



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	February 27, 2026
EXPIRATION DATE:	March 30, 2026
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-1989-00773-M3
WATERWAY:	Tongass Narrows

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 Ms. Hayley Farrer at (907) 753-2778, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Hayley.M.Farrer@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Alaska Marine Lines, POC: Mr. Richie Harrington; 6110 West Marginal Way SE Seattle, WA 98106; (360) 367-2111; rharring@lynden.com.

AGENT: Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc., POC: Ms. Kori Marchowsky; 2607 Fairbanks Street, Suite B Anchorage, AK 99503; (907) 929-5960; kori@solsticeak.com.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 23, T. 75 S., R. 90 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Ketchikan B-6; Latitude 55.3538° N., Longitude 131.6903° W.; at 3295 Tongass Avenue, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to reduce congestion, provide sufficient operating space, and improve operational safety at the shipping container transfer area. Additionally, the applicant states that existing sheet pile bulkheads at the transfer area are showing signs of deterioration therefore, adding fill would buttress the sheet pile bulkheads, reduce their risk of failure, and eliminate the need to extract the deteriorating sheet piles.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge approximately 8,716 cubic yards of fill material into 0.45-acre below the high tide line (HTL) of the Tongass Narrows in two (2) locations in order to provide space to improve the staging area used for cargo operations and improve operational safety. Fill material would be placed on each side of the existing cargo ramp. The eastern location would have a top surface area of approximately 0.17-acre and the western location would have a top surface area of approximately 0.03-acre. Structural fill would be 6-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 the structural fill. Fill material would be obtained from a local quarry (55.4071, -131.7160).

All fill would be placed from land using highway trucks and positioned with an excavator and loader until design elevation is reached. A roller compactor may be used once fill is placed to stabilize the area. Armor and underlayer rock would then be placed with an excavator along the fill slope. A skiff may be used to drop a lead line to verify toe elevation.

The proposed project would include the removal of an existing transfer bridge. A barge with crane may be used to pick up and remove the existing transfer bridge at the project site. Any remaining in-water support structures from the transfer bridge would be left in place, and fill would be placed around them. Existing dolphins located at the site would remain.

Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2026, or as soon as all permits are received. Work would be completed within approximately one (1) month. The total construction duration accounts for the time required to mobilize materials, resources, and construct the project. The duration also accounts for potential delays in material deliveries, equipment maintenance, inclement weather, and shutdowns that may occur to prevent impacts to marine mammals.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-5), dated October 2025.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States (U.S.) from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The applicant states that the purpose of the project is to relieve congestion at an existing shipping container transfer area to support cargo operations. The expansion project is needed to ensure that the cargo company has adequate space to safely maneuver within the transfer area. The applicant states fill placement would also stabilize deteriorating sheet pile bulkheads, in lieu of removing and replacing them. The applicant states to meet the project purpose and need, construction must occur within waters of the U.S.

The proposed project would be constructed from land, limiting additional temporary impacts to waters of the United States. No dredging, blasting, pile driving, or permanent overwater structures are proposed.

b. Minimization: The applicant states that the proposed project used the most compact design practicable for the needs of the project and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. The applicant states that the project would not impact wetlands. General construction mitigation measures would include:

- Plans for avoiding, minimizing, and responding to release of sediments, contaminants, fuels, oil, and other pollutants would be developed and implemented.
- Spill response equipment would be kept on-site during construction and operation.
- Best management practices would be implemented during the placement of fill to minimize turbidity.
- All fill would be placed from land. Noise associated with in-water work would be localized and temporary.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The project would discharge approximately 8,716 cubic yards into 0.45-acre below HTL. The applicant states the total in-water fill is minimal in comparison to the available water in Tongass Narrows. The applicant states that impacts to waters of the U.S. are expected to be minimal, and no compensatory mitigation is proposed.

