

February 25, 2013

R&M No. 13-00 ES



Jim Botz, P.E.  
Mead & Hunt Architecture, Inc.  
1345B North Road  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54313

Via E-mail: jim.botz@meadhunt.com

RE: Categorical Exclusion for Akutan City Dock Repair Project  
Akutan, Alaska

Dear Mr. Botz:

R&M Consultants, Inc. (R&M) is pleased to submit this proposal to provide environmental services for the above referenced project in Akutan, Alaska. The City of Akutan (City) proposes to repair and upgrade the existing city dock to accommodate Alaska Marine Highway System ferry traffic and other commercial users. Some main work elements of the project include adding a new mooring dolphin (including 5 new piles and a catwalk connection to the existing east breasting dolphin #2), raising existing dock piles and mooring dolphins by approximately 4 feet, upgrading cathodic protection, replacing fender piles, general structural repairs, and painting of above-water structure. It is understood that the design work is partially funded by a Denali Commission Grant, the requirements of which include compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). All of the above described work is expected to fall within the d-list of Categorical Exclusions (CatEx) per 23 CFR 771. R&M's role in this project would be to assist the City in achieving NEPA compliance by preparing and obtaining Denali Commission approval of a CatEx document.

#### **EXPERIENCE**

We are extremely well versed in the NEPA process, particularly for Port and Harbor projects conducted for the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and for local entities funded by the Denali Commission. Just a few examples of R&M's recent and ongoing experience relevant to this project includes:

- Kodiak Ferry Terminal and Dock Improvements Project: R&M is the environmental consultant for this DOT&PF dock replacement project in Kodiak. The ongoing environmental work includes CatEx preparation, Section 106 historic properties consultation, agency coordination, and permitting.
- City of Homer Port and Harbor Projects: R&M is the environmental consultant for Denali Commission funded harbor upgrade projects for the City of Homer. Work to date has included CatEx preparation, agency scoping, permitting, and Section 106 historic properties consultation.
- Akutan Airport Project: R&M was the independent environmental quality assurance firm for this design-build project on Akun Island, nearby Akutan. Our work included agency consultation, review of environmental documents and plans, inspections, and related work. This project is mentioned to demonstrate area-specific experience.
- King Salmon Heights Road Project: R&M served the City of King Salmon as environmental lead on this Denali Commission funded road reconstruction project in King Salmon. Work included CatEx preparation and permitting.

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**R&M CONSULTANTS, INC.**

- Ketchikan Water Street Bridge Project: R&M provided environmental services to DOT&PF in this waterfront viaduct replacement project in a historic district of Ketchikan. Work included public and agency involvement, CatEx preparation, permitting, and extensive Section 106 historic properties work.
- Anaktuvuk Pass Contact Creek Bridge replacement: R&M worked for the North Slope Borough on this City of Anaktuvuk Pass project to replace the bridge over Contact Creek. This was a Denali Commission funded project with DOT&PF involvement. Our environmental work included CatEx preparation, agency scoping, and permitting.

## METHODOLOGY

Environmental documentation and review procedures will generally follow FHWA regulations (23 CFR 771), with a d-List CatEx being the expected level of NEPA documentation. A CatEx checklist and supporting documents will present environmental analyses, research, and agency coordination for the project. During this process, it will also be necessary to satisfy Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, requiring federally funded projects to assess the potential effect of the project on properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. For this project, it is expected that – following a brief review of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) – a finding of no historic properties affected will result. The AHRS review work and finding will be documented in a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other Section 106 consulting parties, requesting concurrence.

R&M will coordinate with regulatory agencies while compiling the CatEx document, but any permitting is understood to be the responsibility of others. Information provided by Mead & Hunt indicates the permitting process is already largely complete.

Deliverables:

- (1) CatEx Environmental document for Denali Commission approval, in accordance with NEPA.

## SCHEDULE

Assuming Notice to Proceed is issued by March 4th, 2013, R&M anticipates we can complete the draft CatEx by the end of May. This includes a 3 week comment period during agency scoping (after we distribute a simple scoping letter to agencies/stakeholders) and a mandatory 30-day comment period once we issue the Section 106 findings letter to SHPO. We are available to begin work immediately.

## PROPOSED STAFF AND RATES

Resumes of proposed staff are attached. We have included the resume for a public involvement specialist (Van Le), though we have not included those services in our fee; they can be added upon request.

As requested, our rates for personnel on this project are:

Principal (QA/Contract only)	\$229.60/hr
Project Manager (Kevin Pendergast)	\$140.00/hr
Environmental Specialist (Kristi McLean)	\$89.60/hr
Environmental Specialist (Holly Weiss-Racine)	\$78.40/hr
Public Involvement (Van Le)	\$114.80/hr
Drafting	\$78.40/hr
Clerical	\$83.80/hr



## ESTIMATED COST AND ASSUMPTIONS

R&M estimates that we can perform the required services on a time and expenses basis for a not-to exceed amount of \$15,250. This includes \$2,000 for our cultural resources subconsultant (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC) to review the AHRS, conduct basic cultural resources research, and write their findings. Note that our standard markup for subconsultants and expenses is 10%.

