PUBLIC NOTICE
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program/§401 Certification
555 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK 9501-2617
Phone: 907-269-6285 | Email: DEC-401Cert@alaska.gov

Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification

Public Notice (PN) Date: August 15, 2022
PN Expiration Date: September 14, 2022
PN Reference Number: POA-2021-00209
Waterway: Cook Inlet - Knik Arm

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’ PN Reference Number indicated above 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 project figures/drawings. The public notice and related project figures/drawings are accessible from the DEC website at http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/.

To comment on the project or request for a public hearing with respect to water quality, submit comments electronically via the DEC public notice site at https://water.alaskadec.commentinput.com/?id=urfZ8 on or before the public notice expiration date listed above.

Applicant: FedEx Express, Steve Zebovitz; 632 W. Cargo Road, PO Box 66088, Chicago IL 60666; (312) 802-5829, shzebovitz@fedex.com

Project Name: Knik Arm TSAIA FedEx Express Sort Facility Project

Location: The proposed activity is located within Section 28, T. 13N, R. 4W; Seward Meridian; in Anchorage, Alaska.
Project Site: Latitude, Longitude: 61.186469, -149.992191.

Purpose: The proposed project would relocate local Alaska package sorting operations from the existing FedEx ANC Airport Facility to an adjacent area south of Taxiway Uniform at Anchorage International Airport, including expansion of an aircraft ramp to support feeder aircraft relocated from the existing facility. The relocation of the local package sorting operations is warranted due to FedEx’s existing aircraft apron and facility sort capacity constraints associated with normal growth. The proposed project would begin construction in 2023 and be completed by 2024.

Project Description: The proposed project would relocate some operations from the existing FedEx ANC Facility at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (Airport) to an adjacent area south of Taxiway Uniform. The proposed project consists of constructing two new buildings (an approximately 206,000 square foot package sorting facility and an associated 800-900 square foot vehicle wash building, totaling approximately 4.75 acres of building area), parking and paved areas (approximately 5.18 acres), grassed swales and islands (approximately 1 acre), a sedimentation basin (approximately 0.9 acres) and a feeder aircraft ramp extension (approximately 7.14 acres, of which approximately 2.96 acres impacts wetland) on a 21.9 acre parcel that will be leased from the Airport. The buildings will be built on pilings south of the ramp extension using a structural slab to reduce surcharging requirements. The parking area will be located east of the building and connect to North Tug Road and Postmark Drive via a short driveway.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed project area is known to have per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals used in many industries since the 1940s. They are found in certain types of firefighting foams, which are used to extinguish fuel and chemical fires. PFAS were used throughout TSAIA during fire-fighting drills before it was known that they cause significant adverse health and environmental impacts. The site is part of an area wide PFAS plume associated with a source approximately 1000 feet south of the site. TSAIA is investigating the area-wide impacts. To address potential PFAS and petroleum constituents in excess water generated during construction and the initial compression of the peat, the project design will evaluate management and control options, including possible in-situ mitigation options, such as treatment of the excess water flowing through the initial engineered fill layer using colloidal or granular activated carbon (GAC). Water management designs and plans will be coordinated with TSAIA and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and submitted to Alaska DEC for approval prior to construction. FedEx submitted a work plan to Alaska DEC in June 2022 for further delineation of the PFAS and petroleum impacts in the shallow groundwater and surface water at the site and expects to conduct the additional sampling.

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.

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.

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 Jason Burnett at 907-269-3056 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 prior to the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.