



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

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

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	September 30, 2025
EXPIRATION DATE:	October 31, 2025
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2025-00116
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 Rebecca Manbeck at (907) 251-6716, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Rebecca.S.Manbeck2@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Tanner Jones
Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Regional Support Center
10471 20th Street, Suite 302
JBER, Alaska 99506
tanner.jones.2@us.af.mil

AGENT: Michaela McGee
3-Tier Alaska
326 Driveway Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
mmcgee@3tieralaska.com

LOCATION: The project site is located within Sections 8 and 17, T. 13 N., R. 9 E., Umiat Meridian; USGS Quad Map Beechey Point B-5; Latitude 70.491688° N., Longitude 149.877327° W.; near Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to provide reliable, year-round, access and power supply to the Oliktok Long Range Radar Station (LRRS), located at Oliktok Point on the Beaufort Sea, approximately 35 miles from Prudhoe Bay and Nuiqsut. The LRRS supports peacetime air surveillance for the North American Air Defense Command and is adjacent to private oil exploration and production infrastructure. The existing coastal access road and underground utilities are subject to seasonal damage from Beaufort Sea storms and wave action, requiring frequent repairs. The proposed inland road and overhead power line would minimize maintenance costs, enhance access reliability, improve power reliability, and reduce the environmental cost of having to perform repeated coastal repairs.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge a total of 65,550 cubic yards of fill into 7.0 acres of wetlands for the construction of a 1.25-mile access road and the installation of overhead powerline utilities.

The proposed road construction would involve the discharge of 65,100 cubic yards of granular fill material into 6.8 acres of wetlands to construct an approximately 1.25-mile-long road from an inland portion of the existing road system to the Oliktok LRRS. The proposed road would measure 45 feet wide, with the exception of two (2) pullout areas where the road dimensions would widen to approximately 75 feet. The depth of the road would range from 5.5 foot to 6.75 foot with side slopes varying from 2:1 to 1.75:1. Seven (7) 24-inch diameter culverts and one (1) 18-inch diameter culvert would be installed within the roadway prism to maintain cross drainage. The road would be installed primarily when the ground is frozen using bulldozers, graders, loaders, rollers, and thirty-ton haul trucks, as well as other necessary support equipment. Material for the road would be obtained from an existing gravel pit and transported to the site using existing roads, the road as established, and ice roads.

The proposed installation of overhead powerlines would impact 0.2 acres of wetlands. The powerline would intertie with the local, high-voltage, overhead, power network and run parallel to and east of the proposed new road. Construction of the powerline would involve the installation of power poles during frozen conditions using skid steer, loaders, tracked drill rig, trencher, boom truck, thirty-ton haul truck, and other necessary support equipment. Drilling of poles would occur from the ice road access along the alignment of the overhead power. The poles would be placed in the ground using set and slurry pile methods (drill hole, set pile, and fill annulus with slurry). Approximately 375 cubic yards and 75 cubic yards of sand slurry would be placed as backfill in drilled power pole and anchor installations and transformer pile foundations, respectively. Impacts to wetlands from the powerline installation would include the drilled shaft, the backfilled crown of the power pole at grade, and the installation of guy wires and grounding wires.

Construction is anticipated to begin in January of 2026 and end in October of 2027. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-66), dated September 2024.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant will be applying for a Land Use Permit from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and a Letter of Authorization from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

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: The applicant stated that “impacts to wetlands for the construction of the project are unavoidable as the project is located within an extensive wetland area with no uplands within the vicinity. Impacts to wetlands have been minimized during the design process by avoiding open water (PUBH) wetlands.”

b. Minimization: The applicant stated that impacts to wetlands will be minimized through the following methods:

- Fill in wetlands would be placed when the ground is frozen; ice roads would be utilized to prevent disturbance to wetlands.
- The road would be constructed on the undisturbed tundra. Construction of the road would not include removal of organic layers, decreasing the amount of erosion and sedimentation into wetlands. Snow and ice greater than 4 inches thick would be removed prior to placing fill for the road.
- Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented during construction to minimize erosion due to sedimentation from new fill in wetlands.
- Culverts would be designed along the access road to maintain natural drainage patterns.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant stated that they intend to purchase North Slope Wetland Mitigation Credits to offset 7 acres of wetland impacts.

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 lead Federal agency, the United States Air Force (USAF), is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will review the USAF’s documentation and either concur with their documentation or continue to work with them until Section 106 requirements are satisfied. A permit for the described work will not be issued until the Section 106 process has been completed and USACE concurs with the USAF’s work or documentation.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the threatened spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*), the threatened Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and the threatened polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) and its critical habitat.

The lead Federal agency, the USAF, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will review the USAF's documentation and either concur with their documentation or continue to work with them until Section 7 requirements are satisfied. A permit for the described work will not be issued until the Section 7 process has been completed and USACE concurs with the USAF's work or documentation.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is not within mapped EFH.

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: USACE 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 USACE, 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. If applicable this application will be coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in USACE's final assessment of the described work.

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.

USACE 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 USACE 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 authority:

(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 of Engineers

Enclosures