### Assumptions:

- Sec. 106 finding expected to be No Historic Properties Affected.
- Agency scoping includes only preliminary environmental research, letter to agencies and stakeholders, and receipt of comments.
- NEPA process includes City Dock only.
- Permitting and public involvement program not included.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

**R&M CONSULTANTS, INC.**



Kevin J. Pendergast, C.P.G.

Group Manager – Environmental and Planning

### Attachments:

-Resumes for key staff

**ATTACHMENT:**  
**RESUMES**

# Kevin J. Pendergast, CPG

## Group Manager: Environmental and Planning

*Mr. Pendergast is a highly competent environmental professional with 13 years of experience in Alaska. He has expertise in environmental permitting and the NEPA process, guiding large and small projects through documenting environmental impacts and consequences. Kevin has conducted numerous NEPA documents for various agencies, including many Categorical Exclusions for transportation infrastructure and port/harbor projects. Over the past several years, Kevin has served or is serving as lead environmental professional for several marine projects throughout the State, and has continually provided environmental permitting and compliance expertise to the Port of Anchorage for over a decade.*

### Related Project Experience

#### **Seward Marine Industrial Center Harbor Improvements** | Seward, Alaska

Kevin is responsible for the environmental and permitting aspects of this project, which includes wave barriers, new floating and fixed docks, and dredging/disposal at this industrial harbor on the east side of Resurrection Bay. Kevin is also providing public meeting organization and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

#### **Aleknagik Wood River Bridge** | Aleknagik, Alaska

Kevin was responsible for writing an Environmental Reevaluation of Wood River Environmental Assessment, incorporating cultural resources findings (house pits) from the Section 106 report and realignments of project corridor. This effort also included scoping and detailed planning of a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment in a potentially contaminated portion of the right-of-way. Ongoing work includes obtaining necessary permits to facilitate construction, including a Section 9 permit for a bridge over navigable waters, a Corps permit (both Section 10 and 404), and ADF&G permits.

#### **Homer Harbor Improvements** | Homer, Alaska

Kevin is leading environmental studies and the CatEx process for a harbor improvement project in Homer, Alaska. This work involves Section 106 consultation, public and agency coordination, and environmental analysis for this Denali Commission funded project.

#### **St. Mary's - Mountain Village Road** | St. Mary's and Mountain Village, Alaska

Kevin is currently managing a multi-discipline environmental team in conducting baseline wetlands, habitat, cultural resources studies, and a NEPA document (CatEx) for this roughly 20-mile road corridor in a remote part of Alaska along the Yukon River. This work will also include permitting for rehabilitation of this road.

#### **Kodiak Ferry Pier Replacement** | Kodiak, Alaska

Kevin is responsible for NEPA documentation, agency coordination, permitting, and environmental analysis for this ferry pier replacement project in Kodiak. The dock itself is nearing 50 years of age and is being assessed for eligibility to the National register of Historic Places.

#### **Girdwood Water Improvements, Phase IIB** | Girdwood, Alaska

Kevin was the environmental lead performing environmental impacts assessment and regulatory coordination and permitting for a large scale water main extension in Girdwood. The new main will cross undeveloped forested wetlands, as well as a major salmon stream by channel diversion and open trenching.

#### **Port of Anchorage Defense Fuels Property Transfer** | Anchorage, Alaska

Kevin was the Project Manager in charge of guiding the Port of Anchorage through the NEPA process in order to acquire the 48-acre Defense Fuels Property from the federal government. He assessed the environmental impacts associated with the action and the cumulative impacts of potential future development such as Port Expansion and the Knik Arm Crossing.

#### **Akutan Airport Independent Environmental Quality Management** | Akutan, Alaska

Kevin was the Independent Environmental Quality Manager for this new airport project recently constructed on Akun Island near Akutan. His responsibilities included detailed review of the project's SWPPP, permitting compliance review, design review for contract and permit compliance, and general third-party oversight of all construction-related environmental aspects of this extensive project.