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 latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, a cultural literature review was completed for the proposed project on December 1, 2025. There are no known cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the direct footprint of the proposed project, as well as a 30-foot buffer surrounding each of the two (2) work areas. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. USACE has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the endangered fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and the threatened Mexico Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

We have determined the described activity may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the fin whale or the Mexico DPS humpback whale. USACE has designated Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. as a non-Federal representative to conduct Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act consultation. We will initiate the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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 within mapped EFH for Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum salmon (*O. keta*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*), and sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*).

We have determined the activity described may adversely affect EFH in the project area for the species listed above. USACE will initiate EFH consultation with a separate consultation letter to the NMFS. Any comments or recommendations they may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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. This application is being coordinated with Federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments Federally 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 authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

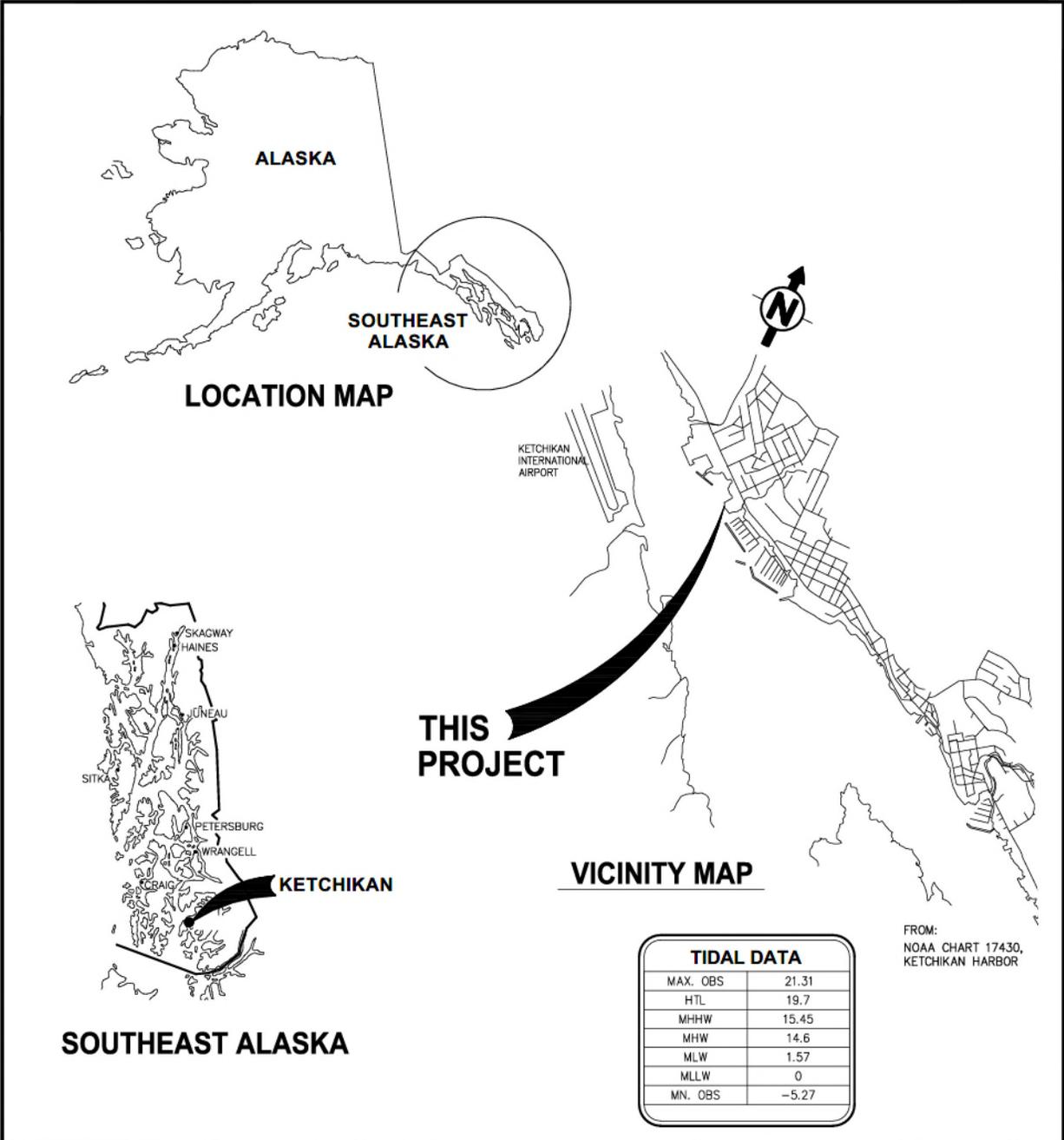
(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

