



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published: September 16, 2026

Expires: October 1, 2026

Permit Application No. POA-2022-00357

Waterway: the Sagavanirktok River

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Alaska District of the United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Heather Lescanec
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska)
P.O. Box 196660
Anchorage, Alaska 99519

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect waters of the United States and navigable waters of the United States associated with the Sagavanirktok River. The project/review area is located within Section 5, Township 7N., Range 14 E.; Umiat Meridian; at Latitude 69.988° N. and Longitude 148.688° W., Pipeline Milepost 20, in the North Slope Borough, Alaska

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project area has had similar activities conducted before under the permit application number, POA-2022-00357, where previous gravel mining and stabilization structures were completed in 2022.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to restore a buffer zone along an inactive gravel pit adjacent to the Sagavanirktok River to protect the integrity of the shallow buried mainline pipe.

Basic: The basic purpose is to construct a buffer and stabilization structures.

Overall: The overall purpose is to construct a buffer and stabilization structures near the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), and the Sagavanirktok River.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge approximately 10,000 cubic yards of alluvial gravel in up to 7 acres below the ordinary high water mark of the Sagavanirktok River in order to mine gravel from a gravel bar and discharge 9,500 cubic yards of the mined gravel in 2 acres of the Sagavanirktok River in order to create a stabilized buffer to protect an old gravel pit pond and the buried pipeline. A temporary berm would be created from streambed material to project the gravel mining site.

This work would be implemented in late fall when the river stage is typically very low and local seasonal side channels are frozen or dry. Depending on field conditions, isolated areas of groundwater seepage may be encountered especially in the early stages of construction. Therefore, it is anticipated that the work area would be mostly frozen and/or dry. A stream diversion or a temporary installation of culverts may be necessary to minimize impacts to water quality. Total impacts are up to 9 acres of the Sagavanirktok River. Equipment would be staged above the ordinary high water mark, in the adjacent uplands. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated 3/2/2026.

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 material and work conducted within the Sagavanirktok River.

- a. Avoidance: The applicant states that Alyeska is avoiding wetlands as much as possible for the storage sites of material; these storage sites have been identified by Alyeska's Environmental Coordinators as upland areas adjacent to the Sagavanirktok River. Alyeska is also choosing travel routes to avoid any wetlands, and creating minimal impacts on all vegetation; since we acknowledge tundra sensitivities and value the preservation of tundra.
- b. Minimization: The applicant states that Alyeska would revegetate or stabilize vegetation after the project no later than next summer. We have active coordination with our ADF&G regulatory agency to avoid fish spawning areas, and have already acquired a Title 16 fish habitat permit(s)
- c. The applicant has provided the following explanation why compensatory mitigation should not be required: Alyeska is both avoiding wetlands, and minimizing any direct impacts.

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:

USACE is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). USACE has defined the undertaking as all portions of the project described above, which require DA authorization. USACE has defined the permit area as the footprint of regulated activities within the Sagavanirktok River and the adjacent uplands for the staging area of project specific equipment. No resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places are known to be present in the vicinity of the proposed work; however, the permit area has not been formally surveyed for the presence of cultural resources. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking

and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal Government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally recognized Tribes, and other interested parties. This notice serves as a request to State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and other interested parties to provide any information they may have regarding historic properties.

USACE evaluated the undertaking pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) utilizing its existing program-specific regulations and procedures along with 36 CFR Part 800. USACE's program-specific procedures include 33 CFR 325, Appendix C, and revised interim guidance issued in 2005, 2007, and 2009, respectively. The District Engineer consulted district files and records and the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and initially determines that:

USACE has defined the undertaking as all portions of the project described above, which require DA authorization. USACE has defined the permit area as the footprint of regulated activities within the Sagavanirktok River and the adjacent uplands for the staging area of project specific equipment.

