

APPENDIX A

Preliminary Research Results

Contaminated Sites, Spills and Underground Storage Tanks: A search of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) databases found the following record of previous contamination, spills, and/or underground storage tank leakage in the vicinity of the project area. It is not anticipated, however, that construction activities associated with the proposed project would encounter contaminated material from any of these sites, due to the distance between the project area and the listed sites.

The following sites are located within one mile of the proposed bridge work:

- FAA Unalakleet Station, located at the Unalakleet Airport: This site is composed of several locations, the nearest being approximately 2,000 feet west of the western boundary of the project. The database indicates potential contaminants abandoned on site in unknown quantities include petroleum, oil, lubricant wastes, asbestos, PCBs, and solvents. An UST and contaminated soils were removed from the site. An investigation identified soil and groundwater contamination, however the groundwater contamination did not originate on site. This site is active and has a medium priority.
- Alaska Commercial Co. Store-House A, located at 210 Main Street approximately 1,000 feet south of the project: The database indicated 8 cubic yards of diesel contamination at an AST, with expected groundwater contamination. The site was cleaned to ADEC standards and closed in 1996.
- FAA Unalakleet VORTAC Facility, located at the Unalakleet Airport: The database indicates that a spill occurred associated with the fill pipe. The site was cleaned to ADEC standards and closed in 1999.
- Unalakleet City, Aviation Tank Farm: The database indicates that 84,360 gallons of gasoline was released from a tank failure in 2000. According to the ADEC, the spill was contained within the secondary containment and very little fuel breached the secondary containment.

The following site is located within one mile of the proposed new road:

- Unalakleet Air. Warning Sta./DERP located 3.5 miles northeast of Unalakleet and approximately ½ mile northeast of the proposed road: This site is composed of several locations, the nearest being approximately 500 feet east of the eastern boundary of the project. The database indicates nine buildings, six generators, miscellaneous debris, two above ground fuel tanks, lead batteries, and contaminated soil on the site. Demolition of the site infrastructure, removal of USTs containing gasoline and diesel fuel, removal of miscellaneous debris, and excavation and on-site treatment of contaminated soil occurred in 1993 and 1995. Thousands of barrels were removed in 2002. Remaining soil contamination and barrels are planned for excavation and removal in the summer of 2005. The soil contamination is primarily from diesel fuel, but isolated areas of PCBs and heavy metal contamination exist. This site is active and has a high priority.

Anadromous Fish Streams: Unalakleet is adjacent to the Unalakleet River (Stream # 333-60-10100), which is catalogued as an anadromous fish stream per the ADF&G Anadromous Fish Stream Catalogue for the presence of sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), king salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*), chum salmon (*O. keta*), Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*

Walbaum), and whitefish (*Prosopium cylindraceum*). Kouwegok Slough, a tributary of the Unalakleet River, is also an anadromous stream (Personal Communication, M. McLean, 2005).

Neither waterway would be directly impacted by this project, although there would be construction activities adjacent to Kouwegok Slough to raise the grade of the road embankment on the east side of bridge.

State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas and Sanctuaries: A review of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game publication *State of Alaska Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries* found that the project is not located within a refuge, critical habitat area or sanctuary.

State Land Use Plans, State Parks: There are no State Land Use Plans or State Parks in the project vicinity.

Historical, Archaeological and Cultural Properties: Review of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) indicated three locations in the vicinity of the project area:

- Unalakleet 61: Former aircraft warning site. Not eligible for National Register of Historic Places: No structures remain except an E-shaped foundation
- Unalakleet 62: Former aircraft warning site. Not eligible for National Register of Historic Places: Cleaned up
- Unalakleet 09: Located 177 meters north of Landfill Road centerline. Eligible for National Register of Historic Places

Based on the potential for unknown sites to be present, SHPO recommended an archaeological survey be conducted. ADOT&PF hired an archaeologist to conduct this survey, which was completed in June 2005. The archaeological survey report concludes that no sites were found in the area of the new access road and that the project should be found to have no effect on historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Coastal Zone Management: A review of the Coastal Zone Boundaries atlas found that portions of the project area are within the Bering Straits CRSA Coastal District. A Coastal Project Questionnaire and Certification Statement will be filed with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting.

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

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The proposed project would take place within DOT right-of-way, therefore no BLM land will be affected.

Navigability, Floodplain Management, and Wetlands: Neither the Unalakleet River or the Kouwegok Slough are designated as a navigable water body by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a Flood Insurance Study in February 1975 near the village of Unalakleet. The Unalakleet community map indicates that the project area for proposed landfill road improvements will occur within the 100-year floodplain. No other work will take place within the 100-year floodplain. Unalakleet has nearly completed an application to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, but is not yet a member.

The USFWS National Wetland Inventory website indicated that no wetland data is available for the region of Unalakleet. Wetlands have been mapped by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) near the airport, however the mapping does not cover the project area. Based on aerial photography, it appears that vegetation near the Kouwegok Slough Bridge is the same as vegetation mapped as wetlands by the FAA. In addition, the Corps has data from another project near the proposed sanitation road that indicates the area is wetlands. A permit to fill 4.4 acres of wetlands will be submitted to the Corps as a 20-foot work area has been established from the existing toe of slope (see figure 2). However, during a 2004 scoping period, the Corps provided a Jurisdictional Determination indicating the material site did not contain wetlands.

Threatened and Endangered Species: According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, no listed species occur near Unalakleet and there is no designated or proposed critical habitat in the immediate area. However, the project is located near the coast, an important molting area of the spectacled eider, which is listed as threatened. Additionally, it is likely that the spectacled eider and Steller's eider, which is also listed as threatened, migrate through the area. Peregrine Falcons nest in the vicinity of Unalakleet. Peregrine Falcons were delisted in Alaska on August 25, 1999, but are still a species of concern, and are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

Because the project will be confined to the terrestrial environment, the proposed project is not anticipated to adversely affect federally listed or proposed species and/or designated critical habitat.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH): Kouwegok Slough is an anadromous stream and therefore is designated as EFH under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Currently, no work is planned below ordinary high water of the Kouwegok Slough. Should the plans change, and work below ordinary high water become necessary, an EFH Assessment would be prepared, and consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service would be completed.

National Wildlife Refuges: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife website was visited to determine if National Wildlife Refuges exist in the project area. Unalakleet is not located within a National Wildlife Refuge.

National Parks, Preserves, Monuments and Wild & Scenic Rivers: The National Park Service website was visited to determine if any National Parks, Preserves, Monuments or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist in the project area. The site indicated that Unalakleet is not located within any National Parks, Preserves, or Monuments; therefore, there will be no impacts to these resources. The Unalakleet River is a Wild & Scenic River; however, the wild river corridor ends 24 river miles upstream of the City of Unalakleet.