



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: December 26, 2012
EXPIRATION DATE: January 28, 2013
REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2012-920
WATERWAY: Womens Bay

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.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, 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 **Heather Boyer** at (907) 753-2877, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at **heather.l.boyer@usace.army.mil** if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Mr. Larry Stauffer, Northland Services, Post Office Box 24527, Seattle, Washington 98124.

AGENT: Ms. Laura Gurley, PND Engineers, Inc., 811 First Avenue, Suite 570, Seattle, Washington 98104, 206-624-1387.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Sections 21 and 28, T. , R. W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Kodiak C-2; Latitude 57.7274° N., Longitude 152.5308° W.; Kodiak Island Borough; Shannon Point, 7205 Rezanof Drive, in Kodiak, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to construct a new freight facility with a flat upland operations area.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to place 60,000 cubic yards of fill into 3.2 acres of tidelands. Project components include demolition of existing upland structures; fill placement for the upland operation area and a gravel ramp; a 23-foot by 43-foot approach pier supported by 6 steel piles connecting to a 19-foot by 120-foot transfer bridge stabilized by two 30-inch steel guide piles; and four mooring dolphins each consisting of one vertical 48-inch steel pile and two 24-inch

batter piles. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-9), dated November 16, 2012.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For a more detailed project description and other information provided by the applicant see sheets 1-4 of the attached project drawings dated November 16, 2012.

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 stated that the area of fill required has been minimized by identifying a site with two natural points extending into Womens Bay that can be incorporated into the workable upland area.

b. Minimization: The applicant stated that the area of fill has been further minimized by extending the transfer bridge to reach deeper water required to meet the vessel draft instead of expanding the fill area footprint. This would decrease the potential environmental impact of the project to fish and other wildlife as well as decrease the amount of affected navigable waters of the United States. Fill limits were set at elevation -6-feet Mean Low Low Water (MLLW) which are capable of being clearly viewed at low water. Low water viewing did not identify any significant habitat that could be affected by fill placement. The minimum number and size of piles have been used in the design to reduce noise impacts to aquatic organisms during construction. Best Management Practices (detailed on the attached sheet 4 of 9, dated November 16, 2012) would be employed to minimize impacts to water quality, fish life, and the environment during construction.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant stated that the project would result in the loss of fairly low quality habitat and has not proposed compensatory mitigation at this time.

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 listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Commander at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO 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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the following species listed as threatened: northern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris kenyoni*) and its designated critical habitat, Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and the endangered Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*). Although likely rare in the

project area it is also within the range of the following whales listed as endangered: fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), north Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*) and Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*).

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 any of 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 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, 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 the known range of the Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), and pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*). 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, 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 Alaska District 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 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 right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

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 of Engineers 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 of Engineers 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 and a Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION
555 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617
PHONE: (907) 269-7564/FAX: (907) 334-2415

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR
STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. POA-2012-920, Womens Bay, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.