



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	December 17, 2024
EXPIRATION DATE:	January 16, 2025
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2001-01082
WATERWAY:	Beaufort Sea

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 Jonathan Hegna at 907-753-2708 or toll free from within Alaska at 800-478-2712, or by email at Jonathan.R.Hegna@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Hilcorp Alaska LLC
3800 Centerpoint Dr
Suite 1400
Anchorage, AK 99503

LOCATION: The project is located approximately 148 miles east of Deadhorse along the shoreline of the Beaufort Sea at Latitude 70.174616° North, Longitude -146.256693° West, North Slope Borough, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to conduct screeding and dredging in order to maintain sufficient navigable water depths to allow for safe barge access and to allow for the safe loading and unloading of equipment from barges at the service pier for the Point Thompson Unit. In instances when a barge must be grounded on the seabed to allow one or more heavy objects to be transferred between the barge and the dock, the seabed must be screeded and/or dredged to provide the proper level surface to support the barge.

PROPOSED WORK: The proposed project would involve screeding and dredging during the summers of 2025 and 2026 in front of the service pier at the Point Thompson Unit to maintain navigable barge access. The service pier is located approximately 70 feet offshore from the central pad and is where screeding would take place. The area where screeding and/or dredging would occur is an estimated 154,200 square feet (3.53 acres) area of subtidal seafloor. The dredging and screeding area starts at the end of the service pier and goes seaward (north) approximately 500 feet and east and west approximately 450 feet (Figure 3). The screeding specific area is approximately 815' x 120' (2.25 acres). Barges transporting equipment, materials or supplies to the service pier require a minimum of 5.5 foot- MLLW depth to access the pier. To achieve the needed seabed profile, dredged material would be removed via excavator to a barge deck where the material would be drained. The drained material would be taken back to the dock where a loader would place the material in a rock truck and transport it to an existing pad with gravel storage. Approximately 5,740 cubic yards of material would be distributed or removed as part of the project. These construction activities would impact approximately 5.78 acres of ocean waters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed project will require the following additional authorizations: Alaska Department Natural Resources, Department of Oil and Gas Leas on Operations North Slope Amendment (Not Submitted); North Slope Borough Administrative Approval (Not Submitted); United States Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammal Protection Act Incidental Take Regulation (LOA 24-INC-04, Issued); United States Fish and Wildlife Service Marine Mammal Protection Act Intentional Take Regulation (LOA 23-INT-11, Issued).

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: Hilcorp has reviewed options to avoid dredging adjacent to the Point Thompson Unit service pier. However, the area experiences sedimentation due to Beaufort Sea currents, storms, and addition of sediment into the water column from area rivers and run-off. If project specific dredging does not occur, the operability and initial purpose for the construction of the pier may no longer be met and use of the dock for barge and other vessel access may not be able to continue. Therefore, Hilcorp has determined that complete avoidance of impacts is not practicable.

b. Minimization: Hilcorp has stated that the proposed project specific dredging would be limited to the current scope, area, and volumes necessary to accommodate vessels utilizing the Point Thompson Unit. Hilcorp proposes to screed and dredge approximately 5,740 cubic yards of material. The design depths reflect the necessary hull draft for large sea-lift operations. The requested volumes reflect the minimum dredging/screeding necessary to meet operational design depths for the facility. Screeding and dredging will only be conducted to provide utilization of the Point Thompson Unit service pier as was previously permitted in the original approval of the facility by the USACE. Hilcorp states that they have avoided and minimized, to the extent practicable, impacts to waters of the US to access the Point Thompson Unit service pier.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: Hilcorp has determined that no other alternative is available to meet the stated purpose for the project and use of the Point Thompson Unit service pier. Additionally, this work was previously permitted during development in 2012. No new or increased impacts to the environment from these activities are anticipated. Therefore, Hilcorp proposes that no compensatory mitigation be required for the proposed work at the Point Thompson Unit service pier.

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 Corps has not made an effect determination at this time regarding potential impacts to historic properties. As applicable under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, this application will be 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.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*) and the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*). Designated critical habitat for the polar bear occurs within the project area.

