

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Northern Region
Design, Engineering, & Construction

TO: Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and
Water
Northern Region Land Office

DATE: 10/07/2025

PHONE NO: [REDACTED]

FROM: Katie Champagne
Right of Way Agent III
DOT&PF Northern Region

SUBJECT: Richardson Highway MP 210
Rockfall Mitigation
NFHWY01031/0714031

Application for Land Use Permit

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is applying for a Land Use Permit to address unstable rock slopes and remove large loose blocks of rock from a rock formation located near milepost 210 of the Richardson Highway.

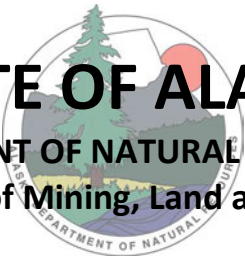
On September 26, 2024, DOT Maintenance and Operations personnel (M&O) were notified of fallen rocks blocking 1.5 lanes of traffic near MP 210 of the Richardson Highway. M&O cleared the rockfall debris and investigated further. The material that fell from the slope was supporting a large loose block of rock, weighing an estimated 92 tons, which remains precariously situated and poorly secured. Analysis of aerial and ground photos revealed a large vertical and horizontal crack, confirming that the rock is loose and no longer attached to the in-situ rock mass. Continued erosion of surrounding material will decrease stability over time, until the rock can no longer be supported.

DOT&PF needs to acquire a Land Use Permit across 3.44 acres of DNR land to remove the large hazardous rock formation and scale loose debris along the rockface. The rock formation is right up against the Right of Way and part of the rockface that needs to be scaled is outside of the Right of Way in the requested permit area. The exact location and size of your property necessary to complete this project is described in the attached Construction Access Figure. Further details can be found in the included Environmental Document (Cat Ex).

The project is currently scheduled for the 2026 construction season. DOT&PF requests that this application be processed as quickly as possible to allow some flexibility in planning the upcoming rockfall mitigation efforts. Please let me know if you need any additional information to review this application or if there is anything I can do to help expedite the process. If you foresee any problems or have any questions, please contact me at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Enclosure:

DNR Application for Land Use Permit
DNR Applicant Environmental Risk Questionnaire
Construction Access Figure detailing LUP area
Environmental Document (Cat Ex)



STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Mining, Land and Water

Northern Region Land Office,
Fairbanks
(907) 451-2740

Southcentral Region Land Office,
Anchorage
(907) 269-8503

Southeast Region Land Office,
Juneau
(907) 465-3400

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water's (DMLW) regional land offices are responsible for managing state land and resources. Certain activities on state land require a land use permit, while other activities are considered "generally allowed" or require other authorizations. Commercial recreation facilities that remain no longer than 14 days in any one site may obtain a commercial recreation permit rather than a land use permit. Additional information and forms are available online or at any Division of Mining, Land and Water regional land office and the Public Information Centers in Anchorage and Fairbanks. The following text describes information that is required to be filled out by applicants for your application to be considered complete.

Land Use Permits:

- Authorize the temporary use of state land or resources;
- can be issued for up to five years;
- do not convey any interest in state land;
- are revocable with or without cause;
- are not transferable; and
- do not constitute waiver of any other state, federal, or local laws.

Complete Land Use Permit Application Packages include the following documents:

