



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

Ms. Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Office of History and Archaeology  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> 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 to build a public landing ramp for boats and barges in Perryville, Alaska (Section 27, T49S, R64W, Seward Meridian, USGS Quadrangle Stepovak Bay D-4; 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 27, T49S, R64W, USGS quad Stepovak Bay D-4).

### Project Description

The proposed project includes three features: a staging area, an access road, and a boat/barge ramp (figure 2). The area of potential effect (see figure 2) for this undertaking is limited to the areas directly impacted by these features and those areas that may be used as construction support facilities and equipment or material staging areas. No indirect effects are anticipated.

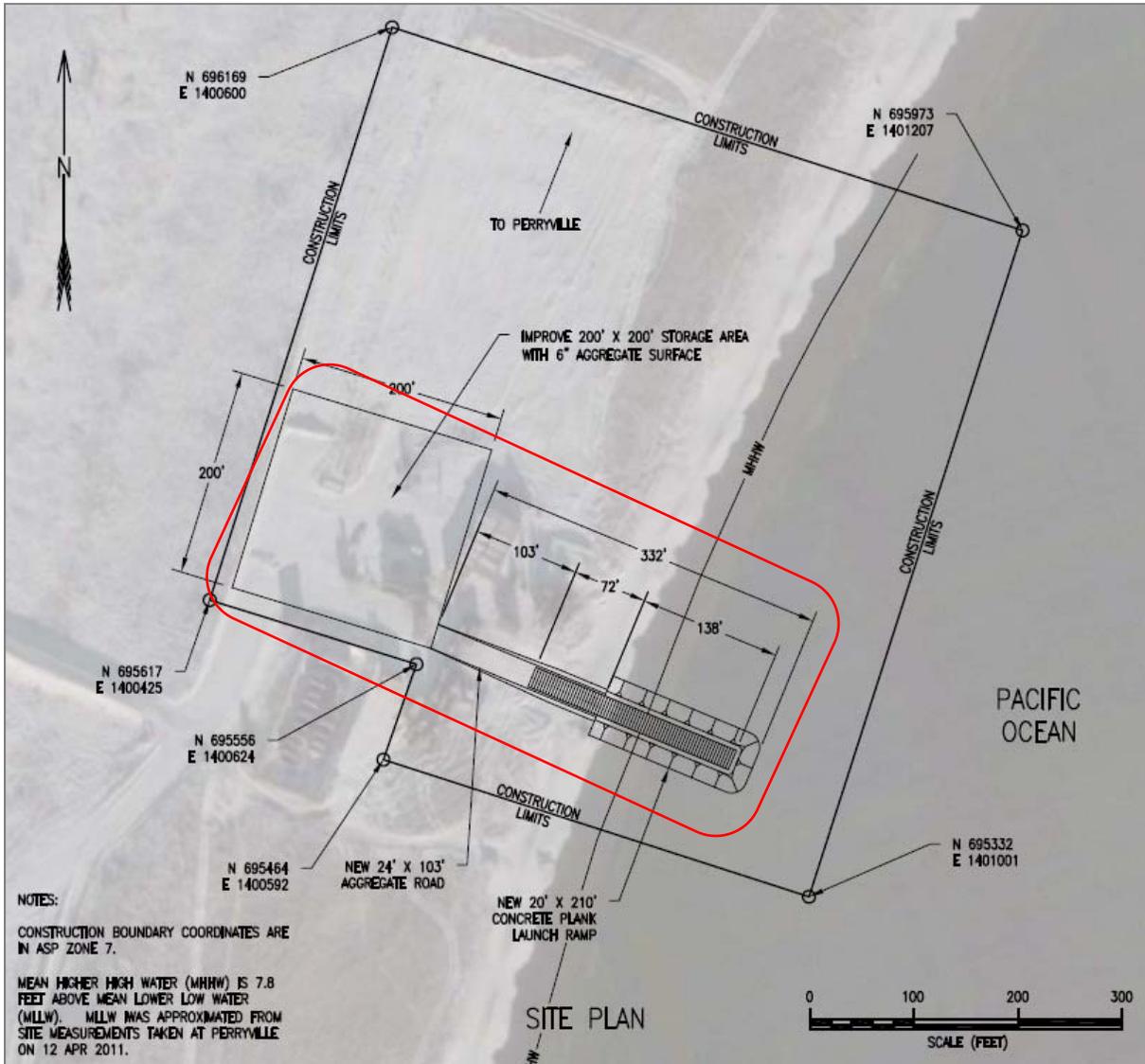


Figure 2. Area of potential effect (in red).