We have determined that the described activity may affect the threatened or endangered species listed above that may occur within the project area. We will initiate 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 project area contains mapped EFH. We are currently gathering information regarding EFH managed 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 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 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:

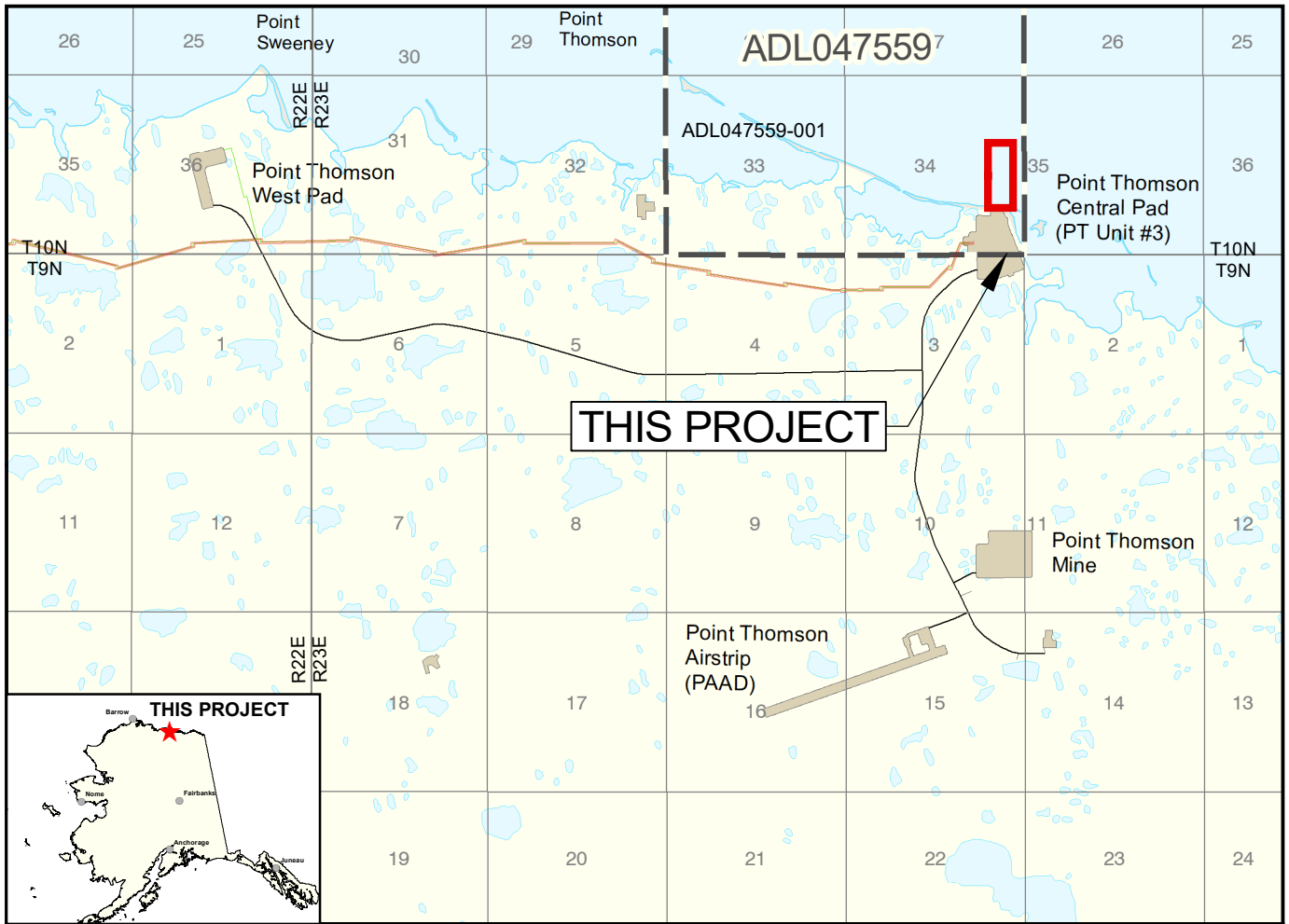
(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(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

Enclosures



This map is based on U.S.G.S quad Flaxman Island (A-4) and on the Unit Operator's Facility Maps.



PROJECT LOCATION:

POINT THOMSON UNIT - CENTRAL PAD

NAD83

LAT. = 70° 10' 19.480" / DD 70.172078

LONG. = -146° 15' 22.337" / DD -146.256205

ALASKA STATE PLANE ZONE 4, NAD83

X = 2,105,282.34 FEET

Y = 5,926,624.12 FEET

ADL # 047559 SEC. 34 T10N, R23E UMIAT M.