No known cultural resources were identified within USACE's permit area, nor were any known historic properties located beyond the permit area that could be impacted by indirect effects from the undertaking identified; therefore, there would be No Historic Properties Affected. The permit area is situated within the active channel(s) and dynamic floodplain of the Sagavanirktok River. Resources are not expected to be present or preserved in this area due to continuous natural scouring and disturbances from severe flood and icing events. Additionally, the site has been subject to significant prior anthropogenic disturbance, having been dredged and mined for gravel within the last five years. Given the highly dynamic environment of this channel and the extensive recent disturbances, it is not expected for resources to exist in the permit area. Likewise, the staging and stockpiling areas are existing disturbed areas already used for commercial purposes leading to a determination of no effect on historic properties USACE subsequently requests concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties or cultural resources within the USACE-identified permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA): USACE has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Alaska Section 7 Mapper, and the NMFS Critical Habitat Mapper to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final

designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, USACE has made a determination that the proposed project would not affect any listed species or critical habitat.

Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they 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 (EFH): Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996, USACE reviewed the project area, examined information provided by the applicant, and consulted available species information.

This notice initiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996. Our initial determination is that the proposed action may adversely affect EFH and/or fisheries managed by Fishery Management Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Implementation of the proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on EFH because of the analysis below. These habitat(s) are utilized by the following species and their various life stages:

chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), broad whitefish (*Coregonus nasus*), least cisco (*Coregonus sardinella*), and undifferentiated whitefishes, as well as spawning habitat for pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) and rearing habitat for Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*).

According to NOAA's publication entitled "Impacts to Essential Fish Habitat from Non-Fishing Activities in Alaska," the project activities may have the following impacts:

Physical Disturbance: The discharge of materials will directly alter the riverbed and floodplain structure. The removal of this substrate can eliminate spawning habitat and reduce the complexity of the river channel, which is crucial for juvenile fish rearing.

Increased Turbidity: The use of heavy equipment (excavators, bulldozers) within the active floodplain and the physical act of scraping and moving gravel will likely introduce fine sediments into the water column. Increased turbidity can reduce feeding success for visual predators, harm fish gills, and smother eggs and alevins.

Alteration of Hydrology: The creation of temporary berms, ramps, and the overall alteration of the gravel bar's topography could locally alter water flow patterns, potentially dewatering side channels or creating barriers to fish passage.

Entrapment of Fish: Any fish encountered in pools will be captured and released. This indicates a risk of fish being isolated and entrapped as water levels fluctuate or as a result of mining activities.

Currently, the applicant proposes to implement the following mitigation measures:

- Confining heavy equipment to use the existing TAPS work pad and unvegetated gravel bars.
- Conducting all fueling on the right-of-way outside the active floodplain.
- Limit gravel extraction to a shallow depth of approximately 1.5 feet to minimize geomorphological impacts and allow the extraction site to naturally reaccumulate sediment, thereby promoting gravel bar stability and rebuilding.
- Avoid mining in flowing water and not extending mining into the water table.
- Capturing and releasing any fish found in isolated pools.
- Removing temporary ramps and berms at the end of each mining season and re-grading the site to prevent fish entrapment.

Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

NAVIGATION: The proposed work activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline 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. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: 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 determination, comments are used to assess impacts to 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Alaska District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until October 1, 2026. All comments regarding this public notice should be sent to the address noted below. If you desire to submit your comments electronically, you should send it to the project manager's email as listed below, to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil, or via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs>. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District:

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

Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

All comments should reach this office no later than October 1, 2026 to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Tyler Marye at (907) 753-5778, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at Tyler.J.Marye@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

