

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification - Modification

version 2.11

(Submission #: HQC-Z13H-C06NR, version 2)

Digitally signed by:
dec.alaska.gov
Date: 2025.06.04 13:52:13 -08:00
Reason: Submission Data
Location: State of Alaska

Details

Site: Skagway River Levee Repair

Submission ID HQC-Z13H-C06NR

Form Input

Form Instructions

Form Instructions

Instructions for filling out the 401 Water Quality Certification Request - Modification 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](#)

Modification Reason

Permit Number

ER-25-001

Are you modifying any of the following things for this permit?

NONE PROVIDED

Modification Description or Section Changes

- If you have a quick description that explains your modification you can add it below.
- Please check any section boxes below if you've made any additional changes in those sections as well.

If changing contact details for anyone associated with the permit or application, please add a note in the Modification Description box below.

Modification Description

Updating fill quantities

Modified Sections

Discharge Information

Instructions for filling out the 401 Certification Form are located on the Alaska DEC website at the link below.
[401 Certification Form Instructions](#)

Permit Information

Federal Permit License Number
ER 25-001

Contact Information (1 of 1)

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**

Edit the contact roles and details as needed. If the contact is no longer active, please remove all roles for the assigned person and indicate the contact is In-Active, and add a new contact with the appropriate roles versus writing over the previous one.

Contact Role(s)

Applicant
Billing Contact

Is this contact In-Active?

No

Contact

Prefix
NONE PROVIDED

First Name matthew.w.ferguson@usace.army.mil	Last Name matthew.w.ferguson@usace.army.mil
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Title
Biologist

Organization Name
US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District

Phone Type Business	Number 9077532711	Extension
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Email
matthew.w.ferguson@usace.army.mil

Mailing Address
2204 Third St
JBER, AK 99506
[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#####)
ER-25-001

Project Name or Title
Skagway River Levee Repair

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name
Skagway River

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
10/01/2026	04/30/2027

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Rock placement	10/01/2026	04/30/2027

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

The proposed repairs to the levee would include the placement of new rock to restore the level of protection to that of the original design. A small amount of quarry run rock would be placed to restore the design slope, and a more substantial quantity of armor stone would be placed to restore the width of the levee and enhance scour protection. Levee reaches, where the toe of the existing levee is buried by the natural aggradation of sand, would be excavated to allow access to the levee toe. The specific repair needs of the levee vary by reach, but the generic project description is substantially comprehensive.

Repair in place includes a construction length of approximately 6,500 linear feet, which will reconstruct the riverward levee side slopes and toe with Class V riprap for the entire length of the repairs. Approximately 46,000 cubic yards of armor stone and 6,000 cubic yards of quarry run rock would be required to repair the levee. Rock used would be provided by the contractor and subject to Corps specifications. The Corps assumes the rock would be sourced from an existing local quarry.

Approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sand would be excavated to allow access to the levee toe. The excavated material would be used to construct sacrificial berms on the sandbars to temporarily divert floodwater away from the levee. Excavated material would be restored to the toe of the levee after levee repairs are completed.

Based on the amount of Class III armor stone that was displaced during the flood of record, it was deemed critical to increase the armor stone size for stability and longevity of the structure. Increases in armor stone size are authorized from updated scour analysis. This will entail reshaping the riverward slope to a 1.5H:1V side slope, restoring the riverward toe to its original design width, and adding a one stone thickness Class V riprap armor layer over the existing levee. Due to scour and erosion of the existing slopes, quarry run rock will be used to reshape the existing structure with a 1.5H:1V side slope before the addition of Class V riprap. The construction work would be substantially completed by shore-based equipment. Work would take place during the winter to minimize impacts to aquatic resources and minimize impacts to construction due to flooding.

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

The USACE proposes to construct emergency repairs to the Skagway River levee in Skagway to restore flood risk management capabilities. The Skagway River levee protects public infrastructure and residential, commercial, and historical properties from flooding. The levee was damaged by significant flood events in 2022. Damages included a severe loss of the levee toe and riverward armor stone. If the levee is not repaired, erosion will continue. The Skagway Airport runway could become unusable.

Is any portion of the work already complete?

No

Description of current activity site conditions

The significant flood event occurred between 29 September 2022 and 04 October 2022 causing flood damage to the Skagway River Levee. The National Weather Service (NWS) stage gage at the Skagway River Bridge (SKGA2) exceeded flood stage on 01 October 2022. Flood stage occurs at 26.5 feet and the 2022 flood event reached a stage of 26.75 feet. The 2022 flood event was the flood of record for the NWS gage, but as no flow data or rating curve is available for the gage, and no datum conversion to NAVD88, the flood cannot be correlated to an AEP. The event was driven by a large precipitation event that lasted several days, originating from atmospheric river storm events.

