# **CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request**

version 2.14

(Submission #: HQ9-9175-S8KZF, version 1)

Digitally signed by: dec.alaska.gov Date: 2025.01.14 03:10:13 -09:00 Reason: Submission Data Location: State of Alaska

# **Details**

Site: Seward Cruise Ship Passenger Dock and Terminal Facility Project

Submission ID HQ9-9175-S8KZF

# **Form Input**

#### **Form Instructions**

#### **Form Instructions**

Instructions for filling out the 401 Prefiling Meeting Request Form are located on the Alaska DEC website at the link below. 401 Prefiling Meeting Request Form Instructions

**Agents**: For Delegation of Authority to act on behalf of the applicant in processing the application, use the following form, have signed, and upload with application.

• Delegation of Authority - 401 Application

# Contact Information (1 of 2)

#### **Required Contacts**

The following **Contact Roles are** *REQUIRED*. Please select the appropriate role(s) for each contact and complete the contact details. Multiple role(s) may be assigned to each unique individual.

- Applicant (Responsible Party)
- Billing Contact

#### Contact Role(s)

Application Preparer Billing Contact Consultant

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#### Contact

**Prefix** 

NONE PROVIDED

First Name
Robin

Last Name
Reich

**Title** 

Environmental Planner/Owner

**Organization Name** 

Solstice Alaska Consulting

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-929-5960

**Email** 

solsticeak@solsticeak.com

**Mailing Address** 

2607 Fairbanks Street

Suit B

Anchorage, AK 99503

# Contact Information (2 of 2)

#### **Required Contacts**

The following **Contact Roles are** *REQUIRED*. Please select the appropriate role(s) for each contact and complete the contact details. Multiple role(s) may be assigned to each unique individual.

- Applicant (Responsible Party)
- Billing Contact

#### Contact Role(s)

Applicant

#### Contact

**Prefix** 

NONE PROVIDED

First Name Last Name Jason Davis

**Title** President

**Organization Name** 

Turnagain Marine Construction

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 9072618960

**Email** 

jdavis@turnagain.us

**Mailing Address** 

5050 Cordova St.

Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99503

# Project / Facility Site Info

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A copy of the federal permit or license application is required to be submitted with the request for the water quality certification. (18 AAC 15.130, 18 AAC 15.180)

#### **Federal Agency**

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Permit License Number (ex. USACE: POA-XXXX-XXXX; FERC: FERC-xxxx-xxxx; EPA: AK#######)

POA-1965-00034

#### **Project Name or Title**

Seward Cruise Ship Passenger Dock and Terminal Facility Project

#### **Primary Receiving Waterbody Name**

NONE PROVIDED

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date	
09/01/2025	04/30/2026	

Approximate date(s) when any Discharge(s) may commence (+/- 30 days)

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date	
Dredge Discharge	09/01/2025	04/30/2026	
DTH cuttings	09/01/2025	04/30/2026	

#### Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

Turnagain Marine Construction proposes the removal of the existing passenger terminal building, passenger dock, and steel piles; dredging and offshore disposal of dredged materials; and installing new steel piles to support a new cruise ship dock. The proposed cruise ship berth would consist of a 300-foot by 50-foot pile supported fixed dock, a 100-foot transition ramp, a 780-foot by 100-foot floating dock structure supported by 3 float restraint dolphins, and 2 mooring dolphins in marine waters. Pile removal and installation activities will occur for approximately 583 hours over 203 (not necessarily consecutive) days. Dredging will also occur for approximately 1,440 hours over 120 (not necessarily consecutive) days. The entire project is not expected to last more than eight months. There is no blasting proposed as part of this project.

#### The project would remove:

- The existing passenger terminal building (26,555 square feet)
- The existing (out of water) dock fenders
- 1,820 existing 14-inch-diameter steel piles
- Ten (10) 20-inch-diameter steel piles that compose two mooring dolphins
- The entire existing concrete deck
- The concrete pile caps
- Any navigation obstructions within 120 feet of the proposed dock area
- Approximately 183,000 CY of material (dredge) in the area along the existing dock
- 100 temporary 36-inch diameter temporary steel piles

#### The project would install:

- 100 temporary 36-inch diameter temporary steel piles to guide permanent piles into place (to be removed before project completion, see above)
- 76 permanent 48-inch diameter steel pies
- 16 permanent 60-inch diameter steel piles
- 16 permanent 72-inch diameter steel piles
- Dock components such as a bull rail, fenders, mooring cleats, a pre-cast concrete dock surface, a passenger walkway, a hand rail, and mast lights (installed out of the water)