- A Land Use Permit application form completed and signed by the applicant;
- A completed Supplemental Questionnaire for Use of State-Owned Uplands if the use or activity includes use of state-owned uplands - **including a Site Development Diagram**;
- A completed Supplemental Questionnaire for Off-Road Travel if the use or activity includes travel by or with means that exceed those that are generally allowed; and/or
- A completed Supplemental Questionnaire for Use of State-Owned Waters (Shorelands, Tidelands, and Submerged Lands) if the use or activity includes uses on tide and submerged lands below the mean high tide line in marine environments or uses on state-owned shorelands below the ordinary high-water line in freshwater environments - **including a Site Development Diagram**.
- A Site Development Diagram showing each item labeled so that it corresponds with your description in the Questionnaire. The Site Development Diagram must include:
 - **Location** - Section, Township, and Range lines; North arrow; scale; title; and include a legend (these items may be attached if necessary).
 - **Boundaries** – Boundaries and dimensions of proposed area of use and their relation to geographic features, including water bodies, and existing trails or rights-of-way.
 - **Structures and Storage** - Location and dimensions of buildings, tent platforms, out-buildings and other improvements, and of equipment parking and storage areas, including snow storage areas.
 - **Hazardous substances** – Location and dimensions of storage facilities for hazardous substances, including but not limited to oil, lubricants, fuel oil, gasoline, solvents, and diesel fuel. Include method and dimensions of storage (tank, drum, etc.).

Other items that must accompany the application package include:

- **Map** - a topographic map or aerial photo of sufficient scale to show the location of the proposed activity.
- **Filing Fees** - A non-refundable filing fee required by regulation (11 AAC 05.010(5)(B)). See the current Director's Fee Order for applicable fees. Make checks payable to the "State of Alaska".
- **Other Miscellaneous Items:** Items specifically identified and required in any of the supplemental questionnaires.

Completed Land Use Permit Applications must be submitted electronically to an email address below or mailed to one of the following offices closest to the proposed use or activity on state lands:

Northern Region Land Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699
(907) 451-2740
nro.lands@alaska.gov

Southcentral Region Land Office
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 900C
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577
(907) 269-8503
dnr.scro.permitting@alaska.gov

Southeast Region Land Office
P. O. Box 111020
Juneau, AK 99811-1020
(907) 465-3400
sero@alaska.gov

Statewide TTY – 771 for Alaska Relay or 1-800-770-8973

Prior to issuance of a permit, an applicant is required to submit one or more of the following:

- **Use Fees** - The use fee depends on the type of activity, length of use and the acreage authorized for use. See the current Director's Fee Order or contact your regional office for applicable fees.
- **Performance Guaranty (Bond)** - A performance guaranty is held by the state to incentivize performance and to pay for corrective action if the use of state land fails to comply with the requirements of the permit. Acceptable types of performance guaranties include:
 - cash or check made out to the State of Alaska;
 - a Certificate of Deposit (CD) in the state's name; or
 - a corporate surety bond.
- **Insurance** – Proof of insurance to protect you and the state from liabilities incurred through the use of state land.
- **Survey and Location** - Surveys are generally not required for land use permits. Many authorizations require a Global Positioning System (GPS) to determine the location of the project. If we determine a survey is required, we will contact you.

ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Mining, Land and Water

LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

AS 38.05.850

Applicants must complete all sections of this application. In addition, applicants proposing:

- the use of the uplands must also complete the Supplemental Questionnaire for Use of State-Owned Uplands accompanying this application;
- off-road travel must also complete the Supplemental Questionnaire for Off-Road Travel accompanying this application; and/or
- the use of shorelands, tidelands, and submerged lands must also complete the Supplemental Questionnaire for Use of State-Owned Waters accompanying this application.

Other items that must accompany the completed application are:

- a (non-refundable) application fee; see current Director's Fee Order or contact your regional office for applicable fees;
- a topographic map or aerial photo showing the location of the proposed activity;
- additional items identified and required in any supplemental questionnaire(s) to this application; and
- additional pages if more space is necessary to answer the questions completely.

