



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:	June 13, 2025
EXPIRATION DATE:	June 30, 2025
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2020-00147-M1
WATERWAY:	Sagavanirktok River

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 Andrew Kastning at (907) 753-2554, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Andrew.C.Kastning@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Hilcorp North Slope, LLC

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 3, T. 10 N., R. 15 E., Umiat Meridian; Latitude 70.24985° N., Longitude 148.30494° W.; near Deadhorse, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to support and maintain the integrity of bridge supports over the Sagavanirktok (Sag) River.

PROPOSED WORK: The Applicant states that the scope of this project is to improve flow under the Sagavanirktok (Sag) River vehicle bridge and pipe bridge, by dredging and recontouring the river bottom to follow the natural slope of the riverbed. This would be done by

removing approximately 45,000 cubic yards of material from 13 acres of riverbed, focusing on excavating high areas down to 4 feet above sea level elevation and filling low areas to 4 feet above sea level elevation. Additional areas downstream of the bridges would be scoured to remove gravel that tends to plug the pump supplying water for Prudhoe Bay Operations Center (PBOC). Leftover material would also be placed in the bridge bulkhead area to replenish the east bank. Temporary gravel ramps on each bank would be constructed and used to remove material from the excavation areas and to help manage water flow to protect the work area during project execution. This project would begin in October 2025 and would be conducted during periods of lowest flow in the river. The anticipated timeline for the project is 45 days, with some variability depending on water levels. Sag River channel maintenance is required annually at this location.

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 they have reviewed options regarding how to support the integrity of the Sag River vehicle and pipeline bridge supports and ensure adequate fish passage. The Applicant states that the only viable option to help prevent future damage to the bridge and bridge supports is to lower the elevation of the gravel bar under and around the western portions of the bridges, making complete avoidance of impacts not practicable. Additionally, the Applicant states that without removal of material around the downstream pump that the water intake for the PBOC will become unusable.

b. Minimization: The Applicant states that the work would be done in the fall when flow is lower and more material to be dredged will be located above the water line for easy removal with less impacts. Also, existing roads and infrastructure will be used to access the project site for the construction work.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The Applicant states that they have avoided and minimized impacts to the extent practicable. Therefore, Hilcorp proposes that no compensatory mitigation be required for this project.

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 previously identified cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the complete project area. 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), and Federally recognized Tribes. Any comments SHPO or Federally recognized Tribes 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 polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*).

We have determined the described activity may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the polar bear or polar bear critical habitat, Steller's eider, and spectacled eider. We have initiated the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments they 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 within mapped EFH for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) and pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), Bering cisco (*Coregonus laurettae*) and least cisco (*Coregonus sardinella*), Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*), and various other whitefish (*spp.*)

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 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: 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 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 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).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

Project Description
Sagavanirktok River Channel Maintenance
Modification to POA-2020-00147
Prudhoe Bay Unit

1. INTRODUCTION

Seasonal flooding in the Sagavanirktok (Sag) River occurs annually and impacts the Sag River vehicle and pipeline bridges. This flooding deposits large quantities of silt and gravel immediately upstream and downstream of the bridges and causes scour depressions around the bridges support structures. Hilcorp North Slope, LLC (Hilcorp) is requesting modification to the existing multi-year maintenance permit (POA-2020-00147) to excavate silt and gravel from the river channels and infill scour areas with recovered gravel.

The maintenance work is designed to support the integrity of the bridge supports and ensure adequate fish transport in the area surrounding the bridges. The maintenance is expected to decrease flood damage to infrastructure including pipelines, roads, and production pads on the Sag River flood plain. Endicott Road is a vital transportation corridor and is the only summer vehicle access route for the Duck Island Unit.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The scope of this project is to improve water flow under the Sag River vehicle bridge and pipe bridge by recontouring the river bottom to follow the natural slope of the riverbed. This will be done by excavating high areas down to the 4 ft above sea level elevation and filling low areas back up to the 4 ft elevation. Additional area downstream of the bridges will be scoured to remove gravel plugging the pump supplying water for PBOC. Without remediation, the pump will become unusable. The details of the execution are as follows:

