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: May 20, 2022
PN Expiration Date: June 13, 2022
PN Reference Number: POA-2022-00034
Waterway: Gillespie 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.

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.

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 POA-2022-00034, Gillespie 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. The public notice and related project figures/drawings are also accessible from the DEC website at http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/.

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

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to water quality, may submit comments electronically via the DEC public notice site (preferred method) at https://water.alaskadec.commentinput.com/?id=6x2dF

Alternatively you may direct written comments or requests for public hearing via email or mail to the address listed above by the Public Notice (PN) expiration date. All comments submitted via mail or email should include the PN reference number listed above in the subject heading. Mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

Applicant: Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, 2301 Peger Road, Brett Nelson, Environmental Manager, 907-451-2238, brett.nelson@alaska.gov

Project Name: Richardson Highway MP 167-173 Reconstruction

Location: The proposed activity is located between Latitude 62.7789114° N., Longitude 145.4682574° W.; and Latitude 62.8566343° N., Longitude 145.4738913° W.; Milepost 167 to 173 Richardson Highway, near Paxson Lake, Alaska.

Purpose: The applicant’s stated purpose is to improve safety and bring this section of the Richardson Highway up to current design standards. The project is needed because the Richardson Highway throughout this corridor is substandard. This narrow section of roadway was last upgraded in 1953 and...
reflects the design standards of the time. The existing paved surface has two 12-foot travel lanes with many areas without a gravel shoulder. The pavement is in need of replacement and areas of the road are experiencing embankment and foundation settlement. The road embankment is steep and its alignment has numerous sharp horizontal and vertical curves that limit sight distance and exceed current design standards. Drainage problems exist in several areas due to undersized or failing culverts.

**Proposed Work**: DOT&PF proposes to reconstruct the Richardson Highway between mileposts 167 and 173. The scope of work includes reconstructing the road with 12-foot lanes and 6-foot-wide paved shoulders, reduce existing steep vertical grades and flatten horizontal and vertical curves, grading ditches to drain and replacing failing or undersized culverts, improve turnouts, replace roadway signs, realign the highway around Meiers Lake (MP 170), and build a temporary access road to access a retired material site where unusable material will be placed to reclaim the site.

Approximately 94,500 cubic yards of type A/C and 400 cubic yards of riprap Material would be deposited into 24.9 acres of wetlands and waters of the U.S. as a result of work required to reconstruct and realign the highway, flatten foreslopes to 4:1, grade ditches to drain ponded water, and remove and replace damaged, undersized, or failing culverts along the project corridor. Currently there are two 6-foot diameter cross culverts at Gillespie Creek. These will be replaced with one 12-foot diameter fish passage culvert. Materials that do not come from project excavations will come from within the permitted boundaries of the DOT&PF owned Meiers Lake Material Source (MS 71-3-008-5) located at Richardson Highway MP 169.5.

**Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice**

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 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 ADA Coordinator Claire Fishwick at 907-465-5871 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 before the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.
File No.: POA-2022-00034
Waterway: Multiple Crossings
Proposed Activity: Richardson Highway
MP 167-173 Reconstruction
Sheet 1 of 6

Projection: NAD 1983 State Plan Alaska 3. Road system, project area, and mileposts from DOT&PF
CULVERT NOTES:

1. Construct riprap aprons as noted in the culvert summary table.

2. Excavate below original ground where riprap is required and backfill with material class 1. This work is subsidiary to the pipe new 58120010001 shown on the culvert summary table.

3. Construct bedding and backfill with selected material type F.

4. See sheet 1 for culvert size, location and installation details.

File No.: POA-2022-00034
Waterway: Multiple Crossings
Proposed Activity: Richardson Highway MP
167-173 Reconstruction
Sheet 3 of 6