

Record of Environmental Consideration
Mooring Points
Kwigillingok, Alaska

The Denali Commission will use Federal funding to install barge mooring points at one site along the Kwigillingok River at the community of Kwigillingok in western Alaska at Lat. 59 51'52"N, Long.163 08'03" W. Three mooring points 200 to 225 feet apart will be placed 60 feet inland from the river bank near the cargo offloading site at the northern edge of the community. Attached figures show the mooring site location and conditions.

The mooring points will be anchored by 12-inch steel pipe piles driven to a depth of 30 to 40 feet. Piles will be cut off about 1 foot below existing grade and a section of bollard and chain will be attached to the head of each pile for barge mooring lines. The project will be constructed with Federal Highway Administration funds and will be owned and maintained by the Kwigillingok IRA Council. The contractor for this action will use the same equipment and construction methods that are being used to construct nearby facilities for the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC).

The action is needed to provide safe moorage for barges that serve this remote community. Kwigillingok is not connected to the road system, and barge service is essential to the continued viability of the community. The existing barge landing site is at the end of an access road from town and is used for delivery of most commodities to the community. There are no mooring points at the barge landings, so a tug must hold each barge in position while commodities are offloaded. This action wastes fuel and crew time, causes bank erosion from prop scour, and increases the potential for cargo loss and fuel spills. The proposed action will largely eliminate those problems.

The pilings will be driven into an existing roadway and staging area owned by the state or the Native Village of Kwigillingok. The three mooring points will be on level moist or wet tundra that has been extensively modified by fill placement and human use. Vegetation is covered or damaged by past human use and habitat value is diminished. The mooring site is not in a designated floodplain, but is in an area subject to occasional flooding by the Kwigillingok River. The mooring site is in wetlands that are in jurisdictional waters of the United States. Placing and using the mooring points will not require placement of fill material, so a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit is not required. The sites do not have any other special use or protected status.

The action will not adversely affect air or water quality, endangered or threatened species, marine mammals, or fish populations. The site does not qualify for Section 4(f) consideration. No state or Federal permits are required. The action is in the coastal zone, but will not affect coastal resources. A negative determination declaring that the action is consistent with state coastal management standards and does not require consistency review is under consideration by the state. Concurrence with this determination is expected by January 30, 2010. The contractor will not proceed until state concurrence has been received. There are no listed cultural resources sites at or near the project site and the Alaska District Corps of Engineers district archeologist has determined that the

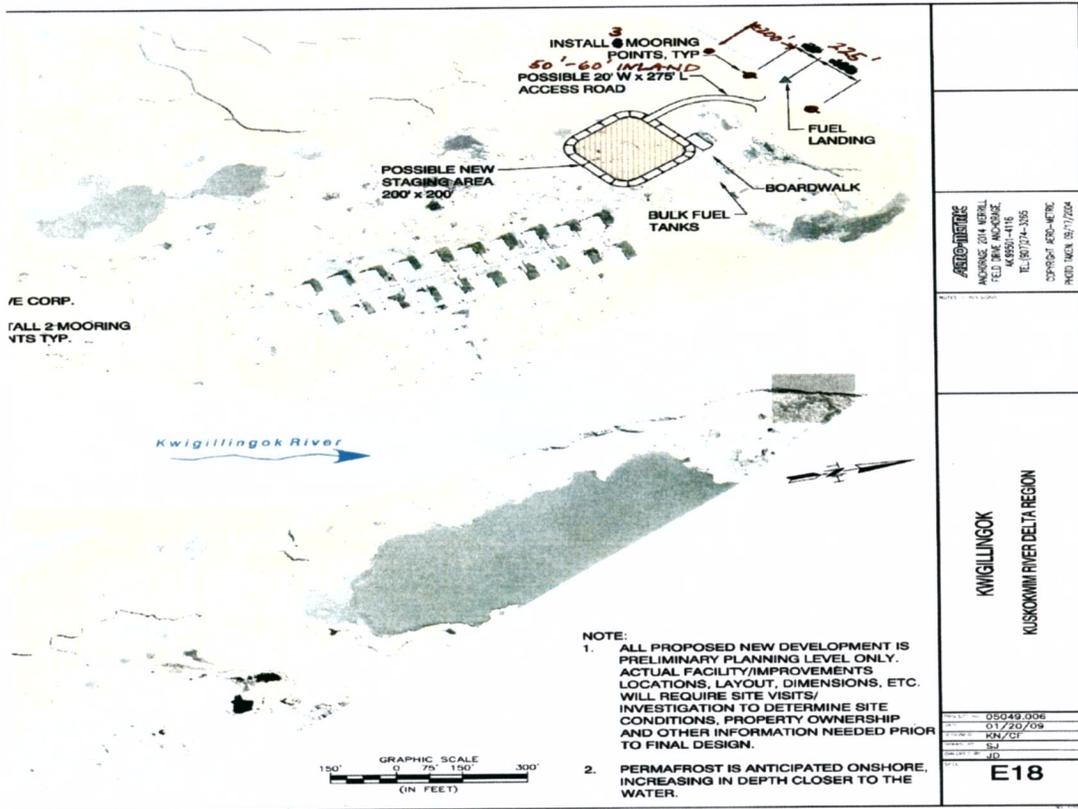
action will not adversely affect cultural resources. The State Historic Officer concurred with this determination.

The action will use equipment and methods similar to those used for placing piling for minor construction of bridge and bulkhead structures. Those activities are categorically excluded from further review requirements under Federal Highways Administration regulations for implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, an environmental assessment is not required and no further action is required to fulfill NEPA requirements.



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Kwigillingok Denali Commission mooring site



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Shoreline at the barge off-loading site



Kwigillingok mooring site