

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.17

(Submission #: HQQ-SJW4-7MW0T, version 1)

Digitally signed by:
dec.alaska.gov
Date: 2026.08.20 09:32:11 -08:00
Reason: Submission Data
Location: State of Alaska

Details

Site: Put 29 Access Road and Mine Site

Submission ID HQQ-SJW4-7MW0T

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)

Billing Contact

Applicant

Contact

Prefix

NONE PROVIDED

First Name Last Name

Kirsten Hoppe

Title

Environmental Specialist

Organization Name

Hilcorp Alaska LLC

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 9077778416

Email

kirsten.hoppe@hilcorp.com

Mailing Address

3800 Centerpoint Dr Suite 1400

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

United States

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-2026-00362

Project Name or Title

Put 29 Access Road and Mine Site

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name

NONE PROVIDED

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
10/01/2026	10/01/2027

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Clean, permitted gravel	10/01/2026	10/01/2027

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)

The proposed gravel access road will leave an established gravel road that also provides access to Drillsite 15, located in the Prudhoe Bay Unit, North Slope of Alaska. The proposed access road will be approximately 1,000 feet long, 36 feet wide at the surface, maintaining a 2 to 1 slope from the surface of the road to the tundra surface. The proposed access road will be wider approximately 200 feet from the established intersection to allow trucks to safely turn onto the established road (see attached documentation). A 24 inch diameter culvert will be placed on the proposed road to allow seasonal water to move, if needed. The proposed access road is scheduled to be constructed in October 2026. The mine site will be constructed after the access road is finalized, no sooner than 2027. The gravel extraction will take place within a 64 acre area. Overburden berms will have an additional amount of tundra/wetland disturbance. Planned areas for overburden are described in the attached supporting documentation.

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

Current gravel sources are being depleted throughout the North Slope. Permitting new gravel sources and roads to reach gravel sources is necessary for continued oil and gas development. Discharged gravel will be used for the access road leading into the proposed mine site.

Is any portion of the work already complete?

No

Description of current activity site conditions

The area is wetlands/tundra.

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

1,000

Project Address

3800 Centerpoint Dr Suite 1400

3800 Centerpoint Dr Suite 1400

Anchorage, AK 99503

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

[DSM - Lat/Long converter](#)

Project Location

70.287041,-148.552997

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	North Slope Borough	Umiat	22	11N	14E
NONE PROVIDED	North Slope Borough	Umiat	27	11N	14E

Directions to Site

From Deadhorse, Alaska, drive to Drill Site 15 access road, Prudhoe Bay Unit, North Slope of Alaska.

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 Last Name

Andrew Kastning

Title

NONE PROVIDED

Organization Name

USACE, AK District

Phone Type Number Extension

Business 907-753-2831

Email

Andrew.C.Kastning@usace.army.mil

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?
No

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](#)

Fill Material to be Discharged

Will Fill Material be Discharged?
Yes

For fill material, identify the material source
Put 23 Gravel Mine Site. Gravel fill is for the access road leading to proposed mine site

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

Type	Cubic Yards
clean, permitted gravel for the access road	45,000

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

Surface Area	Units
3.5	Acres
64	Acres
27	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

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

70.287041,-148.552997

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

Gravel discharge for constructing the gravel access road will occur during months when wetlands are frozen, decreasing turbidity and sediment issues. Best management practices will be implemented during gravel placement.

Impaired Waters

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

Hilcorp adheres to established BMPs for discharge and will create project-specific BMPs if needed.

Avoidance Measures

Hilcorp has reviewed options to avoid construction of the proposed Put 29 Mine Site and Access Road, but the option to construct could not be avoided. Ongoing development in the Prudhoe Bay Unit requires additional sources of gravel. The proposed mine site will be excavated in phases pending the need for gravel. When gravel is used, Hilcorp minimizes the footprint necessary for new pad development by optimizing the well spacing and row layout. Hilcorp also minimizes wetlands disturbance by using existing pads as much as possible. However, pad extensions or new pads are required from time to time for exploration drilling and production facilities.

