



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 6898
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99506-0898

Environmental Resources Section

DEC 28 2011

Ms. Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Office of History and Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Corps), in partnership with the Denali Commission, is proposing navigation improvements and maintenance at the small boat harbor in Bethel, Alaska (Section 10, T8N, R71W, USGS Quadrangle Bethel D-8; figure 1). The purpose of this letter is to notify your office of this undertaking and to seek your concurrence on a determination of effect.

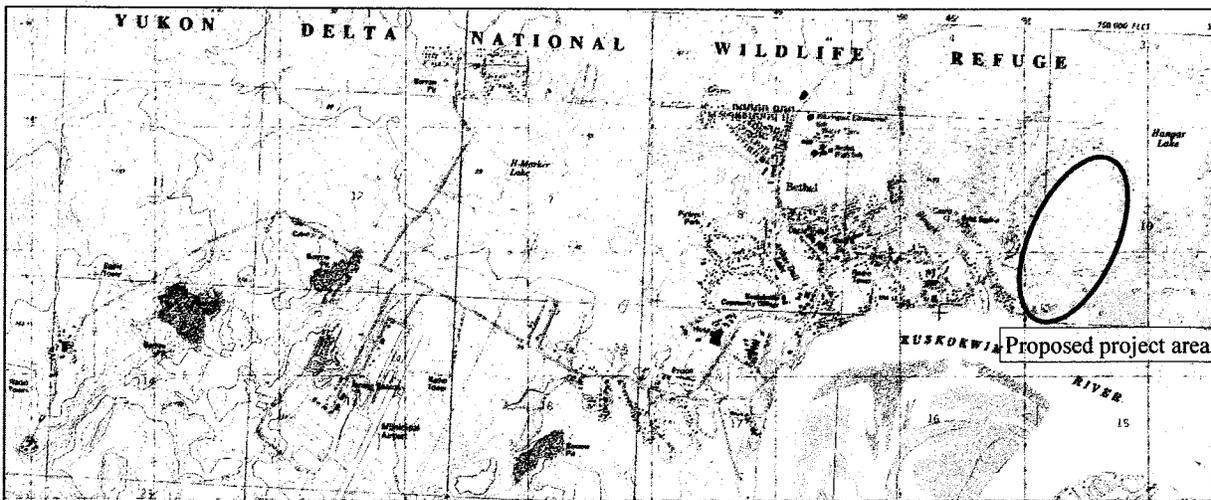


Figure 1. Project location (Section 10, T8N, R71W, USGS Quad Bethel D-8).

Project Description

The proposed project would include dredging the existing entrance and maneuvering channels, dredging the mooring basin, installing and/or improving the harbor bank protection and rock revetments, and replacing two existing boat ramps (figure 2). Existing utilities such as power poles, culverts, and float approach piers would not be disturbed. The area of potential effect for this undertaking would be the existing small boat harbor, the banks of the harbor and entrance channel, a dredged material disposal area, and a winter access road (see figure 2). No indirect effects are anticipated. Dredging would take place in the winter, while replacement of the boat ramps and bank protection would occur the following summer.

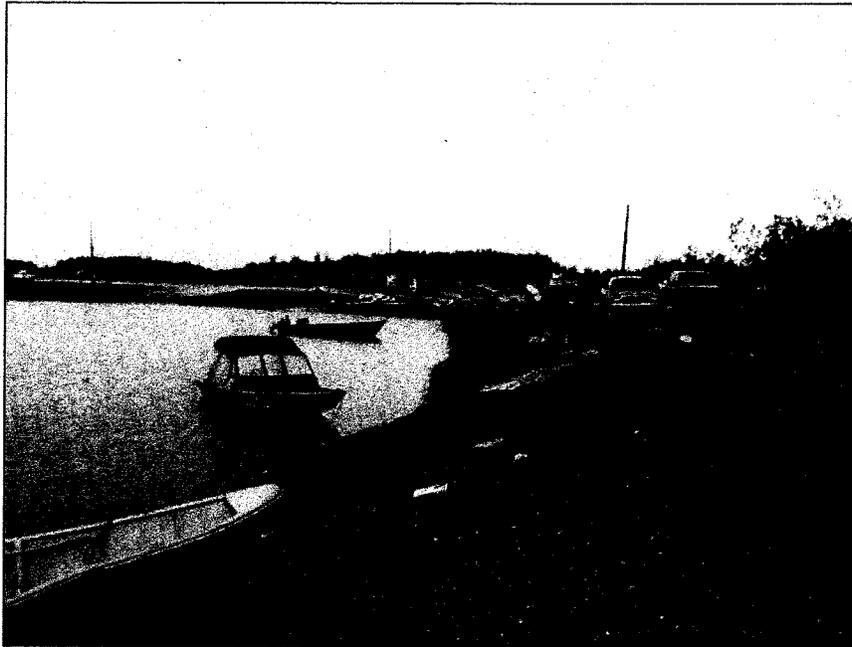


Figure 3. East bank of the Bethel Harbor.



Figure 4. North bank of Bethel Harbor illustrating rock and Geoweb.

The east, west, and part of the north slopes of the harbor would be protected using layers of Geotextile filter fabric, Geocell grid slope stabilization material, and gravel. Prior to placing the protection, some areas may be graded using an excavator. The existing rock bank protection to the north and south would be reconstructed using a combination of the existing and new rock. This would protect the parking area near the entrance channel to the harbor.

Assessment of Effect

There are no known cultural resources reported in the project area. Ground disturbing activities proposed for this undertaking are limited to the existing harbor basin or previously disturbed banks. Transport of dredged materials would be along an ice road, and the dredged material disposal area has been used for this purpose in the past. The potential for cultural material to be encountered in the area of potential effect is minimal.

Therefore, we seek your concurrence in the determination that the proposed undertaking will result in **no historic properties affected**. If you have any questions about this project, please contact me by phone at (907) 753-2690 or e-mail Michael.9.Salyer@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Salyer
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

cf:

Ana Hoffman, President & CEO, Bethel Native Corporation

Andrew Guy, President and CEO, Calista Corporation

Eric Middlebrook, Mayor, City of Bethel

Raymond Watson, Chairman, Orutsaramuit Native Council

John Oscar, Ceñaliulriit Coastal Resource Service Area