

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

NORTHERN REGION, PRECONSTRUCTION

2301 PEGER ROAD  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-5316  
TELEPHONE: (907) 451-5106  
TDD: (907) 451-2363  
FAX: (907) 451-5103  
EMAIL: [abigail\\_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:abigail_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us)

August 8, 2005

Re: Nightmute Airport Improvements  
Project 51809

**Subject: Initiation of Consultation Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3**

Ms. Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is proposing to make improvements to the Nightmute Airport. Nightmute is located on Nelson Island, in western Alaska. It is 18 miles upriver from Toksook Bay and 100 miles west of Bethel. The community lies within Section 33, Township 5N, Range 88W, Seward Meridian, (approximately at Latitude 60.479440° N, and Longitude 164.72389° W). Nightmute is located in the Bethel Recording District. (See Figure 1, Location and Vicinity Maps).

For purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are initiating this consultation with you to assist us in identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

The proposed project will:

- Expand the existing 50 ft by 1,600 ft runway to 75 ft by 3,200 ft
- Extend the existing 100 ft by 2,000 ft runway safety area to 150 ft by 3,800 ft
- Provide a 50-ft by 260-ft taxiway on a 79-ft wide safety area.
- Provide a new 150 ft by 255 ft parking apron.
- Provide a 100-ft by 100-ft maintenance and operations pad with two single bay Snow Removal Equipment Buildings.
- Install insulation under the runway extension to prevent permafrost thaw.
- Install a medium-intensity lighting system.
- Install a lighted wind cone and segmented circle on a 125-ft by 125-ft pad.
- Provide a 30-ft by 60 ft Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) Pad, two Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Pads, and install an unlighted wind cone.
- Extend the power line from the village to the airport.
- Rehabilitate the existing 4800-ft by 15-ft airport access road to repair the extreme differential settlement of the road and also to shift the road further away from the Toksook River and realign it within the right of way. The width of the road will still be maintained at 15-ft
- Provide erosion protection along the airport access road.

*"Providing for the movement of people and goods, and the delivery of State services."*

E-55

- Acquire airport property. The current property lease has expired. Property acquisition in fee, as show in Figure 2a, will occur.

Please refer to Figures 2a & 2b, for a schematic representation of areas of proposed improvements. Figure 3 shows the existing and proposed airport fill limits.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes the existing and proposed airport property line, Material Site 5 (MS 5), the haul road and the airport access road as depicted on Figure 4. Photographs of the APE are also enclosed.

Material site #5 (MS 5) is located approximately one mile northwest of the existing runway. Proposed development of the site would include excavation of an area of 700 ft by 1,700 ft (approximately 27.3 acres). The proposed haul route begins north of the community at an existing material site and traverses east along the lower portion of the slope to MS 5.

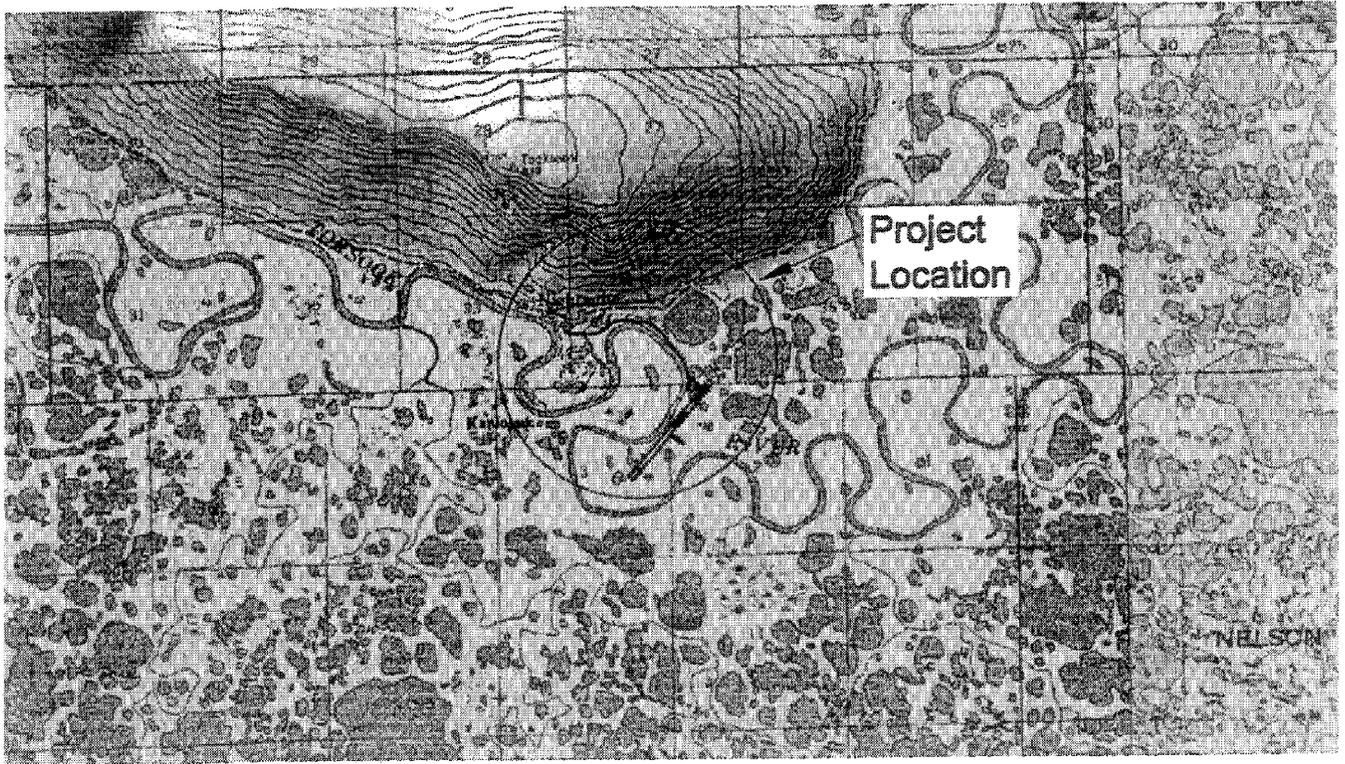
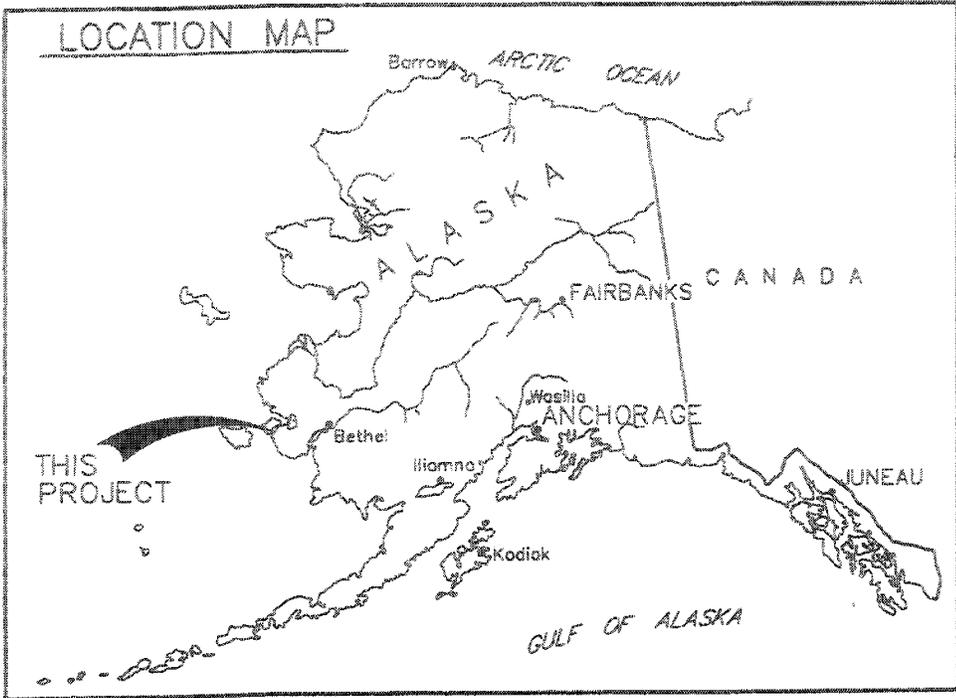
The ADOT&PF contracted with the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) for a survey to identify any historical and cultural resources that may be present in the APE (see enclosed Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Nightmute Airport Improvements, Material Site, and Haul Road Report prepared by Alan DePew and Will Schneider, March 2005). This survey included the entire area associated with the airport improvements (the material site and two haul route alternatives, the existing and proposed airport property, and the airport access road).

The March 2005 OHA survey recorded a single archaeological site, XBI-181, previously identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a possible village site (refer to Figure 5). Although the archaeological site is close to the existing airport access road embankment, and a small portion of the site is slightly within the right of way, the site is not within the proposed road toe. ADOT&PF will be conducting additional field investigation to delineate site boundaries in relation to the cut/fill limits of the project. The power line and erosion protection improvements will be well within the 50-ft right of way and archeological site XBI-181 will be avoided.

Please direct your comments or questions to Abigail Ogbe, Environmental Analyst, by telephone at (907) 451-5106 or by email to [abigail\\_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:abigail_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us) within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,  
  
 Chuck Howe  
 Environmental Coordinator

- AO/dt  
 Enclosures: Figure 1: Location and Vicinity Maps  
 Figure 2a & 2b: Project Scope  
 Figure 3: Existing and Proposed Airport Fill Limits  
 Figure 4: Area of Potential Impact  
 Figure 5: Proposed Haul Route to MS 5 and XBI - 181  
 Photo Sheet of the project area  
 Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Nightmute Airport Improvements, Material Site, and Haul Road Report by Alan DePew and Will Schneider, March 2005
- cc with enclosures: Patricia Oien, FAA Project Manager, Anchorage  
 cc w/o enclosures: Gary Lincoln, P.E., ADOT&PF Central Region, Design Project Manager  
 Laurie Mulcahy, ADOT&PF HQ, Environmental Program Manager  
 Abigail Ogbe, ADOT&PF Northern Region, Environmental Analyst

