

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Water Resources Section

TO: Jessie Zimmerman DATE: March 28, 2025
FROM: Jessica Miller FILE Number: TWUA A2025-22

The subject Temporary Water Use Authorization case file has been reviewed for accuracy and conformance with statutes and regulations. The following comments, recommendations, or corrections are presented.

Project Description: Hilcorp Alaska LLC. has applied for water use from two groundwater wells located on the Oliktok Production Pad at Oliktok Pt. These are OPP Water Well #4 and OPP Water Well #5. These wells will replace OPP Water Wells #1 and #3 which are failing. Saline groundwater will be processed through a reverse osmosis system to create drinking water for the OPP camp facilities to the extent that those projects have the appropriate approvals. Reverse osmosis reject material will be disposed of underground via injection well.

Location of Water Sources: U0013N009E Section 5

Check for duplicate water use: No duplicate use.

Agency Review: Dated March 13, 2025.
Deadline for response was 5:00 P.M. March 26, 2025.

ADF&G, Habitat: No comment.

Department of Environmental Conservation, Drinking Water: No objection. Nahoni Hicks comments: "Thank you for the opportunity to comment with respect to public water system (PWS) sources. Based on the information provided, this application is for PWS ([PWSID HILCORP OLIKTOK/OPP & NIKAITCHUQ/NOC](#)). For this reason, please ensure that the applicant is in compliance with [18 AAC 80](#), and in direct communication with the Drinking Water Program point-of-contact for this region, Chris Pletnikoff (cc'd here).

Regards"

DNR DMLW Water Response: *Thank you for your comment on this TWUA. This will be passed on to the applicant.*

Department of Environmental Conservation, Contaminated Sites: No objection. Gaige Robinson comments: "Good morning Jessica,

Based on the information provided, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Contaminated Sites Program (CSP) has no comments related to this information request. If the scope of the project changes, update your research and contact CSP as needed. Please note that residual contamination may remain at cleanup completed sites, and those sites should also be evaluated.

Spills or releases to soil and water are also managed by the DEC Prevention Preparedness and Response Program (PPRP) and are not captured in the CSP database or map. Information about spills can be found in the PPRP SPILLS database at <https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/SPAR/PublicMVC/PERP/SpillSear>

[ch](https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/reporting/). For more information about spill responses contact the appropriate regional response team office <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/spill-information/reporting/>.

Thank you"

DNR DMLW Water Section response: *Thank you for your comment.*

Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Permitting. No comment.

DNR/NRO: No comment

DNR DOG: No comment.

DNR SAIL: No comment.

North Slope Borough: No comment.

Effect on fish and game:

No effect on fish and game is foreseen as these are well sources only.

Coastal Issues:

The North Slope Borough was notified and given opportunity to comment.

Prior appropriators:

A land information search for case category 8 (Water) Section 5 of Township 13 North, Range 9 East, Umiat Meridian revealed no other current applications or authorizations for temporary water use on this source of saline groundwater under Simpson Lagoon to any users besides Hilcorp Alaska itself. TWUA A2024-157 is for OPP Water Wells #1 and #3 which are failing. This TWUA will authorize new wells to be drilled which will be identified as OPP Water Wells #4 and #5. There is one certificate of appropriation for water rights also to Hilcorp Alaska under LAS 29606 for the two old wells #1 and #3. That needs to be amended again to change the wells to #4 and #5. When the Water Right Certificate is amended to correct the wells, this TWUA A2025-22 may be amended to reduce the volume authorized. Wells #1, #3, #4 and #5 are all on the same source which is saline groundwater under Simpson lagoon. Therefore, at this time there is no prior appropriator which would be unduly affected by this authorization.

Condition 11 states "Pursuant to 11 AAC 93.220 (f), this authorization may be suspended by the Department of Natural Resources to protect the water rights of other persons or the public interest." The maximum withdrawal during any year under this proposed authorization is 52,560,000 gallons of water per well per year, with a maximum daily limit of 144,000 gallons per well per day. Conditions 13-17 will address monitoring and reporting requirements. Therefore, it is determined that the proposed authorization will not impact prior appropriators.

No water right or priority is established by a temporary water use authorization. The Department may suspend operations authorized under this authorization whenever such suspension shall in its judgment be necessary to protect the public interest or that of a prior appropriator.

Availability of Water

There are no other appropriators or water users on this source or nearby except Hilcorp Alaska itself. This TWUA is to replace the wells authorized in TWUA A2024-157 which are failing. The amount of water authorized in this authorization is greater than that authorized in A2024-157 but there are no other users nearby and no expected limit to the

brackish water available. When LAS 29606 is amended to change from wells #1 and #3 to wells #4 and #5, this TWUA may be amended. Therefore, enough water should be available for this authorization.

A.D.E.C. Contaminated Sites: A review of the Department of Environmental Conservation's Contaminated Sites database and associated web-map revealed no active contaminated sites located within 1/4 mile of the subject source wells. DEC Contaminated Sites was notified and given the opportunity to comment.

Proposed means of diversion: Adequate.

Proposed use of water: Beneficial. Water use is for drinking water for the OPP camp after processing through reverse osmosis.

Effect upon access to navigable or public water: No restriction upon the access to navigable or public waterways is foreseen by this temporary water use.

It is interpreted that the proposed use of water is in the public interest. This file contains no evidence of a likelihood of harm to the public interest. Furthermore, it is inferred that the applicant has the intent and ability to complete the project. Therefore, the decision has been made to issue TWUA A2025-22 for the following quantities of water:

OPP Water Well #4: 52,560,000 gallons per year from this well and up to 144,000 gallons per day.

OPP Water Well #5: 52,560,000 gallons per year from this well and up to 144,000 gallons per day.

Application for Temporary Water Use Authorization

NECESSARY ACTIONS:

☒ Concurrence: JZ [] Other: _____

Jessie Zimmerman
Signature

3/28/2025
Date

A person affected by this decision may appeal it, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within 20 calendar days after the date of issuance of this decision, as defined in 11 AAC 02.040(c) and (d), and may be mailed or delivered to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; faxed to 907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. Effective July 1, 2018, under 11 AAC 02.030, appeals and requests for reconsideration filed under 11 AAC 02 must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(6), currently \$250. Effective July 9, 2018, under 11 AAC 05.160 (a) and (b), this fee will be reduced to \$200.00 for each appeal or request for reconsideration. This decision takes effect immediately. If no appeal is filed by the appeal deadline, this decision becomes a final administrative order and decision of the department on the 31st calendar day after issuance. An eligible person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to superior court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.