



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

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

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	July 8, 2026
EXPIRATION DATE:	Aug 7, 2026
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2026-00097
WATERWAY:	Norton Sound

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 Steve Moore at (907) 753-7513 toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at stephen.a.moore2@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: City of Stebbins
Attn: John Nashoanak
P.O. Box 71022
Stebbins, AK 99671

AGENT: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)
Attn: Cooper Arend
4500 Diplomacy Drive, Suite 454
Anchorage, AK 99508

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 18, T23S, R18W; Sections 2 and 11, T23S, R19W, Kateel Meridian., within and near the City of Stebbins, in the Nome Census Area, Alaska.

Approximate Coordinates for Project Components:

- Water Intake: 63.4968° N, 162.2311° W
- RWTL Causeway: 63.5216° N, 162.2847° W
- Sewage Lagoon Access Road: 63.5132° N, 162.2872° W
- Force Main: 63.5132° N, 162.2834° W
- Sewage Lagoon: 63.5139° N, 162.2775° W

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to provide the community of Stebbins with year-round access to potable water and a sanitary wastewater disposal system. The project is needed to address critical sanitation deficiencies in the community, including the lack of ADEC-permitted drinking water, an over-capacity and failing honeybucket disposal site, and a failing septic system. Upgrades and new infrastructure will alleviate substantial potential health hazards. Total wetland impact from the proposal is 8.74 acres.

PROPOSED WORK: The City of Stebbins proposes to construct and operate new water and wastewater systems. The work includes the permanent discharge of fill material into wetlands and other waters of the U.S. to construct a new water intake, a raw water transmission line (RWTL), a sewer force main, a sewage lagoon access road, and a new sewage lagoon system.

Water System Components

- a. Clear Lake Water Intake: Replacement of the existing intake with a new submersible pump system in a 12-inch HDPE casing anchored to the lake bottom (120 feet below Ordinary High Water [OHW]). Class 1 riprap (65 CY) and fill (30 CY) will be placed to protect the casing.
- b. Raw Water Transmission Line (RWTL): Divided into Alignment A (utilizing 15,000 feet of existing RWTL and 2,400 feet of new aboveground line) and Alignment B (6,450 feet of new aboveground line). Alignment B requires construction of a causeway across an unnamed pond. The causeway will be 300 feet long, 69 feet wide at the base, 23 feet wide at the top, and 11 feet tall.
- c. Raw Water Impoundment: Construction of a raw water impoundment in the existing Reindeer Gravel Pit (no wetland impacts).

Wastewater System Components

- a. Vacuum Sewer Station: Located on an existing pad with no wetland disturbance.
- b. Sewer Force Main: Approximately 830 feet of buried arctic sewer force main extension located entirely in wetlands.
- c. Sewage Lagoon Access Road: Upgrading 1,450 feet of existing road and constructing a 1,030-foot extension. The extension will be built using geotextile fabric and embankment fill.
- d. Sewage Lagoon: Construction of a new three-cell system (primary holding cell, secondary seasonal discharge cell, and a sewage solids cell for honeybucket waste) spanning approximately 7.17 acres.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-43), dated February 26, 2026.

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 states that wetlands cannot be entirely avoided because the community and surrounding areas are comprised almost completely of wetlands. To avoid impacts where possible:

- The raw water impoundment will be located in an abandoned, dry gravel pit.
- New RWTL sections will be constructed aboveground on existing grade to avoid filling.
- The sewer force main will cross two tundra ponds on helical piles with zero fill discharge.

b. Minimization: Project boundaries will be clearly surveyed and flagged prior to construction to prevent accidental encroachment.

- Natural drainage patterns will be maintained along the access road using 24-inch culverts.
- The width of the causeway across the unnamed pond has been minimized to the narrowest stable platform design.
- Overburden and excess excavation materials will be temporarily stockpiled on plastic sheeting and subsequently used for berm stabilization or seeded to promote vegetation regrowth.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: No compensatory mitigation is proposed. The project is an essential public sanitation utility designed to significantly reduce existing environmental and public health hazards associated with failing septic systems and honeybucket disposal.

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 applicant, acting under Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), has made effects determinations for the proposed project and provided documentation of consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). USACE has reviewed this Section 106 documentation, and absent any additional comments from the SHPO, intends to concur with their findings and/or determinations.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*), and Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*). The action area contains designated critical habitat for both the polar bear and spectacled eider.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) and ANTHC has determined the project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect these species, and is subject to the programmatic consultation for community upgrades (Consultation 2024 0106828; executed June 18, 2025) provided to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and Indian Health Service (IHS) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Any comments USFWS 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).

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect any 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 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. 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