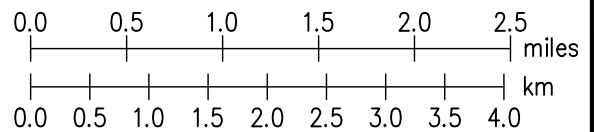
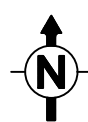
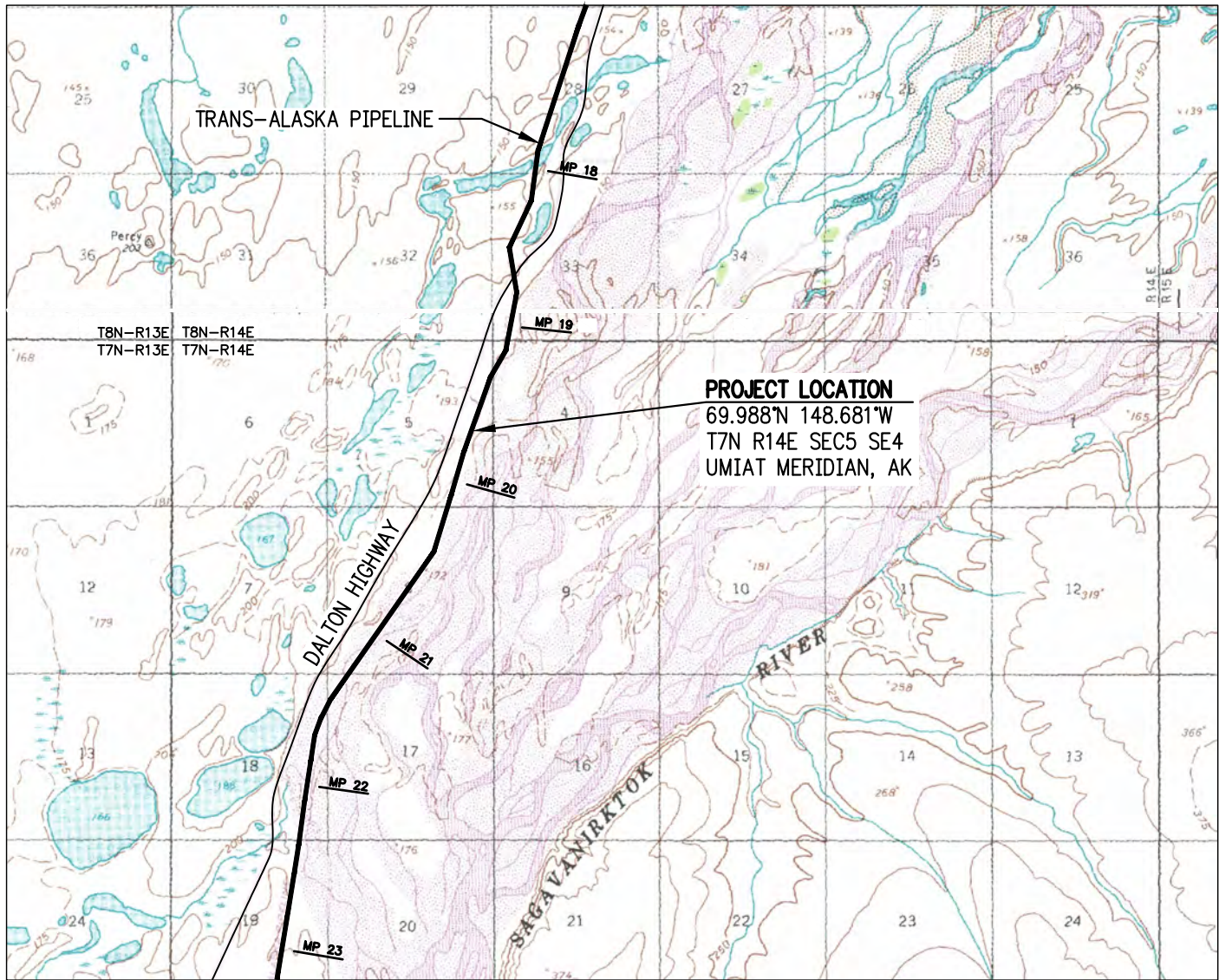
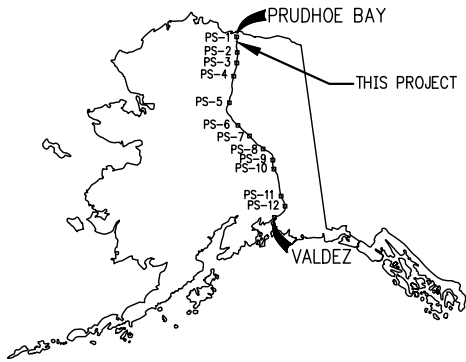
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ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER: STATE OF ALASKA

ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CO.

2026 RIVERS AND FLOODPLAINS IMPROVEMENTS
LOWER SAG RIVER – MP19.7 BANK EROSION MITIGATION
LOCATION AND VICINITY MAP

TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM

DATE: 03/02/26

PLATE 1

REV. A DWN. JAM CKD. SMK APPR. JPD

SCALE: AS NOTED

SHEET 1 OF 4

AUTOCAD DWG. DO NOT REVISE MANUALLY.

