



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

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

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	March 17, 2025
EXPIRATION DATE:	April 17, 2025
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2011-01077
WATERWAY:	Hotham Inlet (wetlands)

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 Tyler Marye at (907) 753-5778, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Tyler.J.Marye@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Thomas Baker, Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation (KIC), P.O. Box 1050, Kotzebue, Alaska 99752, tbaker@kikiktagruk.com.

AGENT: Tiffany Phelan, MLP & Associates, LLC, 721 Depot Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, Tiffany@mlpassociates.com.

LOCATION: The project site is located at Section 36, T. 18 N., R. 17 W., Latitude 66.91972 N., Longitude 162.28693° W.; near Kotzebue, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to is to extract gravel material for infrastructure projects in the Kotzebue area and to construct an overland 7.5-mile-long ice road from the Iggy Hill site to Devil's Lake near Kotzebue.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization to conduct mechanized land clearing on approximately 18.4 acres of wetlands in order to create the Iggy Hill material site and extract up to 1,143,000 cubic yards of aggregate materials. Additionally, the applicant proposes impacting 7.1 acres of wetlands in order to create an access road to the extraction areas; the seasonal ice road would connect to this access road. Another 11.3 acres of wetlands would be filled in order to stockpile overburden materials. A total of approximately 36.8 acres of wetlands are expected to be impacted by the proposed project.

The heavy equipment's servicing, maintenance, and storage would be done at the heavy equipment facilities in the City of Kotzebue. All waste oil, coolants, and replacement parts would be disposed of through the City of Kotzebue's disposal services if they cannot be recycled. A 250-gallon portable wheeled fueling tank would be transported and placed at the site to fuel heavy equipment. There would not be any construction of any structures at the excavation site.

The excavation site would be sectioned off into three areas each approximately 450 feet wide by 300 feet long and a depth of approximately 60 feet. See enclosed Sheets 5 and 6.

Phase 1: 6.8 acres:

Cell 1 would be excavated up to 60 feet deep, and all the material would be extracted before the next extraction phase. This area would yield approximately 331,000 cubic yards of material. If gravel needs to be stockpiled, the gravel stockpile would be located near the access road. Otherwise, the material would be loaded onto the dump trucks as excavated and hauled to Kotzebue.

Phase 2: 5.3 acres:

Cell 2 would be excavated up to 60 feet deep and should yield approximately 374,000 yards of material. The gravel stockpile and material processing equipment area would be on the north side of the cells, close to the access road.

Phase 3: 6.3 acres:

Cell 3 would be excavated up to up to 60 feet deep and should yield approximately 438,000 cubic yards of material. The gravel stockpile and material processing equipment area would be on the north side of the cells, close to the access road. The access road would be located on the extraction site's north side, approximately 30 feet wide and with 3:1 cut slopes. The access road would cover approximately 7.1 acres and angle up to the 185-foot elevation of the hilltop. The gravel stockpile and material processing equipment area would be located on the north side of the cells, close to the access road. See Sheet 6.

KIC anticipates hauling up to 96 round trips daily from the Iggy Hill excavation site to an area designated by the City of Kotzebue and/or the State of Alaska. Most of the material excavated from Iggy Hill would be used to construct the proposed Cape Blossom Phase 2 or Phase 3 projects.

Speed limits would be posted on the ice road, and drivers would be required to adhere to them. The final speed limit would be determined after construction is complete, so it is not possible to determine a maximum speed at this time. Ice road construction would begin October 15 of each season, and the use of the ice road would end April 30 of each season, depending on ice conditions.

It is anticipated that material extraction would occur from 2025 to 2030. Material extraction is estimated to begin on November 15 and end on April 30 each year. All material extraction would occur in the winter months. The mining season would be temporarily defined by 1) the completion of the seasonal ice road from Kotzebue to the Iggy Hill site and 2) the degradation of the ice road due to rising temperatures during the month of April. All mining operations would cease during the summer months.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-7), dated February 16, 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: A Department of the Army permit for work in waters of the United States was issued for a smaller project in the same area (POA-2011-1077). This permit expired June 30, 2020. The permit authorized the mechanized land clearing of 9.29 acres of wetlands for the development of a gravel excavation site (pit). The applicant has stated they have other authorizations from the Northwest Arctic Borough for this proposed 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: The applicant states that aside from the west side of Cell 1, comprised of a steep bluff face dropping off to the Inlet, the entire area is mapped as emergent wetlands (National Wetland Inventory Mapping, Sheet 4) and therefore complete avoidance is not practicable.

b. Minimization: The applicant states that the limits of extraction would be clearly identified in the field prior to extraction to ensure the permitted project footprint is not exceeded during development. Likewise, movement of construction equipment would be restricted to within the identified project boundaries to minimize disturbance to native vegetation. Best management practices (BMPs) such as fiber rolls would be installed and implemented to minimize the introduction of additional suspended sediment into the wetlands. Additionally, all refuse, garbage, or debris created during activities will be removed and disposed of at an approved facility. The applicant also states some stockpiles would be placed in the disturbed footprint to reduce wetland impacts and would be covered to protect from stormwater runoff. An ice road would be utilized to minimize additional impacts to wetlands in the area.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant stated: "There are no wetland mitigation banks in the area, nor are there any in-lieu-fee programs available".

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 known cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the direct project footprint as well as the project specific ice road. Consultation of the AHRs and review of the original POA-2011-1077 permit files and cultural resources consultation 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 or any other new information to change the prior effect determination. USACE 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. USACE is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the bearded seal (*Erignathus barbatus nauticus*), ringed seal (*Phoca (pusa) hispida*), polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), spectacled eider (*Somateria fischerii*), Steller's eider (*Polistica stellari*). Additionally, the project area is within polar bear critical habitat.

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 the 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 project area is not within mapped EFH. However, the project area drains into Hotham Inlet and EFH.

We are currently gathering information and have yet to make a determination of effect. Should we find that the described activity may adversely affect EFH for 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 NMFS may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: USACE 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 USACE, 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 is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal 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 USACE 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.

USACE 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 USACE 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.

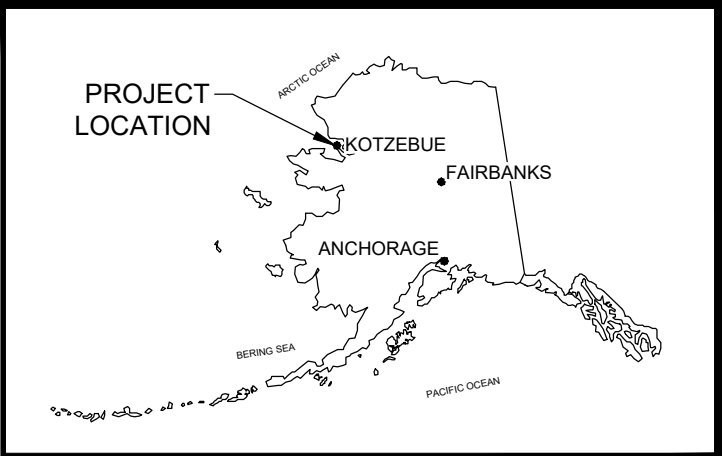
AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(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).

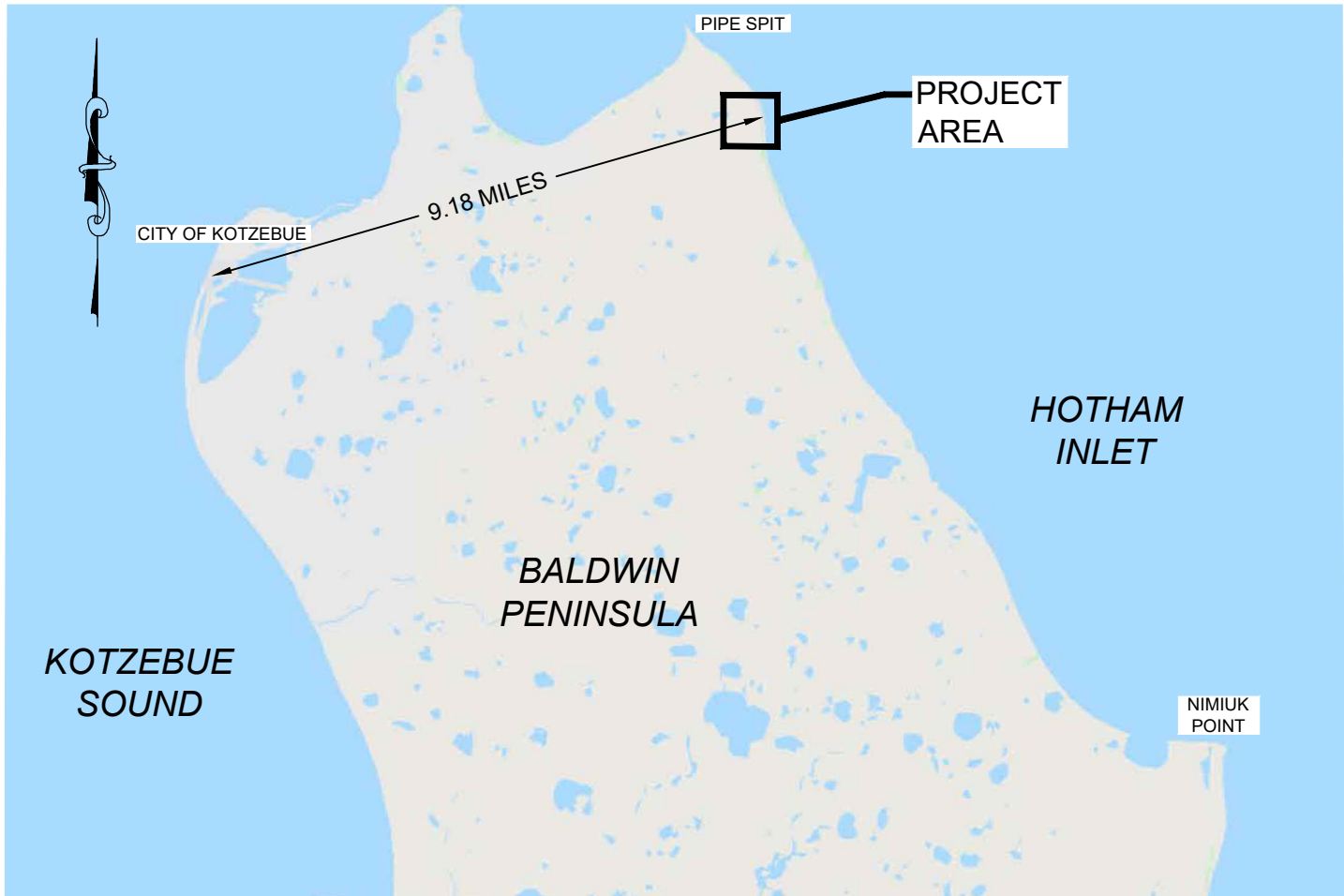
Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