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#### Project Purpose (Describe the reason(s) for discharge)

The purpose of the project is to replace the existing ARRC Passenger Dock so that it can safely accommodate cruise ships. The ARRC passenger dock, constructed over 55 years ago, has reached the end of its design life and needs to be replaced to maintain safety and function. A 2013 site condition assessment of the dock found significant corrosion and deterioration of the structural supports (ARRC 2017). The cost of necessary repairs in addition to over twenty years of extensive maintenance projects is neither practical nor sustainable. Additionally, the existing Dale R. Lindsey Alaska Railroad Intermodal Terminal building is in poor condition and cannot accommodate current cruise ship passenger capacities (ARRC 2017a).

Accessible by road, rail, plane, and boat, Seward is the primary embarking and disembarking location for most tourists visiting Southcentral and Interior Alaska. Cruises continue to be one of the fastest-growing sectors of tourism, and the cruise ship capacity forecast is to grow 19 percent in the next 4 years (CLIA 2024a). In 2023, there were about 244,500 cruise passengers that purchased ARRC tickets which accounted for about 45% of the total passengers on ARRC trains in 2023 (ARRC 2024). In 2024, 104 cruise ships were expected to call at the Port of Seward (CLIA 2024). This project will enable Seward to continue to function as an important cruise ship passenger destination.

Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC). 2024. Passenger Services Business Facts. Accessed at https://www.alaskarailroad.com/sites/default/files/Communications/FACT-SHEET\_2024\_ARRC\_Passenger\_Business.pdf on July 29, 2024.

ARRC 2017. Seward Marine Terminal Expansion Planning: Passenger Traffic Study. Accessed at https://www.alaskarailroad.com/sites/default/files/Communications/SEWARD\_PASSENGER\_STUDY.pdf on August 15, 2024.

ARRC. 2017a. Seward Marine Terminal Expansion Planning: Master Plan. Accessed at https://www.alaskarailroad.com/sites/default/files/Communications/MASTER\_PLAN.pdf on June 20, 2024.

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA). 2024. Port Schedules. Accessed at https://akcruise.org/port-schedule/?port=SEWARD&ship=0&date\_from&date\_to&search\_schedule=Get%20Port%20Schedules on June 12, 2024.

CLIA. 2024a. 2024 State of the Cruise Industry Report Shows Cruise Tourism Has Surpassed Historical Levels, Demonstrates its Significant Economic Contribution and Leadership in Environmental Sustainability and Responsible Tourism. Accessed at https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/2024-state-of-the-cruise-industry-report-shows-cruise-tourism-has-surpassed-historical-levels-demonstrates-its-significant-economic-contribution-and-leadership-in-environmental-sustainability-and-responsible-tourism-302111983.html on August 5, 2024.

# Is any portion of the work already complete?

#### Description of current activity site conditions

The proposed project is in the City of Seward on the Kenai Peninsula at the head of Resurrection Bay in Southcentral Alaska. The current dock, that needs to be replaced, is located approximately two km (1.24 miles) north of downtown Seward. The project would impact Resurrection Bay, a navigable water under Federal jurisdiction. The project is located in the city of Seward (latitude 60.119058 and longitude -149.428333) which according to the national wetland mapper is in estuarine and marine wetland.

Resurrection Bay is a deep 56 km (35 mile)-long fjord on the southeastern coast of the Kenai Peninsula that opens into the Gulf of Alaska. The bay measures between 3 and 6 km wide and over 293 meters deep. The bay is 1 to 20 meters deep near the project area (NOAA 2023).

According to the ShoreZone Mapper (NMFS 2024), the shoreline at the proposed dock site in Resurrection Bay has the following characteristics:

- Habitat Class: protected/partially mobile/sediment or rock sediment
- ♠ Coastal Class: man-made permeable
- Biological Wave Exposure: protected

NMFS. 2024. Alaska ShoreZone Mapper. Accessed at https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/mapping/sz\_js/ on May 23, 2024

NOAA. 2023. Navigational Chart 16682: Cape Resurrection to Two Arm Bay. Accessed at https://charts.noaa.gov/PDFs/16682.pdf on May 23, 2024.

#### Relevant Site Data, Photographs that Represent Current Site Conditions, or other Relevant Documentation

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Is this a linear project? (i.e., utility line, road, etc.)