2.1 Recontouring of Sag Riverbed

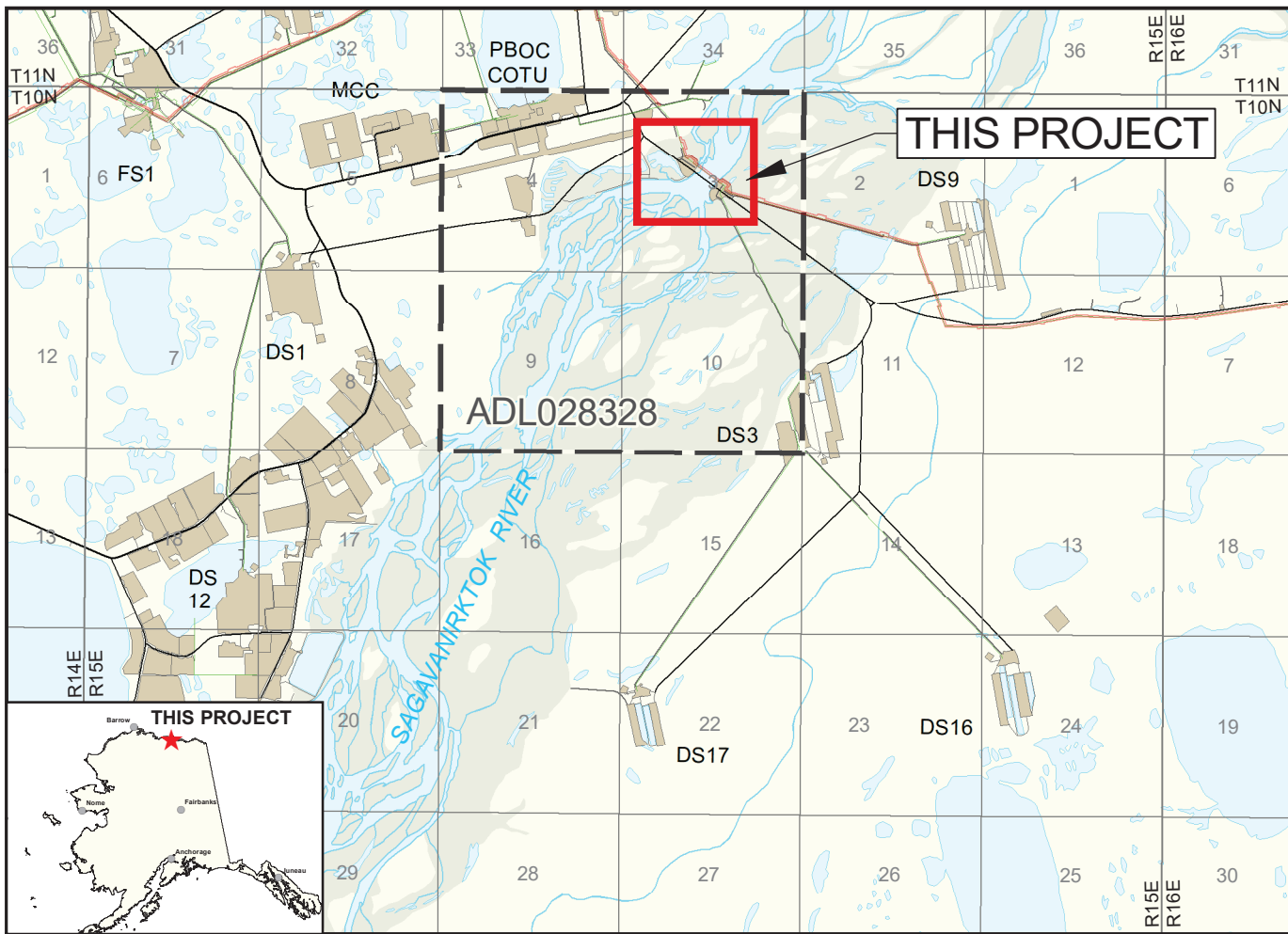
- Dredge approximately 13 acres of riverbed to remove approximately 45,000 cubic yards of gravel
- Dredged material will be spread over approximately 7 acres to flatten the river bottom
- Leftover material will also be placed on the opposite side of the vehicle and pipe bridges to replenish the bulkhead area of the east bank
- Typical equipment to be used for excavation and recontouring includes dozers and excavators of various sizes

2.2 Access Ramps

- Construct a 100-foot by 50-foot temporary gravel ramp on the west bank of the Sag River using approximately 200 cubic yards of gravel
- Construct an additional 100-foot by 50-foot temporary gravel ramp on the east bank using approximately 200 cubic yards of gravel
- Gravel ramps will be used to remove material from the excavation area and manage water flow to protect the work area during project execution

3. SCHEDULE

This project is scheduled to begin in October 2025 and will be executed during the period of lowest flow volume in the river. The anticipated timeline for the project is 45 days, with some variability depending on flow. This channel maintenance activity will be required annually through the duration of the existing ten-year maintenance permit for dredging of the Sag River.



This map is based on U.S.G.S quad Beechey Point (A-3)
and on the Unit Operator's Facility Maps.



PROJECT LOCATION:

PRUDHOE BAY UNIT - SAG RIVER BRIDGES

NAD83

LAT. = 70° 14' 59.461" / DD 70.249850

LONG. = -148° 18' 17.799" / DD -148.304944

ALASKA STATE PLANE ZONE 4, NAD83

X = 1,850,190.54 FEET

Y = 5,943,715.24 FEET

ADL028328 SEC. 3 T10N, R15E UMIAT M.

DATUM: MEAN SEA LEVEL

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER:

STATE OF ALASKA

HILCORP NORTH SLOPE, LLC

PRUDHOE BAY UNIT
SAG RIVER CHANNEL MAINTENANCE
VICINITY MAP

DATE:
August 2024

SCALE:
1" = 1 Mile

FIGURE:
1