LOCATION

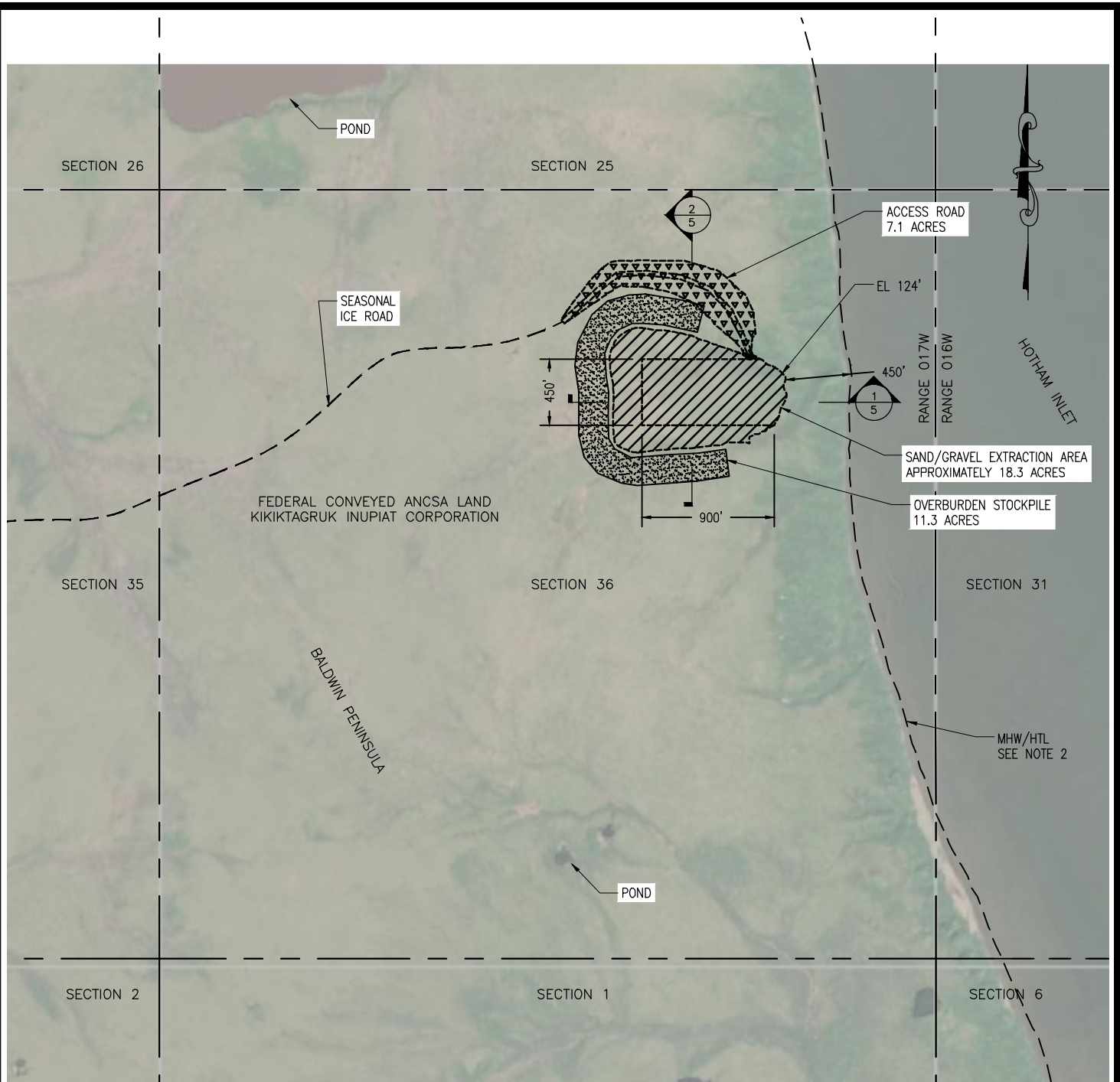


VICINITY MAP



SCALE IN MILES

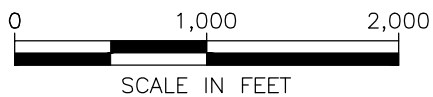
IGGY HILL SAND & GRAVEL	
GRAVEL EXTRACTION KOTZEBUE, ALASKA	
WATERBODY: HOTHAM INLET	
SECT. 36; T018N; R017W MERIDIAN: KATEEL RIVER USGS QUADRANGLE KOTZEBUE D-1 NW LAT: 66.91972° LONG: -162.28693°	
LOCATION AND VICINITY MAP	
2/16/2025	SHEET 1 OF 7



PROJECT SITE

NOTES:

1. IMAGE SOURCE: WEBSITE dnr.alaska.gov/mapper/ OBTAINED ON 25 OCTOBER 2024. IMAGE IS NOT GEO-REFERENCED.
2. TIDAL INFORMATION FROM NOAA STATION 9491094, RED DOG DOCK, ALASKA (NAVD88).
 - 2.1. HTL (HIGH TIDE LINE) = 1.1'
 - 2.2. MHW (MEAN HIGH WATER) = 0.8'
 - 2.3. MLLW (MEAN LOWER-LOW WATER) = 0.0'
3. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY HAS NOT BEEN PERFORMED FOR PROJECT AREA THEREFORE HTL AND MHW LINE ARE APPROXIMATED BASED ON WATERS EDGE FROM IMAGE. A SURVEY WILL BE PERFORMED PRIOR TO START OF EXTRACTION TO DETERMINE MHW, HTL, AND PROPERTY LINE LOCATIONS.
4. EXTRACTED MATERIALS WILL BE STOCKPILED WITHIN EXTRACTION AREA.
5. CONTRACTOR STAGING OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS WITHIN EXTRACTION AREA.



