of March 15 through November 10 or when harbor and sea conditions dictate based upon safe transit of the dredge. All Port facilities would remain open and Port operations would continue throughout dredging.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Other authorizations needed as identified by the applicant include a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

ALTERATION OR OCCUPATION OF A FEDERAL CIVIL WORKS PROJECT: Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 408), referred to as Section 408, authorizes the USACE to grant permission for the alteration, occupation or use of a Corps Civil Works Project provided it is determined that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the Federal project.

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: "Avoidance of impacts to waters of the United States (U.S.) is limited by geographic and logistic constraints. Due to the location of the work, it would be impossible to completely avoid impacts to waters of the U.S. Dredging would occur in Knik Arm of Cook Inlet. Depositing the dredged material in the Anchorage Harbor Open Water Disposal Site would avoid placing it in more sensitive areas (i.e., wetlands or mudflats)."

b. Minimization: "All dredging will be conducted so as to minimize the amount of dredge material and suspended sediments that enter the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be employed to minimize sediment loss and turbidity generation during dredging. BMPs may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Eliminating multiple bites while the bucket is on the seafloor
- No stockpiling of dredged material on the seafloor
- No seafloor leveling such as "screeding"
- Slowing the velocity (i.e., increasing the cycle time) of the ascending loaded clamshell bucket through the water column

- Pausing the dredge bucket near the bottom while descending and near the water line while ascending
- Placing filter material over the barge scuppers to clear return water. If dewatering runoff is discharged from the barge, silts must be removed prior to direct or indirect discharge to the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet.”

c. Compensatory Mitigation: “Dredging will result in the removal and disposal of up to 1.25 million cubic yards of sediment from Knik Arm. The Port of Alaska states no compensatory mitigation is necessary as the impacts to waters of the U.S. is not impacting wetlands or other special aquatic sites. Dredging and disposal are the minimum necessary to maintain navigation. If compensatory mitigation is required the Port of Alaska will purchase credits from an approved mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program.”

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 cultural resources in the vicinity of the permit area; however, the proposed in-water work is not expected to impact those resources. The permit area has been determined to be the footprint of the dredge limits and the immediate surrounding area up to 200-feet, and the Anchorage Harbor Open Water Disposal Site. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army 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), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties 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 endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*), endangered western distinct population segment (DPS) Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*), and endangered Western North Pacific DPS and threatened Mexico DPS humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has determined that the Port of Alaska is considered outside the range of the proposed threatened sunflower sea star (*Pycnopodia*

helianthoides) (NMFS consultation number AKRO-2022-03630).

We are currently gathering information regarding these species and have yet to make a determination of effect. Should we find that the described activity may affect the species listed above, and/or their designated critical habitat, we will follow the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Any comments the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) 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 (Magnuson-Stevens 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 proposed work is within the known range of the Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum (*O. keta*), coho (*O. kisutch*), sockeye (*O. nerka*), and pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*). Groundfish species with designated EFH within 1 mile of project include walleye pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*), Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*), yellowfin sole (*Limanda aspera*), [Northern] rock sole (*Lepidopsetta polyxystra*), Southern rock sole (*L. billineta*), Alaska plaice (*Pleuronectes quadrituberculatus*), Dover sole (*Microstomus pacificus*), rex sole (*Glyptocephalus zachirus*), flathead sole (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*), and Kamchatka flounder (*Atheresthes evermanni*).

The Corps is currently gathering information regarding these species and have yet to make a determination of effect. Should we find that the described activity may affect the species listed above, we will follow the appropriate course of action under Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Any comments the National Marine Fisheries Service may have concerning essential fish habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps 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 Corps, 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 rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application will be coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federally recognized Tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost

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

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 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 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).

(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).