The staging area would consist of approximately 6 inches of aggregate covering about 0.92 acre. The proposed staging area is unvegetated and is currently used for storing shipping containers and other items. The soil in this area is the soft sandy silt found consistently along the coastline (figure 3), which is not appropriate for loading and unloading barges. A 103-foot-long access road would be built from the southwest corner of the staging area to the ramp. The road would be 20 feet wide and also composed of aggregate fill.



Figure 3. Proposed staging area, looking northeast.

The barge ramp would be constructed from 20-foot-wide concrete planks over a gravel base. It would begin at the top of the beach slope and extend east no more than 210 feet (figure 4). The upper, or western, 72 feet of the ramp would be unarmored. The lower, or eastern, 138 feet would be protected from wave energy and erosion by armor rock placed over core material and gravel beginning above the upper-most reach of waves and extending to the toe of the ramp. To create a stable base and proper slope for the ramp, some beach sands would be excavated. Excavated material would be used as fill in other project areas. Some of the excavation and placement of rock could be done from a barge.

Gravel, core rock, and armor rock would be obtained by the contractor from an existing commercial source. The contractor would place their support facilities and staging areas in existing developed areas adjacent to the proposed project area. Construction would take place over approximately 6 weeks in late spring or summer. At this time, the project is planned for 2012, but funding constraints could delay construction until 2013.



Figure 4. Proposed ramp location, looking northeast.

#### ***Known Cultural Resources and Previous Archaeological Studies in Project Area***

Residents of Katmai and other settlements along Shelikof Strait established Perryville following the 1912 eruption of Katmai Volcano. The community was formally planned and many facilities were designed and built by the federal government (Dumond 2004:113; Clemens and Norris 1999:31). There are two known cultural resources in the Perryville area. A large portion of the community is included in XSB-41 (Historic Perryville), bounded on the west by a small creek and slough, on the north by Fourth Avenue, and on the east by a cemetery. This site consists of historic debris, structural remains, and assorted buildings. One of these structures is St. John the Theologian Church (XSB-003), a wood-frame Russian Orthodox Church built in 1923 (AHRIS accessed December 2011; Davis 1986).

Perryville has been examined by archaeologists on several occasions. George Smith and Martha Johnson (1979) conducted a reconnaissance survey for the Perryville runway expansion and reported no cultural material. Cultural Resource Consultants conducted limited subsurface testing around Historic Perryville (Yarborough 1992). The Bureau of Indian Affairs conducted several archaeological surveys around the community. In 2002, they surveyed Road Project No. 490 and reported no cultural material (Allison 2002). Similar results were reported after they examined several lots within the community in 2010 (Goade 2010).

Historic Perryville was determined eligible as a site for the National Register of Historic Places for its potential to yield information important to understanding history (Criterion D; Yarborough 1992). St. John the Theologian Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Russian Orthodox Church thematic nomination for its association with significant events and distinctive architectural characteristics (Criteria A and C; National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form 1980). Both are outside the area of potential effects for the proposed undertaking.

***Assessment of Effect***

The area of potential effect is outside the boundaries for Historic Perryville (XSB-41), and previous archaeological surveys have encountered no cultural material in the vicinity. In addition, the proposed project area is either affected by tidal activity or disturbed by previous human activities, such as loading and unloading barges, storing shipping containers, and beaching small boats. 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

Cc:

Patrick Kosbruk, President, Oceanside Native Corporation  
Gerald Kosbruk, President, Native Village of Perryville

References cited:

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