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Southeast Alaska Ecological Services

3000 Vintage Park Blvd., Suite 201

Juneau, Alaska 99801

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REGULATORY FUNCTIONS BRANCH  
Alaska District, Corps of Engineers

February 28, 1994

Colonel John W. Pierce  
District Engineer, Alaska District  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 898  
Anchorage, AK 99506

Re: Zimovia Strait 87  
Ref. 2-880483

Dear Colonel Pierce:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the project plans described in Public Notice of Application 2-880483, Zimovia Strait 87. The applicant, Alaska Pulp Corporation, is proposing to discharge woodwaste, shotrock and other materials into marine tidelands near Wrangell, Alaska. The project would provide additional storage area for on-land storage and handling of logs for the Wrangell Sawmill facility.

These comments are submitted in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and constitute the report of the Department of the Interior. These comments also are for use in your determination of 404(b)(1) Guidelines compliance (40 CFR 230), and in your public interest review (33 CFR 320.4) relating to protection of fish and wildlife resources.

Our agency, along with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Corps of Engineers, have participated in extensive discussion and negotiations with the applicant regarding the purpose, need and design of the proposed project. The revised project description as presented by the applicant's representative, Mr. Tom Hanna, dated December 14, 1993, January 21, 1994, February 4, 1994, and February 14, 1994, significantly reduces the adverse effects to fish and wildlife resources in the project area.

Therefore, we do not object to issuance of a permit if the following agreed to modifications and mitigation measures are included as special conditions in any permit that may be issued for the project:

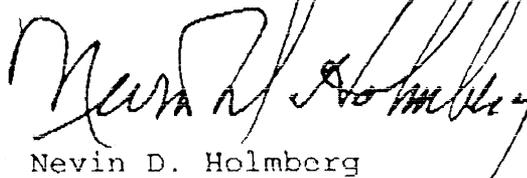
1. Portions of the fill which include woodwaste shall be enclosed on all sides with an impermeable liner within six months of the initial discharge of woodwaste fill into a cell. The proposed clay-plastic liner shall be keyed at least three feet deep into the existing bottom. The proposed clay-shotrock cap shall be completed within seven months of the initial discharge of woodwaste.

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2. No woodwaste, other than old woodwaste from "Mt. Sealy" or woodwaste recovered from adjacent intertidal areas, shall be used as fill material for the project.
3. The proposed project shall be completed within two years of commencement.
4. The causeway between the log storage area and the mill shall be constructed on pilings.
5. The dolphins, residual logs, cables, and miscellaneous discarded debris on the tidelands located immediately north of the project area within ATS-1249 shall be removed.
6. A performance bond in an amount adequate to complete the project shall be posted before construction begins.
7. The following inwater log storage areas shall be abandoned and the respective Department of Army permits withdrawn or cancelled.
  - Blind slough log storage area, consisting of approximately 66 acres.
  - Aaron Creek log storage area, consisting of approximately 9 acres, and withdrawal of appeal of Aaron Creek shallow water storage area of 72 acres.
  - Pt. Babler log storage area (ATS-784), consisting of approximately 35 acres.
  - Berg Bay log storage area (ATS-849), consisting of approximately 7 acres.
  - Fish Bay log storage area (ATS-954), consisting of approximately 53 acres.
  - Zimovia Strait log storage area (ATS-1249) at Wrangell Sawmill, consisting of approximately 5.2 acres.

We appreciate the active cooperation of your staff in accommodating the concerns of the resource agencies and in resolving the difficult issues involved with this permit action.

Sincerely,



Nevin D. Holmberg  
Field Supervisor

cc: DNR, NMFS, ADEC, DGC, Juneau  
ADF&G, Douglas, Petersburg  
SIT-ES, Sitka  
EPA, Anchorage