

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.15

(Submission #: HQB-5EGE-0N06S, version 1)

Digitally signed by:
dec.alaska.gov
Date: 2025.05.01 13:16:14 -08:00
Reason: Submission Data
Location: State of Alaska

Details

Site: Fairbanks Gravel Road and Tanana River Gravel Harvest

Submission ID HQB-5EGE-0N06S

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)

Consultant

Billing Contact

Application Preparer

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name Last Name
Robin Reich

Title

President

Organization Name

Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc.

Phone Type Number Extension
Business 907 929 5960

Email

solsticeak@solsticeak.com

Mailing Address

2607 Fairbanks Street
Suite B
Anchorage, AK 99503

[NO COUNTRY SPECIFIED]

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
John Binkley

Title

Owner

Organization Name

Godspeed Leasing, LLC

Phone Type Number Extension
Business 907 479 6673

Email

john@riverboatdiscovery.com

Mailing Address

5325 Chena Small Tracts Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

[NO COUNTRY SPECIFIED]

Project / Facility Site Info

Identify the applicable federal license or permit

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-2025-00081

Project Name or Title

Fairbanks Gravel Road and Tanana River Gravel Harvest

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name

NONE PROVIDED

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
03/20/2025	10/20/2026

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Gravel road construction	03/20/2025	10/20/2026

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

John Binkley proposes to construct an approximately 4,070 linear foot gravel road in Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB), Alaska, to access his property and an existing cabin. Gravel for the proposed road would be sourced from the Tanana River which runs adjacent to the property.

Gravel harvest would occur in spring 2025 during low water. Road construction would begin in spring 2025 and would occur for an estimated 18 months.

Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. (SolsticeAK) is providing permitting support for the project.

Gravel Harvest

The proposed project would include the removal of approximately 15,000 cubic yards of river gravel from a designated material site (ADL 419774) from below ordinary high water (OHW) of the Tanana River.

Gravel would be removed from a gravel bar in the Tanana River using an excavator, dozer, and dump truck during low water in spring. The material may be stockpiled in uplands until construction of the road can commence (described below). About 2,500 cy would be set aside for existing private road maintenance by others.

Road Construction

The proposed project would involve the installation of an approximately 4,070 feet long by 18 feet wide gravel road. To construct the road, geotextile would be placed along the length of the proposed road alignment and overlain with river gravel. Approximately 3,208 feet of the road, from where it would intersect with the existing Rosie Creek Trail to where the road would enter an uplands area would consist of two feet of gravel with four-foot shoulders. Approximately 858 feet of the road constructed within the uplands area would consist of one foot of gravel with two-foot-wide shoulders. One car pullout, approximately 20 feet by 50 feet, would be constructed. For the proposed road, approximately 2.38 acres (12,500 cubic yards) of gravel fill would be discharged.

Approximately 1.91 acres of fill would be placed in wetlands and 0.46 acres would be placed in uplands.

Drainage

Four culverts would be installed at natural drainage points along the proposed road. These culverts are expected to be standard 24-inch diameter steel pipe or similar.

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

The purpose of the project is to construct a road to connect property owned by John Binkley to the existing Rosie Creek Trail. A road is needed to access an existing cabin and two parcels of land owned by John Binkley, all of which are only accessible by snowmachine or by foot.

In the FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan, the property where the proposed project would occur is designated as Preferred Residential Land (FNSB 2024). Preferred Residential Land is described I the FNSB Regional Comprehensive Plan as ◆land determined to be more suitable than other lands for development because it is generally: a) on slopes of 20% or less, b) not designated wetlands, c) has a lower probability of containing detrimental permafrost conditions◆ (FNSB 2005).

Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). 2024. Regional Comprehensive Plan Mapper. Accessed at <https://www.fnsb.gov/435/Single-Purpose-Map-Gallery> on September 17, 2024.

FNSB. 2005. Fairbanks North Star Borough. Regional Comprehensive Plan. Adopted by the FNSB Assembly September 13 2005. Accessed at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/admin/PlanMgmt> on September 17, 2024.

Is any portion of the work already complete?

No

Description of current activity site conditions

Gravel extraction site:
A gravel bar in the Tanana River that is exposed during low water. It is a designated material site (ADL #419774).

Road site:
Within mostly undisturbed wetlands, much of the road would be adjacent to a cleared property line and cleared utility right-of-way.

Photos of the site are attached.

