



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 25, 2025
EXPIRATION DATE:	April 25, 2025
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2023-00172
WATERWAY:	Hammer Slough

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 Estrella Campellone at (907) 753-2518, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Estrella.F.Campellone@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Petersburg Medical Center (PMC); Philip Hofstetter; (907) 772-5723; phofstetter@pmc-health.org; 103 Fram Street, Petersburg, Alaska 99833

AGENT: DOWL; Josh Grabel; (907) 562-2000; jgrabel@dowl.com; 5015 Business Park Blvd #4000, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 27, T. 58 S., R. 79 E., Copper River Meridian; Latitude 56.813192° N., Longitude 132.943495° W.; 104 Wellness Drive, Petersburg Medical Center; Excel Street Connection; in Petersburg, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to extend the road to connect Haugen Drive to Excel Street, for routing emergency vehicles and hospital visitors from downtown and north Petersburg. The proposed water line connection would provide a loop to improve pressure and limit users affected by repairs or emergency shutoff of the water system.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant is proposing to discharge 6,267 cubic yards of structural fill into 0.32-acre of palustrine wetlands in order to create an additional emergency access route and water line access to the Petersburg Medical Center. Overburden generated by access route and water line construction would be hauled to an existing material site near the rock quarry. The work would start the summer of 2025 and be completed in the fall of 2025. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4) dated March 12, 2025.

The existing fill pad for the Petersburg Medical Center was verified on August 2, 2023, under Regional General Permit (RGP) – 07, Rural Development, for the discharge of 110,000 cubic yards of structural fill material into 4.96 acres of palustrine wetlands in order to construct a new two-story medical facility. That work was reverified on February 2, 2024, to reflect a shift of the project footprint with the same discharge volume and acreage impact.

The new proposed emergency access route and water line are being reviewed cumulatively with the previous RGP 07 impacts to reflect the total impacts resulting from the Petersburg Medical Center actions. The attached plan sheets show the proposed new fill in association with the existing fill.

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 has stated that wetland avoidance is not practicable because the existing hospital fill pad and access road are surrounded by a large wetland complex with no availability for high traffic through ways from other side streets adjacent to the hospital.

b. Minimization: The Excel Street Connection would be the minimum width necessary to meet two-way traffic, pedestrian, and safety design standards. The applicant would employ best management practices (BMPs) during construction to limit sedimentation in nearby wetlands.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has proposed to purchase credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee provider for the loss of wetland functions as a result of the proposed discharge.

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 footprint of the discharge in jurisdictional wetlands and the existing adjacent upland fill where equipment will be staged. 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: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

The Corps has determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, 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 not within mapped EFH.

The Corps has determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

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 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

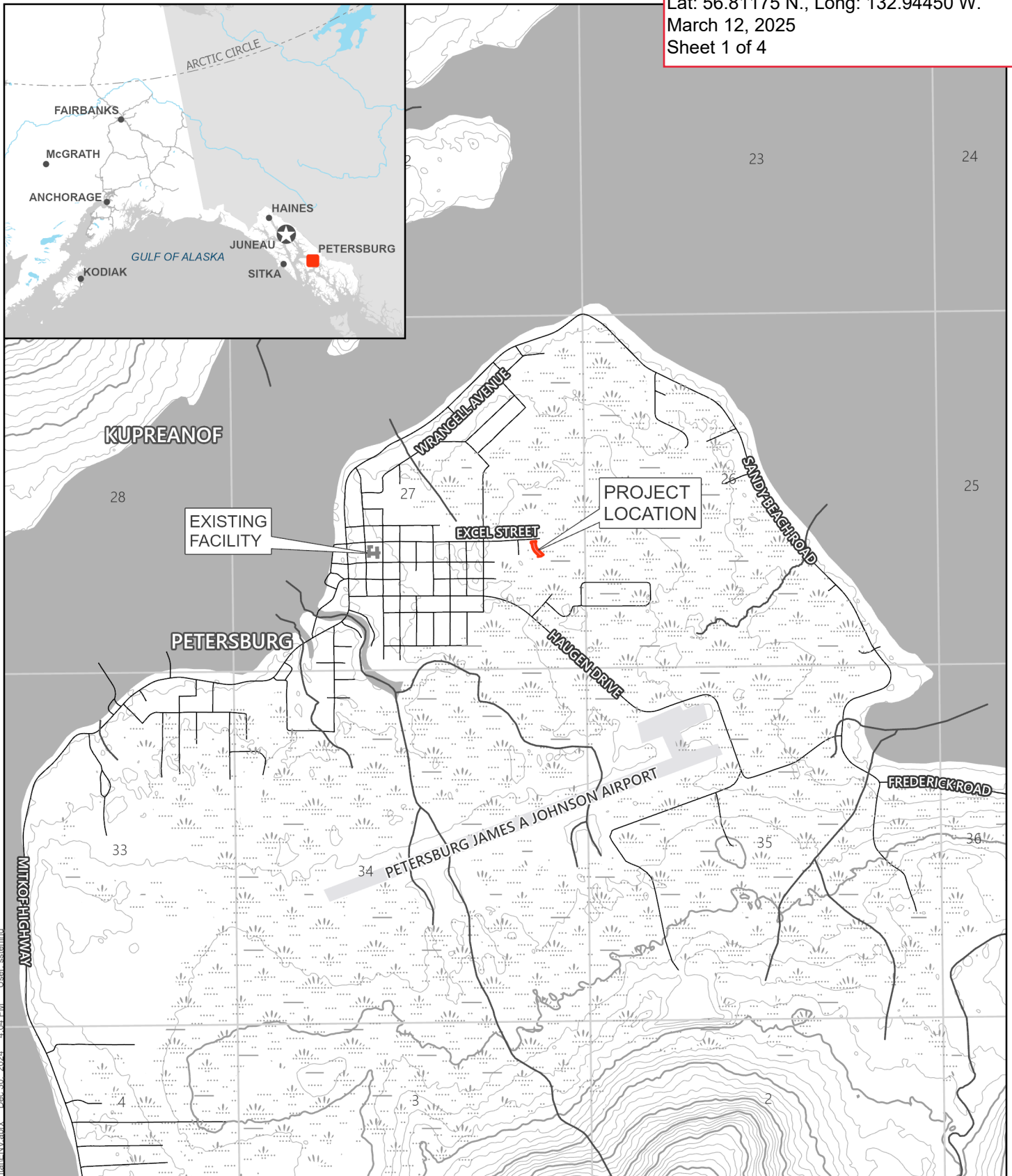
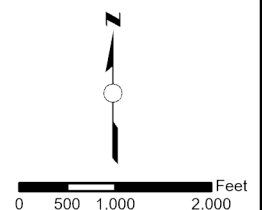