No

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#### **Project Address**

[NO STREET ADDRESS SPECIFIED]
[NO CITY SPECIFIED], AK [NO ZIP CODE SPECIFIED]

Visit the link below to help with conversion between DMS and Latitude/Longitude DSM - Lat/Long converter

#### **Project Location**

60.119058,-149.428333

Visit the following link if you need to convert the lat/long to get the **PLSS information**Converter for Section, Township, and Range

#### PLSS Location (Public Land Survey System)

State Tax Parcel ID	Borough/Municipality	Meridian	Section	Township	Range
NONE PROVIDED	Kenai Peninsula Borough	Seward	3	1	1

#### **Directions to Site**

Coming into Seward via the Seward Highway, turn left onto Port Avenue and drive for 0.4 miles, then turn right and go for 0.2 miles.

#### Federal Agency Contact (1 of 1)

Have you been working with anyone in the Federal Agency?

Yes

**Federal Contact Role** 

**USACE** 

#### **Federal Agency Contact**

First Name
Jennifer

Last Name
Mercer

Title

Regulatory Project Manager, Southeast Section

**Organization Name** 

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-753-2779

**Email** 

jennifer.a.mercer@usace.army.mil

#### Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?

Yes

How many acres?

113.23

How much volume? (Cubic Yards)

183,000.00

Is the dredging considered a new project, or maintenance?

New Project

# Tier Analysis

A tier analysis is comprised of a layered approach to determine the need for testing the dredge material to aid in generating

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physical, chemical, toxicity and bioaccumulation information, but not more information than is necessary to make factual **TREGION** is a series of tiers (I • IV) or levels of intensity (and cost) of investigation. It is necessary to proceed through the tiers only until information is sufficient to make factual determinations, no further testing is required.

•

- **Tier I Site Evaluation and History**. The initial tier (Tier I) uses readily available, existing information (including all previous testing). For certain dredge materials with readily apparent potential for environmental impact (or lack thereof), information collected in Tier I may be sufficient for making factual determinations.
- Tier II Chemical Testing is concerned solely with sediment and water chemistry.
- Tier III Biological Testing (bioassay and/or bioaccumulation testing) is concerned with well-defined, nationally accepted toxicity and bioaccumulation testing procedures.
- Tier IV Special Studies allows for case-specific laboratory and field testing, and is intended to for use in unusual circumstances.

For more information regarding a Tier analysis, see below references

•

**EPA Inland Testing Manual** 

• USACE Seattle District Civil Works DMMP User Manual

#### Has a Tier analysis been conducted of the dredged prism?

Yes

#### Attach tier analysis and sample results

<u>SewardDock\_DredgingReport\_Sediment\_2015.pdf - 12/30/2024\_10:40\_AM</u>

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

## Fill Material to be Discharged

#### Will Fill Material be Discharged?

Yes

#### For fill material, identify the material source

**DTH Cuttings** 

Types of material being discharged and the amount of each type (cubic yards)

Туре	Cubic Yards
DTH Cuttings	580

#### Surface area in (acres or linear feet) of wetlands or other waters filled

Ī	Surface Area	Units	
Ī	0	Acres	

# **Discharge Location Information (1 of 1)**

Identify the location and nature of any potential discharge that may result from the proposed project and the location of receiving waters

Discharge Location ID (001, 002, 003, - increment by one)

001

## **Location Description**

**Dredged Material Discharge** 

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#### Placement of Dredged/Fill material discharge

In Water

NOTE: if you have a receiving water that is Wetlands, just enter the generic term "Wetlands". Do not enter "Wetlands of Tanana River", for example.

Please select 'Other' if your waterbody is not in the list below.

You can start typing the name of the waterbody to filter the list.

#### Receiving Waterbody / Wetlands Name

Resurrection Bay

**Discharge Location** 

60.109851,-149.424471

#### **Other Pollutant Sources**

#### **Contaminated Site Information**

Determine if your project is **within 1,500 feet** of a known Alaska DEC Contaminated Site. See the *Alaska DEC Contaminated Web Map* below. This will help you to identify if any potential pollutants/parameters of concern may be present on your project site., see DEC's website:

