

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.15

(Submission #: HQE-MJZK-HXWN0, version 1)

Digitally signed by:
dec.alaska.gov
Date: 2025.08.06 08:02:17 -08:00
Reason: Submission Data
Location: State of Alaska

Details

Site: Douglas Island Cruise Ship Terminal Project

Submission ID HQE-MJZK-HXWN0

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 3)

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

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name Last Name
Carrie Connaker

Title
Environmental Planner

Organization Name
Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc.

Phone Type Number Extension
Business 907-929-5960

Email
carrie@solsticeak.com

Mailing Address
2607 Fairbanks Street
Suite B
Anchorage, AK 99503
United States

Contact Information (2 of 3)

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)
Owner

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name Last Name
Stephen Sahlender

Title
Executive Vice President ♦ Alaska Division

Organization Name
Goldbelt, Inc.

Phone Type Number Extension
Business 907-790-1440

Email
steven.sahlender@goldbelt.com

Mailing Address
3025 Clinton Drive
Juneau, AK 99801
United States

Contact Information (3 of 3)

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

Joseph Lyman

Title

Project Manager

Organization Name

Turnagain Marine Construction

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 360-483-3801

Email

jlyman@turnagain.us

Mailing Address

5050 Cordova Street; Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99503

United States

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-2025-00119

Project Name or Title

Douglas Island Cruise Ship Terminal Project

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name

Stephens Passage

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
04/01/2026	04/01/2029

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

Turnagain Marine Construction (Turnagain) is proposing to construct two separate cruise ship berths and associated facilities on the western shore of Douglas Island in Stephens Passage, approximately 15 kilometers (km) northwest of downtown Juneau, Alaska. The proposed cruise ship terminal would provide safe harbor for cruise ships and accommodate passengers during the Southeast Alaska visitor season (late-April to mid-October), as well as assist in the reduction of congestion in downtown Juneau. Goldbelt, Inc. is the landowner and Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. is providing permitting support.

The Douglas Island Cruise Ship Terminal Project consists of offshore and adjacent onshore development. Offshore components of the proposed project include two new 500-foot (ft) by 50-ft cruise ship berths, a seaplane base, a multi-use harbor, a small boat launch, and a tour boat return. The offshore development would require the placement of 120 temporary and 345 permanent pilings, and dredging and grading to place offshore utilities. Onshore components of the proposed project would consist of parking and access roads, staff accommodations, visitor attractions, trails, lodging, and facilities to support the offshore development. This would occur over a three-year phased installation starting in spring of 2026.

Please see full project description attached.

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

The purpose of this project is to construct two cruise ship berths on Douglas Island that can safely accommodate a class of increasingly larger cruise ships docking in Southeast Alaska.

Is any portion of the work already complete?

Yes

Please describe the completed work

Clearing for geotech work occurred in April 2025.

Description of current activity site conditions

The site is on land owned by Goldbelt, Inc. and has very little existing development. The N Douglas Highway ends at the proposed project site and there is an electrical substation with overhead utilities and associated cleared vegetation leading to it from the road. There are a few small dwellings and an access road near the site. Peterson Creek is an anadromous stream that runs through the project area.

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

[20240722_194355.jpg - 08/05/2025 07:18 PM](#)

Comment

Aerial view of the site showing the end of the Douglas Highway

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

No

Project Address

N Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

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

[DSM - Lat/Long converter](#)

Project Location

58.28408049515368,-134.6758027259931

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	City and Borough of Juneau	Copper River	29-32	041S	66E

Directions to Site

From downtown Juneau, turn onto W 10th Street/Juneau-Douglas Bridge. At the traffic circle, take the first exit onto 3rd Street/Douglas Hwy heading to N Douglas. Continue to follow Douglas Hwy to the end of the road.