(X) Request to Alter or Occupy a Federal Civil Works Project – Section 14 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 408)

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures



APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage
Port of Alaska
Supplemental PAMP Dredging
FILE NO: 408-POA-2022-0008

WATERWAY: Knik Arm
POA-2003-00502-M24, Port of Alaska
Supplemental Dredging
Lat: 61.240021 N., Long: 149.890922 W.
July 12, 2024
Sheet 1 of 10

Seward Meridian

KNIK ARM



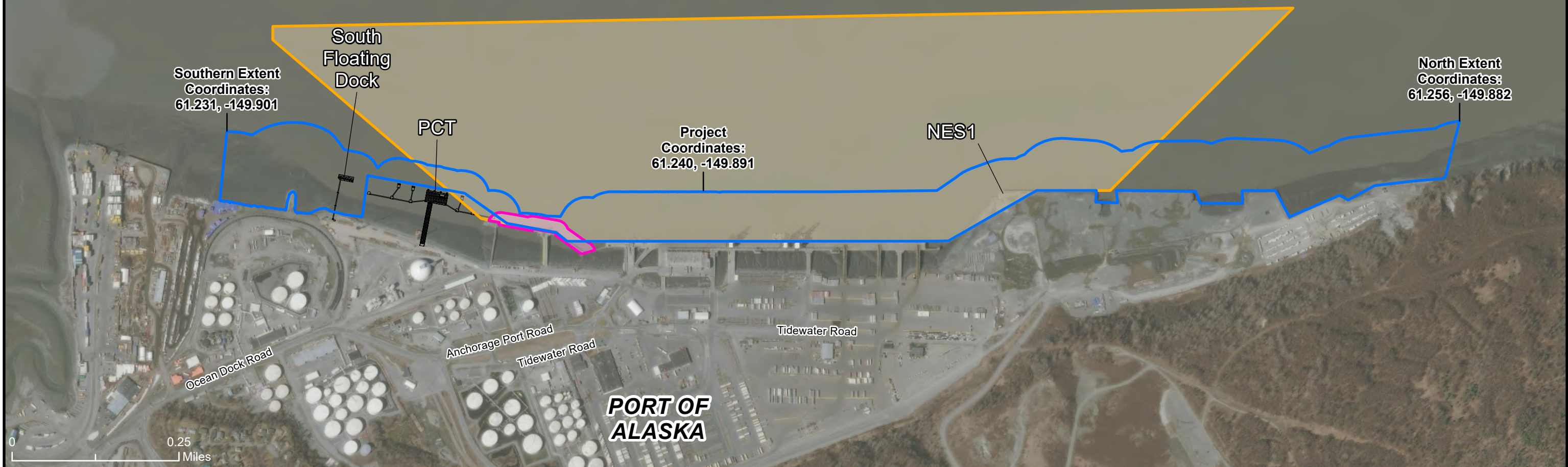
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WATERWAY: Knik Arm
POA-2003-00502-M24, Port of Alaska
Supplemental Dredging
Lat: 61.240021 N., Long: 149.890922 W.
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Seward Meridian






