

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.15

(Submission #: HQG-6NXN-H8E74, version 2)

Digitally signed by:
dec.alaska.gov
Date: 2025.10.15 11:58:13 -08:00
Reason: Submission Data
Location: State of Alaska

Details

Site: Phase II, Cell 6, Ugnu Mine Site E

Submission ID HQG-6NXN-H8E74

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)

Billing Contact

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name Last Name

Erin Bragg

Title

Environmental Specialist

Organization Name

Hilcorp Alaska

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 9075645382

Email

erin.bragg@hilcorp.com

Mailing Address

3800 Centerpoint Dr

Ste. 1400

Anchorage, Alaska 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

Keri Iles

Title

Regional Environmental Manager ♦ Land Permitting

Organization Name

Hilcorp Alaska

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-777-8368

Email

keri.iles@hilcorp.com

Mailing Address

3800 Centerpoint Dr

Ste. 1400

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-2019-00122

Project Name or Title

Phase II, Cell 6, Ugnu Mine Site E

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name

Ugnuravik River

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
11/15/2025	05/01/2030

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Opening Mine/ Active Mining	11/15/2025	05/01/2030

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

Ugnu Mine Site E is located within the Milne Point Unit (MPU) approximately 5 miles southeast of Oliktok Point and 2 miles south of Simpson Lagoon on the North Slope of Alaska, USGS Quadrangle, Beechey Point (B-5). An overview of MPU is provided in Figure 1. The site is approximately 35 miles northwest of the Deadhorse Airport. The Ugnuravik River is situated approximately 1 mile to the east of the mine site. Phase II of Cell 6 will be approximately 24.2 acres total, 12 acres to be mined approximately 600 feet wide and 900 feet long and 12.2 acres for completing overburden storage, thermal barriers, and access road accommodation. Final site configuration will be dependent on gravel needs. Mining activities as outlined in the 2019 Ugnu Mine Site E Mining and Rehabilitation Plan, have been reviewed by ADNRL DMLW and approved by USACE in August 2019 under POA-2019-00122.

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

Hilcorp Alaska, LLC (Hilcorp) proposes to develop Phase II of Ugnu Mine Site E Cell 6 within the Milne Point Unit (MPU). This phase of development is required to support immediate oil resource development projects and field maintenance projects across Hilcorp's North Slope operating areas, including Omega Pad (POA-2021099361 M1).

Is any portion of the work already complete?

No

Description of current activity site conditions

Phase II is currently undeveloped tundra and is east of Phase I within Cell 6.

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

[Phase II Figures.pdf - 10/08/2025 01:12 PM](#)

Comment

Figures outline active Phase I and the Phase II request of Cell 6.

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

No

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

70.461513,-149.695938

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	North Slope Borough	Umiat	19	13N	10E

Directions to Site

Drive or fly to Deadhorse, Alaska. Drive from Deadhorse on the Spine Road (secure industrial gravel road) west to Milne Point Unit (approximately 40 miles). Turn south at the Kuparuk River Unit Guard Shack and continue onto Kuparuk-Oliktok Road. Travel approximately on the Kuparuk-Oliktok road to the turn off to the east for the Ugnuravik Mine Site E.

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	
Steve	Moore	
Title		
Project Manager, North Section Regulatory Division		
Organization Name		
USACE		
Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-753-5713	
Email		
Stephen.A.Moore2@usace.army.mil		

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?

No

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

Surface Area	Units
24.2	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

Wetlands

Discharge Location

70.461513,-149.695938

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

NA

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>

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

Activities within Milne Point Unit, including Phase II Ugnu Mine Site E Cell 6, are conducted in compliance with Hilcorp's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for North Slope Facilities (SWPPP).

Avoidance Measures

The Ugnu Mine Site E expansion was designed in a phased approach, which avoided immediate impact to roughly half of Cell 6 from the time of its original development in 2019. Additional gravel is now needed to meet gravel demands for field maintenance and development projects. Therefore, Phase II of Cell 6 will be developed beginning in November 2025;

Phase II of the Ugnu Mine Site E Cell 6 is designed with the minimum footprint practicable given safety and engineering constraints; Instead of developing a new gravel source, Hilcorp is expanding an existing cell on an active mine site. Wetlands in this area are already subject to indirect impacts from ongoing activities in the adjacent mine cells. Phase II of the expansion of the existing cell avoids the following impacts:

- o Avoided impacting as many lakes, ponds and streams as possible;
- o Avoided Anadromous Water crossings to the maximum extent possible;
- o Avoided impacting pristine wetlands to develop a new gravel source;
- o Will use existing material sites and local existing roads to the maximum extent possible.

Minimization Measures

The proposed Phase II expansion has been designed to minimize the area disturbed.

The overburden for Phase II will be removed to maximize the conservation, segregation and stockpiling of the organic overburden for use in reclamation and restoration projects.

Once mining is completed, overburden will be placed back into the pit to reduce and buttress side slopes and limit area required for storage.

Hilcorp will construct berms around the exterior margin of Cell 6 to serve as a thermal barrier. This barrier will help to preserve the underlying permafrost and prevent the melting of ice wedges and thermokarsting. Without this insulation, exposed ice wedges may melt and erode back from the edge of the pit with the potential to drain adjacent wetlands. The slope stability gained by this practice will ensure that the cell can eventually provide valuable habitat for avian species. The berms will also prevent transmission of water between mining cells, which is a major safety concern in an active mine site. The result of these berms is a net benefit for wetland preservation. A thermal barrier berm of native overburden was constructed around Phase I as it was opened. As the opening of Phase II begins the thermal barrier will be shifted to encompass the entirety of the excavated area in Cell 6. Typical dimensions of the thermal barrier will be 60 feet at the base and 10 feet thick.

To remain consistent with Phase I, Phase II gravel removal for use in Hilcorp operated Units will only occur during winter via an ice road. This will eliminate the need for a new gravel road from Ugnu Mine Site E to Milne Point roads for gravel haul.

Mitigation Measures

Through Avoidance and Minimization, Hilcorp has worked to limit the impact to wetlands.

Hilcorp examined permittee responsible mitigation; including creation/restoration and preservation. Wetland creation/restoration on the North Slope is impracticable because wetlands are primarily developed through permafrost action (taking hundreds of years to develop) and the growing season is only 60 days. This prevents any reasonable success goals from being achieved that would show replacement of lost functions, as required by regulation. Also the perpetual protection instrument that would be required cannot be accomplished because of land ownership and constitutional protection restrictions.

Hilcorp has avoided potential impacts by methods listed in Section 2 above, including expanding an existing mine site in a phased approach instead of opening a new mine; and minimized potential impacts by methods listed in Section 3 above including by constructing thermal barriers around the mine area. The proposed Avoidance and minimization measures minimize impacts to wetlands to the greatest extent practicable. Due to the temporary and minimal nature of the unavoidable impacts, and given the overall health of the watershed and prevalence of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, on the North Slope and within the project vicinity, we propose that the described avoidance and minimization measures satisfy the mitigation requirements under the Corps' various statutory authorities and therefore propose that no compensatory mitigation is appropriate or should be required.

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

Expanded leases and royalties
Commercial activities

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project

This project will improve infrastructure through the construction of a new pad in a developed unit for oil recovery in the Prudhoe Bay Unit. Increased oil production has positive impacts on local economies, including employment and salary potential for Alaskans, as well as increased revenue for the State of Alaska through commercial activities and natural resource royalties.

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
USFWS	LOA INC	25-INC-05	NONE PROVIDED	08/06/2025	NONE PROVIDED
USACE	Individual Permit	NONE PROVIDED	09/19/2025	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR-DMLW	Desig Mat Site	ADL #416074	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR-DMLW	MSC	ADL #422257	NONE PROVIDED	05/14/2024	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR	TWUA	A2025-14	NONE PROVIDED	08/15/2025	NONE PROVIDED
ADEC	APDES General Permit AKG33	APDES AKG33-2015 Rev1	NONE PROVIDED	07/30/2025	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
Erin Bragg
Title
Environmental Specialist
Organization Name
Hilcorp Alaska
Phone Type Number Extension
Business 9075645382
Email
erin.bragg@hilcorp.com

Attachments

Copy of Federal Application (USACE, EPA, or FERC, etc.)
Eng_Form_4345_2024Oct FINAL-Phase II-EB signed.pdf - 10/08/2025 01:12 PM
HAK to USACE Request for Sec 404 MPU Phase II Cell 6 Ugnu Mine Site E.pdf - 10/08/2025 01:12 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.

Phase II Figures.pdf - 10/08/2025 01:12 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	10/8/2025 1:12 PM	erin.bragg@hilcorp.com erin.bragg@hilcorp.com
Revision 2	10/15/2025 11:52 AM	erin.bragg@hilcorp.com erin.bragg@hilcorp.com

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 erin.bragg@hilcorp.com erin.bragg@hilcorp.com on 10/15/2025 at 11:54 AM