

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER

Sean Parnell, GOVERNOR

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January 6, 2010

Ms. Heidi Firstencel
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CEPOA-RD
8800 Glacier Highway, Suite 106
Juneau, AK 99801-8079

RE: POA-2000-495-M3 Gastineau Channel Douglas Harbor Improvements

Dear Ms. Firstencel:

On December 8, 2009 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) 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 Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) is involved in the review process due to the impact to State tide and submerged lands in the Gastineau Channel; specifically, the discharge of 30,000 cubic yards of dredged material into navigable waters of the U.S.

DMLW has the following comments with regard to the Public Notice for POA-2000-495-M3:

1. The COE public notice does not disclose the amount of dredged material to be discharged into the Gastineau Channel. The DMLW land use permit states that only 15,000 cubic yards of dredge spoils enter into the Gastineau Channel, while the COE public notice states 30,000 cubic yards of dredge spoils into the Gastineau Channel.
2. DMLW requires a land use application. The application is a tool used to review project proposals for consistency with the standards of the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP), casefile LAS 26106, as well as DMLW Title 38 statutes and regulations. On December 23, 2009, DMLW requested the agent to complete their land use permit application. To date the application is considered incomplete. DMLW requires this information prior to making comments for consistency.
3. The proposed disposal site is designated in the Juneau State Land Plan, adopted December 1993, as habitat and harvest. It is currently unknown what the effect of dumping mercury bioaccumulation dredge spoils will do to the habitat in this area. What is the public risk from dumping contaminated dredge spoils within a known habitat and harvest area?

Due to the above comments and concerns, DMLW requests a 30-day extension on this permit notice while agencies consult and address these concerns.

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

If you have any comments or requests on DMLW concerns, please contact me at (907) 465-3442, or via email at alexandria.dugaqa@alaska.gov.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

/s/
Alexandria Dugaqa

Alexandria Dugaqa
Natural Resource Specialist

Cc:

Chris Meade, EPA
Chiska Derr, NMFS
Teri Camery, CBJ-Coastal District
Carrie Bohan, DNR-DCOM
Joe Hitselberger, ADFG-Habitat
Brian Glynn, ADFG-Sport Fish
William Ashton, ADEC