FILE DATE:

PLOT SCALE:

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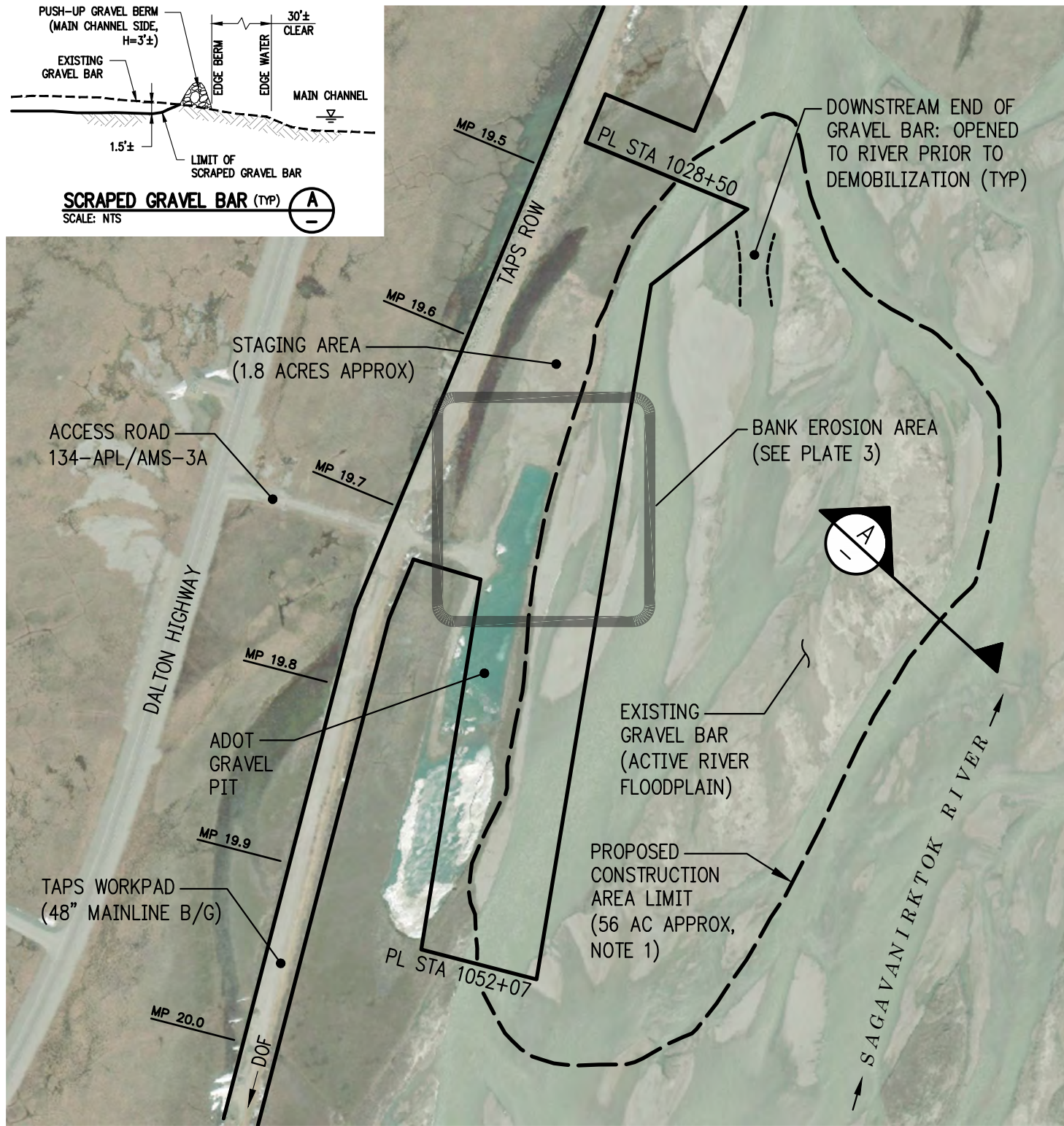
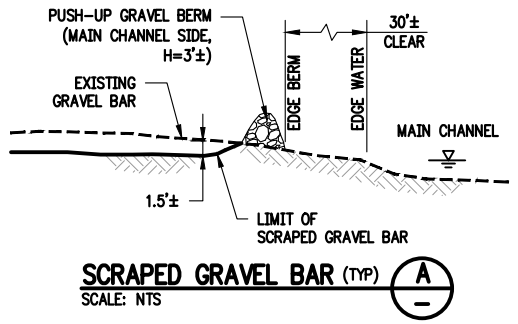
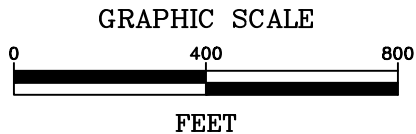
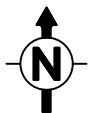


