

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.17

(Submission #: HQP-813X-36S9G, version 3)

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Date: 2026.06.16 10:58:12 -08:00
Reason: Submission Data
Location: State of Alaska

Details

Site: Nome Seppala Drive Upgrades

Submission ID HQP-813X-36S9G

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 1)

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

Billing Contact

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name Last Name
Melissa Jensen

Title
Environmental Impact Analyst

Organization Name
AKDOT

Phone Type Number Extension
Business 9073881178

Email
melissa.jensen@alaska.gov

Mailing Address
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
USA

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-2024-00047

Project Name or Title
Nome Seppala Drive Upgrades

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name
Snake River, Center Creek, Dry Creek, Bourbon Creek

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
05/01/2027	10/31/2028

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

Given the location of Seppala Drive and its proximity to surrounding wetlands and waters, complete avoidance of wetland impacts is not feasible. To minimize impacts, the following measures have been implemented:

- ◆ The elevation of Seppala Drive has been maintained at its existing level wherever possible. In areas where the grade was elevated, the elevation was designed at the minimum height required to safeguard the road from storm surges.
- ◆ The embankment slope of Seppala Drive has been designed with the steepest practicable slopes where crossing wetlands. This design choice minimizes embankment fill into adjacent wetlands.
- ◆ The Dry Creek culvert utilizes a pipe arch design, which facilitates adequate fish passage while minimizing the necessary elevation of Seppala Drive. This minimizes the amount of embankment fill into the Dry Creek wetlands.

Measures included in the project are expected to result in a net benefit to waters of the U.S. Replacing the existing 6- and 7-foot diameter culverts at Dry Creek with a single 10.33 foot high by 15.33 foot wide pipe arch will reestablish tidal exchange with the Dry Creek and Bourbon Creek wetlands, leading to an improvement of floodplain and ecological function. The new culvert will also improve fish passage.

The Center Creek and Dry Creek stream realignments will have similar channel characteristics as the existing streams. Stream banks will be re-vegetated using native vegetative mats obtained from areas within the footprint of the new road embankment. In areas where riprap armoring is installed in the Snake River, Dry Creek, and Center Creek, vegetated riprap will be used above MHW.

Construction activities will be scheduled to avoid sensitive periods, including clearing during migratory bird nesting windows and in-water work during salmon spawning windows. The project will obtain coverage under the Alaska Construction General Permit, and appropriate erosion and sediment control best management practices will be used to mitigate sediment pollution into adjacent wetlands and waters.

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

The Seppala Drive Upgrade project proposes to rehabilitate the full length of Seppala Drive, approximately 1.3 miles in length, between Bering Street and Airport Terminal Road. Work includes pavement rehabilitation, roadside hardware, drainage improvements, intersection improvements, ADA improvements, and sub-surface utility upgrades. Work also includes raising the profile grade in places to prevent overtopping by storm surges and improve sight distances and turning movements and widening of the road in places to accommodate pedestrian facility improvements.

Proposed permanent impacts to wetlands include placement of approximately 2,700 cubic yards (CY) of fill above ordinary high water (OHW). Fill above OHW is needed for widening of road embankments due to grade raises and for construction of the maintenance access road. Proposed permanent impacts to waters include placement of approximately 1780 CY of fill below OHW. Fill below OHW is needed for widening of road embankment adjacent to the Snake River and placement of riprap along the Snake River, Dry Creek, and Center Creek drainages. Additionally, approximately 920 CY of material is anticipated to be excavated below OHW in order to (1) create a bench for placed riprap in the Snake River drainage, and (2) to install culverts in and to realign the Dry Creek and Center Creek drainages. Total anticipated permanent impacts to wetlands and waters amount to 2.77 acres of jurisdictional waters of the U.S.

Is any portion of the work already complete?

No

Description of current activity site conditions

Seppala Drive currently is in poor condition with pavement, drainage issues, traffic safety concerns, erosion concerns from the adjacent Snake River, overtopping of the road from storm surges, and lack of continuous pedestrian facilities. The purpose of the project is to improve safety, extend the service life, and reduce maintenance associated with degraded roadways and poor drainage.

