

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.16

(Submission #: HQK-G1GH-ZS5Z0, version 1)

Digitally signed by:
dec.alaska.gov
Date: 2026.03.04 16:00:14 -09:00
Reason: Submission Data
Location: State of Alaska

Details

Site: AML Ketchikan Fill Expansion Project

Submission ID HQK-G1GH-ZS5Z0

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)

Consultant
Application Preparer
Billing Contact
Agent

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name **Last Name**
Kori Marchowsky

Title

Environmental Planner

Organization Name

Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc.

Phone Type **Number** **Extension**

Business 907-929-5960

Email

kori@solsticeak.com

Mailing Address

2607 Fairbanks St. #B
Anchorage, AK 99503
United States

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
Operator
Owner

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name **Last Name**
Richie Harrington

Title

Marine Facilities Manager

Organization Name

Alaska Marine Lines

Phone Type **Number** **Extension**

Business 360-367-2111

Email

rharring@lynden.com

Mailing Address

6110 West Marginal Way
Seattle, WA 98106
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-1989-00773-M3

Project Name or Title

AML Ketchikan Fill Expansion Project

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name

Tongass Narrows

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
04/01/2026	05/01/2026

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Fill	04/01/2026	04/30/2026

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

Alaska Marine Lines (AML) proposes to place fill along the northern shore of Tongass Narrows in downtown Ketchikan, Alaska. The fill would provide uplands space to improve the staging area used for cargo operations and improve operational safety. Construction, which includes the placement of a total of 8,951 cubic yards (CY) of fill in 0.46 acres (8,716 CY of fill in 0.45 acres below the high tide line [HTL]), would span approximately one month beginning in April 2026 or when all applicable permits are secured. The project would be constructed from land and would occur within waters of the United States. No dredging, blasting, pile driving, or overwater structures are proposed in this project.

The proposed project would place a total of 8,951 CY of fill in 0.46 acres in two locations, one on each side of the existing cargo ramp.

The eastern location would have a top surface area of approximately 7,499 square feet (sq. ft.), and the western location would have a top surface area of approximately 1,682 sq. ft. Structural fill would be 6-inch minus, with a 6-inch base course overlaying the surface. The fill would be sloped to the water at a 50% grade (2:1 slope). The slope surface would be reinforced with a 4-foot-thick layer of armor and underlayer rock above structural fill.

Existing dolphins located at the site would remain. The existing transfer bridge at the east site would be picked up and removed using a barge with crane. Piles that support the transfer bridge would be left in place and fill (described above) would be placed around them. No other in-water infrastructure would be removed as part of this project.

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

Alaska Marine Lines is a marine transportation company providing barge service to and from Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. The company offers twice weekly, year-round scheduled service between Seattle and Ketchikan and other Southeast Alaska communities and serves a critical role in Ketchikan as one of only two marine freight operators in the city (Lynden, Inc. 2025). Because there is no road connecting Ketchikan to mainland Alaska, most of Ketchikan's imported goods arrive via barge, and as such AML's operations are essential and must operate efficiently. Port infrastructure is one factor that can limit the quantity of freight AML is able to move.

The purpose of this project is to reduce congestion, provide sufficient operating space, and improve operational safety at the shipping container transfer area. The project is also needed because existing sheet pile bulkheads at the transfer area are showing signs of deterioration. Adding fill would buttress the sheet pile bulkheads, reduce their risk of failure, and eliminate the need to extract the deteriorating sheet piles. The proposed project is the most practical and efficient method of mitigating congestion issues and improving safety at the barge ramp site while minimizing disruption to operations at the existing staging area.

Is any portion of the work already complete?

No

Description of current activity site conditions

The project site is in downtown Ketchikan, on the shore of East Tongass Narrows. The project area is highly developed and contains considerable shoreline infrastructure, marine traffic, and use.