Completed Land Use Permit Applications should be submitted electronically or mailed to one of the following offices:

Northern Region Land Office
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699
(907) 451-2740
nro.lands@alaska.gov

Southcentral Region Land Office
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 900C
Anchorage, AK 99501-3577
(907) 269-8503
dnr.scro.permitting@alaska.gov

Southeast Region Land Office
P. O. Box 111020
Juneau, AK 99811-1020
(907) 465-3400
sero@alaska.gov

Statewide TTY – 771 for Alaska Relay or 1-800-770-8973

LAS # _____

(Applicant please provide if known)

Applicant Information:

Name: State of Alaska DOT&PF - NR _____

Doing Business As: _____

Mailing Address: State of Alaska DOT&PF - ROW _____

2301 Peger Rd _____

Fairbanks, AK 99709 _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Business License #: _____

EIN: _____

Contact Person: Katie Champagne _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: (907) 451-5100 _____

Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____

LAS #: _____

If you are applying for a corporation, give the following information:

Name, address and place of incorporation:

N/A

Is the corporation qualified to do business in Alaska? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, provide name, address and phone number of the resident agent:

N/A

Type of User (Select One): ☐ Private non-commercial (personal use) ☐ Commercial Recreation or Tourism
☒ Public Non-profit including Federal, State, Municipal Government Agency ☐ Other commercial or industrial

Duration of Project: The proposed activity will require the use of state land for: (Check one)

☐ A single term of less than one year. Beginning month: _____ Ending month: _____

☒ A multi year term for up to 5 years. Beginning year: 2026 Ending year: 2031

If multi year and seasonal, mark months of use in each year.

☐ Jan, ☐ Feb, ☐ Mar, ☒ Apr, ☒ May, ☒ Jun, ☒ Jul, ☒ Aug, ☒ Sept, ☒ Oct, ☐ Nov, ☐ Dec

Project Location:

Latitude/Longitude or UTM: See Attached Figure or

Section: _____ Township: _____ Range: _____ Meridian: _____

Section: _____ Township: _____ Range: _____ Meridian: _____

Proposed project will require the use of up to 3.44 acres.

(Please add additional sheets for this section as necessary)

LAS #: _____

Project Description: Describe in detail your intended use of state land. (State land also includes all tide and submerged lands beneath coastal waters and all shorelands beneath other navigable waterbodies of the state.) Discuss development and activities. (Attach additional pages as necessary.)

The State of Alaska DOT&PF is requesting a Land Use Permit to address unstable rock slopes and remove large loose blocks of rock from a rock formation located near milepost 210 of the Richardson HWY. The project is needed because the instability of the rock presents a risk to public safety and may cause travel delays or damage to the roadway if it dislodges.

On September 26, 2024, DOT Maintenance and Operations personnel (M&O) was notified of fallen rocks blocking 1.5 lanes of traffic near MP 210, they cleared the rockfall debris and investigated further. The material that fell from the slope was supporting a large loose block of rock, weighing an estimated 92 tons, which remains precariously situated and poorly secured. Continued erosion of surrounding material will decrease stability over time, until the rock can no longer be supported. The Department is concerned that the rock will fall and land in the middle of the roadway, blocking traffic and creating a potential public safety hazard.

The Rock Slope Stabilization Program will improve road safety by addressing unstable rock slopes with the primary objective to mitigate rockfall incidents on Alaska's roads, thus ensuring public safety.

Should a portion of the permitted area be closed to the general public? Yes ☒ No ☐ .

If yes, explain which portion and provide justification for exclusive use.

In the interest of public safety, the entirety of the proposed permitted area will need to remain closed by DOT while the project is carried out.

Site Description: Briefly describe the current condition of the proposed site of use, noting any trash, garbage, debris or signs of possible site contamination. (If significant, we recommend you provide pictures to establish initial conditions.)

The proposed permitted area contains elevated rocky terrain with some shrubbery and natural vegetation. There are no apparent signs of contamination within the proposed permitted area.

LAS #: _____

Are there improvements or materials on the site now? Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, briefly describe the improvements, their approximate value, and who owns them. (We recommend you provide pictures of improvements.)

N/A

Describe the natural vegetation – ground cover, trees, shrubs – and any proposed changes. Describe the location of any estuarine, riparian, or wetlands and any noticeable animal use of area.

