

Jim River Maintenance Station Building Agency Scoping Attachment A

Cultural Resources

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) website and the latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) were consulted regarding the presence or absence of historic properties in or near the project area.

The online version of the NRHP was reviewed on October 20, 2008. No properties are currently listed within the project area.

The latest version of the AHRs database was reviewed on October 24, 2008. The Jim River M&O station site was once a hill used for a material source by Alyeska. There are two sites listed for the former materials site, BET-40 and BET-41. Mitigation occurred to allow mining of this material site. The mining operations destroyed both sites. The present ground was under the hill.

The material site proposed for the project is an active source approximately 8 miles north on the Dalton Highway. The identification numbers for the material site are: 92-3.1 (Alyeska), 65-9-045-2 (DOT&PF), and F-72900 (BLM). Four sites are listed on the AHRs near the material site: BET-53, BET-59, BET-60, and BET-131. According to studies and AHRs sheets reviewed, none of the items found at the sites appear significant enough to justify National Register potential.

During mining activity at BET-53, materials were recovered and the site was destroyed. A test pit dug in 1983 at BET-59 found no historic resources; this site was near the access road and has likely been destroyed (Will and Gal, 1983). The same archaeology report described BET-60 as a “small flake scatter located on a birch knoll off the SE edge of the waste disposal site.” BET-131 is another small scatter site that appears to be outside of the area currently permitted for DOT&PF mining.

The last record found of a survey assessment of the material site was from the summer of 1998 (Kunz, BLM); this pedestrian observation found no cultural materials nor anticipated any cultural resources. The BLM permit issued to DOT&PF contains the following stipulations:

- *[DOT&PF] shall not expand or work outside of your permitted area without additional archeological clearances being done by a qualified archeologist.*
- *[DOT&PF] shall immediately report to the BLM all paleontologic and cultural materials encountered during your mining operation.*
- *[DOT&PF] must stop all operations in the area of these discovered paleontologic and cultural materials until the resources are evaluated and mitigation measures to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific resources are developed by a BLM archeologist.*

Air Quality

The project is in an attainment area. No air quality analysis is planned.

Permits and Authorizations

The following permits are anticipated:

- NPDES General Permit for construction activities
- ADEC letter of non-objection and non-domestic storm water plan review

Water Body Involvement

The project area does not contain navigable water bodies under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Coast Guard. The closest water body is the Jim River, more than 600 feet north of the project area.

Beyond the station's pad, tundra ponds are common. No work would take place off of the pad.

Wetlands

Wetlands are not believed to exist on the M&O station pad. The immediate area is highly developed and was once a hill with well-drained soils with the exception of areas with permafrost. Wetlands appear to surround the station, although no digital wetland information exists for the area on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website. No work would take place off of the pad.

Fish & Wildlife

The project is in the range of bald eagles; however, they are known to occur in lesser numbers in the Interior and usually nest near major rivers. There are no golden or bald eagle nests within in the project area, according to the DOT&PF M&O Supervisor.

The Jim River runs near the station, but not adjacent to the areas under consideration for the building site, and no work would take place in or next to the river. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) fish distribution map on the internet, the Jim River contains spawning chum salmon and spawning and rearing king salmon.

Wildlife such as moose and birds pass through the area on occasion, but the station does not contain any habitat important to wildlife. The surrounding areas have abundant wildlife habitat.

Right-of-Way

No land acquisition or right-of-way (ROW) is needed for the project.

Social / Economic

There is no community near the project. The nearest community is Coldfoot, more than 30 air miles to the north. Alyeska's Pump Station (PS) 5 along the pipeline, approximately a half mile from the project, has living quarters for workers. The Prospect landing strip is on the other side of the pump station.

Local Land Uses and Transportation Plan

The station and surrounding area are owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Land use at the station is exclusively for Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) maintenance and operations (M&O). Surrounding areas are used for material sources and transport of oil. The Dalton Highway and an airport are also nearby.

The project is not mentioned in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) but would be funded by the State of Alaska.

Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E)

ESA-Listed Species

A search of the USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species System (TESS) database on October 17, 2008, indicated that the project area is not within the identified range of any species currently listed as Threatened, Candidate, or Proposed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

There is a small chance the project area is within the identified range of the Eskimo curlew, a bird listed as Endangered under the ESA. The Eskimo curlew nests in tundra and grasses. There are some grasses present in the vicinity of Area B.

State-Listed Endangered Species and Species of Special Concern

According to the ADF&G website on October 17, 2008, the project area is within the range of three State-listed Species of Special Concern, but habitat for these species is not found in the project area.

Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP)

The project area is not located within a coastal zone or coastal district boundary.

Floodplains

DOT&PF employees were interviewed regarding the site's history. According to the DOT&PF hydrologist, the station is not in a regulated floodway. Although it probably lies within the 100-year floodplain boundary for the Jim River, a 100-year flood would not likely impact the station's pad. There have been at least two major floods of the Jim River since the station has been in DOT&PF use, one a 100-year flood for the receiving Koyukuk River; however, DOT&PF staff report the pad has not been flooded in all the years they have occupied the station.

Water Quality

Drinking Water Sources

Drinking water at the station is supplied by a well near the Jim River; the system is non-public and not regulated. The new maintenance building would be connected to the existing system. The building would not add worker capacity nor add to the water usage.

Impaired Water Bodies

There are no impaired water bodies within the project area. The Jim River is the nearest water body and it is not impaired.

NPDES

A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be developed for use by the Contractor during construction of the project.

Construction

The proposed project is scheduled for construction in 2009. Impacts associated with normal construction activities (e.g., storm water runoff, dust, noise) are generally short in duration. Appropriate practices to mitigate construction impacts would be incorporated into the contract specifications. The contractor would be required to comply with the EPA NPDES General Permit for Construction Activity, including developing and implementing a SWPPP if the project affects more than 1 acre.

The only sensitive receptors near the project are bunkhouses for the M&O personnel, which the workers occupy on a week-on/week-off schedule.

Hazardous Materials

Because of the area’s relatively short history of use, there are few records of environmental contamination within the station.

The following table shows releases that occurred directly adjacent to or within the station area and may be encountered during construction and affect construction cost. This information is also summarized in the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) conducted in September/October 2008. The ESA included a field visit, review of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) CS, LUST, and spill databases, file reviews, and interviews with both ADEC staff and DOT&PF M&O personnel. Field screening is planned to be conducted during the geotechnical study. No further study is planned unless new information warrants.

Release Information		Location
2001	200 gallons of crude oil mixed with water and AFFF; contaminated soil excavated, slotted PVC pipe placed around the building, and soil vapor extraction unit installed and operated for 3 years	Alyeska PS 5
1998	LUST and contaminated soil removed	Jim River Maintenance Station
1998	Therminol leaked and 100% +recovered	Alyeska PS 5
1998	Diesel fuel released and contaminated soil stockpiled within secondary containment	Alyeska PS 5
1996	2,200 gallons diesel released and 925 gallons recovered	Jim River Maintenance Station
1995	400 gallons diesel released and 110 gallons recovered	Jim River Maintenance Station
1995	Hydrocarbon odor; soil non-detectable for contaminants	Alyeska PS 5
1994	1,050 gallons diesel released and 883 gallons recovered	Jim River Maintenance Station
1991	Petroleum hydrocarbons released and all contaminated soil removed; low potential for groundwater contamination	Alyeska PS 5

Section 4(f) / 6(f)

No Section 4(f) or Section 6(f) properties are located within the project area.