IGGY HILL SAND & GRAVEL

GRAVEL EXTRACTION
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

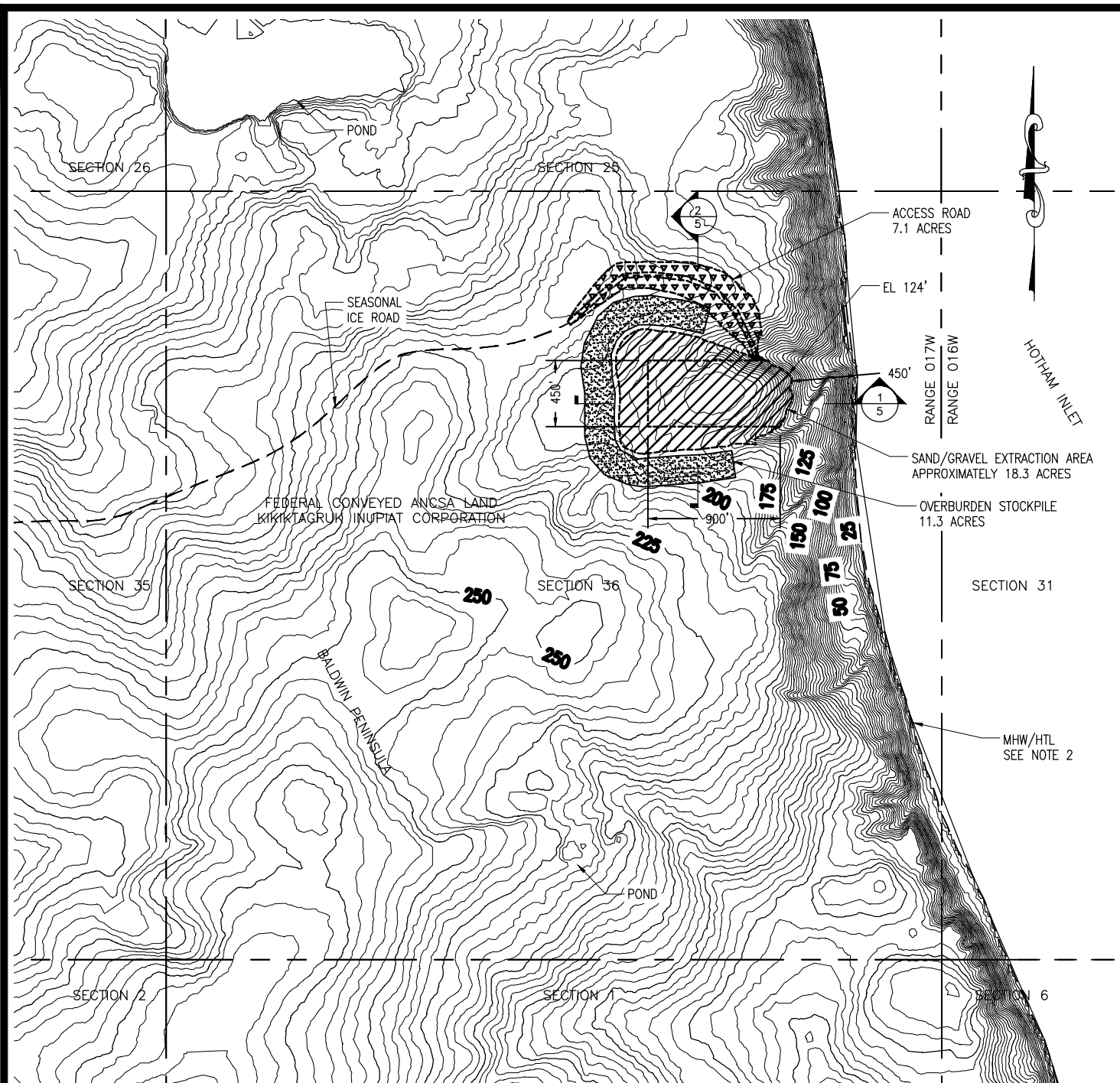
WATERBODY: HOTHAM INLET

SECT. 36; T018N; R017W
MERIDIAN: KATEEL RIVER
USGS QUADRANGLE KOTZEBUE D-1 NW
LAT: 66.91972° LONG: -162.28693°

PROJECT SITE

2/16/2025

SHEET 2 OF 7



PROJECT SITE TOPOGRAPHIC

NOTES:

1. TOPOGRAPHIC SOURCE: WEBSITE experience.arcgis.com OBTAINED ON 16 OCTOBER 2024.
2. TIDAL INFORMATION FROM NOAA STATION 9491094, RED DOG DOCK, ALASKA (NAVD88).
 - 2.1. HTL (HIGH TIDE LINE) = 1.1'
 - 2.2. MHW (MEAN HIGH WATER) = 0.8'
 - 2.3. MLLW (MEAN LOWER-LOW WATER) = 0.0'
3. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY HAS NOT BEEN PERFORMED FOR PROJECT AREA THEREFORE HTL AND MHW LINE ARE APPROXIMATED BASED ON WATERS EDGE FROM IMAGE. A SURVEY WILL BE PERFORMED PRIOR TO START OF EXTRACTION TO DETERMINE MHW, HTL, AND PROPERTY LINE LOCATIONS.
4. EXTRACTED MATERIALS WILL BE STOCKPILED WITHIN EXTRACTION AREA.
5. CONTRACTOR STAGING OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS WITHIN EXTRACTION AREA.