Federal Agency Contact (1 of 2)

Have you been working with anyone in the Federal Agency?
Yes

Federal Contact Role
USACE

Federal Agency Contact

First Name	Last Name	
Amanda	Locken	
Title		
Regulatory Specialist, North Central Section		
Organization Name		
USACE		
Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-347-6148	
Email		
Amanda.N.Locken@usace.army.mil		

Federal Agency Contact (2 of 2)

Have you been working with anyone in the Federal Agency?
Yes

Federal Contact Role
USACE

Federal Agency Contact

First Name	Last Name	
Randall	Vigil	
Title		
Chief, Southeast Section Regulatory Division		
Organization Name		
USACE		
Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-201-5022	
Email		
Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil		

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?
Yes

How many acres?
0.69

How much volume? (Cubic Yards)
1,245.00

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?

Yes

Attach tier analysis and sample results

[Turnagain_Douglas Island_ADEC_Tier1.pdf - 08/05/2025 07:18 PM](#)

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Fill Material to be Discharged

Will Fill Material be Discharged?

Yes

For fill material, identify the material source

On site, or existing local borrow site

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

Type	Cubic Yards
roadway structural section (logs, type A material, D1 surface course, and hot mix asphalt)	34,732.0
Marine sediment and rip rap	13,930.0

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

Surface Area	Units
7.25	Acres

Discharge Location Information (1 of 5)

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

Concrete boat launch

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
Stephens Passage

Discharge Location
58.28560971108262,-134.6766056100252

Discharge Location Information (2 of 5)

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)
002

Location Description
Utilities trench

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
Stephens Passage

Discharge Location
58.288496929591616,-134.67761323447718

Discharge Location Information (3 of 5)

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)
003

Location Description
Launch Road Bridge

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

Peterson Creek

Discharge Location

58.2888906791036,-134.67140968921456

Discharge Location Information (4 of 5)

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)

004

Location Description

Return Road Bridge

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

Peterson Creek

Discharge Location

58.28611896021874,-134.66698941923542

Discharge Location Information (5 of 5)

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)

005

Location Description

Onshore development (roads, trails, visitor attractions)

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

Peterson Creek, Stephens Passage

Discharge Location

58.28753417357308,-134.6655903852997

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)

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

No known contaminated sites or impaired waters are within one mile of the proposed project site.

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

During construction, erosion and sediment will be controlled by using best management practices to reduce or limit stormwater runoff and other non-stormwater discharges into wetlands and waters.

Avoidance Measures

Onshore project components have been carefully designed to remain completely out of wetlands, and several project components have been considered and dismissed in order to reduce wetlands impacts from the project. Out of 44 acres of proposed onshore development, only 5.7 acres, or 13 percent, of the proposed development would occur within onshore wetlands.

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. Bridges over Peterson Creek have been designed to be single-span to minimize the amount of material placed below OHW of the creek.

Mitigation Measures

Compensatory mitigation is expected and will be determined together with USACE through the permitting process.

Additionally, the following minimization and mitigation measures are proposed:

- ❖ Construction limits would be staked and clearly demarcated.
- ❖ Natural vegetation would be retained wherever possible.
- ❖ Permanent erosion control measures (riprap aprons, embankment stabilization) would be installed.
- ❖ No stockpiles would be placed within wetland areas.
- ❖ During construction, wetland and stream water quality would be protected through best management practices, including:
 - o Temporary and permanent stabilization measures would be initiated as soon as practicable by the contractor, but within at least 14 days on all portions of the site where construction activities have temporarily or permanently ceased. Stabilization measures include slope tracking, seeding, and mulch.
 - o Sediment prevention measures (i.e. silt fence or other means) would be placed and maintained. These devices would remain in place until fill and other exposed earthwork attributable to the project are stabilized and revegetated.
 - o Stabilized construction exits would be provided for vehicles leaving the work area.
 - o Velocity dissipaters would be provided at all dewatering discharge points.
 - o The work area would be isolated from flowing water; vehicle or equipment operation would be minimized in flowing water.
- ❖ Wood that has been surface or pressure-treated with creosote or treated with pentachlorophenol will not be used. If treated wood must be used, any wood that comes in contact with water will be treated with waterborne preservatives in accordance with Best Management Practices developed by the Western Wood Preservers Institute. Treated wood will be inspected before installation to ensure that no superficial deposits of preservative material remain on the wood.
- ❖ Plans for avoiding, minimizing, and responding to releases of sediments, contaminants, fuels, oil, and other pollutants will be developed and implemented.
- ❖ Spill response equipment will be kept on-site during construction and operation.
- ❖ The project uses a design that incorporates the smallest-diameter piles practicable while still minimizing the overall number of piles.
- ❖ All proposed buildings will maintain a 50-ft setback from any anadromous streams.
- ❖ The project uses a design that incorporates the smallest-diameter piles practicable while still minimizing the overall number of piles.