DATUM: MEAN SEA LEVEL

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER:

STATE OF ALASKA

HILCORP NORTH SLOPE, LLC

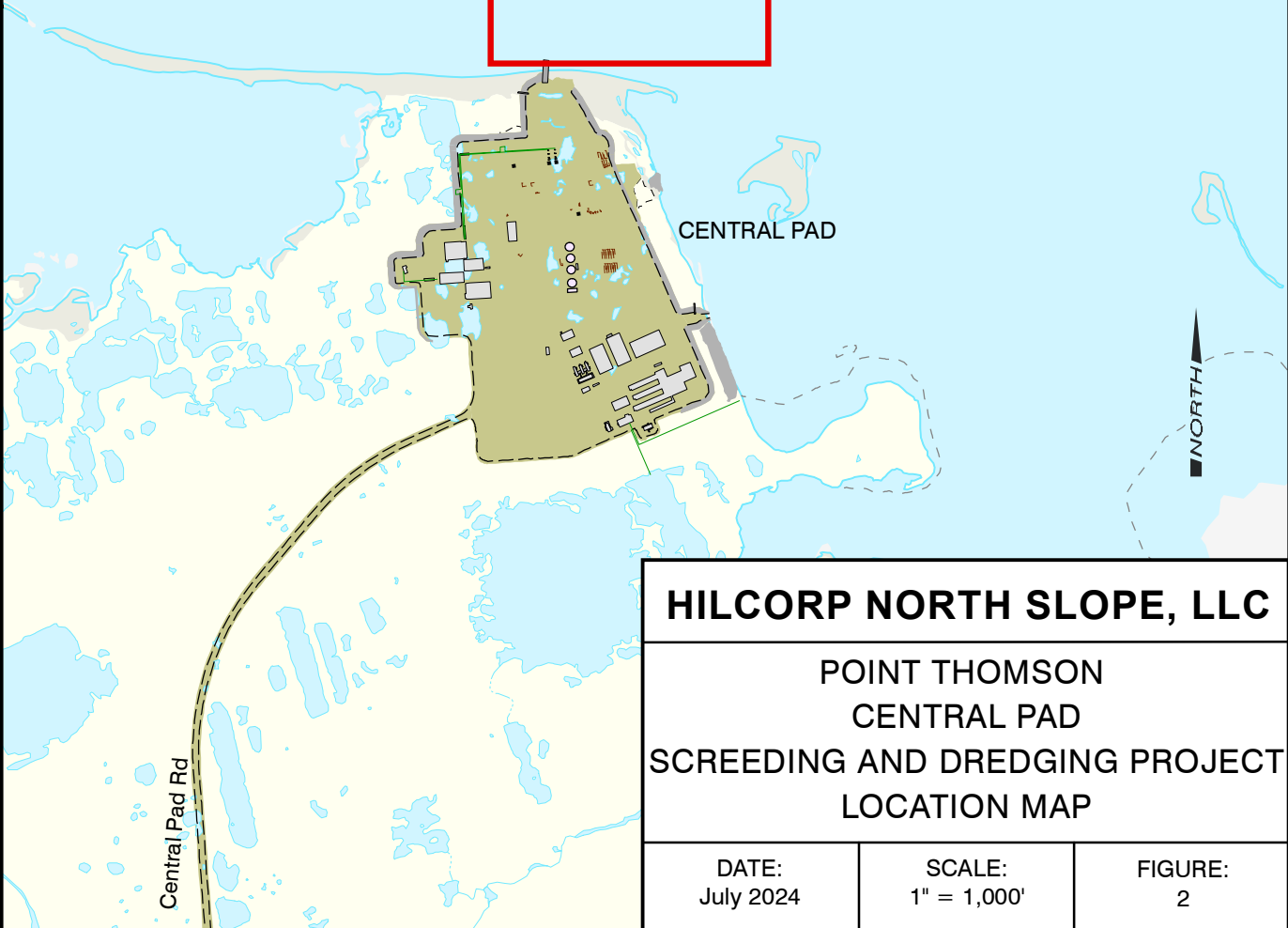
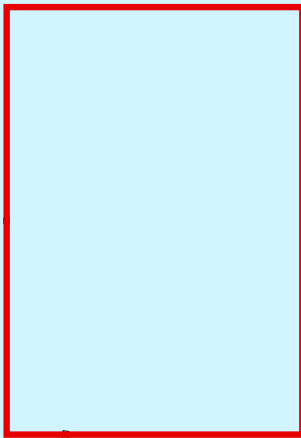
POINT THOMSON
CENTRAL PAD
SCREEDING AND DREDGING PROJECT
VICINITY MAP