KNIK ARM



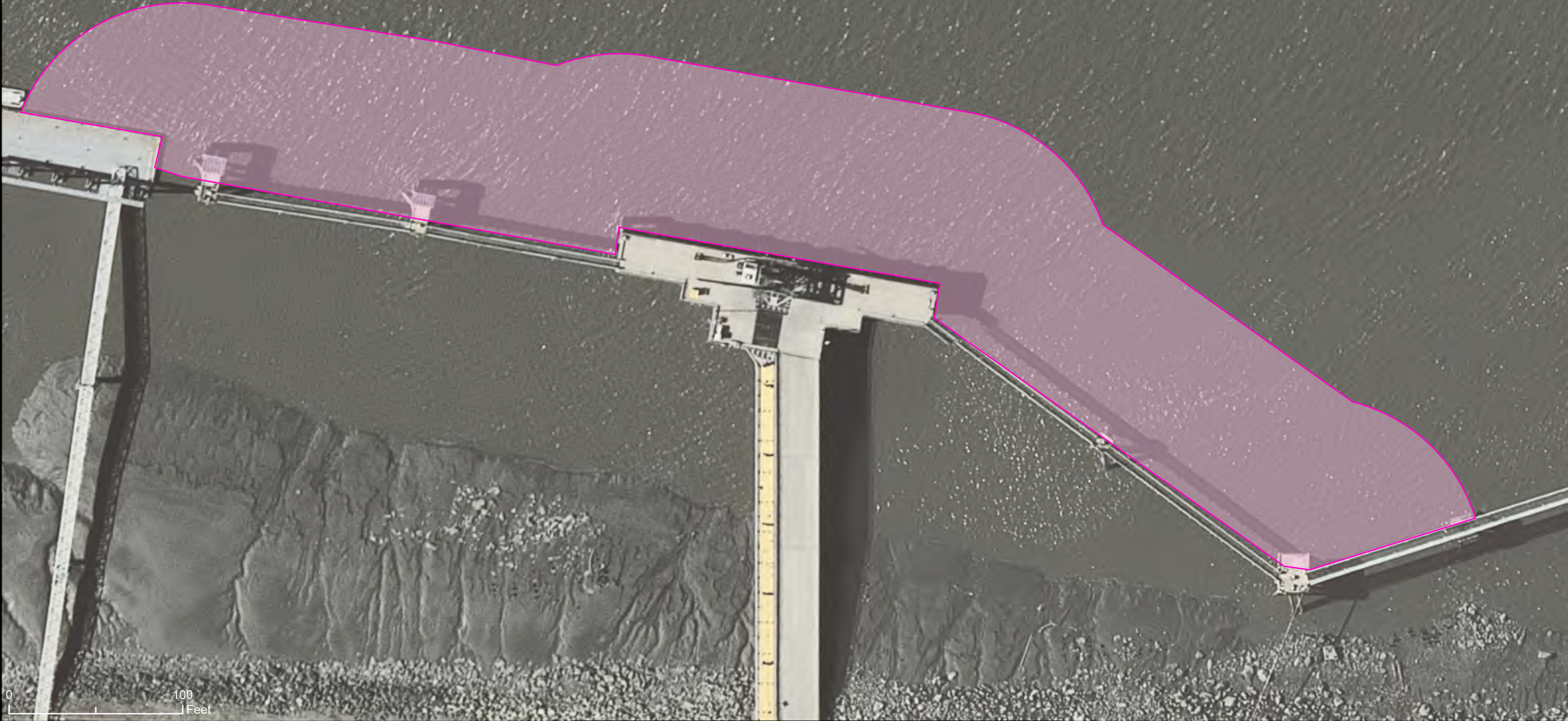
APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage
Port of Alaska
Supplemental PAMP Dredging
FILE NO: 408-POA-2022-0008

Legend

-  Approximate In-Water Maintenance Dredging Boundary (non-USACE)
-  POL2 Dredging Extent (non-USACE)
-  Existing USACE Dredging Area

WATERWAY: Knik Arm
POA-2003-00502-M24, Port of Alaska
Supplemental Dredging
Lat: 61.240021 N., Long: 149.890922 W.
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Seward Meridian



APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage
Port of Alaska
Supplemental PAMP Dredging
FILE NO: POA-2003-00502-M20

Legend

 POL2 Dredging Extent (non-USACE)





WATERWAY: Knik Arm
POA-2003-00502-M24, Port of Alaska
Supplemental Dredging
Lat: 61.240021 N., Long: 149.890922 W.
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Seward Meridian



APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage
Port of Alaska
Supplemental PAMP Dredging
FILE NO: 408-POA-2022-0008

Legend

-  Approximate In-Water Maintenance Dredging Boundary (non-USACE)
-  Beluga Critical Habitat Exclusion Area
-  Beluga Critical Habitat Area 1
-  Beluga Critical Habitat Area 2

WATERWAY: Knik Arm

POA-2003-00502-M24, Port of Alaska
Supplemental Dredging
Lat: 61.240021 N., Long: 149.890922 W.
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Seward Meridian



KNIK ARM

South-West Extent
Coordinates:
61.232, -149.925

North-West Extent
Coordinates:
61.250, -149.912

Offshore Dispsal
Site Coordinates:
61.240, -149.913

South-East Extent
Coordinates:
61.230, -149.914

North-East Extent
Coordinates:
61.248, -149.901

0 0.25
Miles





APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage
Port of Alaska
Supplemental PAMP Dredging
FILE NO: 408-POA-2022-0008

Legend

 Anchorage Dredged Material
Disposal Area

 Existing USACE Dredging Area

 Approximate In-Water Maintenance
Dredging Boundary (non-USACE)

 POL2 Dredging Extent (non-
USACE)