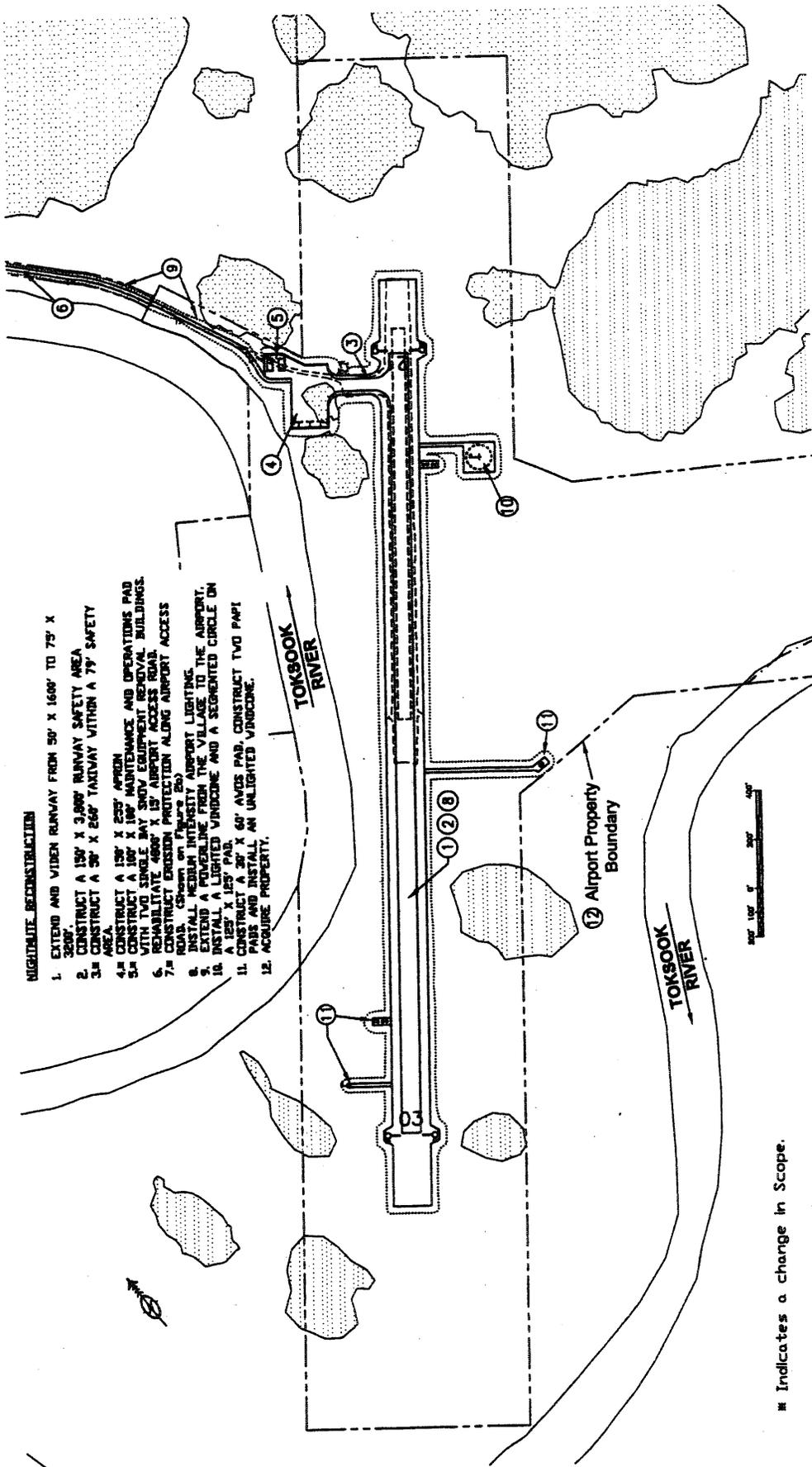


STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvement  
51809

Location and Vicinity Maps  
Figure 1

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



**NIGHTHUTE RECONSTRUCTION**

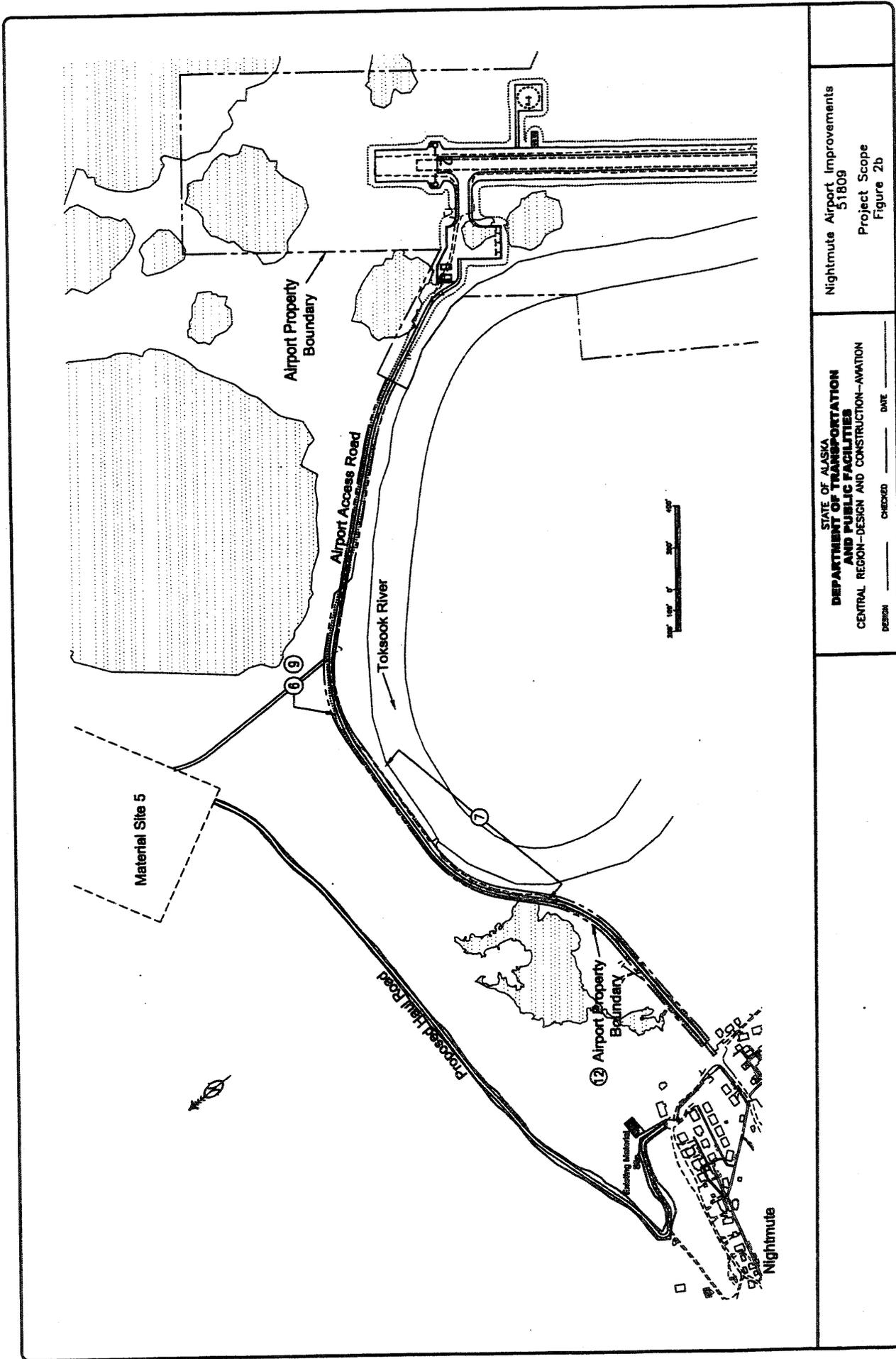
1. EXTEND AND WIDEN RUNWAY FROM 50' X 1600' TO 75' X 3200'
2. CONSTRUCT A 150' X 3,000' RUNWAY SAFETY AREA
3. CONSTRUCT A 30' X 260' TAXIWAY WITHIN A 75' SAFETY AREA
4. CONSTRUCT A 150' X 250' APRON
5. CONSTRUCT A 100' X 100' MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS PAD WITH TWO SINGLE BAY SNOW EQUIPMENT REMOVAL BUILDINGS.
6. REHABILITATE 4000' X 15' AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD.
7. CONSTRUCT EROSION PROTECTION ALONG AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD. (Shown on Figure 2b)
8. INSTALL MEDIUM INTENSITY AIRPORT LIGHTING TO THE AIRPORT.
9. EXTEND A POWERLINE FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE AIRPORT.
10. INSTALL A LIGHTED WINDCONE AND A SEGMENTED CIRCLE ON A 125' X 125' PAD.
11. CONSTRUCT AND INSTALL A 60' AVES PAD. CONSTRUCT TWO PAPI AND INSTALL AN UNLIGHTED WINDCONE.
12. ACQUIRE PROPERTY.

# Indicates a change in Scope.

STATE OF ALASKA  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
 CENTRAL REGION-DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION-AVIATION

Nighthute Airport Improvements  
 51809  
 Project Scope  
 Figure 2a

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Nighthmute Airport Improvements  
51809  
Project Scope  
Figure 2b

STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

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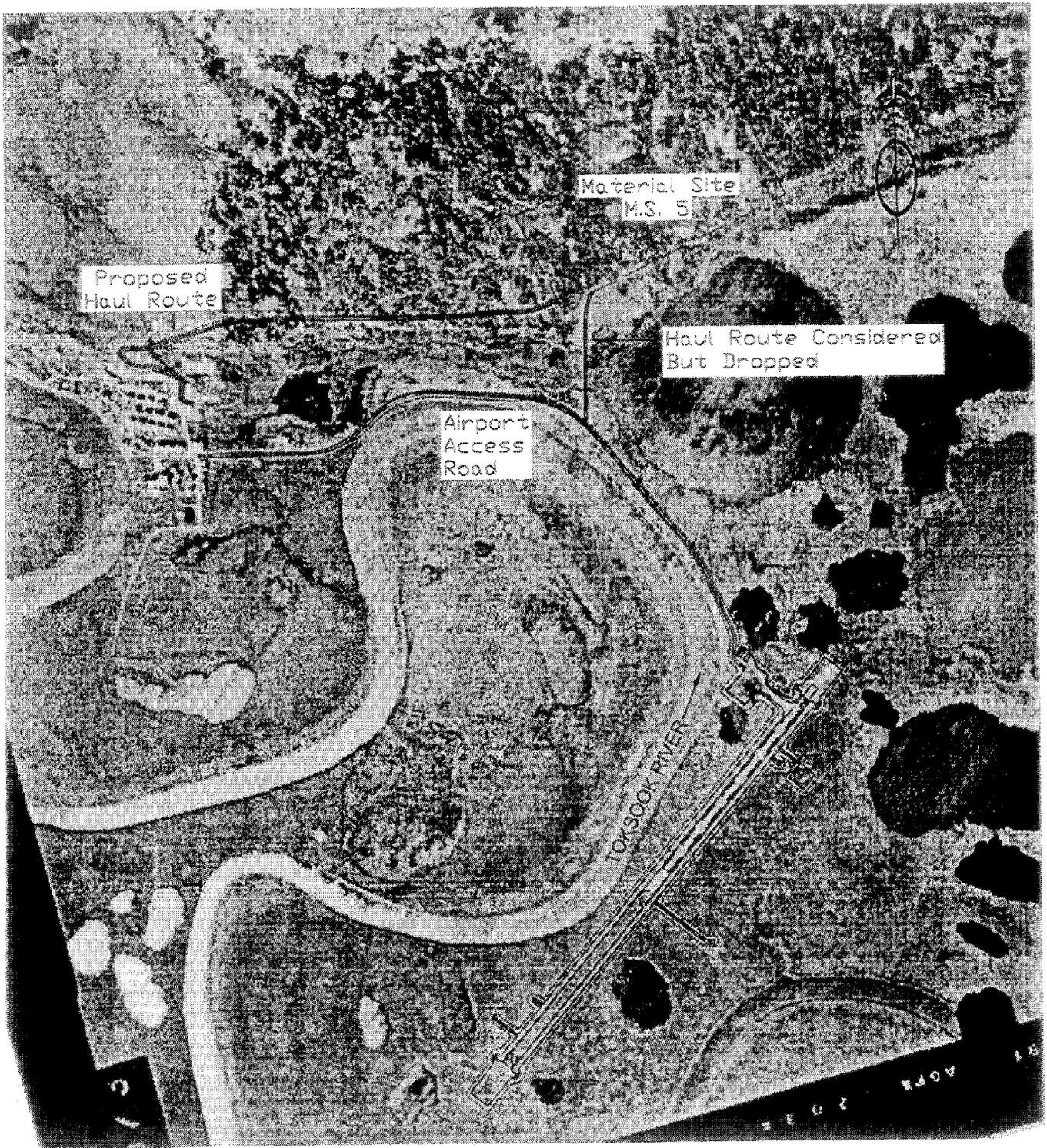


STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809

Existing and Proposed Fill Limits  
 Figure 3

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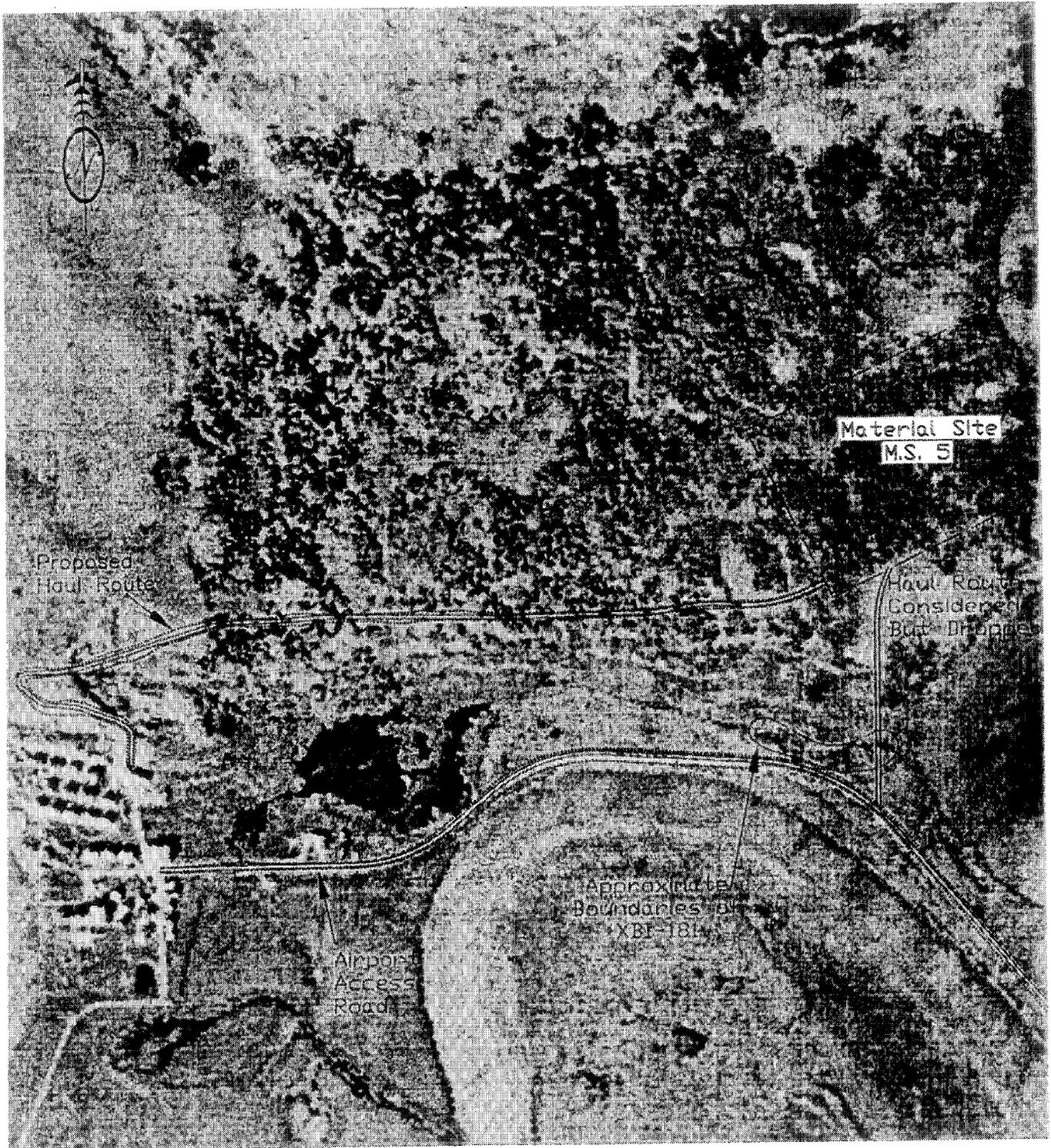


STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION-DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION-AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51509

Area of Potential Impact  
 Figure 4

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809  
 Haul Route to M.S. 5  
 XBI-181  
 Figure 5

Confidential

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

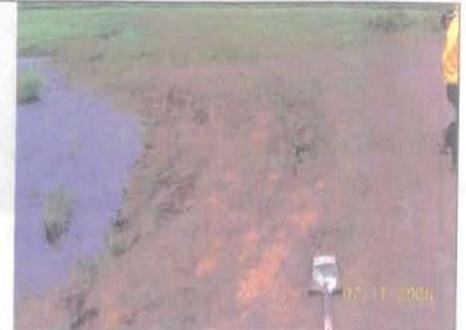
## Photo Sheet for Nightmute Airport Improvements. Project 51809



Typical condition of the airport access road. Heavily rutted.



Airport access road looking back towards the airport.



Access road adjacent to the large lake near town. Note the longitudinal cracking.



Access road adjacent to the large lake with typical vegetation.



Outlet of the only culvert along the airport access road



Inlet of the culvert. This is a small lake



Beginning of the proposed haul route. Up into an existing pit and then traversing up to the left.



Looking down at the town end of the new haul route. The trucks would go down this hill and then up and around the new store (Red building in the distance)



View from the hillside that the proposed haul route will head up looking back towards town.



The proposed haul route will head up this rough road.



A view from the end of the proposed runway looking towards town.



Looking the opposite direction of the runway on the left, showing trail markers. Photo taken from the southern end of the proposed runway.



Proposed runway with close up of trail marker. The markers indicate a winter trail that will be relocated.



Typical vegetation along the Toksook river



Bank failure along the Toksook river. This is the area where the river is closest to the access road



Typical bank failure along the Toksook river



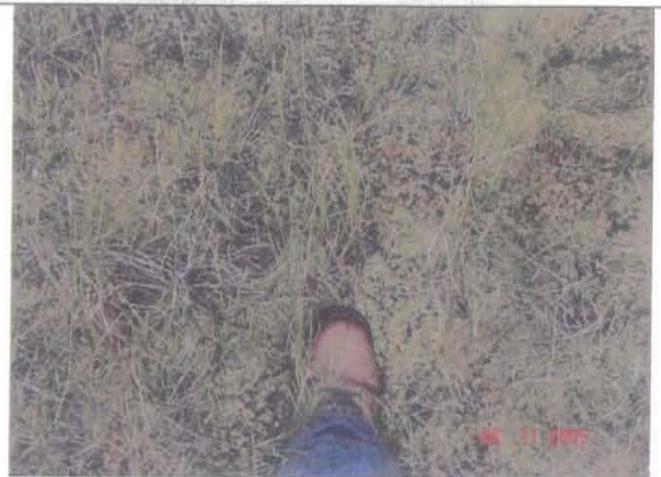
View looking towards the airport where the river is closest to the access road



View looking towards the proposed material site (MS 5)



Vegetation in the proposed material site (MS 5)



Typical vegetation in the runway extension



Looking north of the existing runway



Looking south of the existing runway

115

# STATE OF ALASKA

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**

*NORTHERN REGION, PRECONSTRUCTION*

2301 PEGER ROAD  
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EMAIL: [abigail\\_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:abigail_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us)

August 8, 2005

Re: Nightmute Airport Improvements  
Project 51809

**Subject: Initiation of Consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3**

Ms. Kathy B. Wilson  
Field Representative  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
101 12th Avenue, Room 166  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-6270

Dear Ms. Wilson:

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- Provide erosion protection along the airport access road.
- Acquire airport property. The current property lease has expired. Property acquisition in fee, as show in Figure 2a, will occur.

Please refer to Figures 2a & 2b, for a schematic representation of areas of proposed improvements. Figure 3 shows the existing and proposed airport fill limits.

For purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are initiating this consultation to assist us in identifying places that may be of traditional, religious and cultural importance to your tribal organization. Please note that we are requesting information only on such places that you believe may be impacted by the proposed project so that we may try to avoid impacts. We would be pleased to discuss with you any confidential concerns you may identify and discuss project details.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes the existing and proposed airport property line, Material Site 5 (MS 5), the haul road and the airport access road as depicted on Figure 4. Photographs of the APE are also enclosed.

Material Site #5 (MS 5) is located approximately one mile northwest of the existing runway. Proposed development of the site would include excavation of an area of 700-ft by 1,700-ft (approximately 27.3 acres). The proposed haul route begins north of the community at an existing material site and traverses east along the lower portion of the slope to MS 5.