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

Economic Importance Analysis
Commercial activities

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project
This project, the construction of two large-class cruise ship berths and associated infrastructure on Douglas Island, is needed to safely accommodate cruise ships and their passengers cruising to and visiting Juneau. The project would relieve existing and future vessel, pedestrian, and vehicle congestion in the Port of Juneau and downtown, and reduce vessel traffic through Gastineau Channel, making transit to Juneau safer.

Juneau is a main port-of-call for cruise ships in Alaska; 99 percent of those ships visiting Southeast Alaska stop in Juneau (CLIA 2020). In 2024, cruise ships made 697 individual port calls in Juneau, bringing 1.68 million visitors (CLIA 2024; Sabbaitini, M. 2024). Cruising is one of the fastest-growing sectors of tourism, and cruise ship capacity is forecast to grow 10 percent from 2024 to 2028 (CLIA 2024a). Already in 2019, cruise ships carrying 4,000-5,000 passengers known as mega cruise ships, mega ships, or New Panamax (ships so large they require use of a third lock in the Panama Canal), began visiting Alaska. These ships carry twice as many passengers as those previously seen in Southeast Alaska. As this growth in cruising and cruise ship size spreads throughout the tourism industry, it is anticipated that greater numbers of large and mega cruise ships will stop in Juneau. Currently, cruise ships visiting Juneau land downtown at the Port of Juneau in Gastineau Channel. Up to five ships, some carrying thousands of passengers, landing per day causes pedestrian congestion downtown and ship traffic in the port and Gastineau Channel. Ships of this size are difficult to maneuver at slow speeds; however, to dock at the Port of Juneau, cruise ships must transit and maneuver slowly in a busy, narrow section of Gastineau Channel.

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	CWA 404/Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act	POA-2025-00119	05/05/2025	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
NMFS	ESA Section 7 Biological Opinion	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
NMFS	MMPA Incidental Harassment Authorization	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
NMFS	Essential Fish Habitat Consultation	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
USFWS	MMPA Incidental Take Regulations	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
USFWS	Bald Eagle Nest Take Permit	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADF&G	Fish Habitat Permit	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR	Tidelands Lease	LAS 35741	03/11/2025	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR	Temporary Water Use Authorization	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED

Agency	Type of Approval*	Identification Number	Date Applied	Date Approved	Date Denied
SHPO	National Historic Preservation Act Section 106	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
City and Borough of Juneau	Conditional Land Use Permit	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
City and Borough of Juneau	Floodplains Development Permit	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADEC	Water/Wastewater Treatment Facility Permit	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADEC	Construction General Permit	TBD	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
Sierra	Franks
Title	
Branch Chief and Regional Endangered Species Act Section 7 Coordinator	
Organization Name	
National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Region	
Phone Type	Number
Business	9075316610
Extension	
Email	
sierra.franks@noaa.gov	

Attachments

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

[Turnagain_Douglas Island_USACE Permit Application_Signed.pdf - 08/05/2025 07:44 PM](#)

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.

[Appendix B_Douglas Offshore Permit Drawings 4.29.2025.pdf - 08/05/2025 07:18 PM](#)

[Appendix C_Douglas Onshore Permit Drawings 7.16.2025.pdf - 08/05/2025 07:45 PM](#)

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments

[Appendix A_Douglas Project Description 07162025.pdf - 08/05/2025 07:45 PM](#)

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

[Turnagain_Douglas Island_delegation-of-authority-401-application-JBL Signed.pdf - 08/05/2025 07:18 PM](#)

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 jlyman@turnagain.us jlyman@turnagain.us on 08/06/2025 at 7:55 AM