FIGURE 1: Location & Vicinity

POA-2023-00172
 Applicant: Petersburg Medical Center
 Proposed Activity: Excel Street Connection
 T 58S R 79E Section 27 Copper River Meridian
 Latitude: 61.98924° N Longitude: 150.05082° W
 Sheet: 1 of 3

Date: 12/30/2024

-  Project Boundary
-  NWI Wetland
-  NHD Stream
-  AK DOT&PF Road
-  PLSS Section



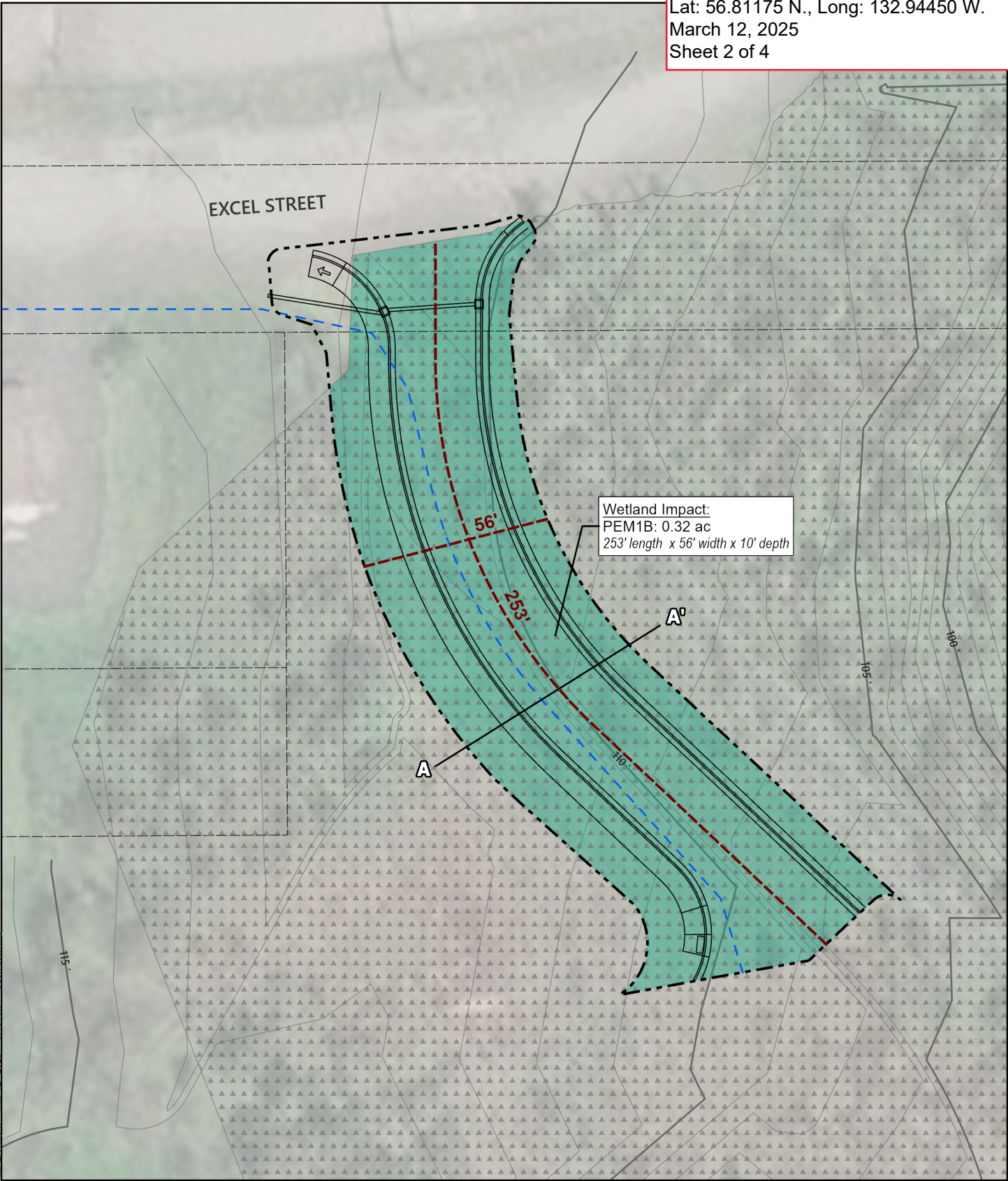
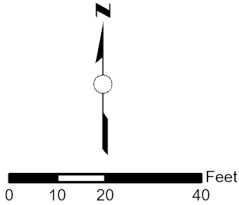