DATE:
July 2024

SCALE:
1" = 1 Mile

FIGURE:
1

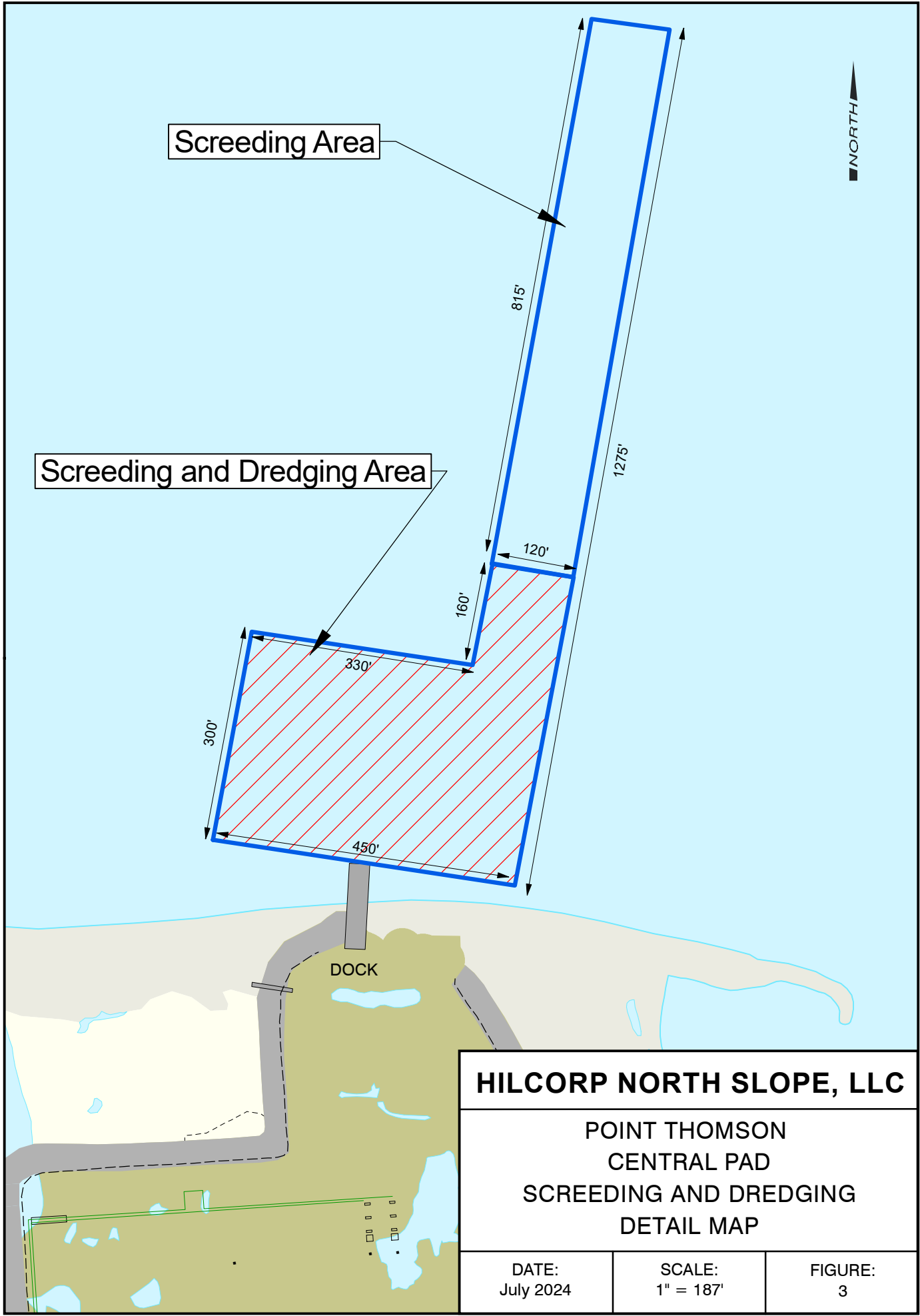
This Project Pt Thomson
Screeding and Dredging Project
(See Detail Figure 3)



HILCORP NORTH SLOPE, LLC

POINT THOMSON
CENTRAL PAD
SCREEDING AND DREDGING PROJECT
LOCATION MAP

DATE: July 2024	SCALE: 1" = 1,000'	FIGURE: 2
--------------------	-----------------------	--------------



Screeding Area

Screeding and Dredging Area

NORTH

HILCORP NORTH SLOPE, LLC

**POINT THOMSON
CENTRAL PAD
SCREEDING AND DREDGING
DETAIL MAP**

DATE: July 2024	SCALE: 1" = 187'	FIGURE: 3
--------------------	---------------------	--------------