 Beluga Critical Habitat Area 1

WATERWAY: Knik Arm

POA-2003-00502-M24, Port of Alaska

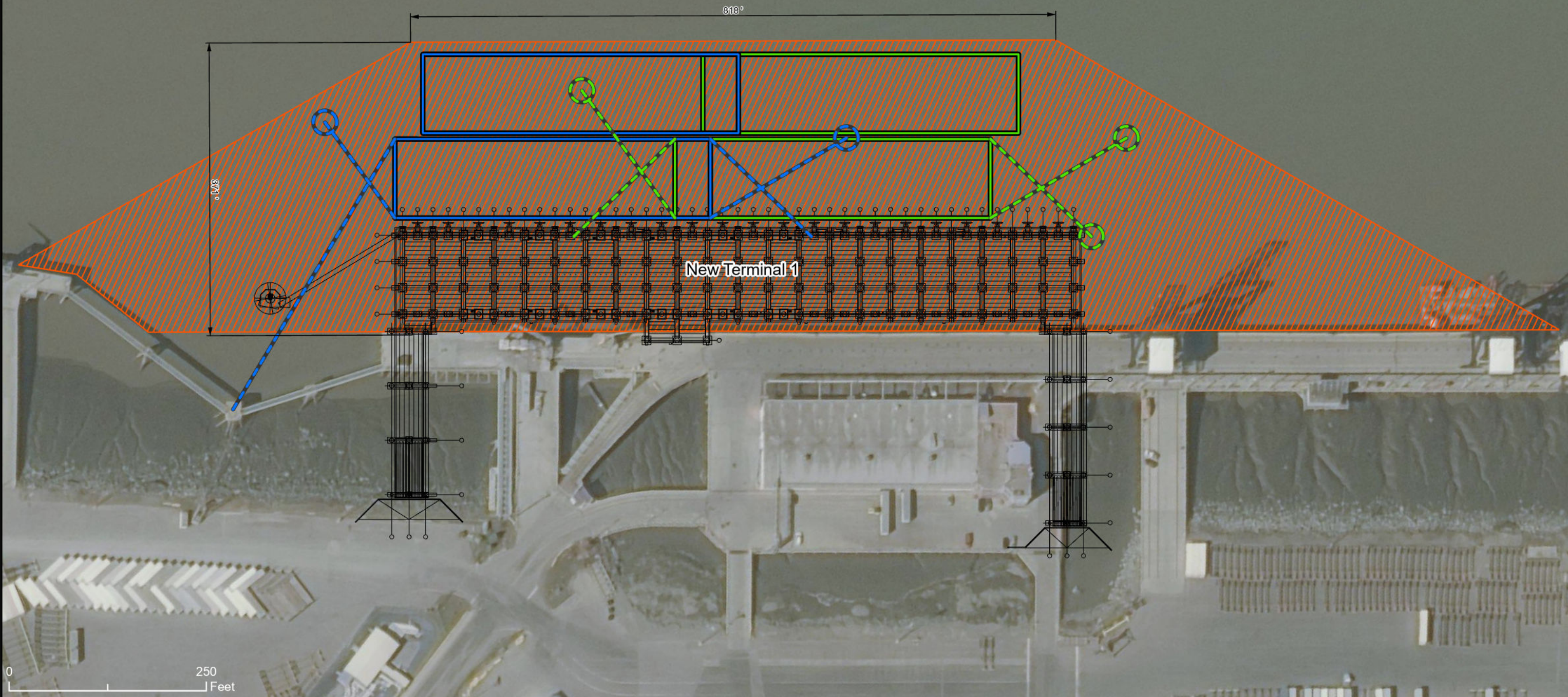
Supplemental Dredging

Lat: 61.240021 N., Long: 149.890922 W.

July 12, 2024

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Seward Meridian



APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage
Port of Alaska
Supplemental PAMP Dredging
FILE NO: 408-POA-2022-0008

Legend

 Cargo Terminal Construction
Dredging Area

 New Terminal

Construction Barge

 Step 1

 Step 2

Barge Anchor

 Step 1

 Step 2

WATERWAY: Knik Arm

POA-2003-00502-M24, Port of Alaska

Supplemental Dredging

Lat: 61.240021 N., Long: 149.890922 W.