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Your timely response will greatly assist us in incorporating your concerns into project development. For that purpose, I respectfully request that you complete the enclosed Project Consultation Options form and forward it to me within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Chuck Howe  
Environmental Coordinator

AO/dt

Enclosures: Figure 1: Location and Vicinity Maps  
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March 2005

cc with enclosures: Patricia Oien, FAA Project Manager, Anchorage

cc w/o enclosures: Gary Lincoln, P.E., ADOT&PF Central Region, Design Project Manager  
Laurie Mulcahy, ADOT&PF HQ, Environmental Program Manager  
Abigail Ogbe, ADOT&PF Northern Region, Environmental Analyst

## Project Consultation Options

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

Project Name: Nightmute Airport Improvements  
Federal/State Project Numbers: 51809

Please check the appropriate response(s) from the list below and use the back of this form or additional sheets if you wish to make comments:

- There are no known places of traditional religious or cultural importance present or within the vicinity of the proposed project and further consultation is not requested.
- There are or may be places of traditional religious or cultural importance present or within the vicinity of the proposed project and further consultation is requested.
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs will continue consultations for this proposed project directly with Chuck Howe, Environmental Coordinator, ADOT&PF Northern Region, and with the understanding that the Bureau of Indian Affairs may at its discretion resume consultations with the Federal Aviation Administration.
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs has no interest associated with this proposed project and further consultation is not required.

If you have chosen to do so, please indicate the manner in which you wish to continue consultation:

Mail:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Other: (please describe)

Name of Bureau of Indian Affairs designated contact for this proposed project:

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

[Name and Title of Formal Tribal/Corp Representative]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Mr. Chuck Howe, Northern Region Environmental Coordinator, ADOT&PF,  
2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316

Or, fax to: Mr. Chuck Howe - (907) 451-5103

**NIGHTMUTE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS  
PROJECT 51809  
INITIATION OF TRIBAL CONSULTATION  
DISTRIBUTION LIST  
August 8, 2005**

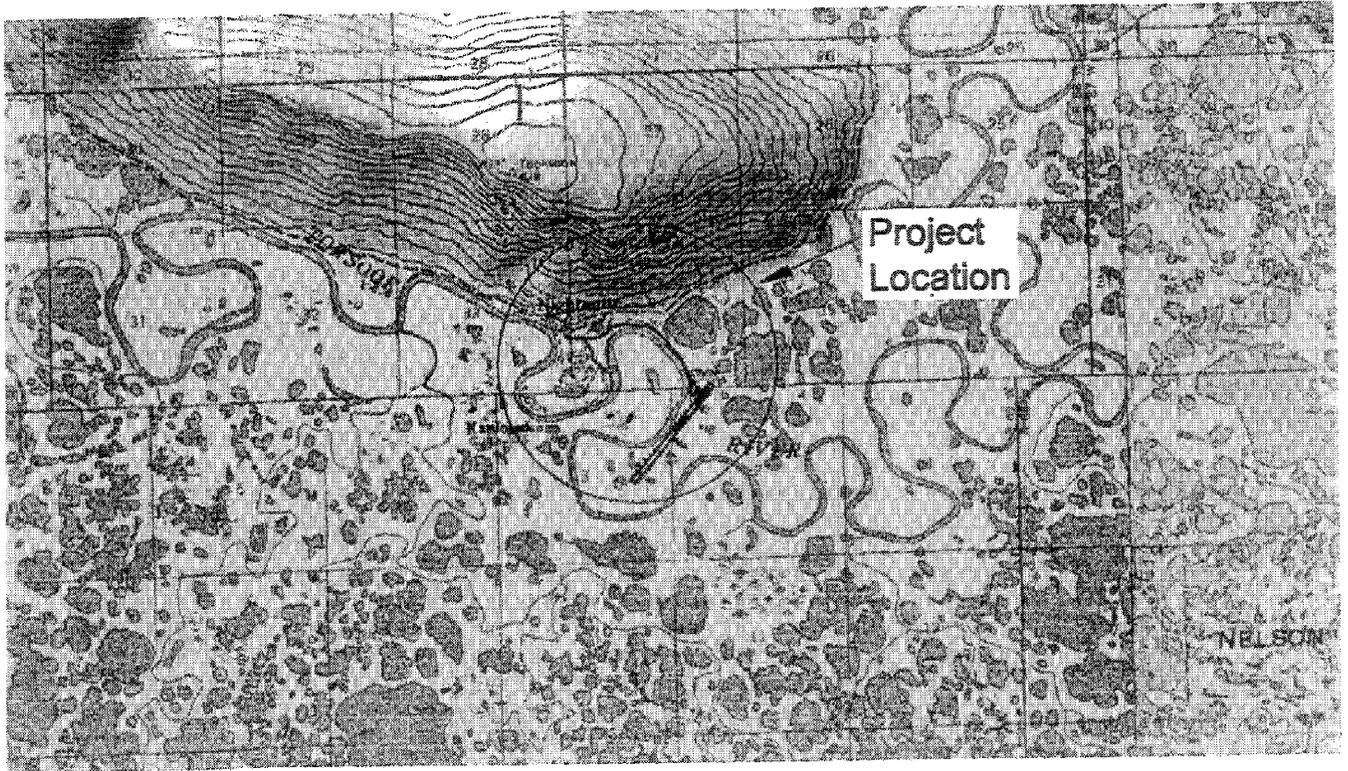
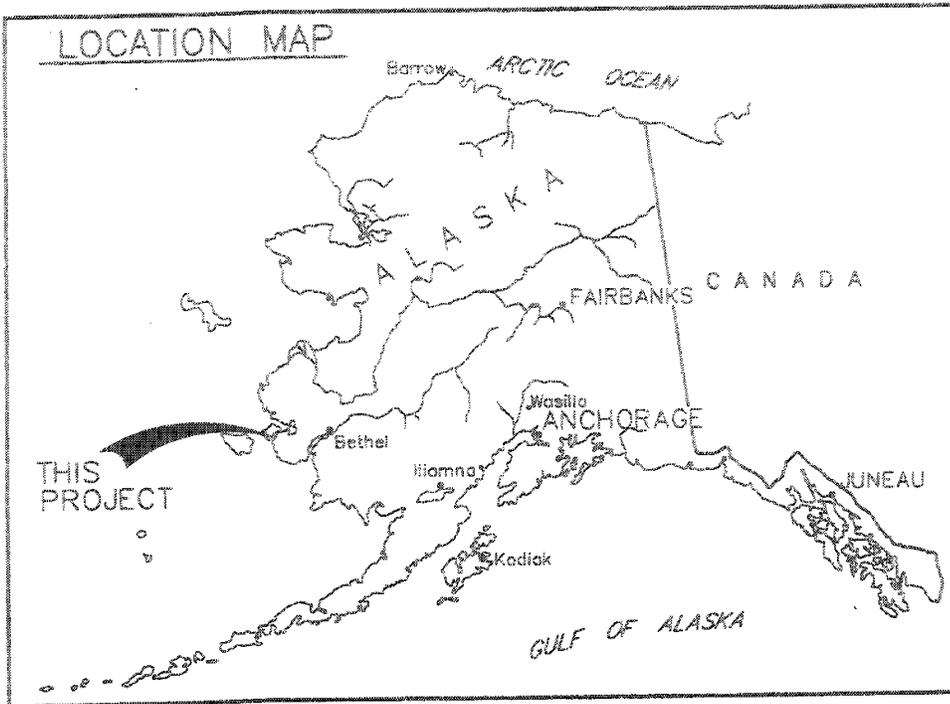
Mr. John George  
TC Administrator  
Chinuruk, Incorporated  
P. O. Box 90009  
Nightmute, AK 99690

Mr. John George  
TC Administrator  
Nightmute Traditional Council  
P. O. Box 90021  
Nightmute, AK 99690

Mr. Matthew Nicolai  
President  
Calista Corporation  
301 Calista Court, Suite A  
Anchorage, AK 99518-3028

Mr. Gene Peltola  
President/CEO  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation  
P. O. Box 528  
Bethel, AK 99559

Ms. Kathy B. Wilson  
Field Representative  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
101 12th Avenue, Room 166  
Fairbanks, AK 99701-6270



STATE OF ALASKA  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

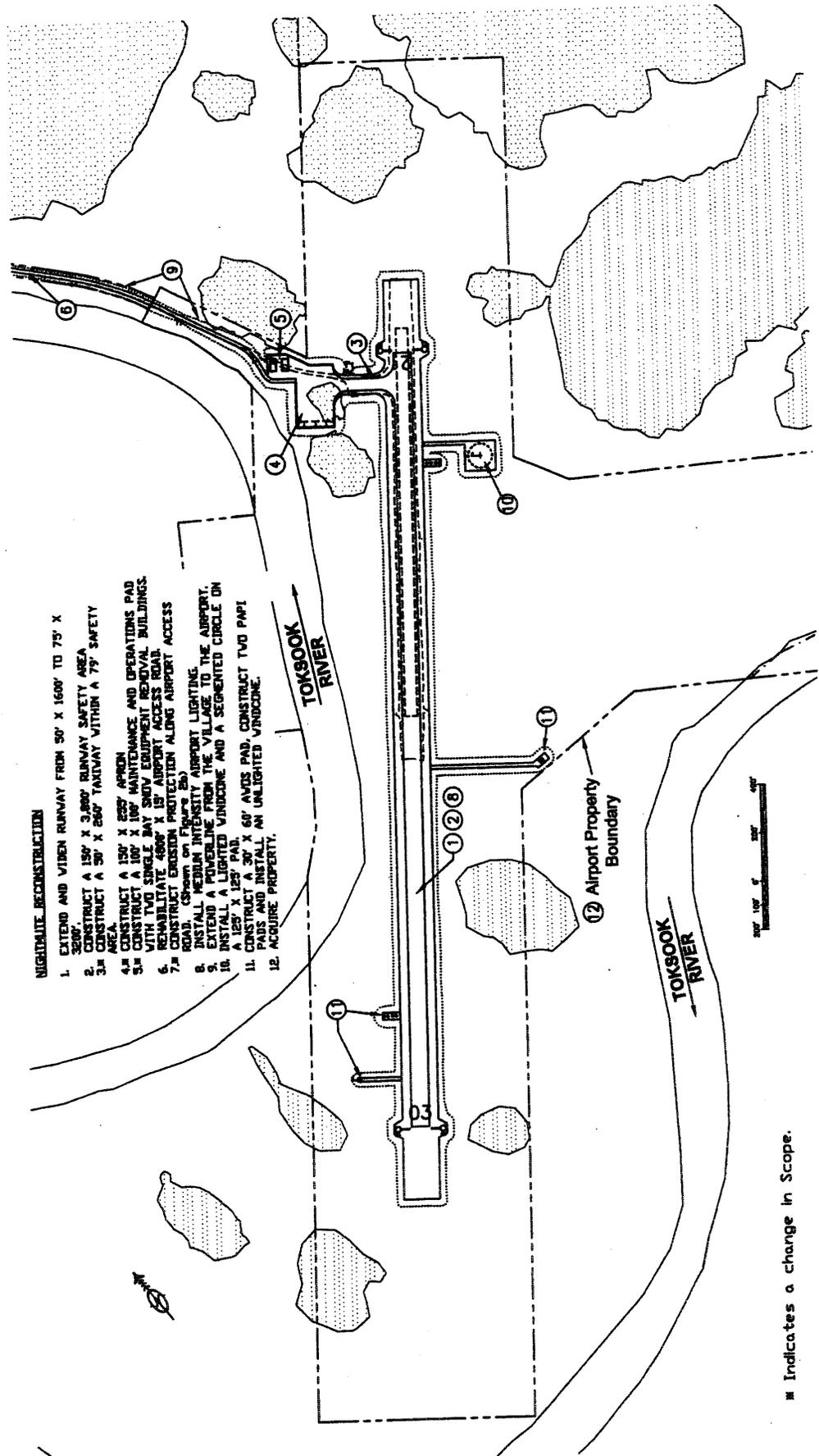
Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809

Location and Vicinity Maps  
 Figure 1

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

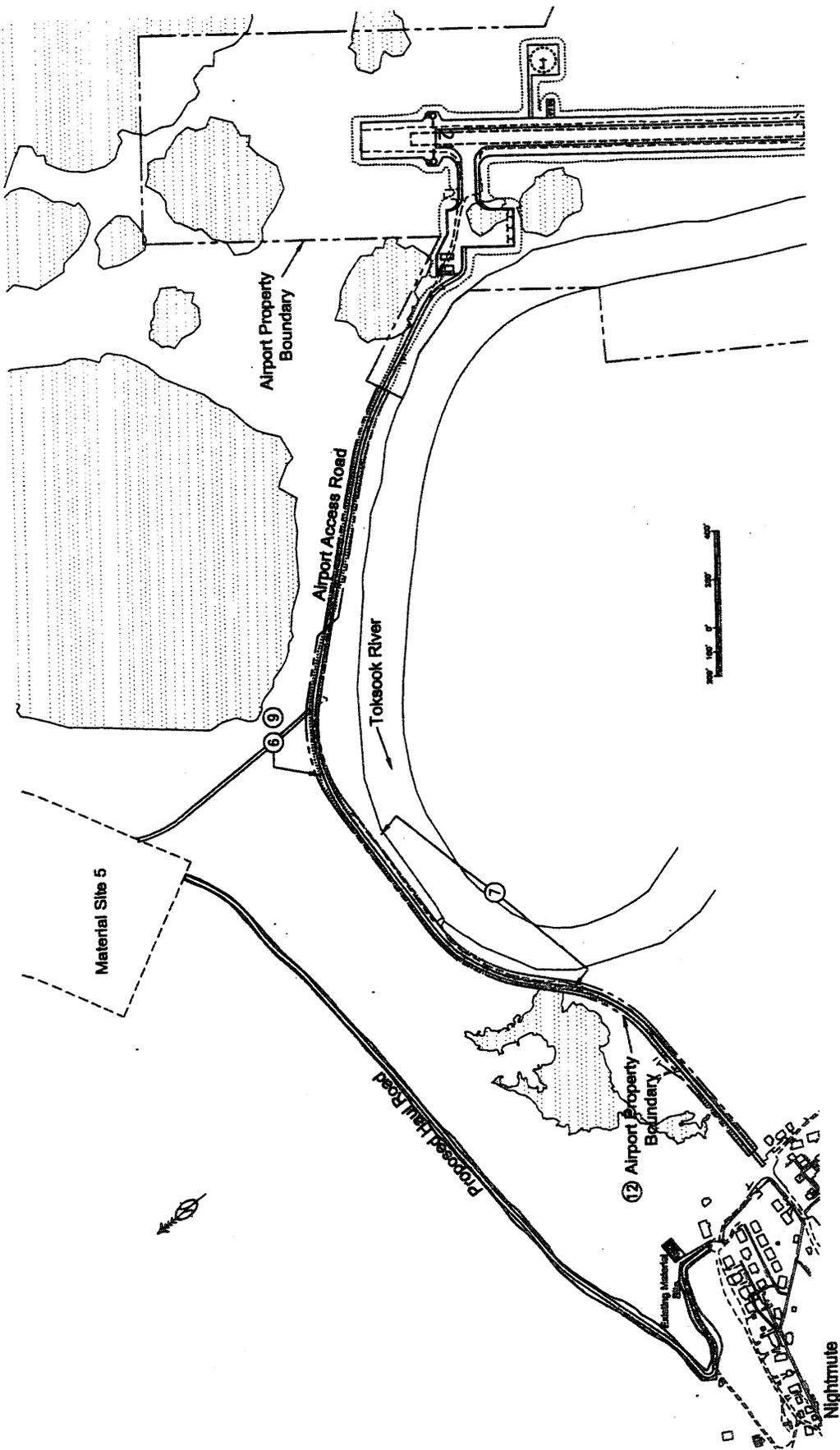
**NIGHTMUTE RECONSTRUCTION**

1. EXTEND AND WIDEN RUNWAY FROM 30' X 1600' TO 75' X 3200'.
2. CONSTRUCT A 150' X 3,000' RUNWAY SAFETY AREA.
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\* Indicates a change in Scope.