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

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

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

Yes

Linear Feet

6,864

Project Address

Seppala Drive

Nome, AK 99762

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

Project Location

64.507268,-165.426221

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
NONE PROVIDED	Nome Census Area	Kateel River	26, 27	22 S	34 W

Directions to Site

Seppala Drive, from Bering Street to Airport Terminal Road

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

Stephen

Last Name

Moore

Title

Project Manager

Organization Name

Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Type

Business

Number

907-753-5713

Extension

Email

Stephen.A.Moore2@usace.army.mil

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?
 Yes

How many acres?
 2.77

How much volume? (Cubic Yards)
 920.00

Is the dredging considered a new project, or maintenance?
 New Project

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 ♦ 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](#)

Has a Tier analysis been conducted of the dredged prism?

No

Note, if marked NO; A Tier analysis may be required later upon review of the request.

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

contractor furnished. Permitted Nome material site

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

Type	Cubic Yards
gravel	920

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

Surface Area	Units
2.77	Acres

Discharge Location Information (1 of 1)

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

Location Description

Culvert

Placement of Dredged/Fill material discharge

Wetland

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

Wetlands

Discharge Location

64.507268,-165.426221

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

Fill material will be analyzed to ensure contaminants are not present. The fill material will be contained on site by construction placement and on site BMPs to prevent material runoff.

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

A construction manager will be onsite during excavations to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge

Avoidance Measures

Given the location of Seppala Drive and its proximity to surrounding wetlands and waters, complete avoidance of wetland impacts is not feasible.

Minimization Measures

To minimize impacts, the following measures have been implemented:

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Mitigation Measures

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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
- Public health or safety improvements

Economic Importance Analysis

- Access to recourses
- Access to a transportation network

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project

The proposed action does not include any realignment that may alter or impact community cohesion. Sidewalk improvements widened shoulders and separated paths will provide safer pedestrian access between the airport and the city center. Business parking between F Street and Bering Street will be impacted as vehicles currently drive over the sidewalk to access off-road parking. Planned sidewalk improvements will allow for new driveways but may reduce the amount of overall parking as driving over sidewalks will not be allowed. The parking lot at Kawerak in particular will be reduced in order to maintain sufficient setbacks from the intersection of Seppala Drive and C Street. The stated improvements will improve travel between the airport, Port of Nome and downtown Nome. This will provide an economic benefit to the City as tourists have better access between transit centers and the main business district. Improvements to the deteriorated sections of Seppala Drive between F Street and Bering Street will provide a benefit to motorists and pedestrians.

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
City of Nome	Floodplain	24-000136	10/15/2025	09/25/2025	NONE PROVIDED
City of Nome	Fill/Excavation	24-000135	10/08/2024	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
Army Corps	404	POA-2024-00047	03/16/2026	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 1)

Contact Role

OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name	Last Name	
Melissa	Jensen	
Title		
Environmental Impact Analyst		
Organization Name		
AKDOT		
Phone Type	Number	Extension
Mobile	9073881178	
Email		
melissa.jensen@alaska.gov		

Attachments

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

Nome Seppala Dr Rehab NWP23 PCN form packet.pdf - 06/11/2026 02:30 PM
MLJSeppala_404_PCN-supplemental info - bn.pdf - 06/11/2026 02:30 PM
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

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.

Z620030000 Seppala Drive Upgrade - Plans (7.22.2025).pdf - 06/11/2026 02:30 PM
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments

NONE PROVIDED
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

NONE PROVIDED
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.

Revisions

Revision	Revision Date	Revision By
Revision 1	6/11/2026 2:30 PM	melissa jensen
Revision 2	6/16/2026 10:27 AM	melissa jensen
Revision 3	6/16/2026 10:53 AM	melissa jensen

Agreements and Signature(s)

Certification Statement

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:

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- 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 melissa jensen on 06/16/2026 at 10:54 AM
tEVnGa53g/guBWwnPBi40VijbhStvNQHqSoCoiJdwm9kKxC/36ENFnEFPzHVht1wSEWqdlm2UFv/SEI6ROFkQ==