- ◆ The proposed mine site and access road is designed with the minimum footprint consistent with safety and engineering constraints;
- ◆ Hilcorp employs deep mining to reduce surface area disturbance;
- ◆ The construction of the proposed mine site avoids the following impacts:
 - o Avoids impacting as many lakes, ponds and streams as possible;
 - o Avoids Anadromous Water crossings to the maximum extent possible;
 - o Avoids impacting pristine wetlands to develop a new gravel source;
 - o Will use existing material sites and local existing roads to the maximum extent possible.

Minimization Measures

The proposed mine site construction has been designed to minimize the area disturbed. The overburden will be removed and placed to maximize the conservation, segregation and stockpiling of the organic overburden for use in reclamation and restoration projects.

- ◆ Once mining is completed, overburden will be placed back into the pit to reduce and buttress side slopes and limit area required for storage.
- ◆ Hilcorp will construct berms around the margin of the proposed mine site to serve as a thermal barrier. This barrier will help to preserve the underlying permafrost and prevent the melting of ice wedges and thermokarsting. Without this insulation, exposed ice wedges may melt and erode back from the edge of the pit with the potential to drain adjacent wetlands. The slope stability gained by this practice will greatly increase the potential for future valuable habitat for avian species. The thermal berms will also prevent transmission of water, which is a major safety concern in an active mine site. The result of these berms is a net benefit for wetland preservation.
- ◆ Hilcorp minimizes the amount of gravel necessary by minimizing the footprint necessary for additional development wells and associated infrastructure including providing access to the existing well rows for drilling, completion and operation of existing wells. Hilcorp designs the footprint of well pads to minimize impacts while still drilling new development wells and working on existing wells. This minimizes the amount of gravel expansion required at this site.

Mitigation Measures

Through Avoidance and Minimization, Hilcorp has worked to limit the impact to wetlands.

◆ Hilcorp examined permittee responsible mitigation; including creation/restoration and preservation. Wetland creation/restoration on the North Slope is impracticable because wetlands are primarily developed through permafrost action (taking hundreds of years to develop) and the growing season is only 60 days. This prevents any reasonable success goals from being achieved that would show replacement of lost functions, as required by regulation.

◆ Hilcorp continues to commit to continued improvement of fish passage routes where existing roads and pads meet streams, creeks and rivers.

◆ Hilcorp has avoided potential impacts by methods listed in Section 1 above, and minimized potential impacts by methods listed in Section 2. Avoidance and minimization is proposed to the maximum extent practicable. Hilcorp proposes that the described avoidance and minimization measures satisfy the mitigation requirements under the Corps◆ various statutory authorities and therefore propose that no compensatory mitigation is appropriate or should be required.

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

Economic Importance Analysis

Commercial activities

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project

Current gravel sources are being depleted throughout the North Slope. Permitting new gravel sources and roads to reach gravel sources is necessary for continued oil and gas development. Gravel is used to maintain and create oil and gas development, which has National and State economic importance.

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
NSB	TLUI Cultural Resource Clearance	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
NSB	Development Permit	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR DOG	Unit Plan of Operations	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR SHPO	Cultural Resources Clearance	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR DMLW	Material Sales Contract	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADNR DMLW	Material Sale Designation	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED	NONE PROVIDED
ADFG	Culvert Information	TBD	NONE PROVIDED	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	
Alex	Zinck	
Title		
Natural Resource Specialist		
Organization Name		
ADNR DOG		
Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	9072698804	
Email		
alexander.zinck@alaska.gov		

Attachments

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

Put 29 Access Road and Mine Site_07_29_2026.zip - 08/13/2026 04:00 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.

PUT-29_2025_REHABILITATION_PLAN.pdf - 08/13/2026 04:00 PM

PUT-29 GRAVEL PIT_OVERALL_PLAN.pdf - 08/13/2026 04:00 PM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments

Mitigation Statement Put 29.pdf - 08/13/2026 04:00 PM

Hilcorp PUT 29 Mine Site Cultural Resource Study.pdf - 08/13/2026 04:00 PM

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.

Agreements and Signature(s)

Certification Statement

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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 Kirsten Hoppe on 08/13/2026 at 4:10 PM
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