PHOTO DATE: 2025



PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 400'

NOTE 1:
AREA OF EARTHWORK IS APPROXIMATELY 5 ACRES. SEE SECTION A FOR DETAILS ON TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE GRAVEL BERM.

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER: STATE OF ALASKA

ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CO.

2026 RIVERS AND FLOODPLAINS IMPROVEMENTS
LOWER SAG RIVER – MP19.7 BANK EROSION MITIGATION
SITE PLAN

TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM

DATE: 03/02/26

PLATE 2

REV. A DWN. JAM CKD. SMK APPR. JPD

SCALE: AS NOTED

SHEET 2 OF 4

AUTOCAD DWG. DO NOT REVISE MANUALLY.

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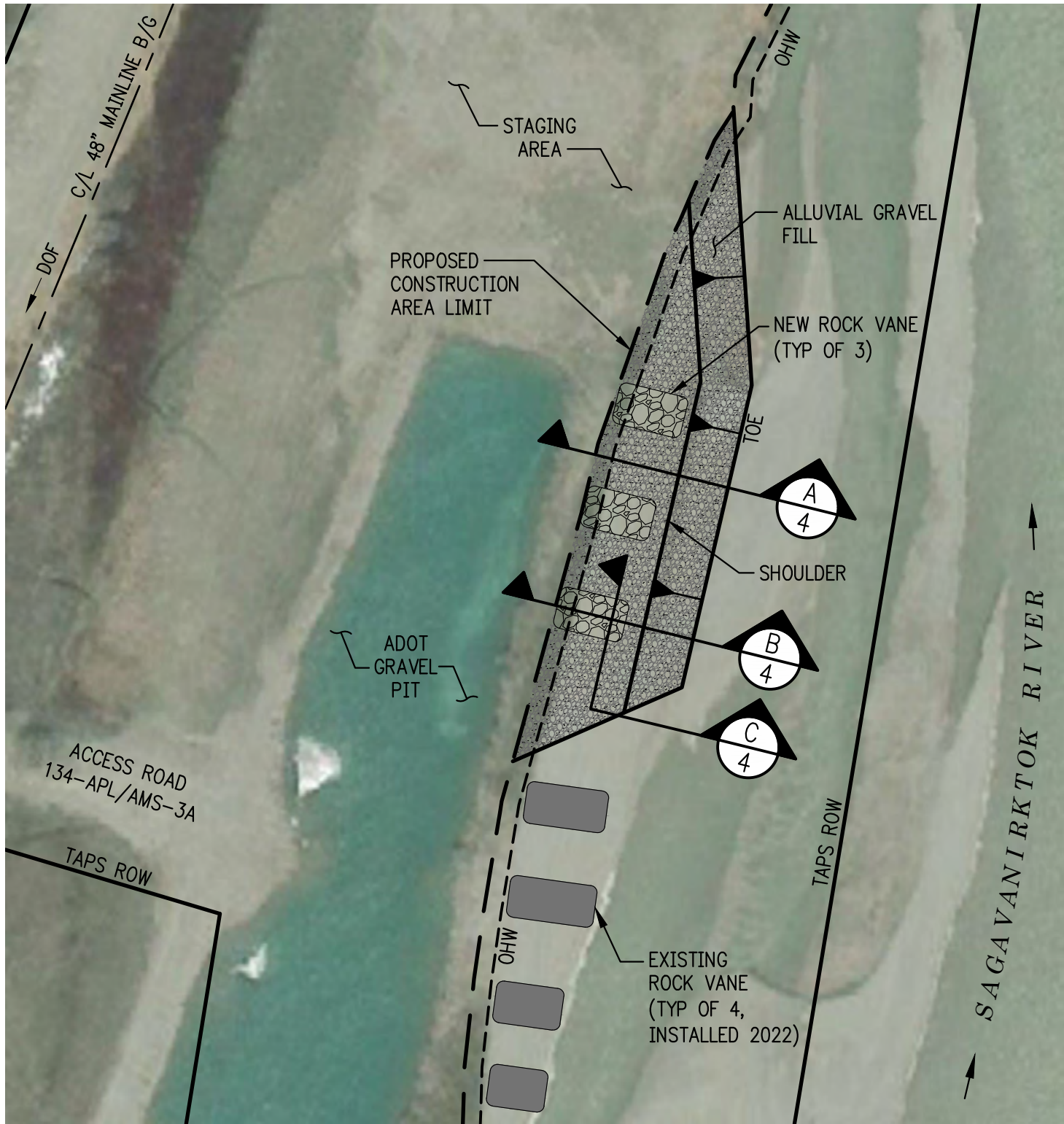
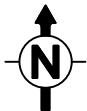