The proposed permitted area contains rocky terrain with some shrubbery and natural vegetation. Unstable portions of the rocky area will be either removed or secured as a result of the project.

Site Access: Describe how you plan to access the site, and your mode of transportation.

Site will be accessed through the existing State of Alaska DOT&PF Right of Way.

If your access is by aircraft, specify the type and size of aircraft:

N/A

To access the site, the aircraft is equipped with floats ☐ wheels ☐ skis ☐.

Number of people:

1. Indicate the number of employees and supervisors who will be working on the site. Varied
2. Indicate the number of customers who will be using the site per year or season. N/A
3. Indicate the number of days the site will be used per year or season. Varied

LAS #: _____

Environmental Risk / Hazardous Substances: In the course of your proposed activity will you generate, use, store, transport, dispose of, or otherwise come in contact with toxic and/or hazardous materials, and/or hydrocarbons?

Yes ☐ No ☒ . If yes, please describe:

Construction will involve the use of gas and diesel powered equipment. Most of the equipment will also use hydraulic fluid.

The types and volumes of fuel or other hazardous substances present or proposed:

Gas, diesel and hydraulic fluid as needed for equipment. Quantities will vary.

The specific storage location(s):

In equipment, as needed to run equipment. Any storage containers for refueling purposes will likely be stored within the existing State of Alaska DOT&PF Right of Way.

The spill plan and prevention methods:

- Fueling of land-based vehicles and equipment shall take place in the DOT&PF Right of Way or at least 50 feet away from any waterbody and preferably over an impervious surface (i.e. asphalt).
- The contractor shall complete daily pre-work inspections of heavy equipment and vessels for cleanliness and leaks. If a piece of equipment or vessel is determined to have a leak, then that piece of equipment or vessel is to be taken out of service until it is repaired and cleaned. Oil absorbent pads (aka diapers) and drip pans need to be utilized to contain the leaking fluid until the repair has been completed.
- The contractor will have a sufficient number of spill kits located on the project site, and be readily accessible, in order to contain and clean any potential spills that may inadvertently occur.

If you plan to use either above or below ground storage containers (like tanks, drums, or other containers) for hazardous material storage, answer the following questions for each container:

Where will the container be located?

Any storage containers will likely be stored within the existing State of Alaska DOT&PF Right of Way.

What will be stored in the container?

N/A

What will be the container's size in gallons? N/A

LAS #: _____

Give a description of any secondary containment structure, including volume in gallons, the type of lining material, and configuration:

N/A

Will the container be tested for leaks? Yes ☐ No ☐.

Will the container be equipped with leak detection devices? Yes ☐ No ☐. If no, describe:

N/A

Do you have any reason to suspect, or do you know if the site may have been previously contaminated?

Yes ☐ No ☒. If yes, please explain:

There are no apparent signs of contamination within the proposed permitted area.

Katie Champagne

Signature of Applicant or Authorized Representative

ROW Agent III

Title

10/07/2025

Date

This form must be filled out completely and submitted with the applicable fees. Failure to do so will result in a delay in processing your permit. AS 38.05.035(a) authorizes the director to decide what information is needed to process an application for the sale or use of state land and resources. This information is made a part of the state public land records and becomes public information under AS 40.25.110 and 40.25.120 (unless the information qualifies for confidentiality under AS 38.05.035(a)(8) and confidentiality is requested, AS 43.05.230, or AS 45.48). Public information is open to inspection by you or any member of the public. A person who is the subject of the information may challenge its accuracy or completeness under AS 44.99.310, by giving a written description of the challenged information, the changes needed to correct it, and a name and address where the person can be reached. False statements made in an application for a benefit are punishable under AS 11.56.210.