- Contaminated Sites Web Map
- Contaminated Sites Database Search website

#### Is the project within 1,500 feet of a known contaminated site?

Yes

#### **Contaminated Sites**

Hazard ID#	Contaminated Site Name	Contaminant Type	Latitude	Longitude	In soil or groundwater?	CS Staff Contact
27085	lcicle Seafoods Seward Facility	gasoline range organics, diesel range organics, residual range organics, benzene, toluene, eththylbenzene, xylenes, and polnuclear aromatic hydrocarbon	60.1214	-149.4358	Soil	Dawn Wilburn

#### Describe the identified contaminated site(s) or groundwater plume within 1,500 feet

There is one active site within 1,500 feet of the proposed project, hazard ID #27085, lcicle Seafoods Seward Facility. It is approximately 1,478.4 feet northwest of the proposed project. In 2019 the facility reported a 9-gallon used oil/diesel mix spill. During clean-up activities a historical spill was discovered of unknown origin and product. Samples were taken and the results showed gasoline range organics, diesel range organics, residual range organics, benzene, toluene, eththylbenzene, xylenes, and polnuclear aromatic hydrocarbons exceeded the ADEC Method Two cleanup levels.

There are 3 contaminated sites (Hazard #1523, #25411, #22982) in the vicinity of the proposed project with a status of clean-up complete. Two sites (#22982 and #25411) at the ARRC Railroad site are within 200 feet, and the third (#25411) is at Shoreside Petroleum which is approximately 1,478.4 feet northwest of the project site.

#### Parameters of Concern that may be present in discharge

#### Parameter(s) of Concern

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Identify the parameters of concern that may be present in your discharge from the dredge and/or fill material.

Note, TURBIDITY and SEDIMENT are routine parameters associated with dredge and/or fill activities.

Consider if other parameters may be present from past activities in the area such as contamianted site data, impaired waters or other relevant water quality data, or other parameters of concern identified during the application process.

#### Parameter(s)

Turbidity Sediment

If known, describe respective concentrations, persistence, and potential impacts to the receiving water and data on parameters that may alter the effects of the discharge to the receiving water

Unknown

#### **Impaired Waters**

An *impaired waterbody* are those listed as a **Category 4 [304(b)] or Category 5 [303(d)]** in the current EPA approved *Alaska s Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.* 

For the most recently Approved Integrated Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment Report (Integrated Report), see DEC's website:

Integrated Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment Report https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report

Does a discharge of any parameter identified above occur to an impaired waterbody?

If determined necessary and requested by the Department, submit sufficient and credible baseline water quality information for the receiving water which meets the requirements of 18 AAC 70.016(a)(6)(A-C).

#### Avoidance & Minimization BMPs and Mitigation Measures

Describe how impacts are being avoided and minimized on the project site. Include best management practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion controls that will be implemented to minimize environmental impacts, and any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge.

Include a description of any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge

Plans for avoiding, minimizing, and responding to releases of sediments, contaminants, fuels, oil, and other pollutants will be developed and implemented.

#### **Avoidance Measures**

• Complete avoidance of waters of the United State is not possible in order to meet the project purpose and need. The project would be located within Resurrection Bay along a previously disturbed shoreline.

#### **Minimization Measures**

- The project uses the most compact design practicable (with the least number of piles and smallest size of piles) to minimize impacts to waters of the United States.
- The project footprint is within a previously developed area.
- The project uses a design that will dredge within the regularly dredged basin.
- The project uses a design that will not use blasting.
- The site that is being proposed as a dredge disposal site, is a previously used site for dredge disposal.
- All piles being removed (including temporary piles and already existing piles) will be removed slowly to allow for sediment to slough off near the mudline

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#### **Mitigation Measures**

- Spill response equipment will be kept on-site during construction and operation.
- Turnagain will develop further mitigation measures if required by ADEC.

#### Social / Economic Importance

#### Social or Economic Importance

(18 AAC 70.016(c)(5): Provide information that demonstrates the accommodation of important social or economic development. The applicant shall complete either a social OR economic importance analysis (or both) for each affected community in the area where the receiving water for the proposed discharge is located.

#### **Social Importance Analysis**

Community services provided Infrastructure improvements

#### **Economic Importance Analysis**

Commercial activities
Access to a transportation network

#### Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project

As mentioned in a the purpose and need section, the Alaska Railroad passenger dock, which was constructed over 55 years ago, has reached the end of its design life and needs to be replaced to maintain safety and function. This will enable Seward to continue to function as an important cruise ship passenger destination as the cruise industry continues to grow.

#### Description of Social or Economic Importance, if needed

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

## **List of Other Permits or Certificates**

\*Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building, and flood plain permits.

