

Supplemental Information

USACE Block 17 Directions to the Site

The subject property project is a 27-acre site within the Federal Conveyed ANCSA Land Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation on the western shoreline of Hotham Inlet (Kobuk Lake) and on the eastern side of Baldwin Peninsula, approximately eighteen miles southeast of the City of Kotzebue, Alaska (Sheet 1) located within Section 25 & 30, Township 16 North, Range 15 & 16 West, Kateel River Meridian, Alaska; Northwest Arctic Borough; Kotzebue recording district; USGS Quad Map Kotzebue D-2 SE, AK. The property is approximately 1,055 feet (east-west) by 1,174 feet (north-south) and Latitude 66.76226°, Longitude -162.01474° (latitude longitude obtained from Google Earth; Sheet 1 and 4).

The project area is relatively shallow (6 feet in depth). A sand and gravel beach shoreline is located approximately 100 feet east of the subject property. West of the beach, an approximately 70-foot-tall bluff, aligned approximately north-south, is present. The property is an open ocean estuarine and marine deep-water habitat (Sheets 2, 4, and 5).

USACE Block 18 Description of Proposed Action

The project site is a partially developed 27-acre piece of land with a narrow sand and gravel beach and adjacent tundra wetlands. Behind these are approximately 70-foot bluffs and tundra beyond. The area of extraction is freshwater emergent wetlands (National Wetlands Inventory Mapping—Sheet 4) with vegetation consisting of grasses and tundra.

Winter access to the project site is limited due to offshore ice. Topsoil and overburden removed from the extraction area will be stockpiled onsite for reuse in the southern end of the extraction area (Sheet 6). Overburden will be removed with crawler dozers. Extraction will be performed with a combination of hydraulic excavators and wheeled front-end loaders excavating the material. Some material processing will occur onsite with a screen plant, crusher, grizzly, and/or sand separator. The material will be transported across the site to a barge for transport to Kotzebue by either front-end loaders or articulated dump trucks.

Material extraction is not planned within a 100-foot setback/buffer from adjacent properties and Hotham Inlet. The extraction area will be graded such that stormwater, and any other potential discharges cannot travel into wetlands onsite or offsite and waters of the U.S.

Reclamation will begin after the extraction period once all aggregates are exhausted. A reclamation plan (as required by ADNDR pursuant to AS 27.19) will be filed with the state before extraction activities commence. Existing USGS topographical information on the property is shown on Sheet 3.

The material extraction area is approximately 9.73 acres occurring in two cells, in two separate phases. See Sheet 6. Cell 1 will be excavated until all material is exhausted, and then cell 2 will be excavated. Approximately 104,000 cubic yards of sand/gravel will be extracted from the material source. Work will take place 12 hours per day, 7 days per week. Equipment and supplies will be stored onsite in the project staging area, which is in the uplands of cell 2 (Sheet 6). The overburden and top-soil stockpile will be at the southern end of the extraction area (Sheet

6). Material extraction is to take place within wetlands (See Sheet 4 showing wetland mapping from the National Wetland Inventory) and in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit requirements.

The site will be accessed by beach landing craft and/or deck barge with a landing ramp adjacent to the cell 2 site (Sheet 6). It is anticipated that there will be approximately 12 barge trips per year between May/June to September. Other vehicle traffic to the site will employ four-wheelers and/or snow machines along informal trails to/from Kotzebue.

Project Schedule

Material extraction is anticipated to occur from 2025 to 2029. It is estimated to begin in May/June and end in October each year. When all extraction activities are completed, reclamation will begin.

Equipment

Below is a list of potential equipment to be used onsite.

Equipment Type	Quantity
Excavator	1
Off-road dump truck	2
Dozer with ripper	1
Pickup	1
Loader	1
Backhoe	1
Tug and Barge	1
Sand and Gravel Processing Plant	1

USACE Block 19 Project Purpose

This project aims to extract sand and gravel for road construction, landfill reclamation, sewer cell improvements, and building pads in Kotzebue, Alaska. The proposed project includes the extraction of sand and gravel from freshwater emergent wetlands with vegetation consisting of grass and tundra (Sheet 5).