IGGY HILL SAND & GRAVEL

GRAVEL EXTRACTION
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

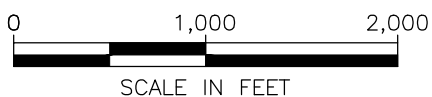
WATERBODY: HOTHAM INLET

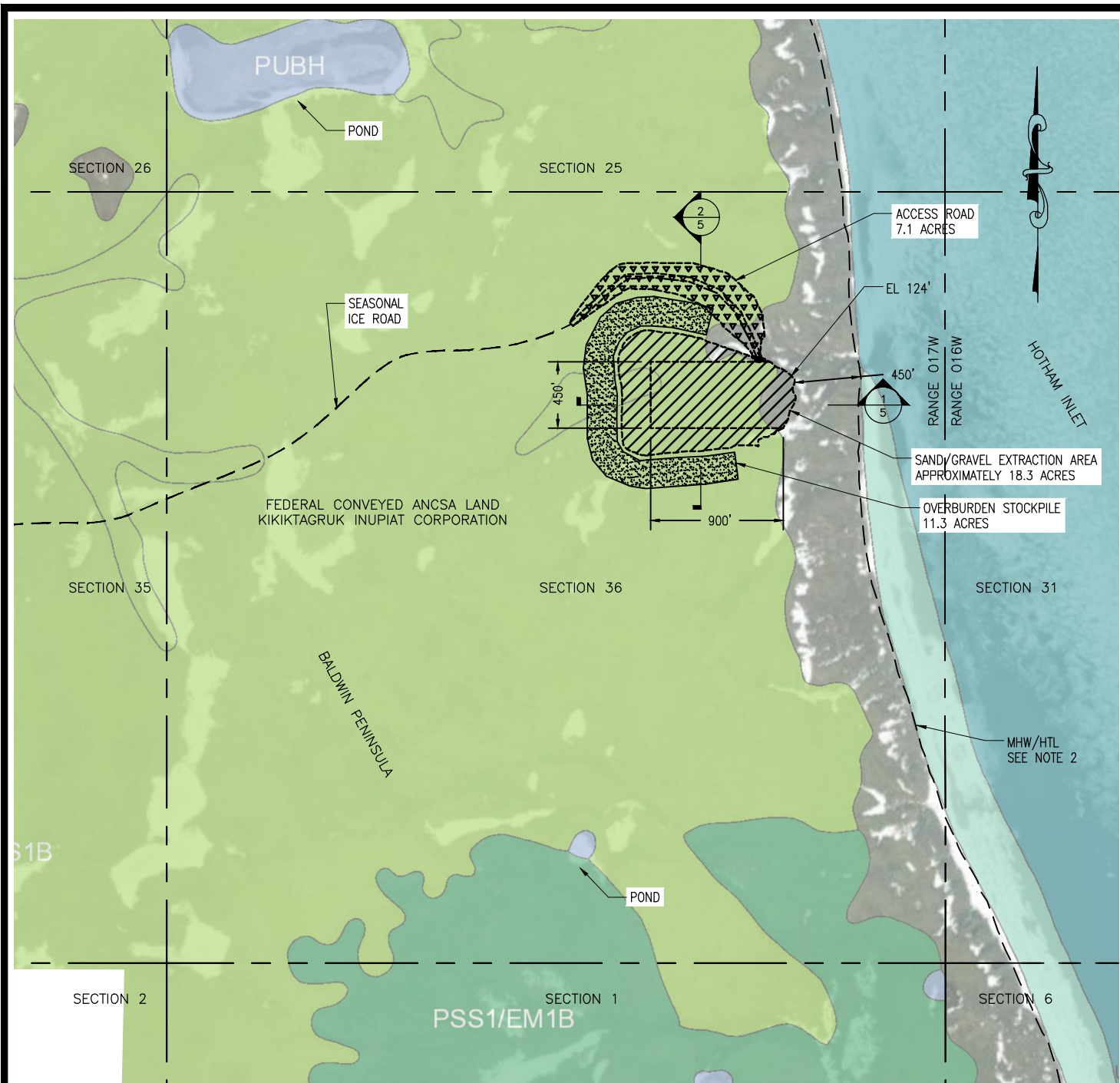
SECT. 36; T018N; R017W
MERIDIAN: KATEEL RIVER
USGS QUADRANGLE KOTZEBUE D-1 NW
LAT: 66.91972° LONG: -162.28693°

PROJECT SITE TOPO

2/16/2025

SHEET 3 OF 7

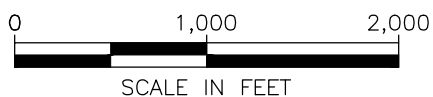




WETLANDS NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

NOTES:

1. IMAGE SOURCE: WEBSITE
<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper> OBTAINED ON 25 OCTOBER 2024.
2. TIDAL INFORMATION FROM NOAA STATION 9491094, RED DOG DOCK, ALASKA (NAVD88).
 - 2.1. HTL (HIGH TIDE LINE) = 1.1'
 - 2.2. MHW (MEAN HIGH WATER) = 0.8'
 - 2.3. MLLW (MEAN LOWER-LOW WATER) = 0.0'
3. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY HAS NOT BEEN PERFORMED FOR PROJECT AREA THEREFORE HTL AND MHW LINE ARE APPROXIMATED BASED ON WATERS EDGE FROM IMAGE. A SURVEY WILL BE PERFORMED PRIOR TO START OF EXTRACTION TO DETERMINE MHW, HTL, AND PROPERTY LINE LOCATIONS.
4. EXTRACTED MATERIALS WILL BE STOCKPILED WITHIN EXTRACTION AREA.
5. CONTRACTOR STAGING OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS WITHIN EXTRACTION AREA.



IGGY HILL SAND & GRAVEL

GRAVEL EXTRACTION
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

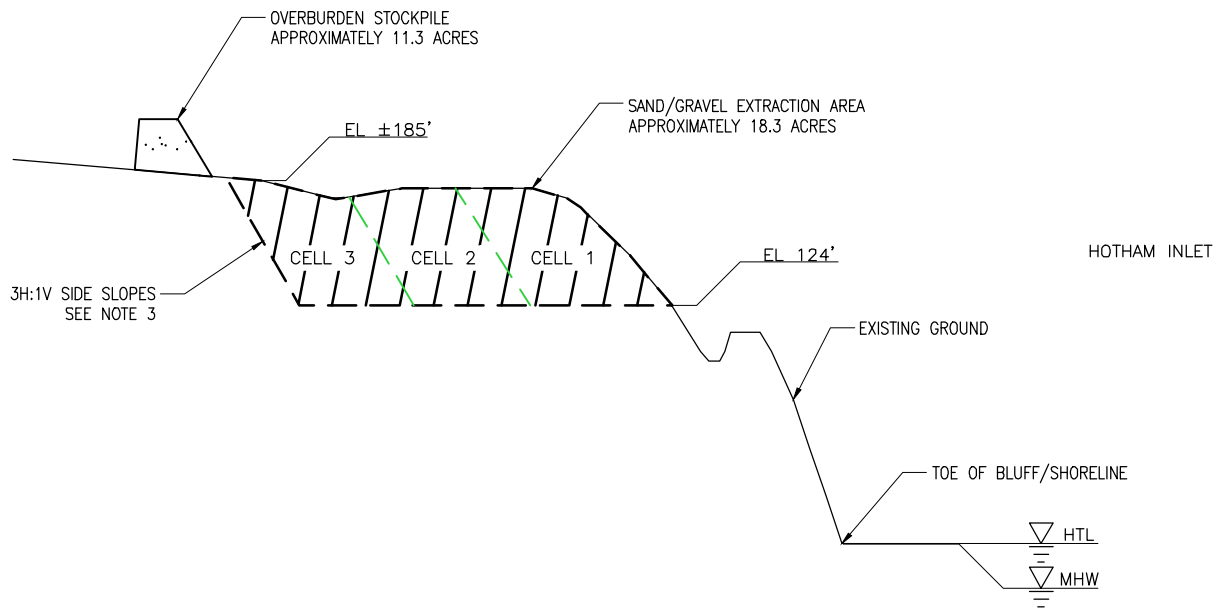
WATERBODY: HOTHAM INLET

SECT. 36; T018N; R017W
MERIDIAN: KATEEL RIVER
USGS QUADRANGLE KOTZEBUE D-1 NW
LAT: 66.91972° LONG: -162.28693°

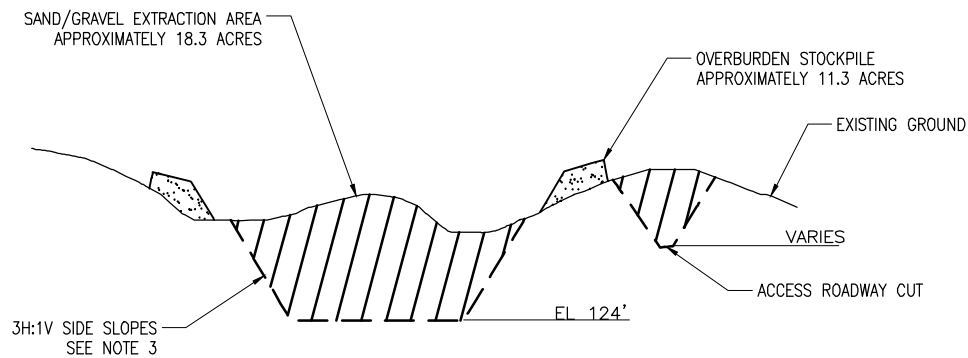
WETLANDS

2/16/2025

SHEET 4 OF 7



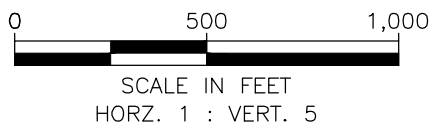
1 SITE SECTION



2 SITE SECTION

NOTES:

1. TIDAL INFORMATION FROM NOAA STATION 9491094, RED DOG DOCK, ALASKA (NAVD88).
 - 1.1. HTL (HIGH TIDE LINE) = 1.1'
 - 1.2. MHW (MEAN HIGH WATER) = 0.8'
 - 1.3. MLLW (MEAN LOWER-LOW WATER) = 0.0'
2. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY HAS NOT BEEN PERFORMED FOR PROJECT AREA. HTL AND MHW LINES ARE APPROXIMATE.
3. CUT SLOPE IS SHOWN 3H:1V FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. EXCAVATED SLOPE MUST BE EVALUATED BY AN ENGINEER FOR OSHA AND MSHA COMPLIANCE.