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

[Gravel bar3.jpg - 03/17/2025 08:52 AM](#)
[proposed rd property line.jpg - 03/17/2025 08:52 AM](#)
[Gravel bar winter.jpg - 03/17/2025 08:52 AM](#)
[Gravel bar4.jpg - 03/17/2025 08:52 AM](#)
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

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

Yes

Linear Feet

4,070

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

64.74008332685187,-148.10249830576402

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	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Fairbanks	14	2S	3W

Directions to Site

From Fairbanks, take the Parks Highway toward Ester and continue past Ester for approximately 3.5 miles. Turn left onto Cripple Creek Road and continue for 3.7 miles. Turn right onto Rosie Creek Trail. The west end of the proposed gravel road is located approximately 3.5 miles down Rosie Creek Trail on the left. The proposed gravel harvest area is located approximately 0.5 miles farther down Rosie Creek Trail on a gravel bar in the Tanana River.

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	Last Name	
Gwendolyn	Jacobson	
Title		
Regulatory Specialist		
Organization Name		
USACE		
Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907 347 5802	
Email		
Gwendolyn.A.Jacobson@usace.army.mil		

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?
Yes

How many acres?
2.89

How much volume? (Cubic Yards)
12,500.00

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 physical, chemical, toxicity and bioaccumulation information, but not more information than is necessary to make factual determinations. The tier analysis 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?

No

Note, if marked NO; A Tier analysis may be required later upon review of the request.

For more information regarding a Tier analysis, see below references

- [EPA Inland Testing Manual](#)
- [USACE Seattle District Civil Works DMMP User Manual](#)

Fill Material to be Discharged

Will Fill Material be Discharged?

Yes

For fill material, identify the material source

Gravel from the Tanana River

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

Type	Cubic Yards
River gravel (in wetlands)	11,000
River gravel (in uplands)	1,500

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

Surface Area	Units
1.91	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

Approximate road end points: lat 64.740864, long -148.112298 and lat 64.740870, long -148.086633

Placement of Dredged/Fill material discharge

Wetland

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

wetlands

Discharge Location

64.73968054779759,-148.10226815768692

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?

No

Parameters of Concern that may be present in discharge

Parameter(s) of Concern

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 contaminated site data, impaired waters or other relevant water quality data, or other parameters of concern identified during the application process.

Parameter(s)

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

N/A

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](https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report)

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

No

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

See below regarding avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.

Avoidance Measures

To meet the project's purpose and need construction must occur within wetlands and waters of the United States.

Minimization Measures

The proposed project site was chosen to avoid impacts to wetlands and waters as much as feasible while fulfilling the purpose and need of the project. The project uses the most direct route for the proposed road and uses an existing road as much as possible to minimize impacts to wetlands and waters of the United States. The project would minimize wetlands impacts by sourcing gravel from an existing material site in the Tanana River and utilizing an existing road and gravel haul road to transport material to the project site. Dredging would occur during low water, and away from open water as much as possible to avoid dredging in sensitive habitat areas, including salmon habitat.

Mitigation Measures

- ◆ Construction limits will be clearly staked along the entire road alignment.
- ◆ No stockpiles or staging will be placed within the river or in wetlands along the road alignment.
- ◆ Water quality will be protected during construction through best management practices, including:
Sediment prevention measures (i.e. silt fence or other means) will be placed and maintained. These devices would remain in place until all in-water work is complete.
- ◆ Natural vegetation will be retained where possible. Disturbed areas will be re-vegetated with native seeds and restored to preconstruction conditions.

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

NONE PROVIDED

Economic Importance Analysis

NONE PROVIDED

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project

N/A

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
USACE	DA Permit	POA-2025-00081	01/30/2025	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
DNR	Land Use Permit	LAS 35466	03/10/2025	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
DNR	Material Sales	ADL 422535	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Floodplain	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADF&G	Fish Habitat Permit	FH25-III-0031	03/10/2025	03/25/2025	NONE PROVIDED

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 1)

Contact Role

OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name Last Name

Victoria Nelson

Title

Natural Resource Specialist 2

Organization Name

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907 451 2018

Email

victoria.nelson@alaska.gov

Attachments

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

Tanana_Gravel_PermitApplication_signed.pdf - 03/17/2025 08:52 AM

Comment

Please note, since the application was submitted, consultation with USACE regarding the project design and mitigation measures is ongoing.

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.

Attachment Project Figures.pdf - 03/17/2025 09:51 AM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

delegation-of-authority-401-application_signed_prmt.pdf - 03/17/2025 08:52 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 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.

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 JOHN BINKLEY on 05/01/2025 at 1:07 PM