



PDC INC. ENGINEERS

July 8, 2013

SUBJECT: Nenana 9th Street Rehabilitation Project Scoping Letter
PDC # F13035

Dear RECIPIENT:

The City of Nenana is soliciting agency comments and information on the rehabilitation of 9th Street in Nenana, Alaska (Sections 23 and 24 of T4S, R8W of the Fairbanks Meridian, U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] Quadrangle Fairbanks C-5) (Figure 1). The project development is being financed in part by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds routed through the Denali Commission. Environmental documentation and review procedures for this project follow FHWA regulations (23 CFR 771), which indicates that the modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes may be conducted under the Categorical Exclusion (CE) process. A CE checklist is being prepared to analyze any potential impacts, and your agency's comments are requested to aid in that analysis.

Existing Conditions: The project area consists of approximately 0.88 miles of a 12-foot-wide gravel road with little improvement. This project is building on a 30% design developed by Western Federal Lands and a 90% design sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). A Finding of No Significant Impact on the BIA Environmental Assessment (EA) for the "Proposed Improvements of Local Streets in Nenana, Alaska" was issued on September 5, 2005. A portion of the project (K Street) identified in this EA was constructed in 2006.

Purpose and Need: The Nenana 9th Street Rehabilitation project will provide an alternative route to the Mary C. Demientieff Health Clinic. Located at the intersection of J Street and Front Street, the clinic is completely cut off from the rest of the city and the Parks Highway whenever a train passes through town. The purpose of this current project is to complete a bypass route around the railroad track to provide an alternate route to the clinic on an improved road surface.

Background: For a number of years, the City of Nenana has been working with the BIA, WFL, and the Denali Commission to establish an alternative route to the clinic from the Parks Highway via 9th Street and K Street. A project funded by BIA constructed an upgrade of K Street from the clinic south to the intersection with 9th Street. To complete the route, 4,650 feet of 9th Street from the Parks Highway to the intersection of 9th Street and K Street requires improvements.

1028 Aurora Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
T: 907.452.1414
F: 907.456.2707

Project Summary: The proposed 9th Street Rehabilitation project includes raising the grade, widening the road to 24 feet, stabilizing the subgrade, applying a surface treatment, and installing culverts and signage as appropriate. Under the proposed project, the intersection with the Parks Highway and 9th Street would also be improved as needed to meet DOT&PF standards; proper signage and widening of the apron is anticipated.

Improvements would require additional fill to widen the road and stabilize the embankment. Cross-culverts will be installed, requiring minor ground disturbance. The culvert installations provide drainage to mitigate potential flooding. The improved road will remain within the existing road's right-of-way.

Environmental Scoping: The City of Nenana does not anticipate significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. Preliminary environmental research results are included in Attachment A. To ensure all factors are considered in the development of the environmental documentation, your comments are requested no later than 30 days after the date of this letter.

The City of Nenana will discuss the proposed project at a **public meeting on August 8th, 2013 in Nenana**, meeting details will be sent at a later date. Discussions will include any potential social, economic, and environmental concerns surrounding the proposed action.

If you wish to respond to this request for comments, please feel free to contact Valerie Webb at 1028 Aurora Drive, Fairbanks, AK. 99709, ValerieWebb@pdceng.com or via telephone at 907-452-1414. You may also submit comments through the project website: <http://www.pdcprojects.info/Nenana/index.htm>.

Sincerely,



Valerie Webb
Lead Environmental Analyst
PDC Inc. Engineers

Attachments:

- Figure 1: Location and Vicinity Map
- Attachment A – Preliminary Environmental Research
- Scoping Mailing List



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**Nenana 9th Street Rehabilitation Project Scoping Letter
Mailing List**

Jason Mayrand
City of Nenana Project Manager
nenana1@nenana.net

Adison Smith
Deputy Program Manager | Denali Commission
510 L St. Suite 410
Anchorage, AK 99501
asmith@denali.gov

Mike McKinnon
McKinnon & Associates, LLC | Denali Commission
319 Seward Street, Suite 3
Juneau, Alaska
mgmckinnon@gci.net

Jim Fish
**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Contaminated Sites Program**
610 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
james.fish@alaska.gov

Ellen Lyons
Project Manager
USACE Alaska District Regulatory Division
Fairbanks Field Office
Ellen.H.Lyons@usace.army.mil

Robin Campbell
Nenana Native Council Tribal Administrator
PO Box 369
Nenana, Alaska 99670
nibor652004@yahoo.com

Brent Goodrum, Director
**Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining Land and Water**
550 W. 7th Ave Suite 1070
Anchorage, AK. 99501-3579
brent.goodrum@alaska.gov

**Michelle Bonnet Hale, Director of Division of Water
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**
555 Cordova Street, 3rd Floor
Anchorage AK. 99501-2617
michelle.hale@alaska.gov

**William Morris
Fish and Game Coordinator
Alaska Department of Fish and Game**
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK. 99701
william.morris@alaska.gov

**Ted Swem, Branch Chief of Endangered Species
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office**
101 12th Avenue, Box 19, Room 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
ted_swem@fws.gov

**Jewel Benett, Branch Chief of Conservation Planning Assistance
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office**
101 12th Avenue, Box 19, Room 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
jewel.bennett@fws.gov

**Jeanne Hanson, Assistant Regional Administrator
US National Marine Fisheries Service**
PO BOX 43
222 West 7th Ave, Room 517
Anchorage, AK. 99513-7577
Jeanne.Hanson@noaa.gov

**Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of History and Archaeology**
550 W. 7th Avenue Suite 1070
Anchorage, AK. 99501
judy.bittner@alaska.gov

**Charlie Chnilicka
Inland Barge Service**
PO BOX 393
Nenana, AK. 99760
chnilicka@gmail.com

**Corporate Affairs
Alaska Railroad Corporation**
public_comment@akrr.com

**Jim Sackett
Toghotthele Corporation**
PO Box 249
Nenana, Alaska 99760
jim_sackett@hotmail.com

Jim Mery
Doyon Limited
1 Doyon Place, Suite 300
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-2941
meryj@doyon.com

Anne Ervice, Project Engineer
1028 Aurora Drive
Fairbanks, AK. 99709
AnneErvice@pdceng.com

Valerie Webb, Environmental Analyst
1028 Aurora Drive
Fairbanks, AK. 99709
ValerieWebb@pdceng.com