

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
WASTEWATER DISCHARGE AUTHORIZATION PROGRAM

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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December 28, 2009

Ms. Carrie Bohan
Division of Coastal and Ocean Management
ADNR
PO Box 11130
Juneau, AK 99811-1030

RE: Request for additional information concerning POA-2000-495-M3 Gastineau Channel Douglas Harbor Improvements

Dear Ms. Bohan:

On December 8, 2009, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a Public Notice of Application for Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; reference number POA-2000-495-M3. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) has been involved in pre-application discussions with the City and Borough of Juneau, the Corps, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The applicant has posted the information collected to date on the website www.juneau.org/harbors/DHRP.php. While the applicant has answered many questions that have been raised during pre-application discussion, ADEC has the following request for additional information about the proposed activity. ADEC would appreciate the Division of Coastal and Ocean Management (DCOM) combining ADEC's questions with other state agencies questions and submit them to the applicant with copies of all the questions sent to other state and federal agencies and the local coastal district. Thank you for coordinating this effort.

In order for ADEC to evaluate the proposed activity with respect to Alaska's water quality standards (18 AAC 70) we request the applicant provide the following information. Where the existing information provides an answer to the question please provide the citation of the location of the information. We have tried to identify where existing information is insufficient and needs to be expanded upon.

1. Provide information and a description of why allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area where the water is located.
2. Provide information and a description of how the addition of sediment contaminated with mercury will not violate the applicable criteria of 18 AAC 70.020, specifically 70.020(23)(C) "The concentration of substances in water may not exceed the numeric criteria for aquatic life for marine water and human health for consumption of aquatic organisms only shown in the *Alaska Water Quality Criteria Manual* (see note 5), or any chronic and acute criteria established in this chapter, for a toxic pollutant of concern, to protect sensitive and biologically important life stages of resident species of this state. There may be no concentrations of toxic substances in water or in shoreline or bottom sediments, that, singly or in combination, cause, or reasonably can be expected to cause, adverse effects on aquatic life or produce undesirable or nuisance aquatic life, except as authorized by this chapter. Substances may not be present in concentrations that individually or in combination impart undesirable odor or taste to fish or other aquatic organisms, as determined by either bioassay or organoleptic tests."
3. Provide a description of the methods of pollution prevention, control, and treatment found to be the most effective and reasonable that will be applied to all wastes and other substances to be discharged.
4. Provide information and a description of how all wastes and other substances discharged will be treated and controlled to achieve the highest statutory and regulatory requirements.
5. Provide information and a description of how the activity, when completed, will not cause a long-term, chronic, or recurring violation of the water quality standards.
6. Expand on the description of the proposed activity provided in the Corps Public Notice. Specifically describe the time of year of the proposed activity and the project duration.
7. Provide information and a description of the areal extent of the discharged dredge material and quantify the degree of variance from the applicable criteria.
8. Expand on the alternatives analysis already provided (go beyond economic considerations) to include the ecological impact and water quality impact of each alternative.
9. Provide information and a description of the potential direct and indirect impacts on human health of the proposed activity.

10. Provide information and a description of the existing uses (such as recreational, personal use, subsistence, or commercial) of the waterbody in the project area and within an area of anticipated impacts from the project activity.
11. Provide information and a description of the estimated impact (both short-term and long-term) of the proposed activity's discharge of dredged material on the existing uses of the water involved, including recreation and use for habitat, rearing, growth, or migration by fish, shellfish, other aquatic life, and wildlife including the potential for bioaccumulation and persistence.
12. Provide information and a description of the expected duration of the proposed deposit and the potential transport of pollutants by biological, physical, and chemical processes.

If you have any questions about this information request please contact me at the phone number listed above or at william.ashton@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



William Ashton, Section Manager
Stormwater & Wetlands

cc: Fran Roche, ADEC