USACE Block 23 Description of Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation

AVOIDANCE

Material extraction is to take place within wetlands and in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit requirements. Complete avoidance of wetlands is not practicable to accomplish the purpose and needs of this project. No in-water work is expected to take place during the extraction of materials. Temporary stockpiles will be placed at least 100 feet away from the waters of the U.S. The project requires excavation in freshwater emergent wetlands to extract suitable sands and gravels for the construction of regional projects. The applicant has ownership of the property and subsurface. The subject property is in a remote location with access to the site by beach landing craft and/or deck barge with a landing ramp adjacent to the

extraction site. Other vehicle traffic to the site will employ four-wheelers and/or snow machines along informal trails to/from Kotzebue.

Wetlands are located on the subject property, and avoiding all wetlands to meet the project's purpose and needs is not practicable. Project alternatives, including no action, barging gravel from Nome, single-phase extraction at the proposed location, and the proposed location in two-phase extraction, were evaluated to identify the most practicable alternative after taking into consideration site logistics, Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) construction requirements, noise pollution, and the overall project purpose. Alternatives were considered, with the current proposed project being the most reasonable and practicable alternative. The alternatives considered included the following:

Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action alternative would not develop any of the property and leave it as it is currently undeveloped. This alternative provides no new source of sand and gravel for construction projects.

Alternative 2: Barge Gravel from Nome

Kotzebue does not have a deep draft port. Barging gravel from Nome to Kotzebue could have impacts on wildlife. The coastline and water bodies from Nome to Kotzebue are critical habitats for polar bears.

Alternative 3: One-phase current location

Extraction will occur in one 9.73-acre block unit until all usable material is exhausted

Alternative 4: Two-phases current location

Extraction will occur in two Phases (two cells), one cell at a time, until all usable material is exhausted. Cell 1 is approximately 1.53 acres, and Cell 2 is approximately 7.35 acres.

Analysis of Alternatives

The proposed action (Alternative 4) is the preferred alternative for meeting the purpose and need of the project, which is to provide additional sand and gravel at the least cost with the least impact on wetlands.

MINIMIZATION

The proposed site's selection is based on utilizing the applicant's property, with a small extraction site of 9.73 acres.

To further minimize impacts to the waters of the U.S., the project is designed to reduce wetland impacts to the greatest extent practicable. Complete avoidance of wetlands is not practicable to

accomplish the purpose and needs of this project. To minimize the impact of this project on the environment, the following measures are proposed:

- The proposed project will follow any necessary USFWS and NOAA Fisheries recommendations to avoid disturbing migratory birds or Threatened or Endangered species.
- Project activities will attempt to avoid any water bodies. There are no known Historic Properties.
- The limits of extraction will be clearly identified in the field prior to extraction to ensure the permitted project footprint is not exceeded during development.
- Extraction will occur in two Phases, one cell at a time, until all usable material is exhausted.
- Movement of construction equipment would be restricted to within the identified project boundaries to minimize disturbance to native vegetation.
- Stockpiles, if any, would not occur in wetlands that are not proposed for permanent fill placement and would be covered to protect from stormwater runoff.
- BMPs such as fiber rolls would be installed and implemented to minimize the introduction of additional suspended sediment into the wetlands.
- All refuse, garbage, or debris created during activities will be removed and disposed of at an approved facility.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

After aggregate material has been mined, the site will be reclaimed as a revegetated marshland.

Reclamation

The purpose of the reclamation plan is to provide guidelines for implementing stabilization and reclamation procedures for the material source. Reclamation will take place at the end of the complete extraction, once all aggregates are exhausted and results in a revegetated native marsh. A reclamation plan has been developed for this project. See Appendix A.

USACE Block 25 Adjacent Landowners

The property is bounded on two sides by privately owned land. The western property is undeveloped. The northern and southern properties are existing sand and gravel extraction sites. Existing infrastructure in the area consists of informal trails accessed by four-wheelers, snow machines, and dog-sled teams. See Sheet 2 showing property ownership adjacent to the proposed project site.

Lot 2B (north)

William Azar
4530 Montrose Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Lot 2 (south)
Amber and Toby Drake
P.O. Box 338
Kotzebue, Alaska 99725