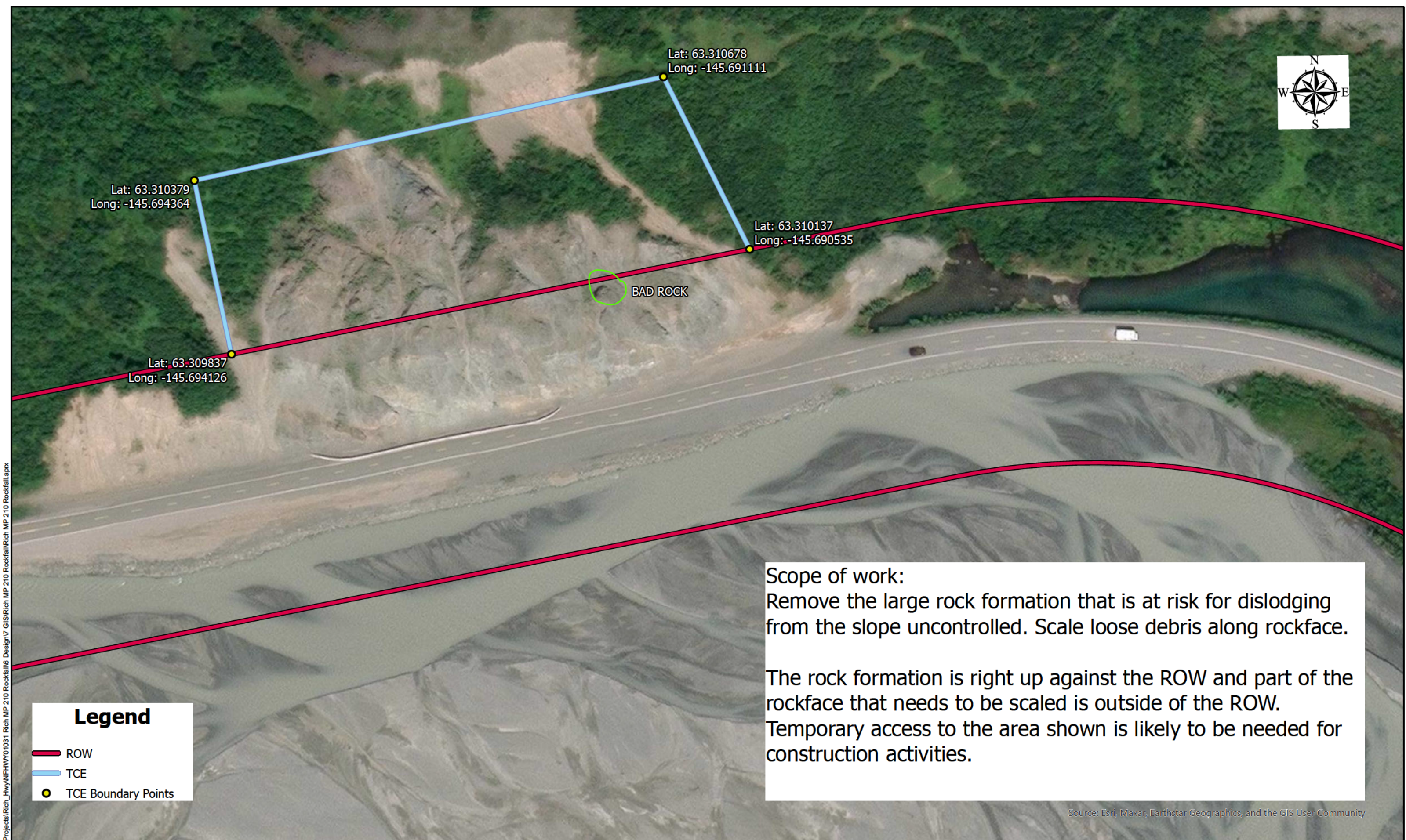
In submitting this form, the applicant certifies that he or she has not changed the original text of the form or any attached documents provided by the Division. In submitting this form, the applicant agrees with the Department to use "electronic" means to conduct "transactions" (as those terms are used in the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, AS 09.80.010 – AS 09.80.195) that relate to this form and that the Department need not retain the original paper form of this record: the department may retain this record as an electronic record and destroy the original.

