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Sent: 4/29/2026 3:12:25 PM
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Subject: POA-2026-00131 Community Bulk Fuel and Power Plant Upgrades, Wales, Alaska PN

Attachments: POA-2026-00131_PN_20260429.pdf

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Good afternoon all,

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States.

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: April 29, 2026

EXPIRATION DATE: May 15, 2026

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2026-00131

WATERWAY: Village Creek

APPLICANT: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

AGENT: Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 32, T. 3 N., R. 45 W., Kateel Meridian: USGS Quad Map Teller; Latitude 65.611737° N., Longitude 168.090321° W.; near Wales, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to ensure the continued provision of safe, reliable bulk fuel storage and electrical power for the community of Wales.

CONTACT: Please contact Quinn Germann at (907) 371-5132, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at quinn.h.germann@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

<https://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/Public-Notices-View/Article/4473804/poa-2026-00131villagecreekpn/>

V/r



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Quinn H.A. Germann

Regulatory Specialist – North Section

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | Alaska District

Desk Phone 907-753-2773 **Work Cell** 907-371-5132

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ATTACHMENT NAME:

POA-2026-00131_PN_20260429.pdf

ATTACHMENT TYPE:

Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) compound image



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:	April 29, 2026
EXPIRATION DATE:	May 15, 2026
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2026-00131
WATERWAY:	Village Creek

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 Quinn Germann at (907) 371-5132, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at quinn.h.germann@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AVEC) – William Stamm

AGENT: Solstice Alaska Consulting, Inc. – Kori Marchowsky

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 32, T. 3 N., R. 45 W., Kateel Meridian: USGS Quad Map Teller; Latitude 65.611737° N., Longitude 168.090321° W.; near Wales, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to ensure the continued provision of safe, reliable bulk fuel storage and electrical power for the community of Wales.

PROPOSED WORK: The proposed project would be to replace the existing power plant and fuel storage facilities for AVEC and the city. The proposed project would install a new modular power plant at a new location adjacent to the new AVEC and city tank farms. The two old tank farms and the old power plant would be decommissioned. The placement of fill is for the purpose of constructing a new gravel pad on which new bulk fuel storage and power plant facilities would be located. The proposed project would impact approximately 1.99-acres of wetland.

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

a. Avoidance: The applicant stated that suitable, available land within the community is limited. Nearly the entire community is located within wetlands that are surrounded by either the Bering Sea or steep hillside slopes. In order to avoid historic and cultural sites and locate new facilities within or adjacent to the community and some distance from the Bering Sea, avoiding wetlands is not practicable.

b. Minimization: The applicant stated that the project uses the most compact design practicable to minimize impacts to jurisdictional wetlands. To minimize impacts, one pad will support three facilities: the AVEC and City bulk fuel tanks and the power plant.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant is not proposing compensatory mitigation due to the high proportion of wetlands in the region, and restoring, enhancing establishing wetlands for compensatory mitigation is not practicable given the abundance of existing wetlands and the logistical and technical limitation in the area.

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 lead Federal agency, the Denali Commission, through funding from EPA, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reviewed Solstice Alaska Consulting's documentation and concurs with their findings and determination of no historic properties adversely affected.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*), spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*), and Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*). The project is also located in polar bear (*U. maritimus*) critical habitat.

The lead Federal agency, the Denali Commission, through funding from EPA, is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The lead federal agency determined the activity described may affect polar bears (*U. maritimus*), spectacled eider (*S. fischeri*), and Steller's eider (*P. stelleri*) as well as polar bear (*U. maritimus*) critical habitat. Appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have concluded. The USFWS concurred with the determination that the project may affect and is not likely to adversely affect listed species with the implementation of conservation measures.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reviewed Solstice Alaska Consulting's documentation and concurs with their findings and determination that the project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect listed species.

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 not within mapped EFH.

We have determined the activity described would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

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.

Any comments federal 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) 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).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures