

APPENDIX A

Preliminary Research Results

Contaminated Sites, Spills and Underground Storage Tanks: A search at the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) databases found there are no currently active contaminated sites within the project vicinity. There are no listed underground storage tanks in the area. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment conducted in September 2004, as part of the environmental documentation for this project indicated no issues warranting further investigation.

Anadromous Fish Streams and Essential Fish Habitat: NOAA has designated all anadromous fish streams as Essential Fish Habitat, as defined by the Magnuson Stevens Act. The existing airport property is adjacent to Kwemeluk Pass (ADF&G Stream # 334-10-11010), which is catalogued as an anadromous fish stream per the ADF&G Anadromous Fish Stream Catalogue. The waterway is listed as habitat for all five Pacific species of salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*, *O. gorbuscha*, *O. keta*, *O. tshawytscha*, *O. kisutch*), as well as other anadromous fish such as arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*), sheefish (*Stenodus leucichthys*), and whitefish (*Coregonus nasus*, *C. oidschian*). If the river bar adjacent to the airport is selected as a material site, an Essential Fish Habitat assessment and consultation with NMFS will be required. A Title 41 permit would also be necessary.

Historical, Archeological and Cultural Properties: A cemetery exists northwest of the airport, in town. The State Historic Preservation Office records identified two sites in proximity to Nunam Iqua, KWI-014 and KWI-020. The proposed airport improvements would not impact the cemetery, or either of these two historic sites. A gravesite has also been identified adjacent to the airport on the east. Based on discussions with SHPO on February 15, 2005, no cultural resources survey would be required for this project, however ADOT&PF will be initiating formal Section 106 consultation with SHPO and other interested parties to confirm that no historic properties will be affected by this project.

Coastal Zone Management: The proposed project would occur within the Nunam Iqua village corporate boundary, which falls within the Cenaliulriit Coastal Resource Service Area. All proposed work must comply with the enforceable policies of the service area, and a coastal zone review will be required.

Navigability, Floodplain Management, and Wetlands: The proposed project is adjacent to the Kwemeluk Pass of the Yukon River, which is designated as a navigable water body by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). The project may affect the waterway if a riverbar is identified as a feasible material source. Hydrology studies will be conducted to evaluate the affect mining potential material sources may have on the waterway.

Nunam Iqua does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, therefore floodplain maps are not available for this location.

A wetland delineation was completed within the proposed project vicinity (September 7 - 9, 2004). This report found that the surrounding area consists of a variety of wetlands (Figure 3). Ground-disturbing work would be subject to a Section 404 permit, and proposed work would be coordinated with the resource agencies.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are several species designated as either endangered, threatened, candidate, or delisted species that may potentially utilize areas near the project vicinity. Species include the spectacled and Steller's eiders, both listed as 'threatened'. The spectacled eider may breed in the area, and probably uses the immediate vicinity as a staging area (McCaffery, USFWS, personal communication). The Steller's eider probably migrates through the vicinity without heavy use. In addition, the Steller's sea lion (endangered) may use the area. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service would be consulted early in the project development process to ensure that threatened and endangered species are adequately protected, and to determine whether Section 7 consultation will be necessary for this project.

Material Sites/Disposal Sites/Haul Routes: No specific material or disposal sites have been designated for this project. Material sources adjacent to the runway, as well as river bar sources, will be studied. Gravel surface course would come from a Contractor-furnished source, and would be barged in. Existing barge landings would be used. The material site, disposal sites, and potential haul routes have not yet been identified, but they will be designated and included in the EA and permit applications for this project.

National Wildlife Refuges: The village and corporation area of Nunam Iqua is an 'inholding' within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

National Parks, Preserves, Monuments and Wild Scenic Rivers: The Nunam Iqua Airport is not located within any National Parks, Preserves, or Monuments. Kwemeluk Pass is not listed as a Wild and Scenic River.

Federal Recreational Area: The proposed project will not take place within a Federal Recreational Area.

State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas and Sanctuaries: The proposed project is not located within a State Refuge, Critical Habitat Area or a Sanctuary.

State Land Use Plans, State Parks: There are no State Land Use Plans for the area, and no State Parks in the vicinity of Nunam Iqua.