



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
REGULATORY DIVISION
44669 STERLING HWY, SUITE B
SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669-7915

July 29, 2016

Regulatory Division
POA-2013-396

Ms. Maryellen Tuttell
DOWL HKM
4041 B Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Ms. Tuttell:

This is in reference to your revised permit application submitted on June 28, 2016, on behalf of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA), requesting Department of the Army (DA) authorization to impact waters of the United States in association with the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road (AMDIAR). The proposed AMDIAR would consist of a 211 mile long, controlled industrial access, roadway between the Dalton Highway and the Ambler Mining District. The project site is located in the foothills of the Brooks Range, beginning at the Ambler River, latitude 67.162° N and longitude 157.052° W, and ending near Milepost 161 of the Dalton Highway, latitude 67.081° N and longitude 150.345° W. This project has been assigned permit application number POA-2013-396, Kobuk River, which should be referenced on all future correspondence.

In a September 9, 2014 letter, we determined that your original proposed alignment would involve placement of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.) under our regulatory jurisdiction. As indicated in your November 24, 2015 application, the eastern portion of the alignment was shifted north of Evansville/Bettles. Based on our review of the information you furnished in your June 28, 2016 submittal of a request for a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD) for the revised eastern portion of the corridor, we have preliminarily determined the eastern portion of the project area contains waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands, under the Corps' regulatory jurisdiction. The desktop delineation that accompanies the PJD request evaluated a 6,258 acre area, which contained 3,752 acres of wetlands and 58 acres of open water and 2,717 acres of uplands.

Your application is considered complete, as it provides information needed to prepare a Public Notice that will generate meaningful comments. Accordingly, we will take the next appropriate steps to process your application, including issuance of a Public Notice.

Please note that additional information may be required, per 33 CFR 325.1(e), in order to make a public interest determination and a determination of compliance with the 404(b)(1) guidelines. The necessary information will be requested as our evaluation of the application proceeds.

Please contact me via email at Katherine.a.mccafferty2@usace.army.mil, by mail at the address above, or by phone at (907) 753-2692, if you have questions. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, visit our web site at www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. McCafferty
Project Manager