For Department Use Only
Application received date stamp

Receipt Type: ☐ 7A ☐ RR ☐ FF

LAS #: _____

Document Path: H:\Projects\Rich_Hwy\NFWY01031 Rich MP 210 Rockfall\GIS\Rich MP 210 Rockfall\Rich MP 210 Rockfall.aprx



All adjacent land is State of Alaska, DNR.



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

Date: October 2025

Figure 1

**Rich Rockfall Mitigation
MP 210**



**State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities**

EXPEDITED CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPROVAL FORM
(NEPA Assignment Program Projects)

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by the applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been carried out by the DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023, and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

I. Project Information

A. Project Name: Richardson Highway MP 210 Rockfall Mitigation

B. State Project Number: NFHWY01031

C. Federal Project Number: 0714031

D. Primary/Ancillary Project Connections: N/A

E. COA Determination: 23 CFR 771.117(c)(22)

F. Project Scope:

TIP or STIP: STIP

Need ID: 33965

Project Scope:

The Rock Slope Stabilization Program will improve road safety by addressing unstable rock slopes. It incorporates a methodical process of evaluating high-risk rock slopes and implementing suitable stabilization measures like rock scaling, bolting, or netting. The primary objective is to mitigate rockfall incidents on Alaska's roads, thus ensuring public safety. Per 23 CFR 450.218(j) this STIP program groups together categorically excluded projects (23 CFS 771.117) This includes mitigation areas used for the safety of transportation facilities.

G. Project Purpose And Need:

The purpose of the project is to remove a rock formation near milepost 210 of the Richardson Highway.

The project is needed because the instability of the rock presents a risk to public safety and may cause travel delay or damage to the roadway if it dislodges.

H. Project Description:

The proposed project will remove large, loose blocks of rocks from a rock formation located at approximate MP 210 of the Richardson Highway.

Attachments

Environmental Consequences (ExpCE)

Historic Properties and Cultural Impacts

- Direct to Findings Letters_combined.pdf NFHWY01031.pdf
- Fw NFHWY01031 Richardson Highway MP 210 Rockfall Mitigation.pdf NFHWY01031.pdf

II. Environmental Consequences

- For each category, summarize the applicable project activity and the magnitude of impact.
- Attach additional information that supports your evaluation. Common examples include: an alternatives analysis, agency coordination or consultation, avoidance measures, public notices, or mitigation statement.
- Include direct and indirect impacts in each analysis

A. Historic Properties and Cultural Impacts

Summary

Summarize impacts to historic properties and mitigation, if any.

On July 10, 2025 the Northern Region PQI sent out Direct to Findings letters to SHPO and consulting parties with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected. SHPO provided concurrence with the finding on July 25, 2025.

Attachments

- Direct to Findings Letters_combined.pdf NFHWY01031.pdf
- Fw NFHWY01031 Richardson Highway MP 210 Rockfall Mitigation.pdf NFHWY01031.pdf

B. Section 4(f)/6(f) Impacts

	Yes	No
1. Was detailed Section 4(f) resource identification conducted for this project, other than that required for Section 106 compliance?	☒	☐
2. Does a Section 4(f) resource exist within or adjacent to the project area?	☐	☒

Summary

Summarize Section 4(f)/6(f) involvement, if any.

There are no 4(f) or 6(f) properties located within or adjacent to the project corridor. The project is not anticipated to have any adverse impacts or result in a use of any 4(f) or 6(f) properties.

C. Contaminated Sites and Hazardous Materials Impacts

Summary

Summarize the contaminated site impacts and mitigation, if any.

A query of the Alaska DEC Contaminated Site Program web mapper on July 30, 2025 found no contaminated site within or adjacent to the project corridor. There are no impacts to contaminated sites anticipated as a result of this project.