# Include a list of all other federal, interstate, tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed project, including all approvals or denials already received.

Agency	Type of Approval*	Identification Number	Date Applied	Date Approved	Date Denied
NMFS	MMPA/IHA	N/A	10/17/2024	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
USFWS	MMPA/IHA	N/A	11/08/2024	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
USACE	Section 404/10 Permit	POA-1965-00034	08/08/2024	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
City of Seward	Floodplain permit	N/A	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
NMFS	ESA/Biological Assessment	N/A	10/24/2024	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
City of Seward	Building Permit	N/A	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED

# Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 8)

**Contact Role** 

OTHER\_REG\_CNTCT

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#### Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name
Jennifer

Last Name
Mercer

**Title** 

Regulatory Project Manager, Southeast Section

**Organization Name** 

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-753-2779

**Email** 

jennifer.a.mercer@usace.army.mil

# Other Agency or Local Contacts (2 of 8)

#### **Contact Role**

OTHER\_REG\_CNTCT

#### Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name Last Name Heather Patterson

Title

Wildlife Biologist

**Organization Name** 

U.S. fish and Wildlife Services

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-786-3427

**Email** 

heather\_patterson@fws.gov

#### Other Agency or Local Contacts (3 of 8)

#### **Contact Role**

OTHER\_REG\_CNTCT

#### Other Agency and or Local Contacts

**First Name**Sierra

Last Name
Franks

Title

Branch Chief Regional Endangered Species Act Section 7 Coordinator

**Organization Name** 

NOAA

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-531-6610

Email

sierra.franks@noaa.gov

# Other Agency or Local Contacts (4 of 8)

#### **Contact Role**

OTHER\_REG\_CNTCT

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#### Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name Last Name Veronica Runge

Title

Contractor- OPR Senior Analyst

**Organization Name** 

Supporting Alaska Region, Office of Protected Resources, NOAA

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 301-427-7830

**Email** 

veronica.runge@noaa.gov

# Other Agency or Local Contacts (5 of 8)

#### **Contact Role**

OTHER\_REG\_CNTCT

#### Other Agency and or Local Contacts

**First Name**Summer

Last Name
Owens

**Title** 

Contractor, Ocean Associates, MMPA Analyst

**Organization Name** 

supporting NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 301-427-7815

**Email** 

summer.owens@noaa.gov

#### Other Agency or Local Contacts (6 of 8)

#### **Contact Role**

OTHER\_REG\_CNTCT

#### Other Agency and or Local Contacts

**First Name**Stephanie

Last Name
Burgess

Title

Regulatory Program Lead, Marine Mammals Management

**Organization Name** 

**USFWS** 

Phone Type Number Extension

Mobile 907-223-9172

Email

steohanie\_burgess@fws.gov

# Other Agency or Local Contacts (7 of 8)

#### **Contact Role**

OTHER\_REG\_CNTCT

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#### Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name Last Name Courtney Bringhurst

**Title** Planner

**Organization Name** 

City of Seward

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-224-4020

**Email** 

cbringhurst@cityofseward.net

## Other Agency or Local Contacts (8 of 8)

#### **Contact Role**

OTHER REG CNTCT

#### Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name
Benjamin
Last Name
Laws

Title

Incidental Take Program Supervisor

**Organization Name** 

Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 301-427-8425

**Email** 

benjamin.laws@noaa.gov

#### **Attachments**

#### Copy of Federal Application (USACE, EPA, or FERC, etc.)

Seward Passenger Dock USACE App 08082024.pdf - 12/30/2024 10:40 AM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Figures and/or Drawings/Plan Sets. To include a map or diagram of the proposed activity site, including the proposed activity boundaries in relation to local streets, roads, and highways.

Permit Drawings and Disposal site.pdf - 12/30/2024 10:40 AM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

#### **Document Attachments**

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

#### **Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application**

delegation-of-authority-401-application.pdf - 12/30/2024 10:40 AM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:

- 1) in the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall management of the project or operation;
- 2) in the case of a partnership, by a general partner;
- 3) in the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; and
- 4) in the case of a municipal, state, federal or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.

The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my

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knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

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# Agreements and Signature(s)

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:

- 1) in the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall management of the project or operation;
- 2) in the case of a partnership, by a general partner;
- 3) in the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; and
- 4) in the case of a municipal, state, federal or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee. The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Signed By

jdavis@turnagain.us on 01/14/2025 at 3:04 AM

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