() Transport dredged material for the purpose of dumping it into ocean waters - Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended (40 CFR Parts 220 to 229), as appropriate.

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



PURPOSE:
 TO IMPROVE CARGO OPERATION EFFICIENCY
 AND STAGING AREA.

DATUM:
 MLLW = 0.0' FT

HTL = 19.7'
 MHW = 14.6'

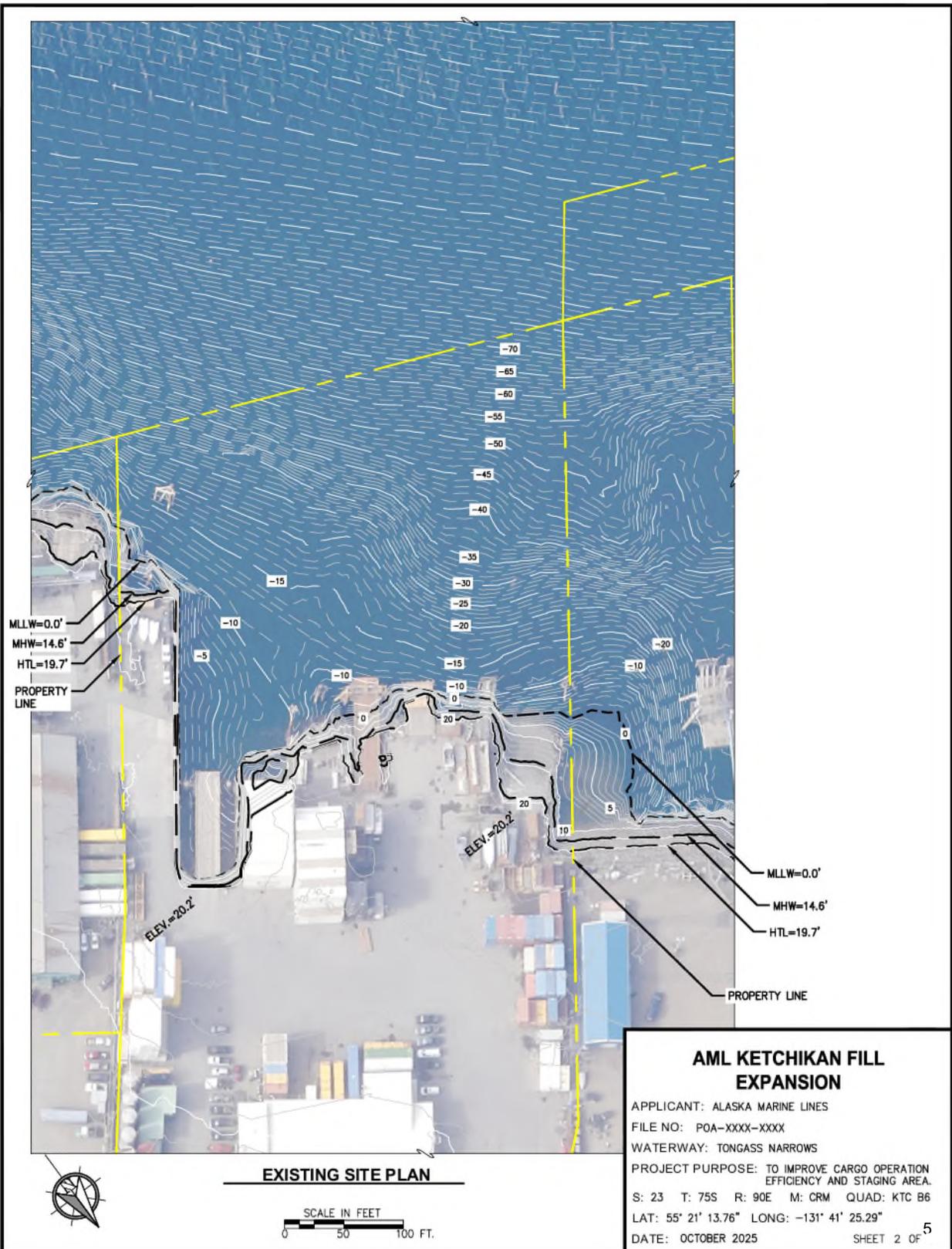
VICINITY MAP

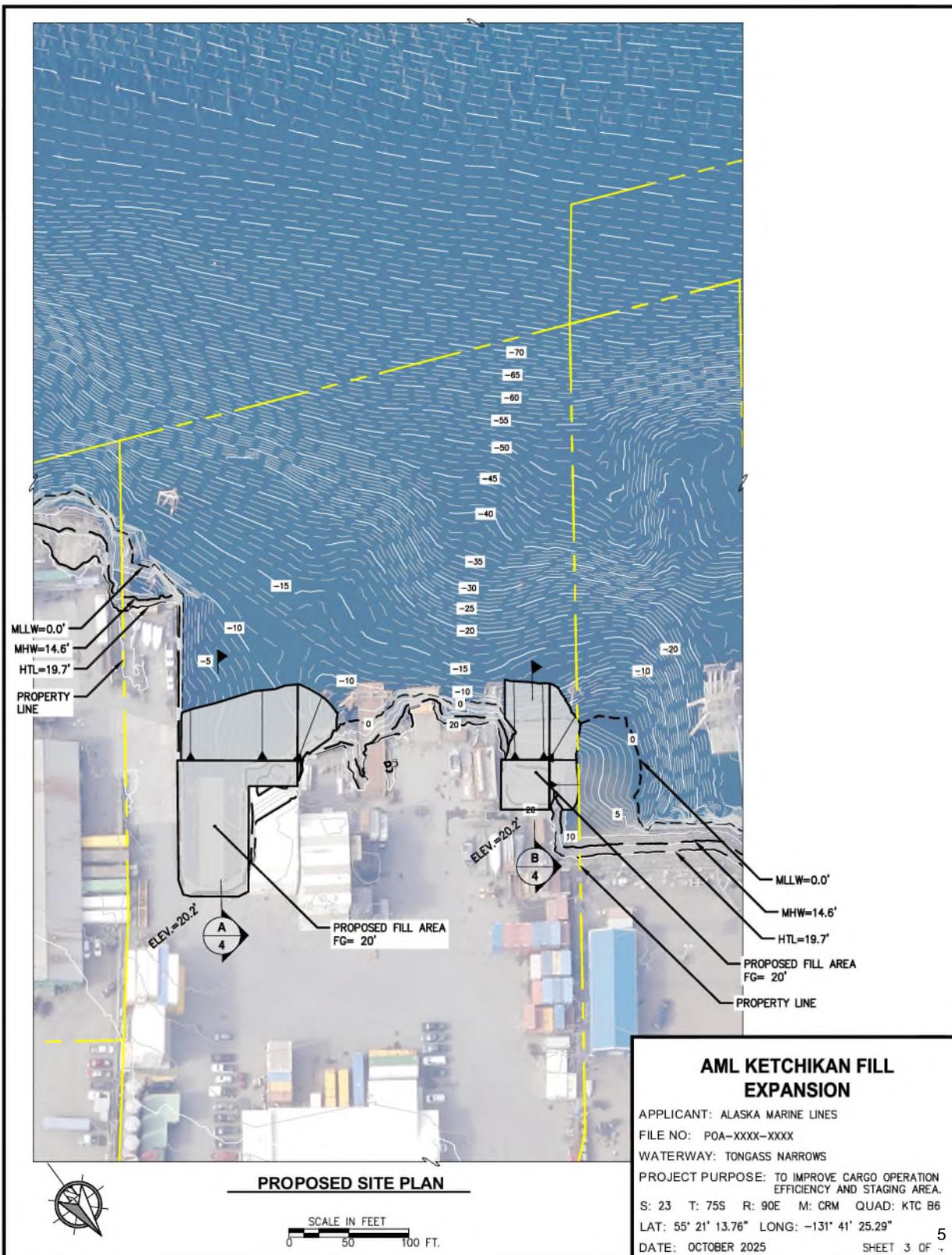
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**AML KETCHIKAN FILL
 EXPANSION**