FIGURE 2: Plan View

POA-2023-00172
Applicant: Petersburg Medical Center
Proposed Activity: Excel Street Connection
T 58S R 79E Section 27 Copper River Meridian
Latitude: 61.98924° N Longitude: 150.05082° W
Sheet: 2 of 3

Date: 3/12/2025

- Proposed Project
- - - Proposed Waterline
- Cut/Fill Limit
- Property Boundary
- Proposed Wetland Impact
- NWI Cowardin Type
- ▲▲ PEM1B



A - A'

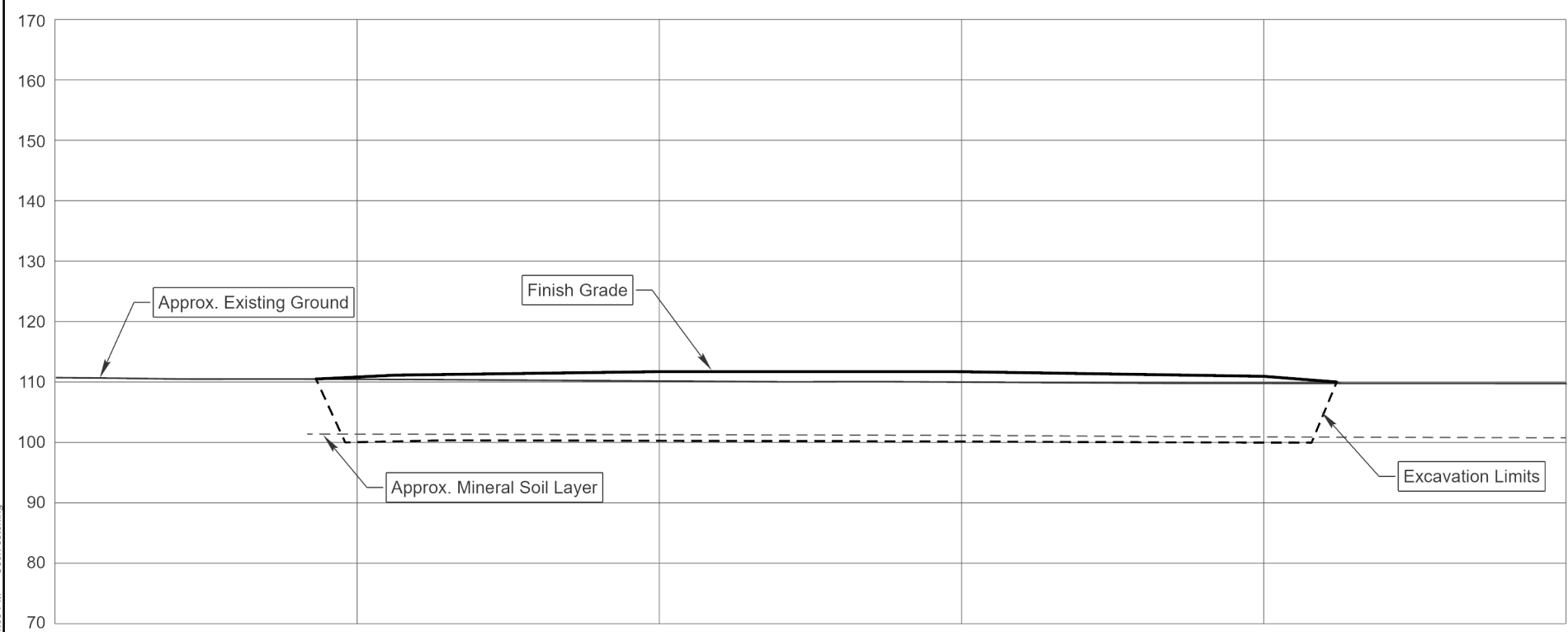


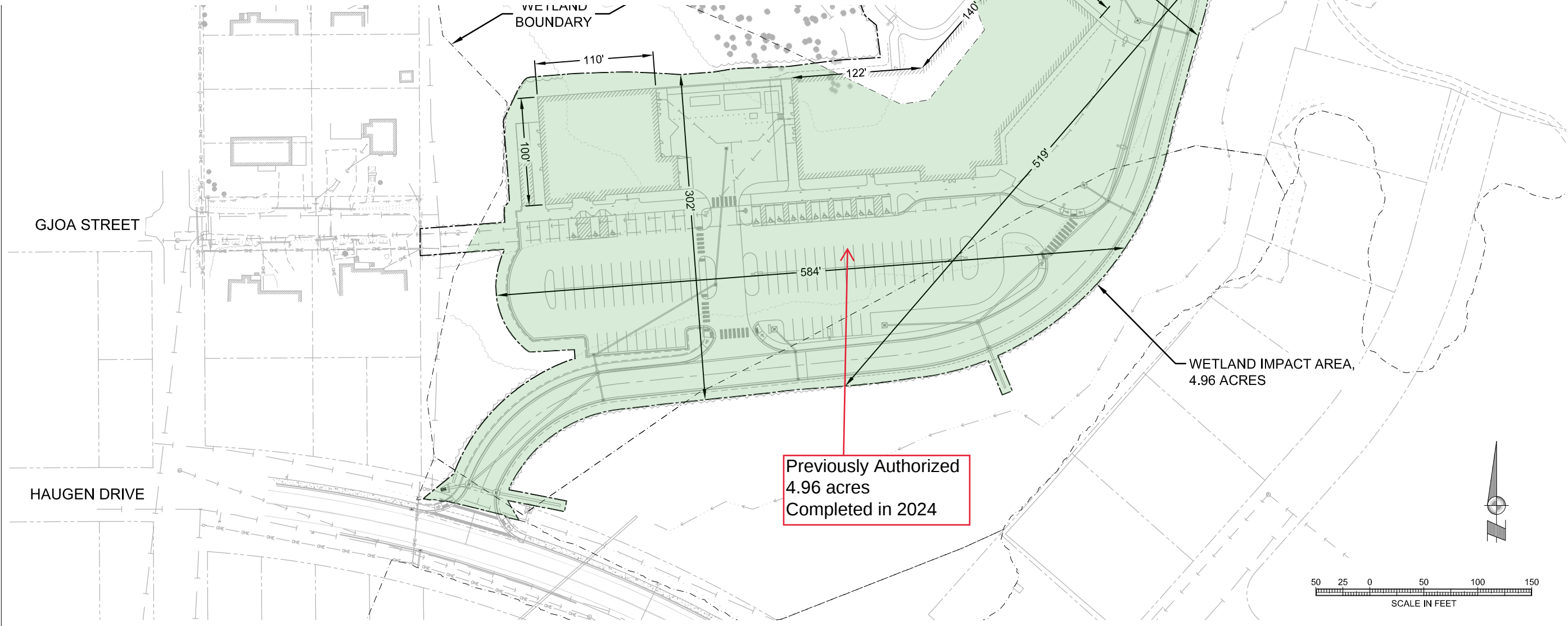
FIGURE 3: Elevation View

POA-2023-00172, Hammer Slough
Applicant: Petersburg Medical Center
Proposed Activity: Excel Street Connection
T 58S R 79E Section 27 Copper River Meridian
Latitude: 61.98924° N Longitude: 150.05082° W
Sheet: 3 of 3

Date: 12/30/2024



*Note: Red line Excel Street Connection is approximate. Please reference figures for linework.



POA-2023-00172, Petersburg Medical Center
Lat: 56.81175 N., Long: 132.94450 W.
March 12, 2025
Sheet 4 of 4

CONSULTANT:
RESPEC
9109 MENDENHALL MALL RD.
SUITE 4
JUNEAU, AK 99801
PHONE: 907.780.6060
AEC163270

PROJECT NO: 11749.22001

DATE: 2024-01-29

DRAWN BY: KAP

CHECKED BY: KAP

REVISION	DESCRIPTION	DATE

N