#### **Education**

2010 B.S. Civil Engineering,  
University of Alaska Anchorage

2000 B.S. Geology, Oregon State  
University

#### **Professional Registration**

2009 Certified Professional  
Geologist, Alaska #CPG622

2009 Certified Professional  
Geologist, AIPG #CPG11242

#### **Certification**

Alaska Certified Erosion and  
Sediment Control Lead

#### **Professional Affiliations**

- ASCE Geotechnical Institute
- American Institute of Professional Geologists



# Kristi M. McLean, LEED AP

## Environmental Specialist



### Education

2004 M.S. Environmental Science and Regional Planning, Washington State University

1998 B.S. Conservation Biology, University of Nevada, Reno

### Professional Registration

2009 Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional

### Professional Affiliations

- Cascadia Green Building Council

*Ms. McLean has six years of progressively responsible environmental experience. Kristi has been responsible for a wide variety of scientific, regulatory and administrative tasks, including wetlands delineations, NEPA related research and coordination, logistical preparation and mobilization for field work, safety management, data entry and analysis, and scientific research and organization. She has also written NEPA environmental documents, submitted federal and state permit applications, and worked extensively in Erosion and Sediment Control.*

## Related Project Experience

### Contact Creek Bridge | Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska

Kristi was responsible for providing analysis and agency coordination in the areas of Fish and Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, Floodplains, Navigable Waterways, and contaminated sites. She authored the applicable sections of the NEPA Categorical Exclusion document.

### Kotzebue Water Treatment Plant | Kotzebue, Alaska

Kristi prepared a NEPA document meeting USDA standards for a new water treatment plant servicing the entire community of Kotzebue.

### AAC Launch Pad 3 Environmental Assessment | Kodiak, Alaska

Kristi is an Environmental Specialist responsible for preparing for an Environmental Assessment meeting the Federal Aviation Administration's guidelines to expand launching capabilities at the Kodiak Launch Complex. Assessment and identification of potential environmental effects included an agency scoping meeting and continued coordination and consultation with numerous local, state, and federal agencies. Preparation of this NEPA document includes extensive threatened and endangered species consultations with the USFWS and NMFS, Section 106 Consultation, evaluation of recreational resources (4f), as well as an in-depth assessment of potential air, water, and noise effects.

### Aleknagik Wood River Bridge | Aleknagik, Alaska

Kristi was responsible for acquiring the necessary permits for this large-scale bridge project. Agency coordination included the USCG, USACE, ADF&G, and ADNR. A full re-evaluation of the original Environmental Assessment was prepared in conjunction with permitting effort.

### Kodiak Ferry Pier REplacement | Kodiak, Alaska

Kristi is the environmental specialist for this DOT&PF project. Her work to date has included agency and public coordination, assisting the Section 106 process, conducting environmental analyses, negotiating with the USFWS and NMFS, and preparing a CatEx NEPA document.

### Dalton Highway Reconstruction MP 11-18 | Interior Alaska

Kristi was an Environmental Specialist responsible for preparing the Categorical Exclusion for a 7-mile reconstruction and realignment project along the Dalton Highway. Preparation of this environmental document included an agency scoping effort, Section 106 Consultation, coordination with ADF&G to identify fish passage requirements, and detailing wetland avoidance and minimization measures.

### North Pole Water and Sewer Improvements | North Pole, Alaska

Kristi was an Environmental Specialist responsible for permitting, NEPA Categorical Exclusion documentation, and public involvement.

### UAA Seawolves Sports Arena | Anchorage, Alaska

Kristi was responsible for agency coordination and research to support a summary of regulatory requirements and permitting needs to allow well water cooling of the sports arena. Frequent coordination and communication with the regulatory agencies was required as the water source for the cooling wells is a regularly used, highly competitive urban aquifer.



# Holly F. Weiss-Racine

## Environmental Specialist

*Ms. Weiss-Racine has six years of experience conducting geologic and environmental field work and report preparation, and possesses a strong knowledge of NEPA standards, and regulatory agency permitting and compliance. She has participated with subsurface investigations for numerous environmental remediation projects in Alaska, Oregon and Washington as Geologist and Field Manager. Recently her focus has been on NEPA documentation and environmental permitting.*

### Related Project Experience

#### **St. Mary's -Mountain Village Road** | *Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska*

Holly is the Environmental Specialist responsible for the Northern Region DOT&PF – St. Mary's to Mountain Village Road Rehabilitation project. Work includes researching and writing scoping letters, assisting in public involvement, and writing the Categorical Exclusion NEPA document for FHWA approval. Holly will also assist in permitting the proposed project for construction.

#### **City of Wasilla Swanson-Nelson Avenue Improvements** | *Wasilla, Alaska*

Holly worked as an Environmental Specialist performing regulatory research and permitting for this storm water drainage and pavement rehabilitation project in Wasilla.

#### **AAC Launch Pad 3 Environmental Assessment** | *Kodiak, Alaska*

Holly served as Environmental Specialist responsible for researching and writing sections of the Environmental Assessment NEPA document for the Alaska Aerospace Corporation – Kodiak Launch Complex Launch Pad 3. Sections included Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences, comprising direct and indirect effects, cumulative effects and mitigation for FAA approval.

