



PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK 99501-2617
Phone: 907-269-6285 | Email: DEC-401Cert@alaska.gov

Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification

Public Notice (PN) Date: November 6, 2020
PN Expiration Date: November 26, 2020

PN Reference Number: ER-20-019
Waterway: Lowell Creek

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request for a CWA §401 Water Quality Certification of a Department of the Army Permit application, Corps of Engineers' Reference Number ER-20-019, Lowell Creek, has been received for the discharge of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the United States (WOUS), including wetlands, as described below and shown on the enclosed project figures/drawings.

Applicant: US Army Corps of Engineers, 2204 Talley St, JBER, Michael Rouse, Fisheries Biologist, 907-753-2743, Michael.B.Rouse@usace.army.mil

Project Name: Lowell Creek Flood Diversion

Location: The proposed activity is located within Section 9, T. 01 S., R. 01 W. Seward Meridian; Latitude 600102673° N., Longitude -149.452270° W.; in Seward, Alaska.

Purpose: The applicant's stated purpose is to improve flood diversion capacity at Lowell Creek, in Seward, Alaska. The existing flood diversion system in Lowell Canyon does not adequately manage flood events and presents a risk to life, property, and critical infrastructure with little to no warning.

Project Description: The proposed project includes a new 18-foot diameter tunnel upstream from the existing tunnel, refurbishing the existing tunnel, extending the outfall 150 feet to carry flow and debris over Lowell Point Road, a new canopy to protect the tunnel inlet from landslides, and improving the low-flow diversion system. The project would also include select tree removal, implementation of an early warning system and evacuation plan. The proposed project is expected to mimic existing conditions without altering water quality conditions.

The applicant proposes placement of approximately 67,400 cubic yards of material into approximately one acre of Waters of the U.S., to construct the new diversion dam structure in the creek channel above the existing project.

The Corps released a draft integrated feasibility report and environmental assessment/finding of no significant impact for public review between September 21 – October 21, 2020. The report, other supporting documents, and project figures can be viewed on the Alaska District’s website at <https://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Library/Reports-and-Studies/>. On the webpage, look under “Documents Available for Public Review” and expand the Civil Works link.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above or via email to dec-401cert@alaska.gov by the above Public Notice expiration date. All comments should include the above PN reference number listed in the subject heading of the email. Mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

The permit application and associated documents are available for review. For inquires or to request copies of the documents, contact dec-401cert@alaska.gov, or call 907-269-6285.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact DEC Human Resources Office at 907-465-6171 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 5 days of the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