IGGY HILL SAND & GRAVEL

GRAVEL EXTRACTION
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

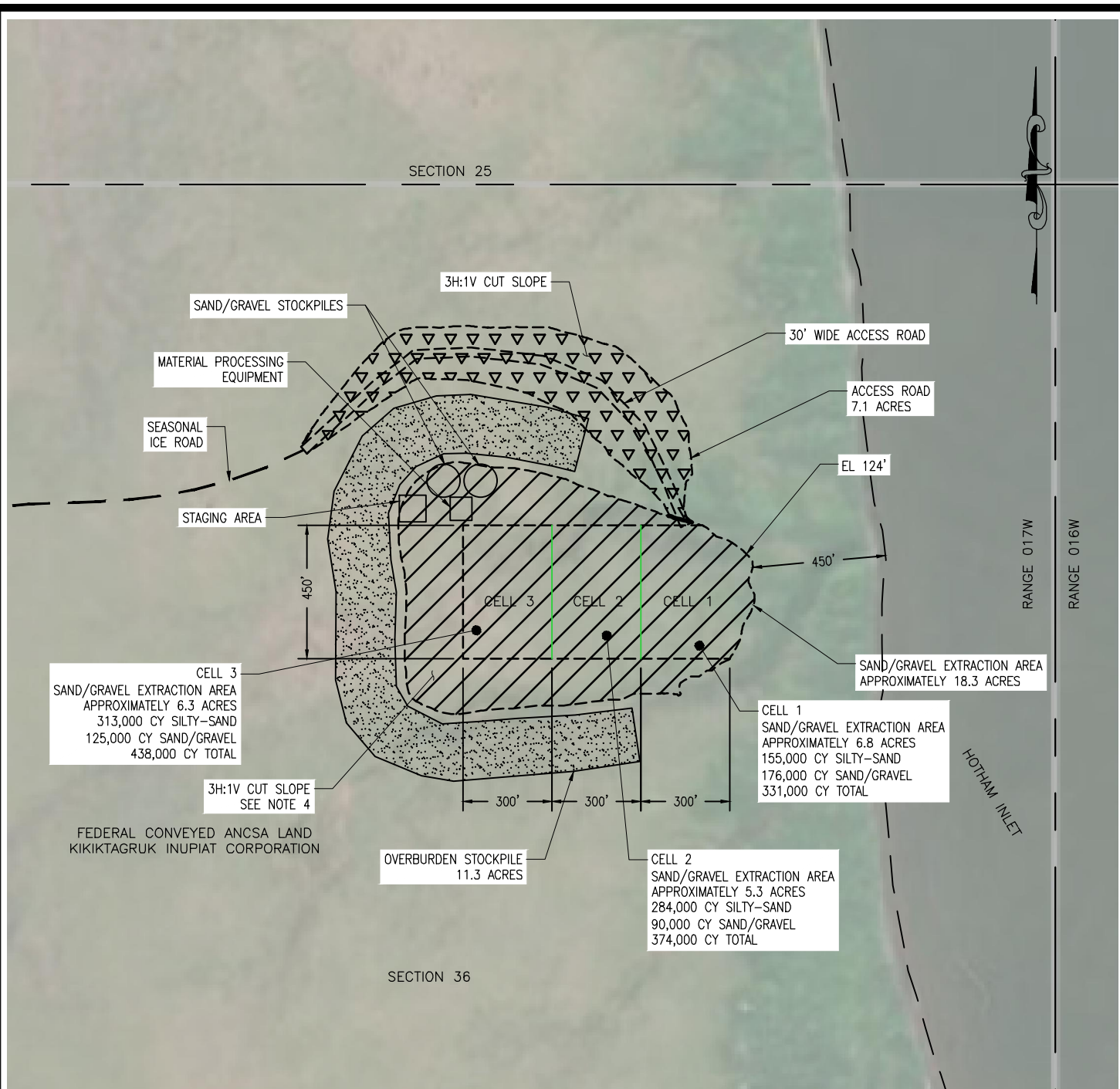
WATERBODY: HOTHAM INLET

SECT. 36; T018N; R017W
MERIDIAN: KATEEL RIVER
USGS QUADRANGLE KOTZEBUE D-1 NW
LAT: 66.91972° LONG: -162.28693°

SITE SECTION

2/16/2025

SHEET 5 OF 7



DEVELOPMENT SITE

NOTES:

1. IMAGE SOURCE: WEBSITE dnr.alaska.gov/mapper/ OBTAINED ON 25 OCTOBER 2024. IMAGE IS NOT GEO-REFERENCED.
2. TIDAL INFORMATION FROM NOAA STATION 9491094, RED DOG DOCK, ALASKA (NAVD88).
 - 2.1. HTL (HIGH TIDE LINE) = 1.1'
 - 2.2. MHW (MEAN HIGH WATER) = 0.8'
 - 2.3. MLLW (MEAN LOWER-LOW WATER) = 0.0'
3. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY HAS NOT BEEN PERFORMED FOR PROJECT AREA THEREFORE HTL AND MHW LINE ARE APPROXIMATED BASED ON WATERS EDGE FROM IMAGE. A SURVEY WILL BE PERFORMED PRIOR TO START OF EXTRACTION TO DETERMINE MHW, HTL, AND PROPERTY LINE LOCATIONS.
4. CUT SLOPE IS SHOWN 3H:1V FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY. EXCAVATED SLOPE MUST BE EVALUATED BY AN ENGINEER FOR OSHA AND MSHA COMPLIANCE.