#### **Homer Deep Water Dock Fender Replacement** | *Homer, Alaska*

Holly served as Environmental Specialist responsible for the City of Homer – Deep Water Dock Fender Replacement project. Work included permitting the proposed dock upgrades, requiring coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

#### **Homer Port Term: Ramp 3 Replacement** | *Homer, Alaska*

Holly is the Environmental Specialist responsible for the City of Homer proposed upgrades to the City of Homer Small Boat Harbor project. Work includes researching and writing scoping letters, Section 106 letters, and writing the Categorical Exclusion NEPA document for Denali Commission approval. Holly will also assist in permitting the proposed project for construction.

#### **BBB School Bus Routes: King Salmon Heights** | *King Salmon, Alaska*

Holly served as Environmental Specialist responsible for the Bristol Bay Borough – King Salmon Heights Road Upgrades project. She was responsible for researching and writing scoping letters, Section 106 letters, and the Categorical Exclusion NEPA document for Denali Commission approval. Holly also obtained all necessary project permits for construction.

#### **Mertarvik Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan** | *Mertarvik, Alaska*

Holly was responsible for writing the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for construction activities in Mertarvik. Site work included the development of a material site, construction of a new access road and new community emergency shelter facilities, including utilities.

#### **Education**

2007 B.S. Geosciences, University of Southern Maine

#### **Certifications**

2011 49 CFR Hazardous Materials Transportation

HAZWOPER 40-Hour/8-Hour Refresher

Alaska Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead #090285

First Aid/CPR Certified

#### **Professional Affiliations**

- American Institute of Professional Geologists
- Geologic Society of America



**Education**

2003 M.S. Environmental Science,  
Alaska Pacific University

1997 B.A. Urban Geography,  
University of British Columbia

**Certifications**

Public Participation, International  
Association for Public Participation

Adobe InDesign Graphic Design  
Level II

TransCAD Transportation Planning  
Software

**Professional Affiliations**

- International Association for Public Participation
- Women in Transportation Seminar

*Ms. Le is a public involvement specialist with experience in effective and open communication style for a diverse set of stakeholders. Her Alaskan experience includes addressing controversial issues, including impacts from multi-modal transportation infrastructure projects. With her transportation and land use planning background, Van has proven leadership for planning and executing public outreach campaigns for communicating project objectives, capital improvement funding and project milestones with residents, agencies, business stakeholders, community groups, municipal staff and elected officials.*

*Van plans public involvement activities around the unique Alaskan sport and subsistence fishing, hunting and gathering traditions, seasons, and school calendars. Her strength is using her communication skills and cultural background training to work with local area stakeholders on community infrastructure improvements, tailoring messages that respond to the issues important to them. Van is adept at creating and using electronic media to communicate with the public, including the use of graphic project websites with instant feedback features and social media plug-ins, as well as one-on-one conversations. She has experience in forming and facilitating community advisory groups, as well as crafting graphic communication strategies for elected officials and other project champions.*

**Related Project Experience****Southeast Alaska Sea Trails Plan | Southeast Alaska**

Van was the public involvement planner, technical writer and researcher coordinating the sea trails element of a marine transportation plan in Southeast Alaska. She was the point-of-contact for gathering input from local residents in Southeast Alaska communities on their use and historical knowledge of marine trails for the plan's goals and objectives.

**Butte Area Comprehensive Master Plan | Butte, Alaska**

Van provided public involvement, technical writing and graphic design services for this land management plan for a largely rural area of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. She coordinated and facilitated an open house to engage the community in determining how public lands should be developed.

**Petersburg Trumpeter Swan Observatory Project | Petersburg, Alaska**

Van led the public and stakeholder engagement component of this tourism planning and interpretive project for the U.S. Forest Service. She provided technical writing and graphic design services as part of the public awareness outreach to area residents and the tourism industry.

**Lake Hood Sea Plane Base Pedestrian Wayfinding | Anchorage, Alaska**

Van provided public involvement and public education services for a land use compatibility project at Lake Hood, a general aviation seaplane base in Anchorage. She provided graphic design support, analyzed user survey data and drafted a wayfinding operations report recommending strategies for managing a public seaplane base to reduce user conflicts between non-seaplane users and seaplane operators at the busiest seaplane base in the world.

**Native Village of Tanacross Solid Waste Landfill Permitting | Tanacross, Alaska**

Van provided land use planning analysis and permitting for a new solid waste landfill to replace an existing landfill. Analysis work included updating demographic and community data for an Environmental Report for USDA review and FAA approval of construction projects near active runways.

**Knik-Goose Bay Road Reconstruction | Wasilla, Alaska**

Van was the public involvement lead on this Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities project that proposes to reconstruction Knik-Goose Bay Road from a two-lane roadway to a four and six-lane divided highway. Her role was to facilitate the public scoping phase, which included project website development and updates, open house facilitation, coordination and responses to stakeholders and alternatives communication to residents during the preliminary design phase to comply with NEPA.