STATE OF ALASKA <b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION          AND PUBLIC FACILITIES</b> CENTRAL REGION-DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION-AVIATION	Nightmute Airport Improvements 51809 Project Scope Figure 2a
DESIGN _____ CHECKED _____ DATE _____	



Nightmute Airport Improvements  
51809  
Project Scope  
Figure 2b

STATE OF ALASKA  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION  
DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

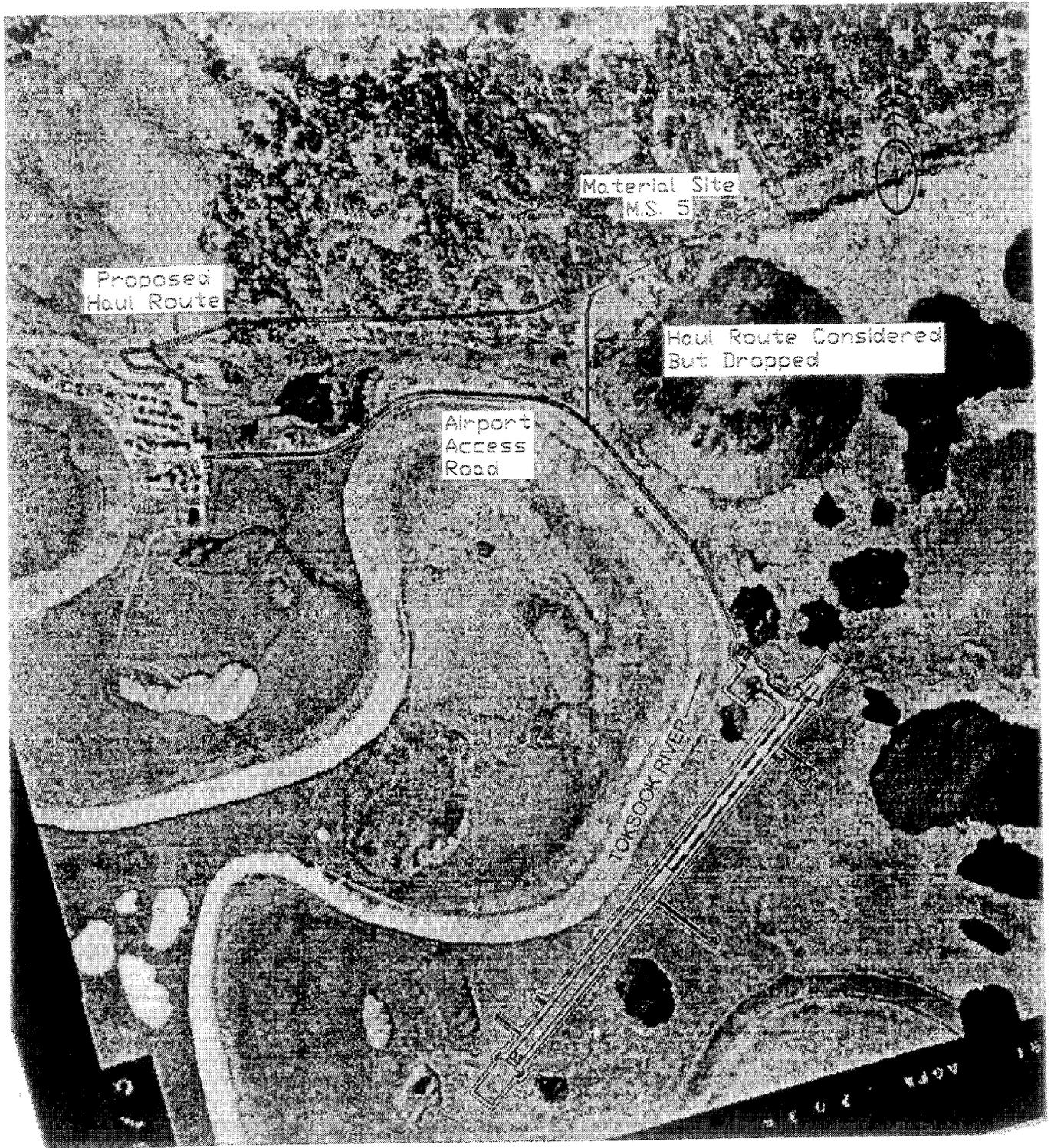


STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 31809

Existing and Proposed Fill Limits  
 Figure 3

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809

Area of Potential Impact  
 Figure 4

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 81809  
 Haul Route to M.S. 5  
 XBI-181  
 Figure 5

Confidential

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

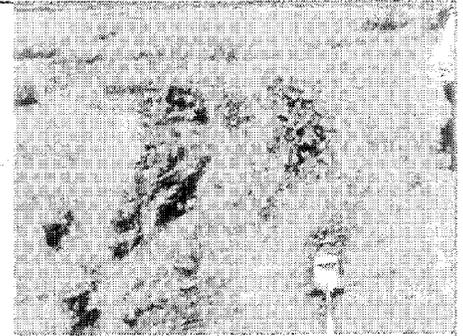
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Typical condition of the airport access road. Heavily rutted.



Airport access road looking back towards the airport.



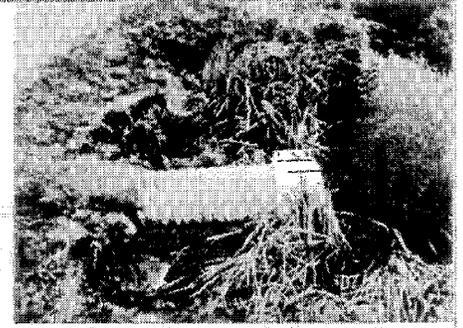
Access road adjacent to the large lake near town. Note the longitudinal cracking.



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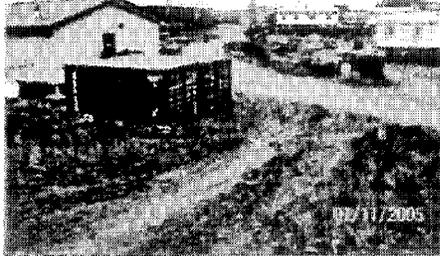
Outlet of the only culvert along the airport access road



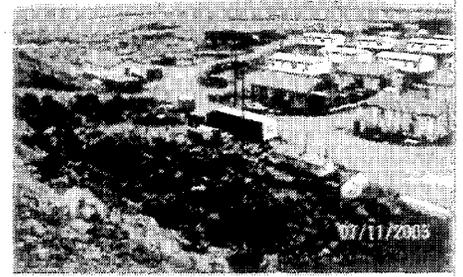
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Looking down at the town end of the new haul route. The trucks would go down this hill and then up and around the new store (Red building in the distance)



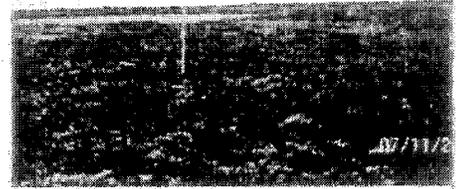
View from the hillside that the proposed haul route will head up looking back towards town.



The proposed haul route will head up this rough road.



A view from the end of the proposed runway looking towards town.



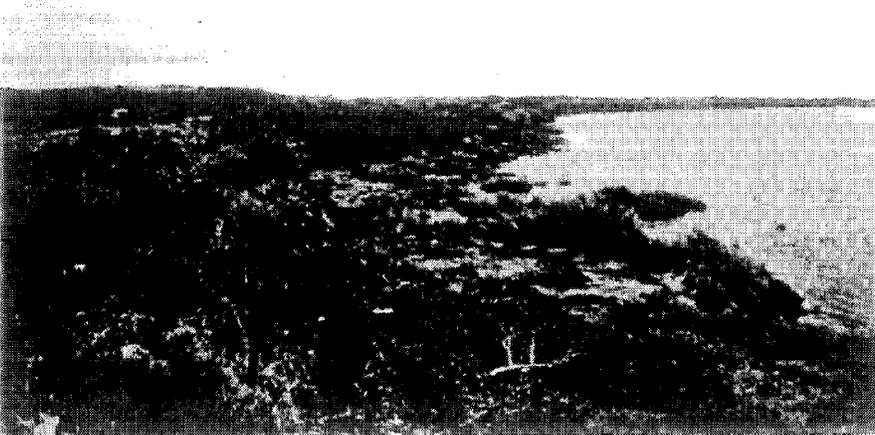
Looking the opposite direction of the runway on the left, showing trail markers. Photo taken from the southern end of the proposed runway.



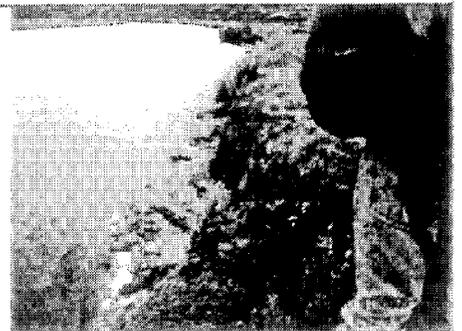
Proposed runway with close up of trail marker. The markers indicate a winter trail that will be relocated.



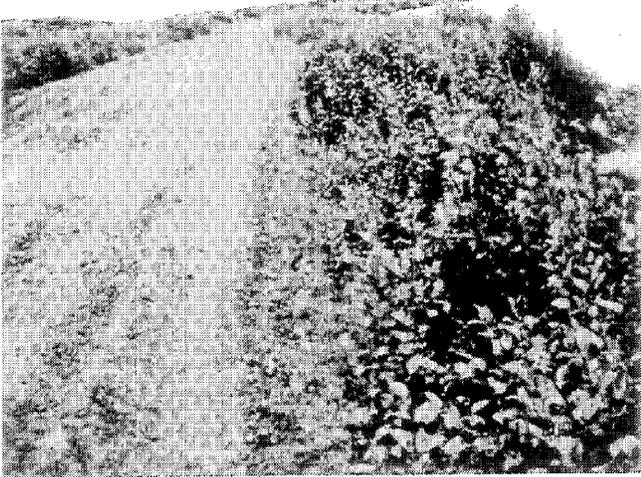
Typical vegetation along the Toksook river



Bank failure along the Toksook river. This is the area where the river is closest to the access road



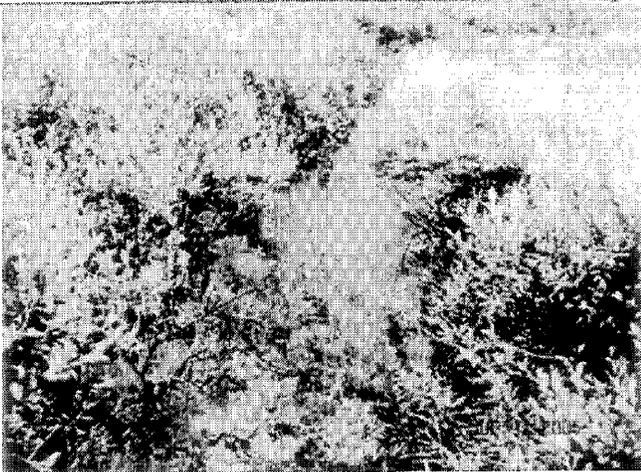
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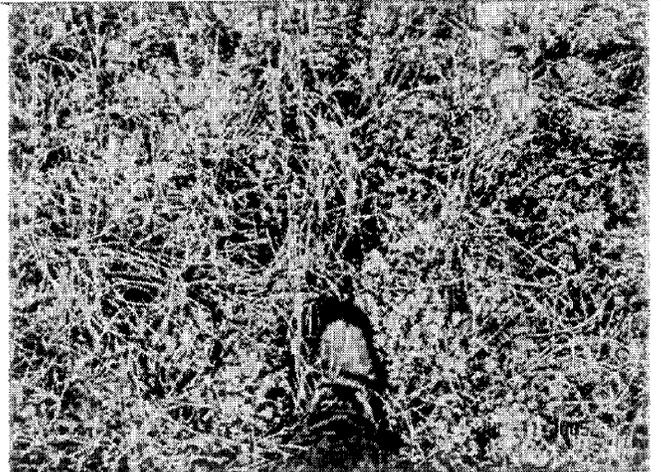
View looking towards the airport where the river is closest to the access road



View looking towards the proposed material site (MS 5)



Vegetation in the proposed material site (MS 5)



Typical vegetation in the runway extension



Looking north of the existing runway



Looking south of the existing runway

# CALISTA CORPORATION

301 Calista Court, Suite A  
Anchorage, AK 99518-3028  
Phone: (907) 279-5516  
Fax: (907) 279-8430

## FAX TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

**ATTENTION** Chuck Howe \_\_\_\_\_  
**COMPANY:** ADOT&PF \_\_\_\_\_  
**FAX NUMBER:** (907) 451-5103 \_\_\_\_\_  
**FROM:** June McAtee \_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE:** August 17, 2005 \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of pages, including this cover:** 2

Please call June at (907) 279-5516 if you do not receive all page(s).

**REMARKS:**

## CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

THE DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING THIS FAX TRANSMISSION CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BELONGING TO THE SENDER WHICH IS LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. THE INFORMATION IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL(S) OR ENTITY(IES) NAMED ABOVE. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISCLOSURE, COPYING, DISTRIBUTION OR THE TAKING OF ANY ACTION IN RELIANCE ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS TRANSMITTED INFORMATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY CALISTA CORPORATION IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE TO ARRANGE FOR THE RETURN OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

### Project Consultation Options

#### Calista Corporation

Project Name: Nightmute Airport Improvements  
Federal/State Project Numbers: 51809

Please check the appropriate response(s) from the list below and use the back of this form or additional sheets if you wish to make comments:

There are no known places of traditional religious or cultural importance present or within the vicinity of the proposed project and further consultation is not requested.

There are or may be places of traditional religious or cultural importance present or within the vicinity of the proposed project and further consultation is requested.

The Calista Corporation will continue consultations for this proposed project directly with Chuck Howe, Environmental Coordinator, AKDOT&PF Northern Region, and with the understanding that the Calista Corporation may at its discretion resume consultations with the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Calista Corporation has no interest associated with this proposed project and further consultation is not required.

If you have chosen to do so, please indicate the manner in which you wish to continue consultation:

Mail: 8/29/05 9:27am.

Phone: Interested in updates, no site-specific knowledge related to this project.

Fax: Would like copies of reports generated

E-mail:

Other: (please describe)

Name of Calista Corporation designated contact for this proposed project:

June McAtee Telephone: (907) 279-5316  
Please print

Signed: June McAtee Vice President, Land & Natural Resources Date: 8/16/05  
[Name and Title of Formal Tribal/Corp Representative]

Please mail to: Mr. Chuck Howe, Northern Region Environmental Coordinator, ADOT&PF, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316

Or, fax to: Mr. Chuck Howe - (907) 451-5103

1809 Nightmute 106 Tribal consultation requested by Calista Corpo...

**Subject:** 51809 Nightmute 106 Tribal consultation requested by Calista Corporation

**From:** Abigail Ogbe <abigail\_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us>

**Date:** Wed, 31 Aug 2005 15:37:22 -0800

**To:** Gary E Lincoln <gary\_lincoln@dot.state.ak.us>, Crane Johnson  
<crane\_johnson@dot.state.ak.us>

**CC:** Charles E Howe <chuck\_howe@dot.state.ak.us>

On Monday August 29, 2005, Ms. June McAtee returned Chuck's call of Friday 8/26/05. I am sorry to be sending the meeting report at this time. I was sick on Monday and went home shortly after the call from Ms. McAtee and was also absent from work yesterday.

