

# STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

NORTHERN REGION, PRECONSTRUCTION

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February 15, 2005

Re: Ruby Airport Improvements  
ADOT&PF Project No. 62605  
Agency Scoping

To Whom It May Concern:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is proposing a project to rehabilitate and resurface the runway, resurface the apron and replace the lighting at the Ruby Airport. Ruby is located on the south bank of the Yukon River, in the Kilbuck-Kuskokwim Mountains. It is about 50 air miles east of Galena and 230 air miles west of Fairbanks. Ruby lies adjacent to the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge. It lies at approximately 64.739° North Latitude and -155.48° West Longitude. (Sec. 04, T009S, R017E, Kateel River Meridian.) (Refer to Figure 1).

## Existing Facility Description

The community of Ruby is accessible by air and water, but is primarily dependent on air travel. It is vital that this airport continues to safely serve the public since it provides year-round access. The last project completed at the Ruby Airport was in 1993.

The existing airport facilities include a 4,000 by 100 foot gravel-surfaced, lighted runway with a 400 by 260 foot apron and an access road to the village of Ruby.

## Purpose and Need

The following issues will be addressed in this project:

- The sag curve in the middle of the runway exceeds the design standard for the most demanding aircraft operating in and out of Ruby.
- The airport surfaces are thin and raveled and need to be resurfaced.
- Airport lighting will need to be replaced due to the grade changes.

## Proposed Action

The proposed project would rehabilitate and mitigate the grade changes in the runway. This will cause the side slopes of the runway to be pushed out further, which will require additional land acquisition. The airport will be resurfaced and airport lighting replaced. (Refer to Figure 2).

There are several potential material sources for this project (Refer to Figure 3). Possible gravel sources include a gravel bar located 1-2 miles upstream from Ruby across the Yukon River (This material site was permitted during the last project, COE Permit # N-790472 (Yukon River 39)) and a gravel bar located 3-4 miles downstream from Ruby. These sites will be explored as

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possible gravel material sources. Possible sources of borrow embankment for the project include a site near the north end of the runway as well as tailing piles along the Ruby-Poorman Road.

In September 2004, DOWL Engineers conducted a study of the airport property that included classification and mapping of wetlands. This data was used to determine that no wetland impacts would occur as a result of the proposed improvements.

### Preliminary Research Results

For preliminary research results of natural resources in the project area, see Appendix A.

To ensure that all factors are considered in the environmental document, your comments are requested no later than Friday, March 18, 2005. Below is a list of federal, state and local entities that we are requesting input from. Please click on the organization that you represent. This will take you to a list of questions specific to your purview.

[ADEC](#)      [ADF&G](#)      [ADNR-POR](#)      [ADNR-RAD](#)      [ADNR-NRO](#)  
[ADNR-OPMP](#)   [ADNR-OHMP](#)      [Air Carriers](#)      [BLM](#)      [Local and Regional  
Organizations](#)  
[City and Village  
Governments](#)   [USACE](#)      [USEPA](#)      [USFWS](#)      [USNMFS](#)

If you have any questions regarding the project feel free to call our environmental consultant, Cecile Davis, at DOWL Engineers, at 562-2000, or by e-mail at [cdavis@dowl.com](mailto:cdavis@dowl.com). Should you have any questions on the design of the proposed project, contact me at 451-2284 or by e-mail at [cindie\\_little@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:cindie_little@dot.state.ak.us).

Sincerely,



Cindie Little, P.E., Project Manager  
Northern Region ADOT&PF Design

Links:    [Appendix A](#)  
          [Figure 1 - Location/Vicinity Map](#)  
          [Figure 2 - Plan View](#)  
          [Figure 3 - Proposed Material Sites](#)

cc: Leslie Howell, Northern Region Planner, FAA