IGGY HILL SAND & GRAVEL

GRAVEL EXTRACTION
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

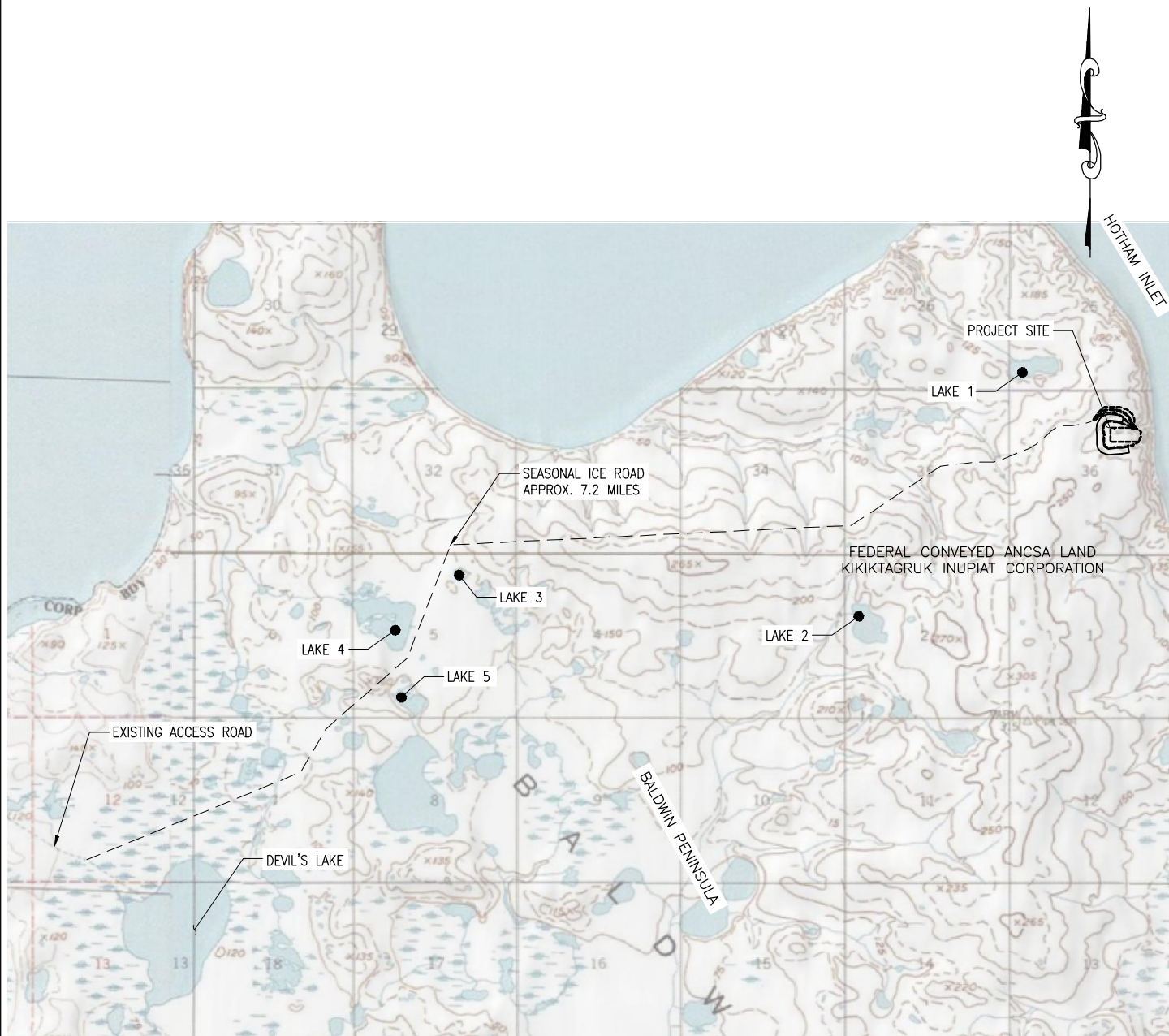
WATERBODY: HOTHAM INLET

SECT. 36; T018N; R017W
MERIDIAN: KATEEL RIVER
USGS QUADRANGLE KOTZEBUE D-1 NW
LAT: 66.91972° LONG: -162.28693°

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2/16/2025

SHEET 6 OF 7



ICE ROAD ROUTE

NOTES:

1. IMAGE SOURCE: WEBSITE dnr.alaska.gov/mapper/ OBTAINED ON 25 OCTOBER 2024.
IMAGE IS NOT GEO-REFERENCED.



IGGY HILL SAND & GRAVEL

GRAVEL EXTRACTION
KOTZEBUE, ALASKA

WATERBODY: HOTHAM INLET

SECT. 36; T018N; R017W
MERIDIAN: KATEEL RIVER
USGS QUADRANGLE KOTZEBUE D-1 NW
LAT: 66.91972° LONG: -162.28693°

ICE ROAD ROUTE

2/16/2025

SHEET 7 OF 7