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Seward Meridian





Plan



APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage
Port of Alaska
Supplemental PAMP Dredging
FILE NO: 408-POA-2022-0008

Legend

-  Cargo Terminal Construction Dredging Area
-  New Terminal
- Construction Barge**
-  Step 1
-  Step 2

-  Step 3
- Barge Anchors**
-  Step 1
-  Step 2
-  Step 3

WATERWAY: Knik Arm

POA-2003-00502-M24, Port of Alaska
Supplemental Dredging
Lat: 61.240021 N., Long: 149.890922 W.
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Seward Meridian
Plan



KNIK ARM



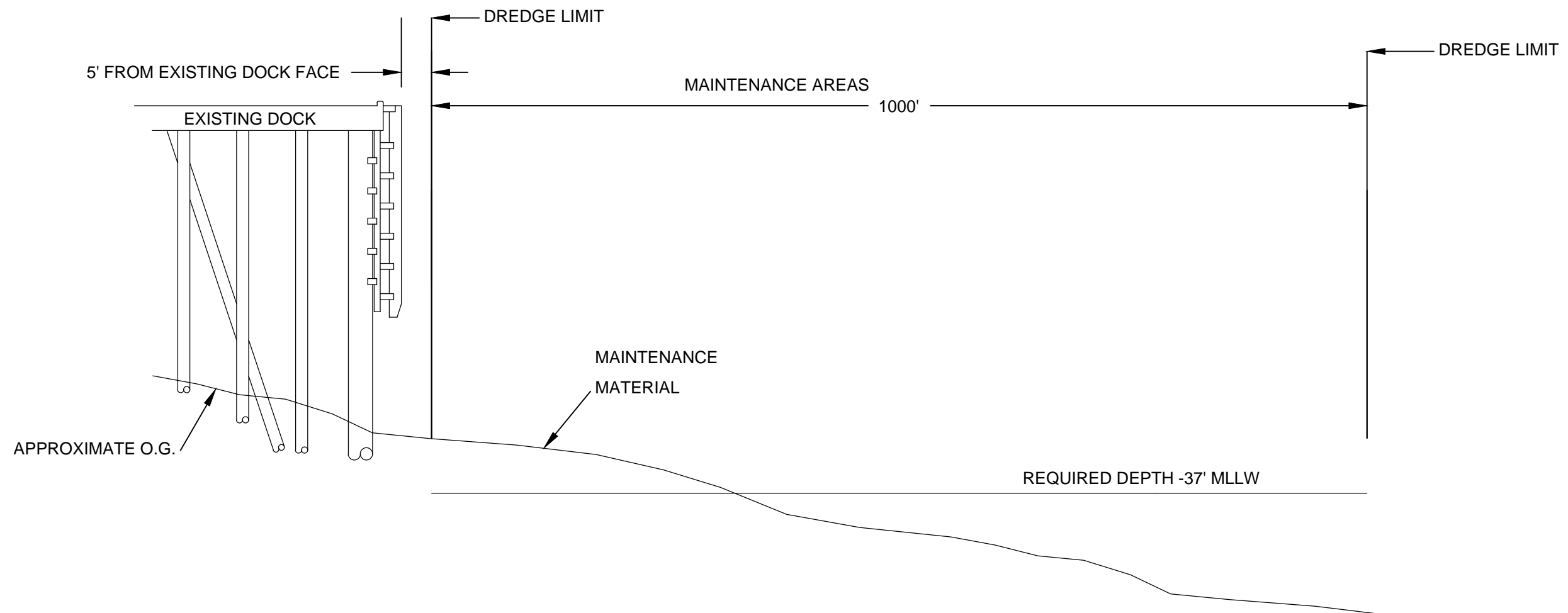
APPLICANT: Municipality of Anchorage
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Legend

- Cross Section
- Existing USACE Dredging Area

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Seward Meridian



A
C-103

ANCHORAGE EXISTING DOCK FACE NORTH DREDGE LIMIT

Scale: NTS

NOTE: DREDGE TO THE LINES AND GRADES SHOWN FOR THE PERIOD OF 15 MARCH THRU 10 NOVEMBER OF EACH DREDGE SEASON.



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Seward Meridian