Ms. McAtee, representing Calista Corporation, stated that she has no further interest in the subject but would be interested in updates related to cultural and historical resources. According to her, the 106 project consultation options form sent by ADOT as part of the Tribal consultation initiation, did not provide an option that would enable her inform ADOT that her interest in the project was only for updates related to cultural and historical resources. Ms. McAtee would be interested in receiving copies of reports in the future, related to cultural and historical resources.

This email documents and concludes the 106 initiation of consultation with Calista Corporation.

--

Abigail Ogbe  
Environmental Analyst  
ADOT&PF  
2301 Peger Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Phone: (907)451-5106 (fax 5103)  
Email: [abigail\\_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:abigail_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us)

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

NORTHERN REGION, PRECONSTRUCTION

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

2301 PEGER ROAD  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-5316  
TELEPHONE: (907) 451-2238  
TDD: (907) 451-2363  
FAX: (907) 451-5103  
EMAIL: [chuck\\_howe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:chuck_howe@dot.state.ak.us)

March 8, 2006

Re: Nightmute Airport Improvements  
DOT&PF Project #51809  
**Finding of No Adverse Effect**  
**Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(1)**

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

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is proposing to make improvements to the Nightmute Airport. Nightmute is located on Nelson Island in western Alaska. It is 18 miles upriver from Toksook Bay and 100 miles west of Bethel. The community lies within Section 33, Township 5N, Range 88W, Seward Meridian, (Latitude 60.479440° N, and Longitude 164.72389° W). Nightmute is located in the Bethel Recording District (Figure 1, Location and Vicinity Maps). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the DOT&PF, on behalf of FAA, finds that the proposed project would have no adverse effect on historic properties.

## Project Description

The proposed project will:

- Expand the existing 50-ft by 1,600-ft runway to 75-ft by 3,200-ft
- Extend the existing 100-ft by 2,000-ft runway safety area to 150-ft by 3,800-ft
- Provide a 50-ft by 260-ft taxiway on a 79-ft wide safety area.
- Provide a new 150-ft by 255-ft parking apron.
- Provide a 100-ft by 100-ft pad for two-single bay Snow Removal Equipment Buildings.
- Install a medium intensity lighting system.
- Install a lighted wind cone and segmented circle on a 125-ft by 125-ft pad.
- Provide a 30-ft by 60-ft Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) Pad, two Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Pads, and install an unlighted wind cone.
- Extend the power line from the village to the airport.
- Rehabilitate the existing 4800-ft by 15-ft airport access road to repair the extreme differential settlement of the road and also to shift the road further away from the Toksook River and realign it within the right of way (ROW). The width of the road will still be maintained at 15-ft.

*"Providing for the movement of people and goods, and the delivery of State services."*

F-83

- Provide erosion protection along the airport access road.
- Acquire airport property. The current property lease has expired. Property acquisition in-fee, as shown in Figure 2a, will occur.

Please refer to Figures 2a and 2b, for a schematic representation of areas of proposed improvements. Figure 3 shows the existing and proposed airport fill limits.

### **Area of Potential Effects**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes the existing and proposed airport property line, Material Site 5 (MS 5), the 50-ft ROW for the haul road and the airport access road as depicted on Figure 4. MS 5 is located approximately one mile north west of the existing runway. Proposed development of the site would include excavation of an area 700-ft. by 1,700-ft. (approximately 27.3 acres). The proposed haul route begins north of the community at an existing material site and traverses east along the lower portion of the slope to MS 5.

### **Efforts to Identify Historic Properties**

The DOT&PF contracted with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources—Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) for a survey in September of 2004 to identify any historical and cultural resources that may be present in the APE. The report “Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Nightmute Airport Improvements, Material Sites and Haul Road (March 2005)” was sent to you on August 8, 2005.

On August 8, 2005 consultation letters were also sent to you, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chinuruk Incorporated, Nightmute Traditional Council, Calista Corporation, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation. The letters requested information in identifying places of traditional and cultural importance, and any historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project. No responses were received.

### **Determination of Eligibility**

The OHA survey recorded a single archaeological site “Nightmute Pingo” approximately 32 feet from the existing airport access road. The site was previously identified by Karen Workman in 1974 (as XBI-031) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in 2002 (as XBI-181). Nightmute Pingo contains a village site, with seven to nine house pit depressions, and a series of pingo mounds reported as a Nightmute and Nunivak Island battle site. The overall site, now formally recorded as XBI-031, was not previously evaluated for National Register of Historic Places eligibility. The DOT&PF on behalf of FAA agrees with OHA’s recommendation that the site qualifies for the Register under Criterion “D” for properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### **Determination of Effect**

Proposed improvements to the existing airport access road embankment places embankment fill and two guy lines with anchors for a power line (which was shifted to the south side of the road

March 8, 2006

-3-

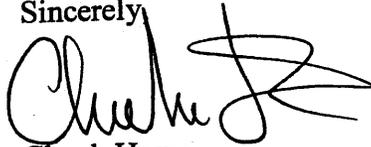
Nightmute Airport Improvements  
DOT&PF Project #51809  
Finding of No Adverse Effect Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(1)

to avoid the site) at the approximate site boundaries of Nightmute Pingo (Figure 5). As was discussed on March 7, 2006, with Stefanie Ludwig and Alan DePew of your staff, DOT&PF considers this project to have a No Adverse Effect on Nightmute Pingo, with the following stipulation:

The Department will commit to additional shovel testing by a qualified archaeologist along the perimeter of the site between Stations 33+70 and 36+80, during Project Design to determine the presence of any cultural features/materials and whether there is need for archaeological monitoring during construction.

Please contact Abigail Ogbe, Environmental Impact Analyst, by telephone at (907) 451-5106 or by email at [abigail\\_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:abigail_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us), if you have any questions or need additional information. Please direct your concurrence or comments to me at the address above, by telephone at (907) 451-2238, or by e-mail at [chuck\\_howe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:chuck_howe@dot.state.ak.us).

Sincerely



Chuck Howe

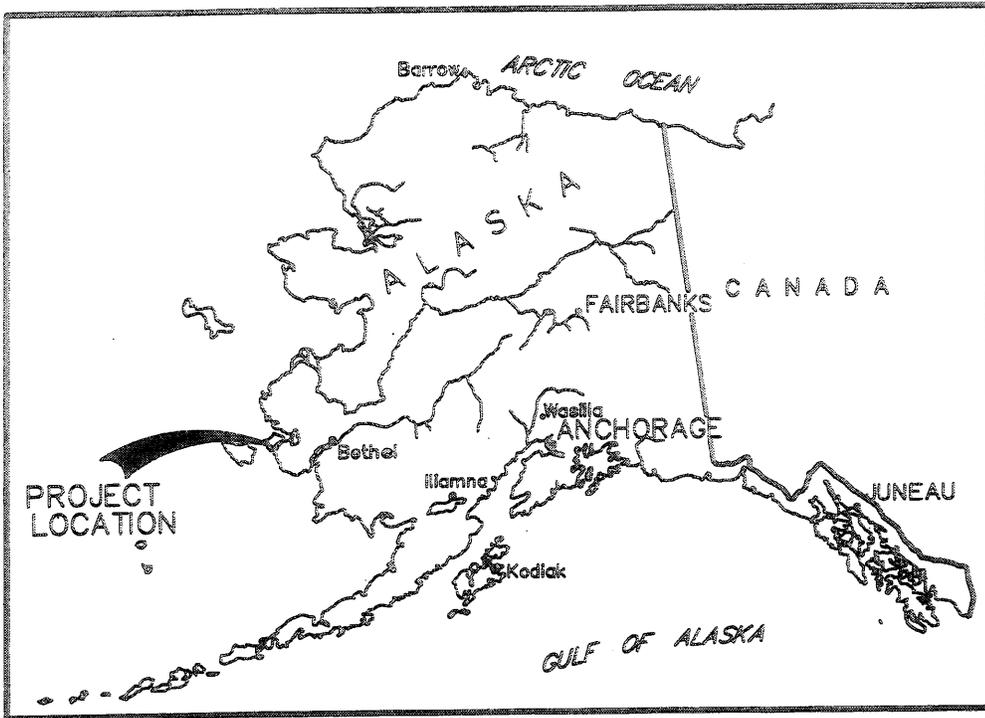
Northern Region Environmental Coordinator

AO/dt

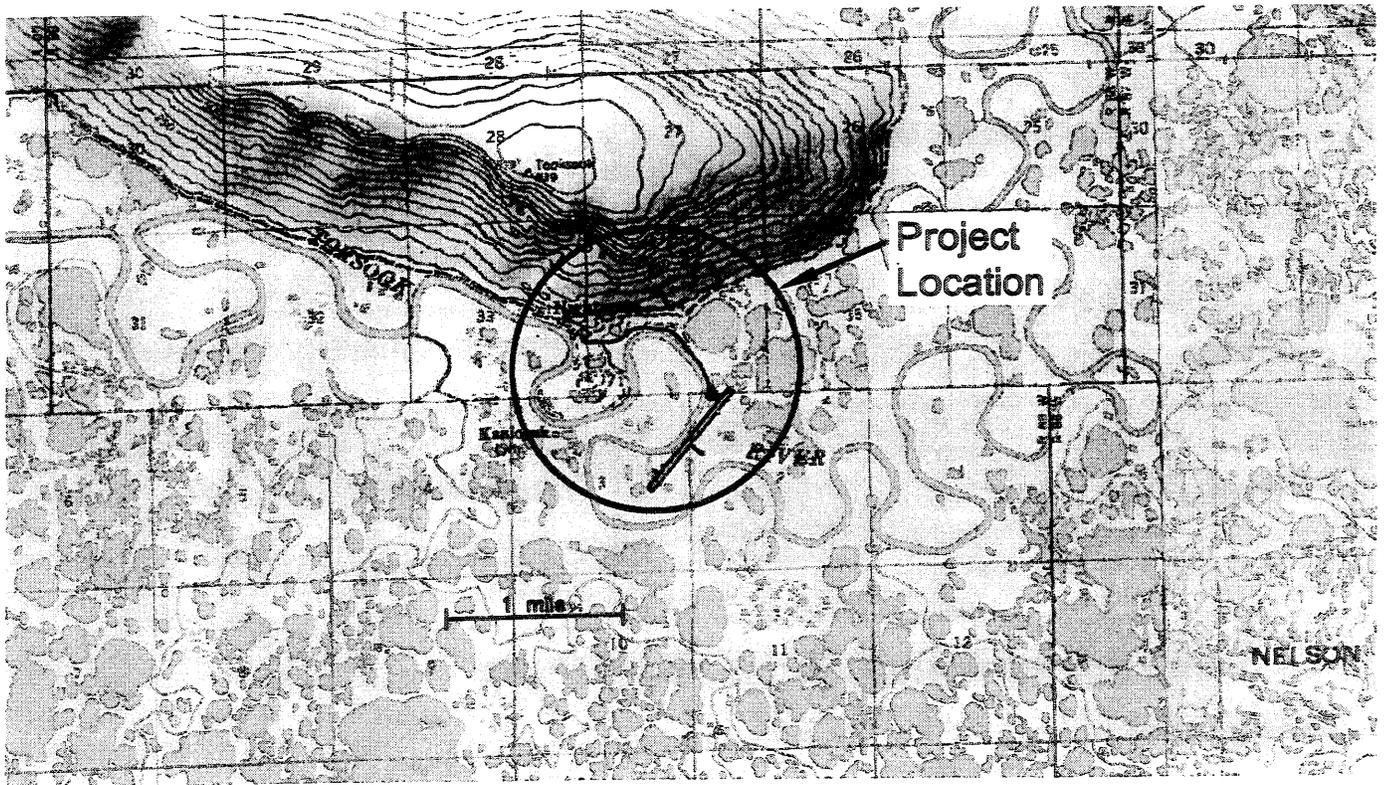
Enclosures: Figure 1: Location and Vicinity Maps  
Figures 2a & 2b: Project Scope  
Figure 3: Existing and Proposed Airport Fill Limits  
Figure 4: Area of Potential Impact  
Figure 5: Nightmute Pingo (XBI-031) and Power Line Installation

cc: Gary Lincoln, P.E., Design Engineering Manager, DOT&PF, Central Region  
Laurie Mulcahy, Environmental Program Manager, DOT&PF, Central Region  
Abigail Ogbe, Environmental Impact Analyst, DOT&PF, Northern Region  
Pat Oien, Project Manager, FAA, Anchorage