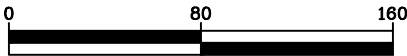
PHOTO DATE: 2025

PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 80'



GRAPHIC SCALE



FEET

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER: STATE OF ALASKA

ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CO.

2026 RIVERS AND FLOODPLAINS IMPROVEMENTS
LOWER SAG RIVER - MP19.7 BANK EROSION MITIGATION
ENLARGED SITE PLAN

TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM

DATE: 03/02/26

PLATE 3

REV. A DWN. JAM CKD. SMK APPR. JPD

SCALE: AS NOTED SHEET 3 OF 4

AUTOCAD DWG. DO NOT REVISE MANUALLY.

FILE DATE:

PLOT SCALE:

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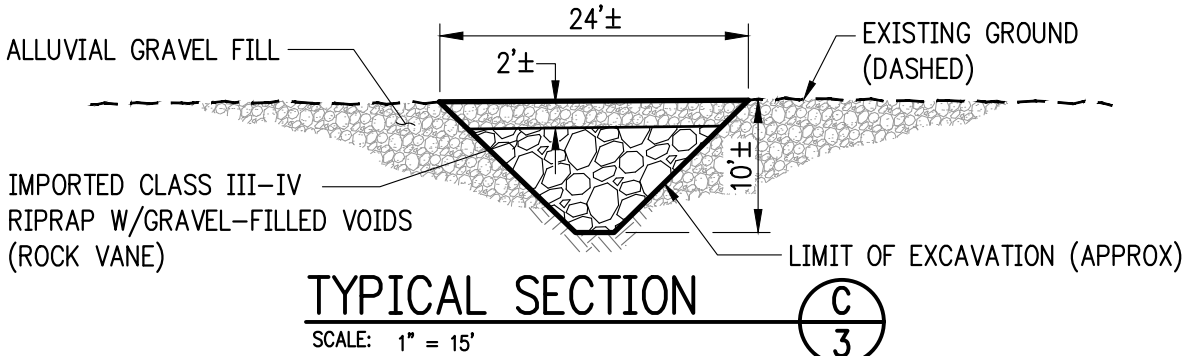
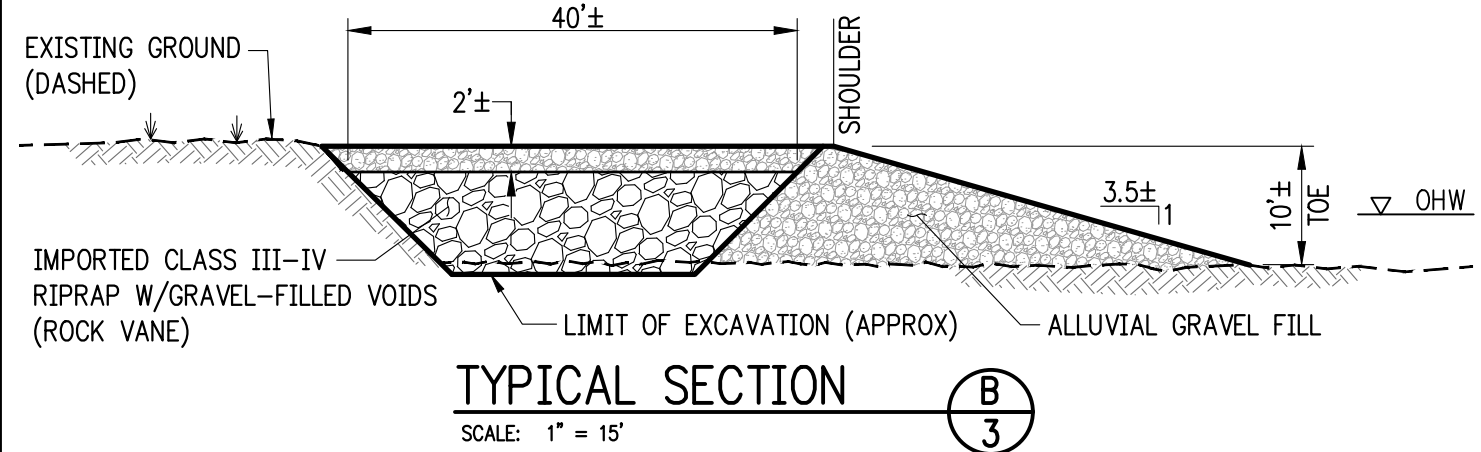
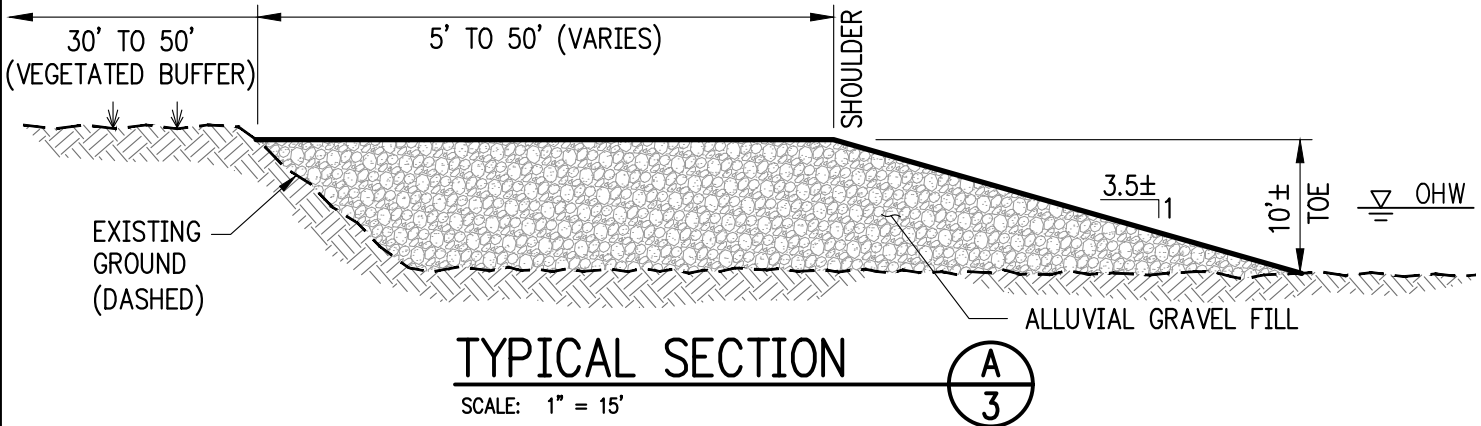
PLOT SCALE:

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ESTIMATED MATERIAL QUANTITIES

	BELOW OHW	ABOVE OHW	TOTAL
ALLUVIAL GRAVEL EXCAVATION (CY)	10,000	0	10,000
ALLUVIAL GRAVEL EXCAVATION (SF)	180,000	0	180,000
ALLUVIAL GRAVEL FILL (CY)	9,500	500	10,000
ALLUVIAL GRAVEL FILL (SF)	20,000	2,200	22,200
IMPORTED CLASS III-IV RIPRAP (CY) *	710	40	750

* RIPRAP PLACED DISCRETELY IN SAND AND GRAVEL FILL TO PROVIDE REINFORCEMENT AS ROCK VANES



ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER: STATE OF ALASKA

ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE CO.

2026 RIVERS AND FLOODPLAINS IMPROVEMENTS
LOWER SAG RIVER – MP19.7 BANK EROSION MITIGATION
SECTIONS

TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM

DATE: 03/02/26

PLATE 4

REV. A DWN. JAM CKD. SMK APPR. JPD

SCALE: AS NOTED

SHEET 4 OF 4