APPLICANT: ALASKA MARINE LINES
 FILE NO: POA-XXXX-XXXX
 WATERWAY: TONGASS NARROWS
 PROJECT PURPOSE: TO IMPROVE CARGO OPERATION
 EFFICIENCY AND STAGING AREA.
 S: 23 T: 75S R: 90E M: CRM QUAD: KTC B6
 LAT: 55° 21' 13.76" LONG: -131° 41' 25.29"
 DATE: OCTOBER 2025

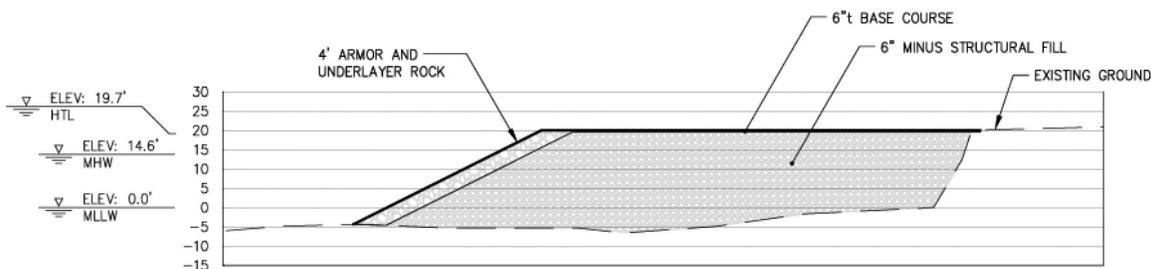
SHEET 1 OF 5



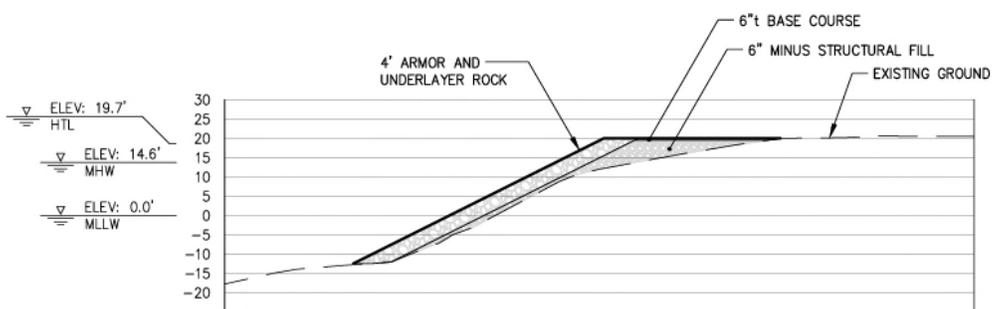


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A
3 SITE SECTION



B
3 SITE SECTION

SITE SECTIONS



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Approximate location of barge staging.

Sheet 5 of 5.

February 2026.

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