During the flood, the Skagway River transported significant woody debris and sediment which dislodged slope armor along the toe and side slopes on several sections of the Skagway River Levee. Flood damages include severe loss of toe and slope armor. If the levee is not repaired and erosion continues, the airport runway would be damaged and would likely be inoperable, and property damage would occur at downstream inundated areas. The runway is critical infrastructure to the municipality of Skagway. It provides MedEvac capability for any injury or serious illness for both Skagway residents and Cruise Ship passengers as Skagway does not have Emergency Medical Care. The Dahl Memorial Medical Clinic only provides treatment for mild injuries and illnesses. Additionally, there is risk that an estimated life loss of 1 could occur if repairs are not made.

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.)

Yes

Linear Feet

6,500

Project Address

264 Broadway St
Skagway, AK 99840

Visit the link below to help with conversion between DMS and Latitude/Longitude

[DSM - Lat/Long converter](#)

Project Location

59.45961571205469,-135.31864194145936

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	Municipality of Skagway	Copper River	11	28S	59E

Directions to Site

NONE PROVIDED

Federal Agency Contact (1 of 1)

Have you been working with anyone in the Federal Agency?

No

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?

No

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](#)

Fill Material to be Discharged

Will Fill Material be Discharged?

Yes

For fill material, identify the material source

Assumed to be local quarry

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

Type	Cubic Yards
Armor stone	46,000
Quarry run	6,000
Sand	30,000

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

Surface Area	Units
5.4	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

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

Skagway River

Discharge Location

59.4596,-135.3186

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
27079	Temsco Helicopters Employee Housing Skagway	Diesel	59.4659	-135.3012	Soil	Dawn Wilburn
26623	Residence - 1410 Alaska Street	Petroleum	59.4623	-135.3095	Soil	Alena Voigt
27720	Skagway Block 15 Lots 11 & 12	Petroleum	59.4578	-135.3195	Soil	Sarah Durand

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

27079-On September 29, 2018 a release of diesel fuel was reported in the vicinity of three aboveground heating oil tanks at the Temsco Helicopters Employee Housing units in Skagway. It was later determined that an undetermined amount of diesel had been released to the ground due to a cracked coupling on one of the buried copper fuel lines connected to the three heating oil tanks. PVC pipe around the fuel line acted as a conduit and channeled the fuel to both ends of the pipe. Excavation and sampling was conducted in November, 2018. Approximately 45 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed. Diesel range organics remain in soil above DEC cleanup levels.

26623-On September 7, 2016, petroleum-impacted soil was encountered during maintenance on a buried waterline in the right-of-way adjacent to the residential property at 1410 Alaska Street. The source of the contamination was unknown. Diesel range organics, gasoline range organics, 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, 1-methylnaphthalene, and 2-methylnaphthalene were confirmed in subsurface soil above DEC cleanup levels. Excavated soil from the property was segregated and stored per 18 AAC 87.724. There are several drinking water wells within ~200 to 300 feet of the contamination. 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene was detected at 39 mg/kg which is above the migration to groundwater cleanup level of 23 mg/kg. 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane was detected at 0.73 mg/kg which exceeds the migration to groundwater cleanup level of 0.017 mg/kg. DRO is present up to 8,490 mg/kg, GRO at 780, and PAHs including naphthalene are above ADEC cleanup levels.

27720-Lots 11 and 12 have historically been used by the Municipality of Skagway for vehicle parking, heavy equipment storage and repair, equipment and material storage, drum storage, as well as the historic operation of a asphalt/tar batch plant. During a contamination assessment, test pits were dug to a depth of 6 feet below ground surface. No ground water was encountered at any of the test pits. Results from the assessment revealed diesel-range organics, benzene, and arsenic exceed migration to groundwater cleanup levels, with the highest contaminant concentrations found on Lot 12.

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)

Turbidity

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

There is no reason to believe contamination may be present in the fill material. Turbidity is not expected to cause appreciable impacts due to the high sediment load in the Skagway River

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

Use a grizzly or similar equipment to remove fines from rock prior to placement.

Avoidance Measures

Work would be conducted during the winter when water levels are naturally low.

Minimization Measures

Construction would occur during the winter when water levels are low to minimize impacts to aquatic resources

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation proposed because this is a maintenance project and the additional toe width is minor within the context of the river channel.

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

Infrastructure improvements

Public health or safety improvements

Economic Importance Analysis

Employment, job availability, and salary impacts

Tax base impacts

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project
The expected yearly damages prevented by the levee are \$6.19 million

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
NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	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**
Matthew Ferguson
Title
Biologist
Organization Name
US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Phone Type **Number** **Extension**
Business 9077532711
Email
matthew.w.ferguson@usace.army.mil

Attachments

Copy of Federal Application (USACE, EPA, or FERC, etc.)
[Skagway River Levee PIR 2023_Final_3.15.24.pdf - 05/29/2025 03:41 PM](#)
Comment
CW projects do not require USACE permits

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.
[Skagway Levee Repair project area map.pdf - 05/29/2025 03:40 PM](#)
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments
NONE PROVIDED
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application
NONE PROVIDED
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.

Revisions

Revision	Revision Date	Revision By
Revision 1	5/29/2025 3:31 PM	Matthew Ferguson
Revision 2	6/4/2025 1:35 PM	Matthew Ferguson

Agreements and Signature(s)

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

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- 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 Matthew Ferguson on 06/04/2025 at 1:48 PM