D. Floodplain Impacts (23 CFR 650, Subpart A)

Summary

Summarize floodplain impacts and describe any functionally dependent use(s), if any.

The project will not impact floodplains.

E. Wetland and Waterbody Impacts

Summary

Summarize wetland and waterbody impacts and mitigation, if any.

The project will not impact wetlands or waterbodies.

F. Fish and Wildlife Impacts

Summary

Summarize fish and wildlife impacts and mitigation, if any.

No impacts to fish and wildlife are anticipated.

G. Invasive Species Impacts

Summary

Summarize invasive species impacts and mitigation, if any.

A query of the AKNHP AKEPIC 2.0 Data Portal was conducted on July 30, 2025 and did not show any known invasive species identified within the project area.

By implementing practicable measures to minimize the introduction or spread of invasive species, the project is expected to result in no substantial invasive impacts.

H. Water Quality Impacts

Summary

Summarize the water quality impacts and mitigation, if any.

There are no impacts to water quality anticipated as a result of this project.

I. Air Quality Impacts

Summary

Summarize air quality impacts and mitigation, if any.

The project is not located within a nonattainment area. No permanent impacts to air quality are anticipated as a result of this project.

J. Noise Impacts (23 CFR 772)

Summary

Summarize noise impacts and mitigation, if any.

The project may have temporary noise impacts, but no permanent noise impacts are anticipated.

K. Social and Economic Impacts

Summary

Summarize social and economic impacts and mitigation, if any.

There are no adverse socio-economic impacts anticipated as a result of this project. The project will not disproportionately affect minorities or disadvantaged persons.

L. Additional Information

Summary

Summarize any additional information, as needed.

None

III. Temporary Construction Impacts

A. Temporary Construction Impacts

Summary

Summarize temporary construction impacts and mitigation, if any.

Temporary degradation of air quality - Temporary degradation of air quality may occur from the use of heavy equipment through emissions and airborne particulates.

Temporary delays and detours of traffic/Temporary impacts on business - To minimize delays the contractor will provide DOT&PF with a traffic control plan prior to construction.

Temporary noise impacts - Minor and temporary increases in noise levels will occur due to operation of construction equipment.

IV. Comments and Coordination

A. Public Involvement

Summary

Summarize public comments and coordination efforts for this project. Discuss pertinent issues raised.

Due to the project location and limited scope, public comments were not solicited.

B. Agency Involvement

Summary

Summarize agency coordination efforts for this project.

Due to the project location and limited scope, agency comments were not solicited.

V. Permits and Authorizations

A. Permits and Authorizations

Summary

Identify permits and authorizations required and application status.

None.

VI. Environmental Commitments

List all environmental commitments and mitigation measures included in the project. Environmental commitments are project-specific mitigation measures necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate environmental harm. Environmental commitments are not standard specifications or standard permit conditions unless they were a result of consultation with a resource agency and, for which, DOT&PF is committed to implementing in construction (Environmental Commitment Guidance, May 2019).

A. Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Measures [23 CFR 771.109(b)]

Summary

DOT&PF and their Contractor(s) shall:

None.

VII. Environmental Documentation Approval

A. Environmental Documentation Approval

Yes **No**

☐ ☒

1. Do any unusual circumstances exist, as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b)?

VIII. Programmatic Approval Status

Review the November 2017 Programmatic Categorical Exclusions for Use on Federal Aid Highway Program Projects Authorized Under 23 U.S.C. 327 Chief Engineer’s Directive.

A. Construction	Yes	No
1. Does the Project lead to construction?	☒	☐

Summary

B. Programmatic Approval Designation

1. Which programmatic approval applies to this project?

- Programmatic Approval 1

Summary

Expedited CE Approval Signature

Approved by:  Date: 8/4/2025

Kerri Martin
Regional Environmental Manager