F-85



T 5 N, R 06 W, SEC 34 & 35  
 T 4 N, R 06 W, SEC 26 & 3  
 SEWARD MERIDIAN  
 U.S.G.S. BIRD ELEY G-7.D-6.C-7.D-6 ALASKA

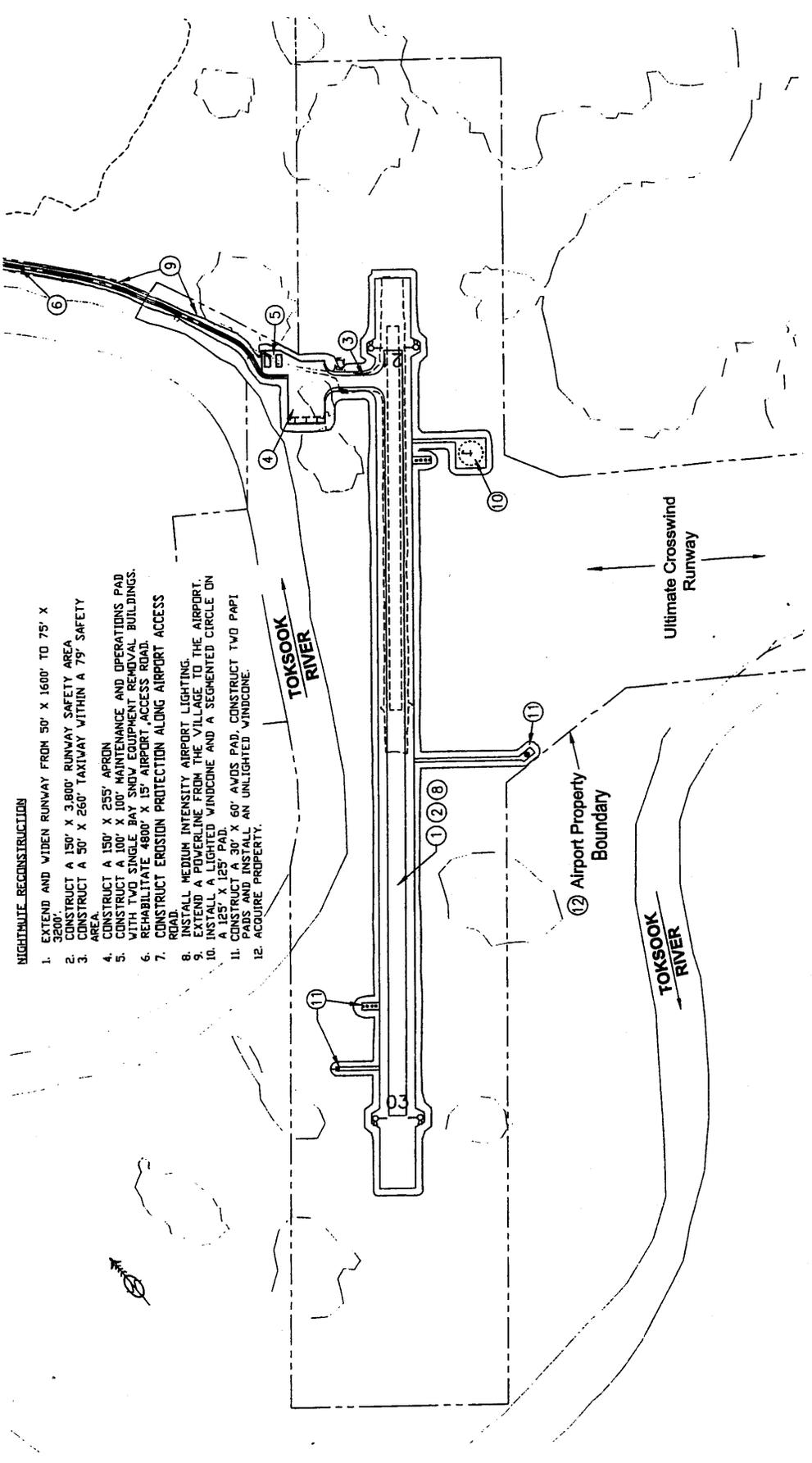


STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809

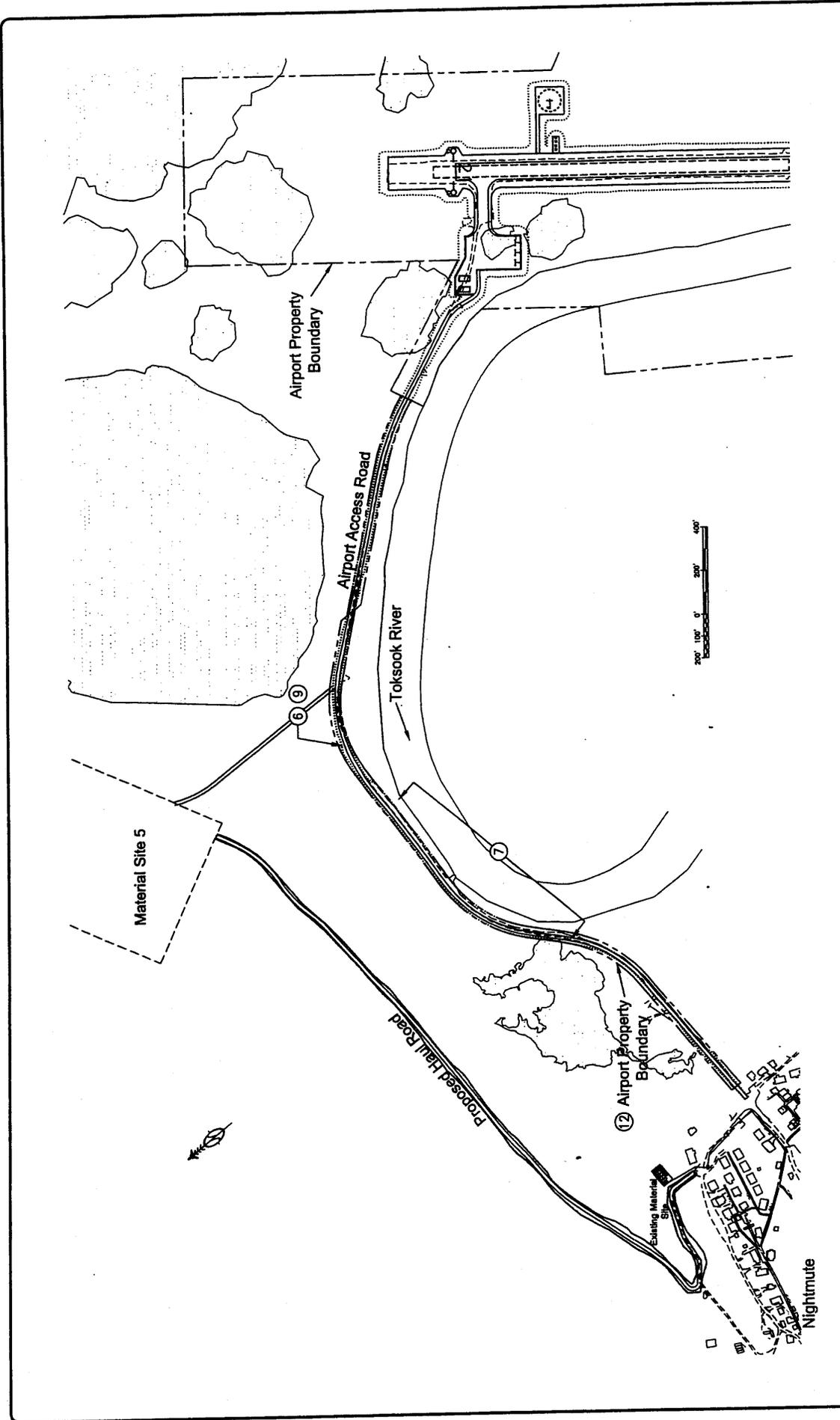
Location and Vicinity Maps  
 Figure 1

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**NIGHTMUTE RECONSTRUCTION**

1. EXTEND AND WIDEN RUNWAY FROM 50' X 1600' TO 75' X 3200'.
2. CONSTRUCT A 150' X 3,800' RUNWAY SAFETY AREA
3. CONSTRUCT A 50' X 260' TAXIWAY WITHIN A 79' SAFETY AREA.
4. CONSTRUCT A 150' X 255' APRON
5. CONSTRUCT A 100' X 100' MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS PAD WITH TWO SINGLE BAY SNOW EQUIPMENT REMOVAL BUILDINGS.
6. REHABILITATE 4800' X 15' AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD.
7. CONSTRUCT EROSION PROTECTION ALONG AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD.
8. INSTALL MEDIUM INTENSITY AIRPORT LIGHTING.
9. EXTEND A POWERLINE FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE AIRPORT.
10. INSTALL A LIGHTED WINDCONE AND A SEGMENTED CIRCLE ON A 125' X 125' PAD.
11. CONSTRUCT A 30' X 60' AIDS PAD. CONSTRUCT TWO PAPI PADS AND INSTALL AN UNLIGHTED WINDCONE.
12. ACQUIRE PROPERTY.



<p>Nightmute Airport Improvements 51809</p>	<p>STATE OF ALASKA <b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES</b> CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION</p>	<p>Project Scope Figure 2b</p>
<p>DESIGN _____ CHECKED _____ DATE _____</p>		

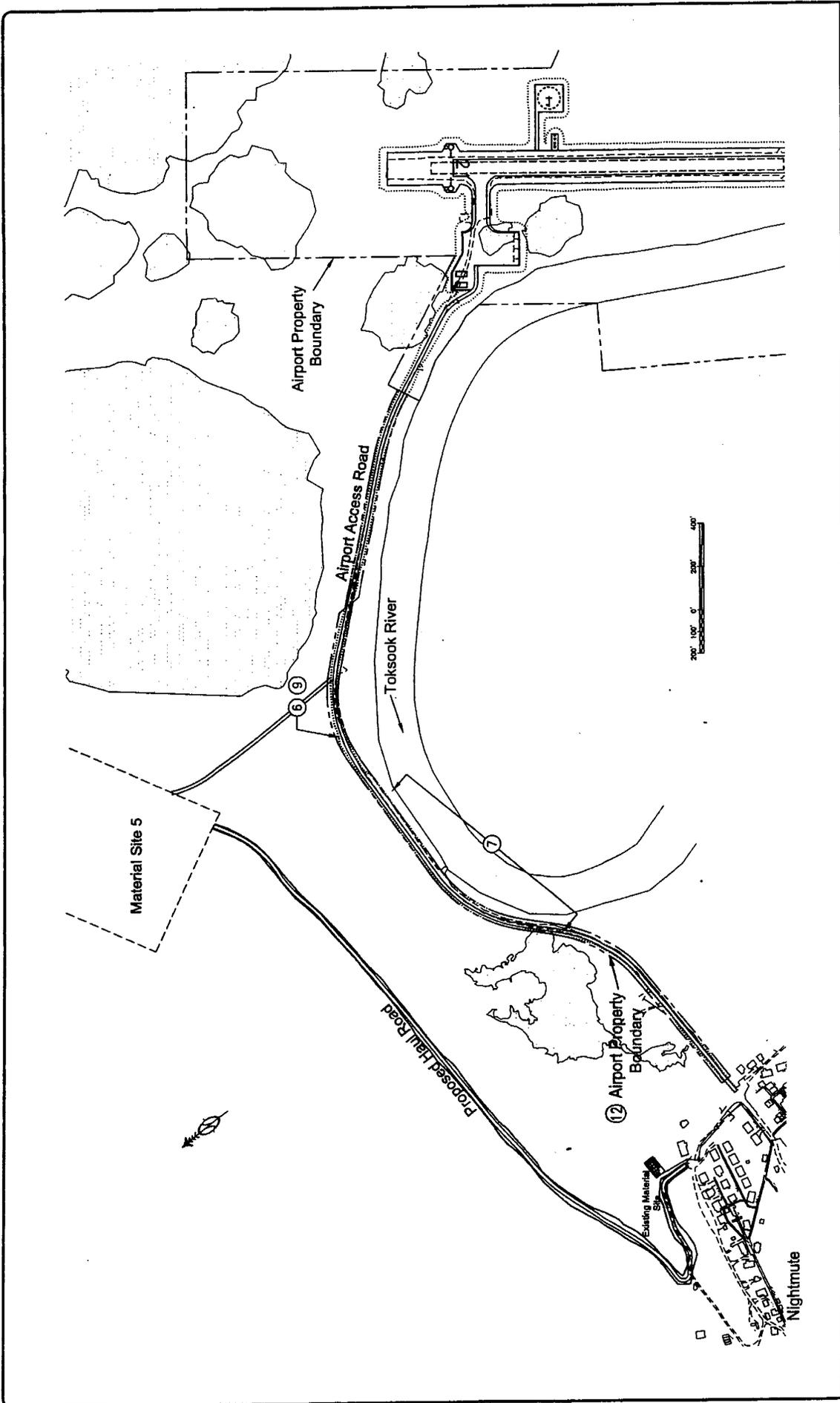


STATE OF ALASKA  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

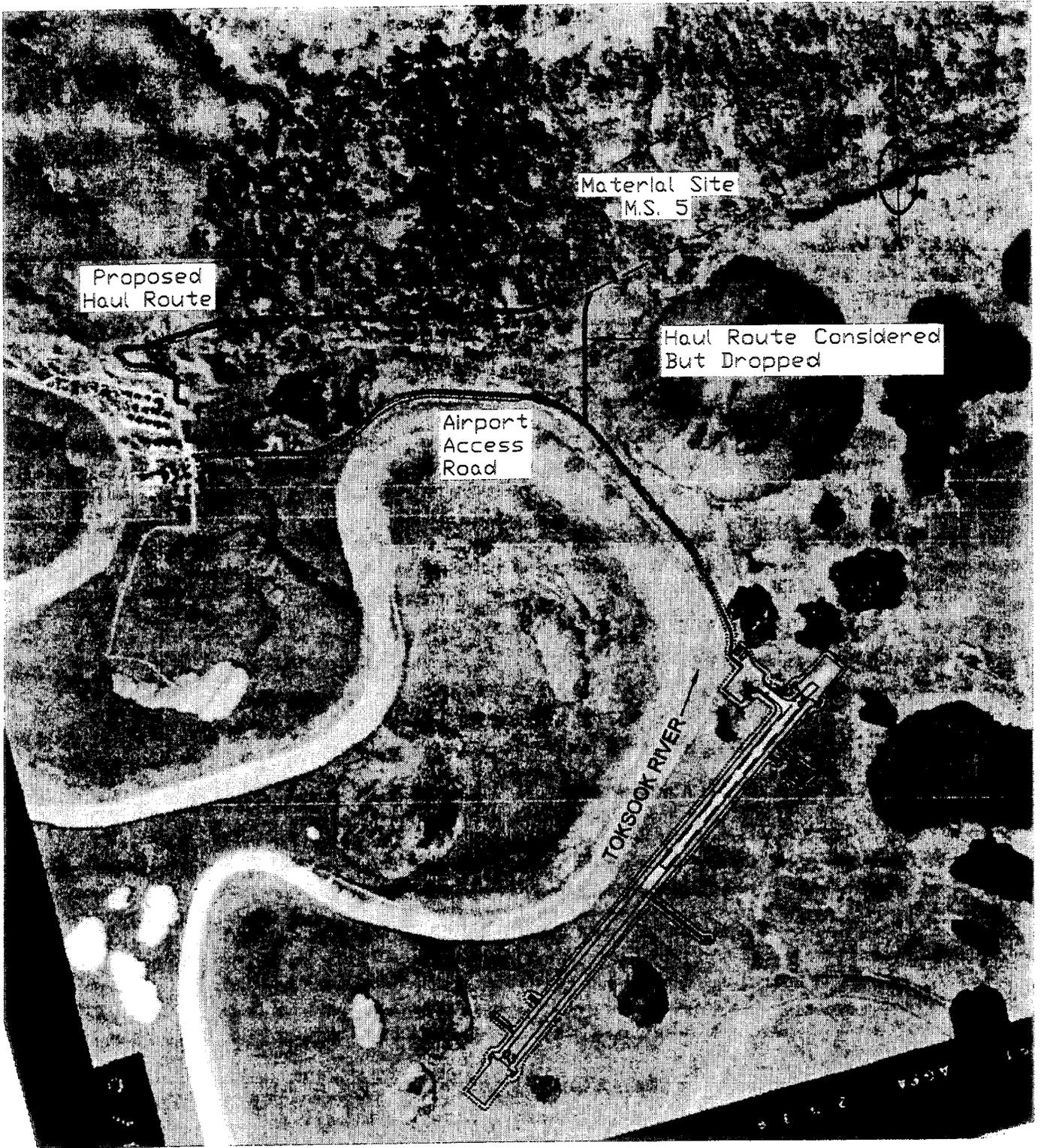
Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809

Existing and Proposed Fill Limits  
 Figure 3

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<p>Nightmute Airport Improvements 51809 Project Scope Figure 2b</p>	<p>STATE OF ALASKA <b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES</b> CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION</p> <p>DESIGN _____ CHECKED _____ DATE _____</p>	
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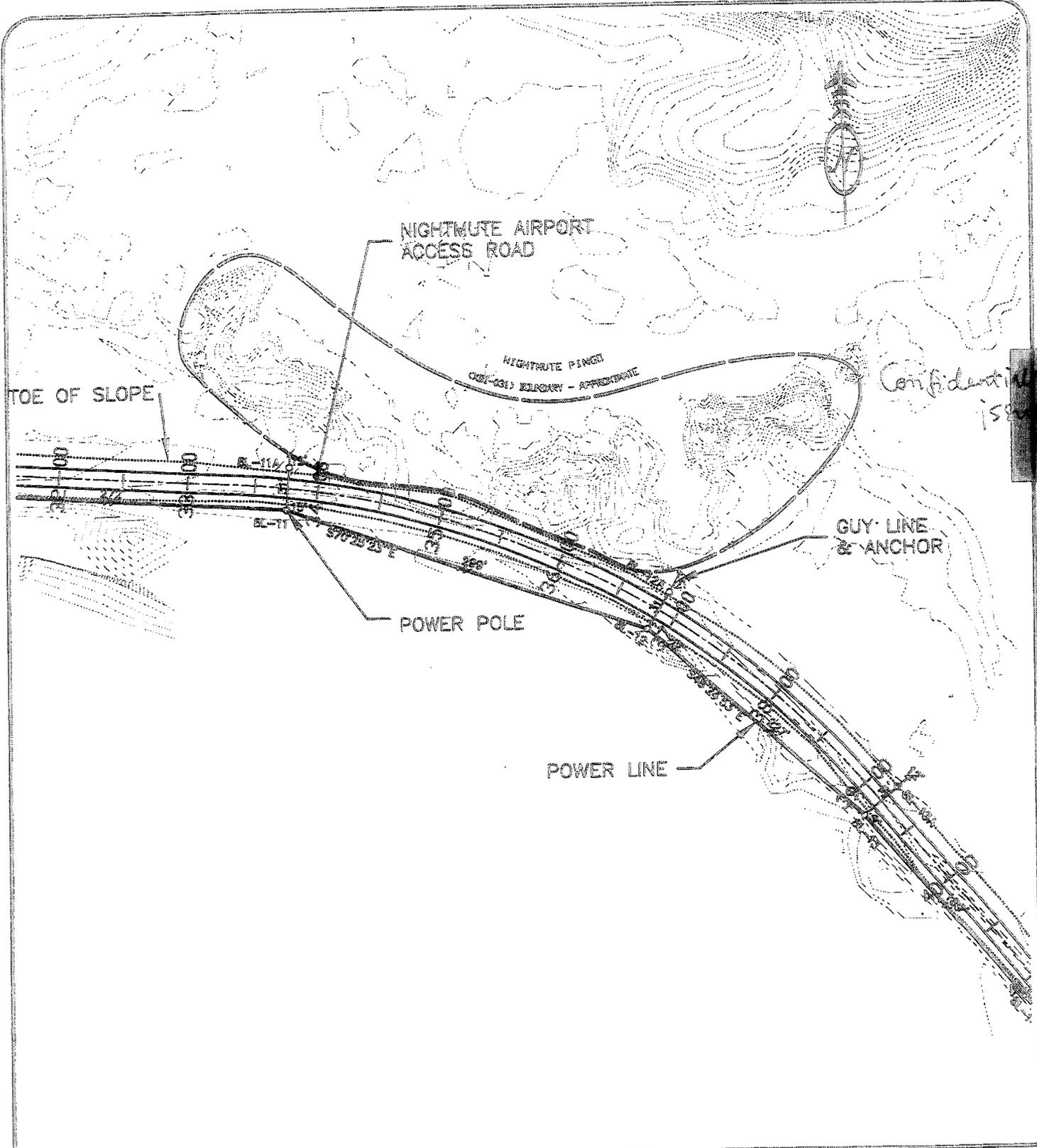


STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809

Area of Potential Impact  
 Figure 4

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STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
51809  
NIGHTMUTE PINGO (XB1-031)  
AND POWER LINE INSTALLATION  
Figure 5

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

E-91

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

NORTHERN REGION, PRECONSTRUCTION

**FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR**

2301 PEGER ROAD  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-5316  
TELEPHONE: (907) 451-2238  
TDD: (907) 451-2363  
FAX: (907) 451-5103  
EMAIL: [chuck\\_howe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:chuck_howe@dot.state.ak.us)

March 9, 2006

Re: Nightmute Airport Improvements  
DOT&PF Project #51809  
**Finding of No Adverse Effect**  
**Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(1)**

Mr. John George  
TC Administrator  
Nightmute Traditional Council  
P. O. Box 90021  
Nightmute, AK 99690

Dear Mr. George:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is proposing to make improvements to the Nightmute Airport. Nightmute is located on Nelson Island, in western Alaska. It is 18 miles upriver from Toksook Bay and 100 miles west of Bethel. The community lies within Section 33, Township 5N, Range 88W, Seward Meridian, (Latitude 60.479440° N, and Longitude 164.72389° W). Nightmute is located in the Bethel Recording District (Figure 1, Location and Vicinity Maps). Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the DOT&PF, on behalf of FAA, finds that the proposed project would have no adverse effect on historic properties.

## Project Description

The proposed project will:

- Expand the existing 50-ft. by 1,600-ft. runway to 75-ft. by 3,200-ft.
- Extend the existing 100-ft. by 2,000-ft. runway safety area to 150-ft. by 3,800-ft.
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- Install a medium intensity lighting system.
- Install a lighted wind cone and segmented circle on a 125-ft. by 125-ft. pad.
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- Provide erosion protection along the airport access road.
  - Acquire airport property. The current property lease has expired. Property acquisition in-fee, as shown in Figure 2a, will occur.

Please refer to Figures 2a and 2b, for a schematic representation of areas of proposed improvements. Figure 3 shows the existing and proposed airport fill limits.

### **Area of Potential Effects**

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### **Efforts to Identify Historic Properties**

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On August 8, 2005 consultation letters were sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chinuruk, Incorporated, Nightmute Traditional Council, Calista Corporation, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The letters requested information identifying places of traditional and cultural importance, and any historic properties that might be affected by the proposed project. No responses were received.

### **Determination of Eligibility**

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### **Determination of Effect**

Proposed improvements to the existing airport access road embankment places embankment fill and two guy lines with anchors for a power line (which was shifted to the south side of the road

March 9, 2006

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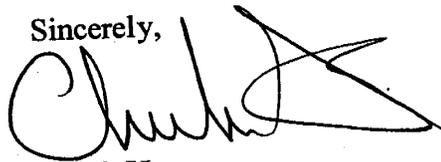
Nightmute Airport Improvements  
DOT&PF Project #51809  
Finding of No Adverse Effect Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(d)(1)

to avoid the site) at the approximate site boundaries of Nightmute Pingo (Figure 5). As was discussed on March 7, 2006, with SHPO, DOT&PF considers this project to have No Adverse Effect on Nightmute Pingo, with the following stipulation:

The Department will commit to additional shovel testing by a qualified archaeologist along the perimeter of the site between Stations 33+70 and 36+80, during Project Design to determine the presence of any cultural features/materials and whether there is need for archaeological monitoring during construction.

Please contact Abigail Ogbe, Environmental Impact Analyst, by telephone at (907) 451-5106 or by email at [abigail\\_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:abigail_ogbe@dot.state.ak.us) if you have any questions or need additional information. If you wish to comment on this finding, please contact me at the address above, by telephone at (907) 451-2238, or by e-mail at [chuck\\_howe@dot.state.ak.us](mailto:chuck_howe@dot.state.ak.us). Please note that to receive consideration, your comments must be received within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Chuck Howe  
Northern Region Environmental Coordinator

AO/dt

Enclosures: Figure 1: Location and Vicinity Maps  
Figure 2a & 2b: Project Scope  
Figure 3: Existing and Proposed Airport Fill Limits  
Figure 4: Area of Potential Impact  
Figure 5: Nightmute Pingo (XBI-031) and Power Line Installation

cc: Gary Lincoln, P.E., Engineering Manager, Design, DOT&PF, Central Region  
Laurie Mulcahy, Environmental Program Manager, DOT&PF, Central Region  
Abigail Ogbe, Environmental Impact Analyst, DOT&PF, Northern Region  
Patricia Oien, Project Manager, Airports Division, FAA, Anchorage

Distribution List:

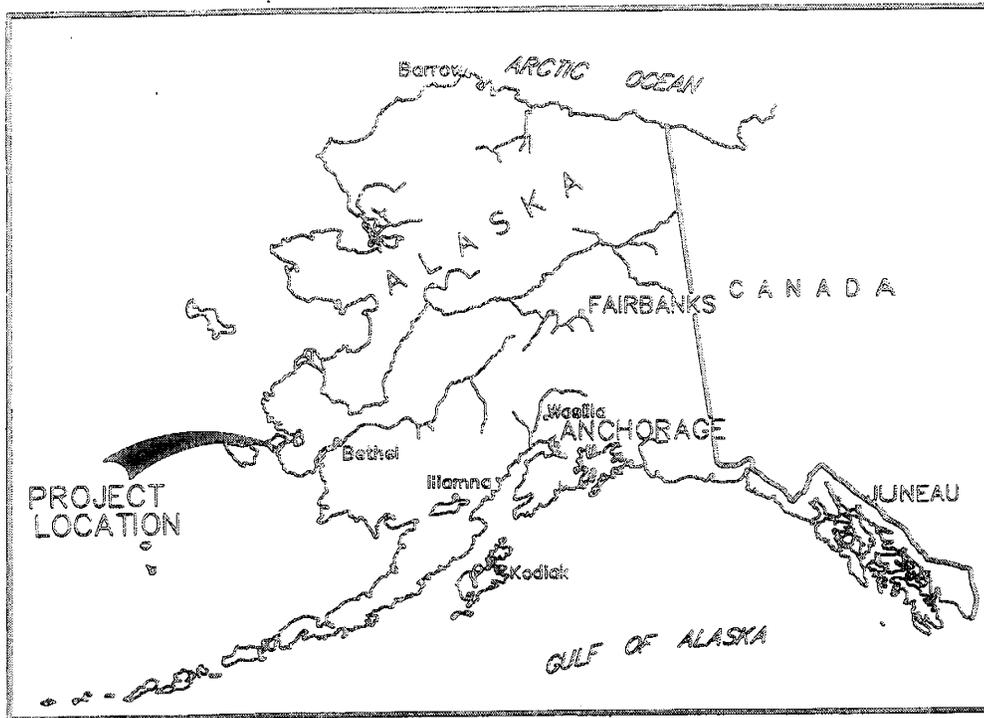
Ms. Kathy B. Wilson, Field Representative  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region  
Fairbanks Field Office  
101 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Rm. 166  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-6270

Attn: John George, TC Administrator  
Chinuruk, Incorporated  
P.O. Box 90009  
Nightmute, AK 99690  
Phone 907-647-6115

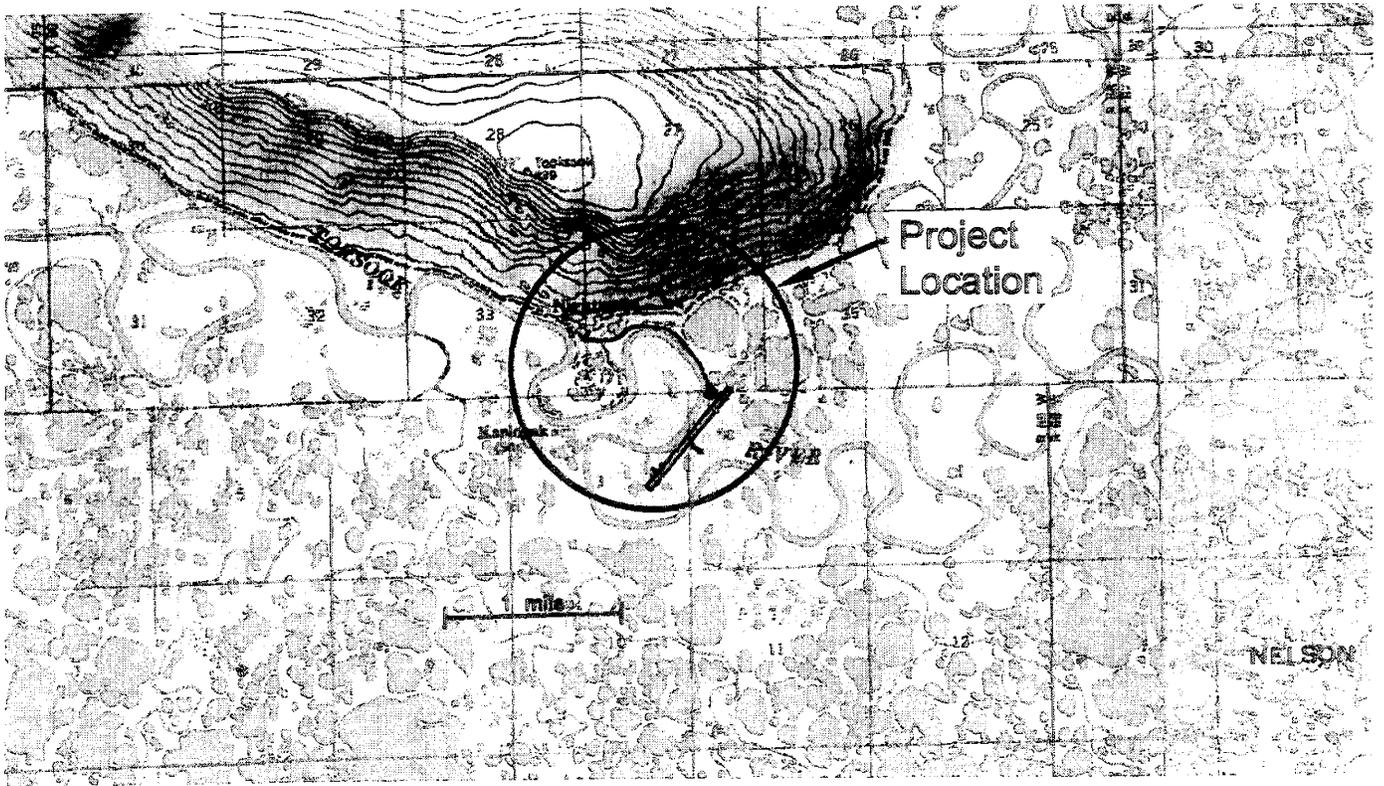
Attn: John George, TC Administrator  
Nightmute Traditional Council  
P.O. Box 90021  
Nightmute, AK 99690  
Phone 907-647-6215  
Fax 907-647-6112

Mr. Matthew Nicolai, President  
Calista Corporation  
301 Calista Court, Suite A  
Anchorage, AK 99518-3028  
Phone 907-279-5516

Mr. Gene Peltola, President CEO  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp.  
P.O. Box 528  
Bethel, AK 99559  
Phone 907-543-6020



T 5 N, R 26 W, SEC 34 & 35  
 T 4 N, R 26 W, SEC 26 & 27  
 SEWARD MERIDIAN  
 U.S.G.S. 7.5-MINUTE QUAD 75-6-75-6 ALASKA

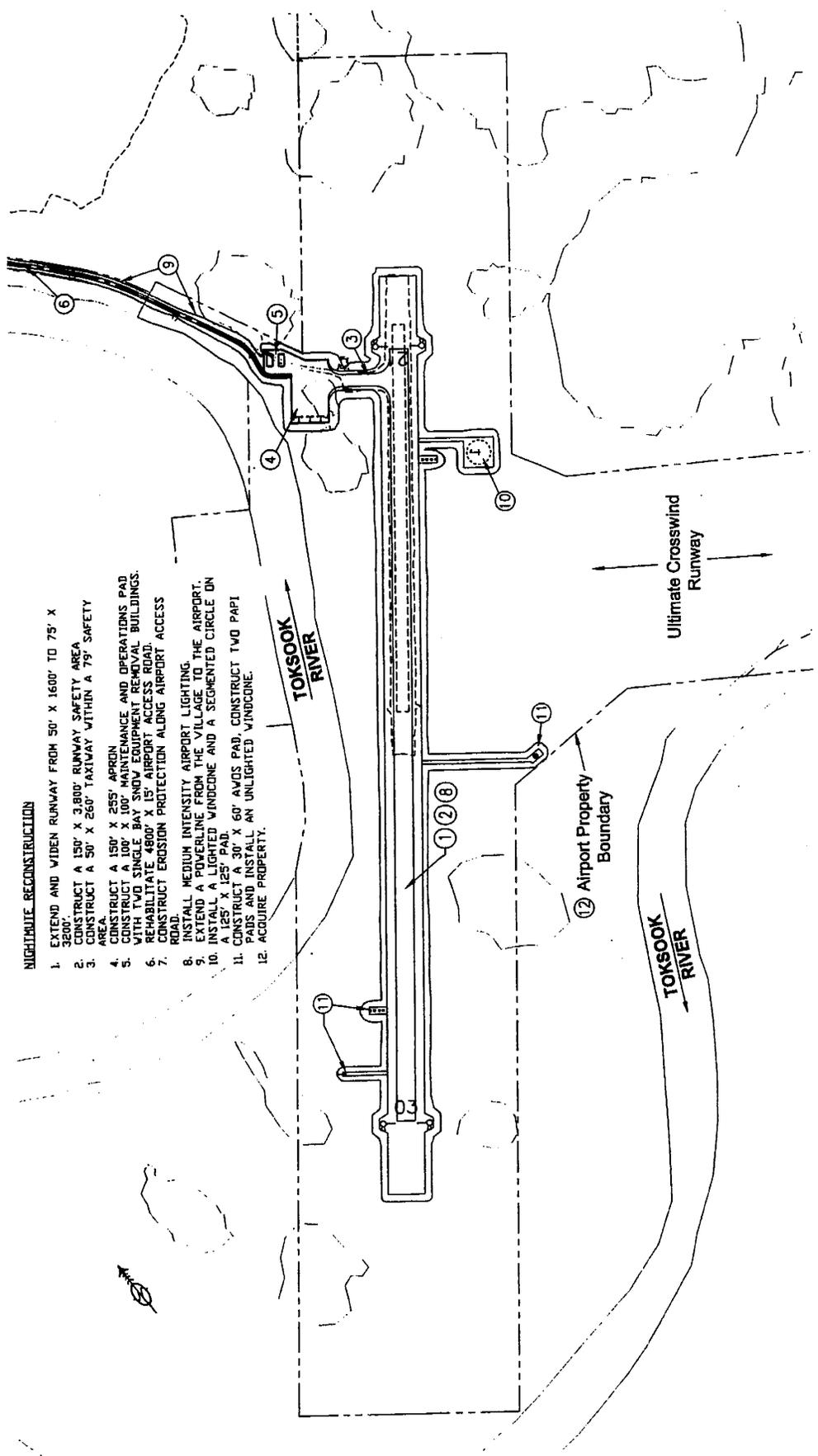


STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION-DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION-AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809