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

[Project area shoreline reduced.png - 02/19/2026 02:10 PM](#)

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

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

No

Project Address

3311 Tongass Ave.
Ketchikan, AK 99901

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

[DSM - Lat/Long converter](#)

Project Location

55.35331045189308,-131.69061174393207

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
011232004100	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Copper River	23	075S	090E

Directions to Site

The site is in downtown Ketchikan, at 3311 Tongass Ave., adjacent to the Alaska Marine Lines Ketchikan Service Center (3295 Tongass Ave.). To access the site from the Alaska Marine Highway System Ferry Terminal or the Airport Ferry, travel south on Tongass Ave. and turn right into the site.

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

Hayley Farrer

Title

Regulatory Specialist

Organization Name

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-753-2778

Email

Hayley.M.Farrer@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 to 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?

Yes

For fill material, identify the material source

Fill will be obtained from an existing local, permitted source.

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

Type	Cubic Yards
Structural fill below HTL	6,674.0
Armor rock below HTL	2,042.0

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

Surface Area	Units
0.45	Acres

Discharge Location Information (1 of 2)

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

Tongass Narrows

Discharge Location

55.353255556383125,-131.6904186248828

Discharge Location Information (2 of 2)

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

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

Tongass Narrows

Discharge Location

55.353792309218335,-131.69149150848867

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

Placement of fill can cause short-term, localized degradation of water quality and increased siltation, turbidity and sedimentation.

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

Spill response equipment will be kept on-site during construction and operation.

Avoidance Measures

The project uses the most compact design possible, while meeting the purpose and need.

Best management practices will be implemented during the placement of fill to minimize turbidity.

Minimization Measures

All fill will be placed from land. Noise associated with in-water work will be localized and temporary.

The project uses a design that incorporates the smallest footprint practicable.

Fill will be obtained from an existing local, permitted source located near the intersection of North Tongass Highway and Ward Lake Road North.

No pile driving or dredging is proposed.

Mitigation Measures

Plans for avoiding, minimizing, and responding to releases of sediments, contaminants, fuels, oil, and other pollutants will be developed and implemented.

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
Community services provided

Economic Importance Analysis

Commercial activities

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project

Alaska Marine Lines is a marine transportation company providing barge service to and from Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. The company offers twice weekly, year-round scheduled service between Seattle and Ketchikan and other Southeast Alaska communities and serves a critical role in Ketchikan as one of only two marine freight operators in the city (Lynden, Inc. 2025). Because there is no road connecting Ketchikan to mainland Alaska, most of Ketchikan's imported goods arrive via barge, and as such AML's operations are essential and must operate efficiently. Port infrastructure is one factor that can limit the quantity of freight AML is able to move.

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
Alaska SHPO	Section 106	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
NMFS	ESA Sec. 7	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
NMFS	EFH	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 2)

Contact Role

OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name **Last Name**
Sierra Franks

Title
Alaska Region ESA Section 7 Consultation Coordinator

Organization Name
NOAA - Fisheries

Phone Type **Number** **Extension**
Business 907-531-6610

Email
sierra.franks@noaa.gov

Other Agency or Local Contacts (2 of 2)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name **Last Name**
Seanbob Kelly

Title
Fisheries Habitat Biologist

Organization Name
NOAA Fisheries

Phone Type **Number** **Extension**
Business 323-364-0993

Email
seanbob.kelly@noaa.gov

Attachments

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

[AML KTN Fill Prj USACE App complete.pdf - 02/19/2026 02:10 PM](#)

Comment

Completed, submitted USACE Application

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.

[Project Location Map.png - 02/19/2026 02:10 PM](#)

[Site Plans.pdf - 02/19/2026 02:10 PM](#)

[Project area w transfer bridge label.png - 02/19/2026 02:10 PM](#)

Comment

Engineering site plans and separate figures showing proposed activity site in relation to local streets.

Document Attachments

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

[Del of Auth Signed.pdf - 02/19/2026 02:10 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 Robin Reich on 03/04/2026 at 3:45 PM