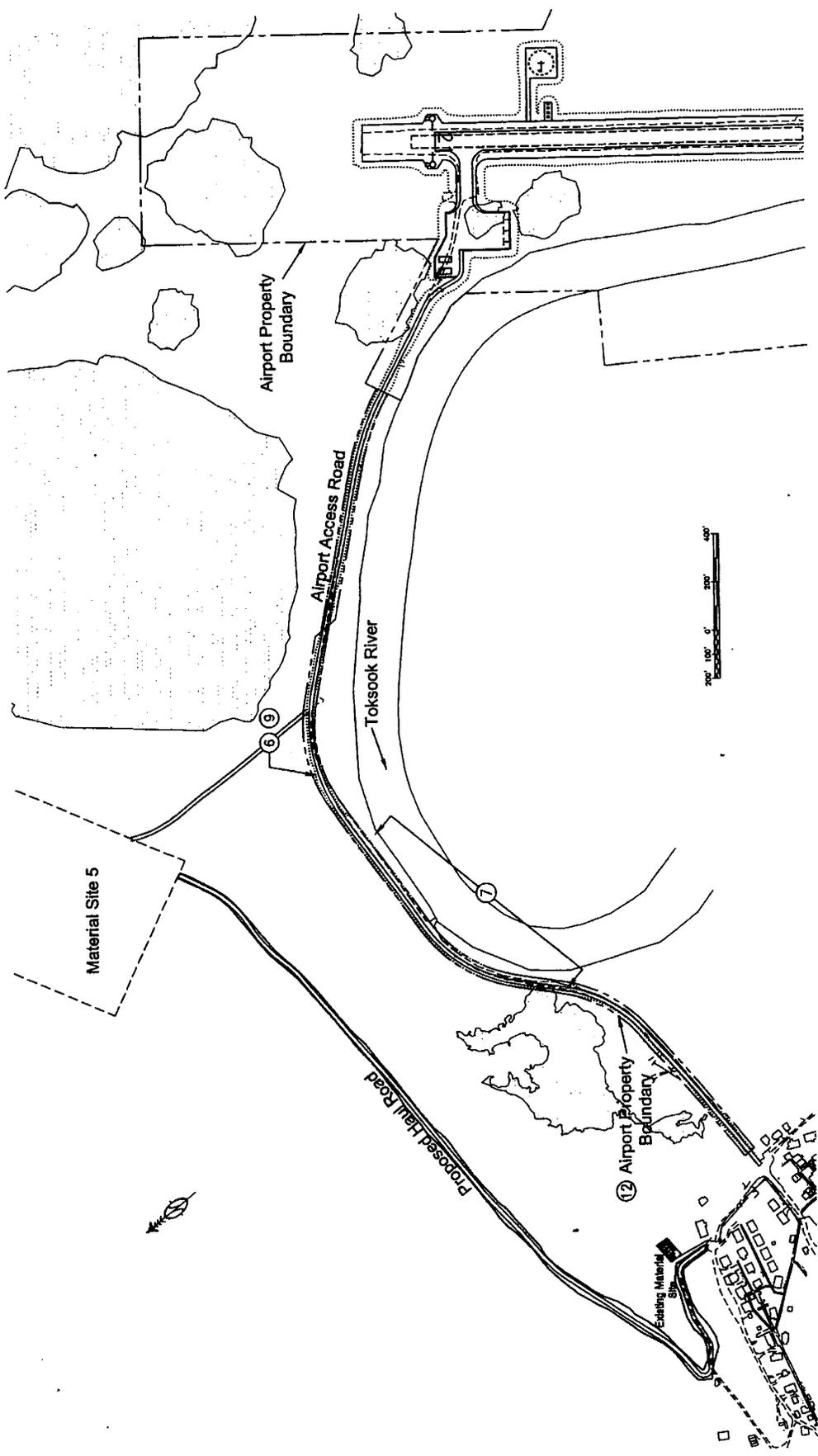
Location and Vicinity Maps  
 Figure 1

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**NIGHTMUTE RECONSTRUCTION**

1. EXTEND AND WIDEN RUNWAY FROM 50' X 1600' TO 75' X 3200'.
2. CONSTRUCT A 150' X 3,800' RUNWAY SAFETY AREA.
3. CONSTRUCT A 50' X 260' TAXIWAY WITHIN A 75' SAFETY AREA.
4. CONSTRUCT A 150' X 255' APRON.
5. CONSTRUCT A 100' X 100' MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS PAD WITH TWO SINGLE BAY SNOW EQUIPMENT REMOVAL BUILDINGS.
6. REHABILITATE 4800' X 15' AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD.
7. CONSTRUCT EROSION PROTECTION ALONG AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD.
8. INSTALL MEDIUM INTENSITY AIRPORT LIGHTING.
9. EXTEND A POWERLINE FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE AIRPORT.
10. INSTALL A LIGHTED WINDCONE AND A SEGMENTED CIRCLE ON A 125' X 125' PAD.
11. CONSTRUCT A 30' X 60' AVOS PAD. CONSTRUCT TWO PAWI PADS AND INSTALL AN UNLIGHTED WINDCONE.
12. ACQUIRE PROPERTY.



Nightmute Airport Improvements  
51809  
Project Scope  
Figure 2b

STATE OF ALASKA  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
CENTRAL REGION-DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION-AVIATION  
DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



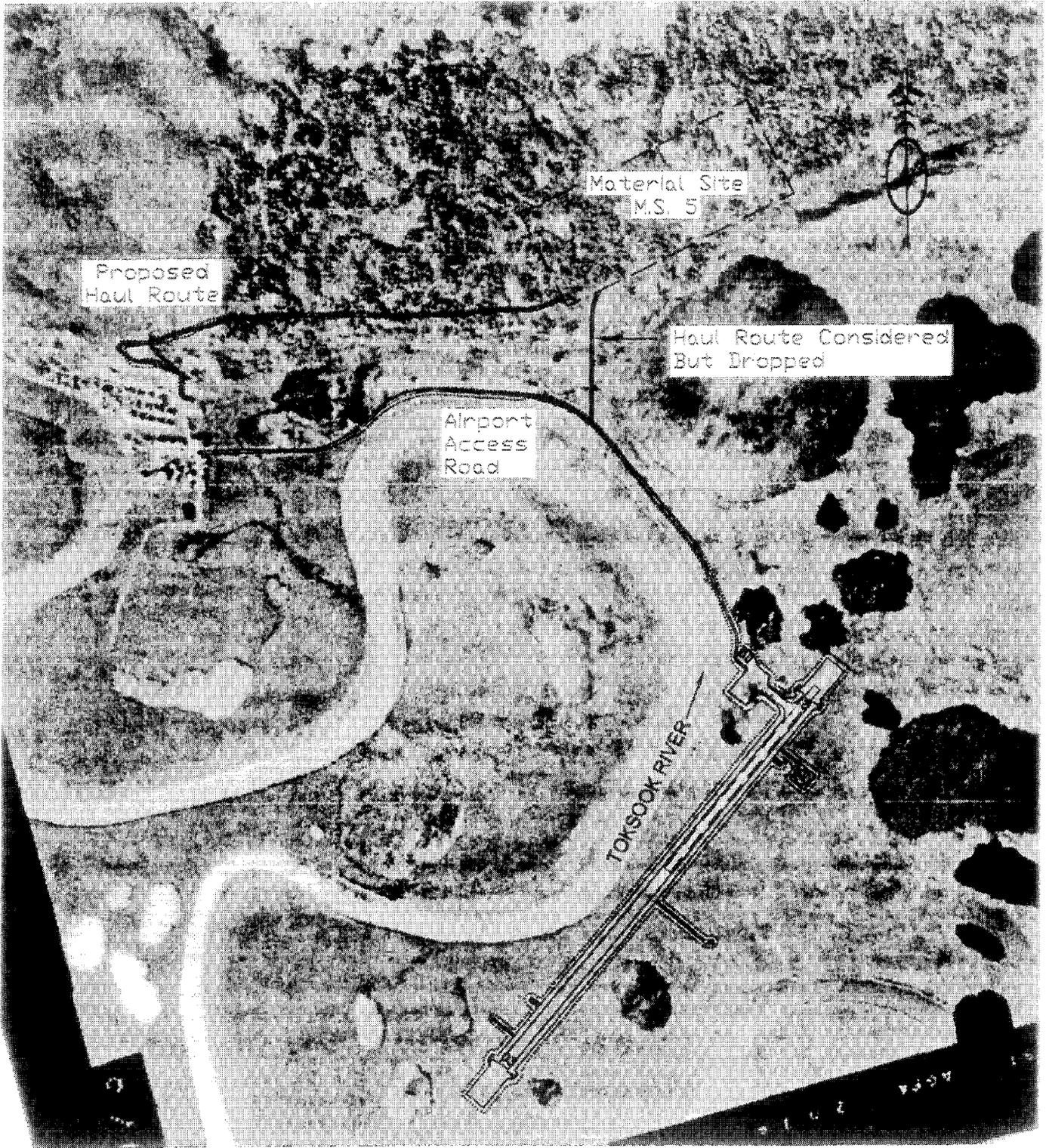
STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 S1808

Existing and Proposed Fill Limits  
 Figure 3

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

E-99

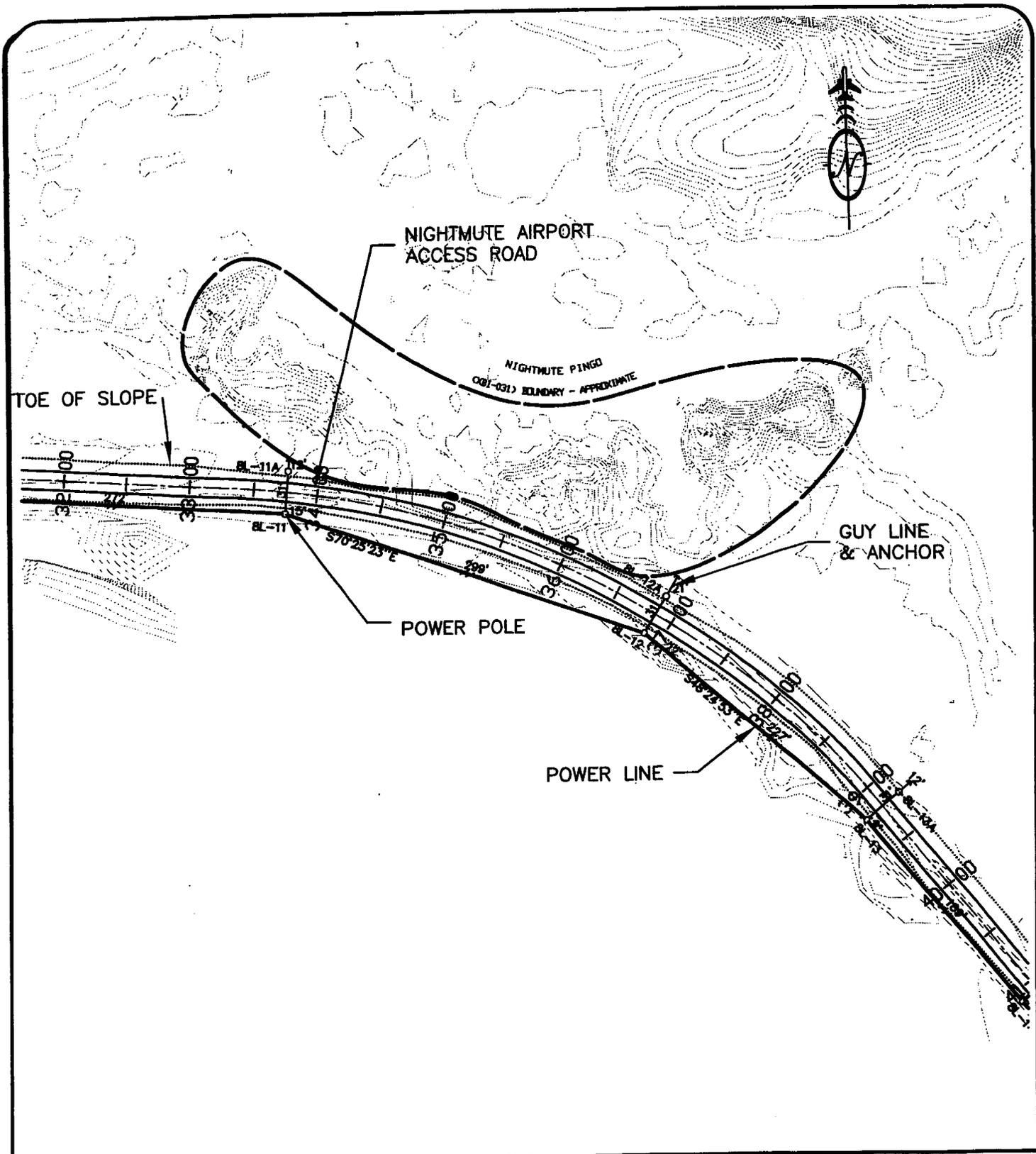


STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51509

Area of Potential Impact  
 Figure 4

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



STATE OF ALASKA  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
 CENTRAL REGION—DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION—AVIATION

Nightmute Airport Improvements  
 51809  
 NIGHTMUTE PINGO (XB1-031)  
 AND POWER LINE INSTALLATION  
 Figure 5

DESIGN \_\_\_\_\_ CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

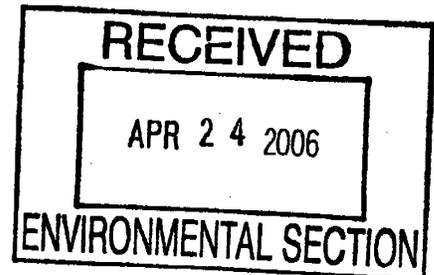
550 W 7th Ave, SUITE 1310  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3565  
PHONE: (907) 269-8721  
FAX: (907) 269-8908

April 17, 2006

File No.: 3130-1R FAA  
3130-2R DOT

SUBJECT: Nightmute Airport Improvements  
Project No. 51809

Chuck Howe, Environmental Coordinator  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
Northern Region, Preconstruction  
2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316



Dear Mr. Howe,

The State Historic Preservation Office received your correspondence regarding the referenced project on March 13, 2006. We have reviewed your undertaking for conflicts with cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As indicated in your letter, the Nightmute Pingo (XBI-031), a site previously found to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, is within or adjacent to the area of potential effect. We concur with your finding that the site will not be adversely affected provided that the stipulation listed in your letter is followed: an archaeologist will shovel test between Stations 33+70 and 36+80 during project design. If significant remains are encountered, then the site will need to be monitored during construction.

Please contact Stefanie Ludwig at 269-8720 if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith E. Bittner".

Judith E. Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JEB:sl

E-102