

APPENDIX G

Agency Scoping

APPENDIX G

AGENCY SCOPING MEETINGS and COMMENTS

Table of Contents

Scoping Coordination

Agency Pre-Application/Scoping Meeting Coordination

Agency Scoping Letter, August 22, 2005	G-01
Agency Mailing List	G-11
Agency Scoping Meeting Presentation, September 8, 2005	G-13
Agency Meeting Notes, January 30, 2006	G-21

Agency Responses to Scoping Letters

Federal

USACE	G-23
USF&WS	G-31
NMFS.....	G-37

State

ADNR—OHMP.....	G-43
----------------	------

Section 106 Consultation Letters

Consultation Letter to SHPO	G-45
Finding of No Historic Properties Affected.....	G-51
Northern Land Use Research, Inc. Results	G-53
Consultation Letter to Tulkisarmute, Inc.	G-57
Consultation Letter to Calista Corporation	G-63
Consultation Letter to Tuluksak Native Community.....	G-71

Tribal Consultation

FAA Letter to Tuluksak Native Community, October 7, 2005	G-79
Tuluksak Native Community Response to FAA, October 25, 2005.....	G-91

Tuluksak Native Community Resolutions

Resolution 00-12-47.....	G-93
Resolution 03-10-35.....	G-94

Request for Additional Information

Bald Eagle Survey.....	G-97
Meeting email Re: M5 Borrow Area Jurisdiction.....	G-101

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES
CENTRAL REGION DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

4111 Aviation Drive
P.O. Box 196900
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900
(907) 269-0542 Phone
(907) 243-6927 Fax

August 22, 2005

Re: Tuluksak Airport Relocation
Project No. 51795
Project Scoping

Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
Office of Habitat Mgmt. & Permitting
Mr. Stewart Seaberg, Area Manager
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1420
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Agency Representative:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) related to the proposed relocation of the Tuluksak Airport, and in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is soliciting comments and information from local, state, and federal entities regarding significant issues to be addressed in the environmental document.

General Community Description

The community of Tuluksak is located approximately 35 miles northeast of Bethel and 350 miles west of Anchorage. It lies on the south bank of the Tuluksak River at the confluence with the Kuskokwim River (Figure 1) in Section 27, Township 12N, Range 66W, Seward Meridian. According to the State Demographer estimate, the 2004 population was 470. The community is within the boundary of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Tuluksak is not an incorporated municipality. The Tuluksak Native Community (TNC) is the recognized IRA Council by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Tulkisarmute, Incorporated is the local Village Corporation. Tuluksak lies within the Calista Region. The community is accessible by a state-owned gravel airstrip located at the southern edge of the community at an elevation of 30 feet (ft.) mean sea level (msl). Although located on the Tuluksak River, there is no docking facility. There is barge service from Bethel in the summer. Barges have landed cargo on the riverbank west of the community and at a small ramp cut into the bank along the north edge of the community. This ramp is wide enough for a pickup and trailer and serves needs such as boat launch and retrieval. Skiffs occupy most of the limited staging areas adjacent to the ramp. Local residents use fishing boats, skiffs, snowmachines, ATVs, and dog sleds, as their primary modes of surface transportation.

Existing Facility Description

The Tuluksak Airport consists of a 2,499 ft-long by 30 ft-wide gravel runway and a 132 ft-long by 66 ft-wide apron. There is no taxiway or lighting. The airport is classified as a Community Class Airport according to the Alaska Aviation System Plan (AASP). Generally, a Community Class Airport is one served by scheduled, non-scheduled, and air taxi operators, and is designed to meet the needs of small, rural communities.

Deficiencies at the existing airport include:

"Providing for the movement of people and goods and the delivery of state services."

- The existing airport length is less than the current standard of 3,300 ft.
- The existing width is less than the current standard of 60 ft.
- The existing safety area is 2,970 ft. x 98 ft. The current standard is for 3,780 ft. x 120 ft.
- The existing apron area is less than the current standard of 60,000 square feet (sf) for apron and aviation support area.
- The existing apron is located such that many residents must cross the runway to reach it.
- There are no edge or threshold lights.
- There are homes within the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ).
- The airport is 820 ft from the landfill. The current standard for separation is 5,000 ft.
- The airport does not qualify for a non-precision approach.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to provide Tuluksak with an airport that meets current AASP standards for Community Airports and FAA standards. The existing facility does not meet current standards for runway length, safety areas, clearance from adjacent development, and separation from the existing landfill.

The environmental document will discuss the No Action Alternative as well as alternatives related to relocation, roadway access, and construction.

Proposed Action

The proposed action entails relocating the existing airport approximately 1 mile east of the community, and to connect the community and airport with a new road. Figure 2 describes the No-Action Alternative (existing runway), the proposed airport location, and access roadway alternatives. The proposed facility will be a 3,300 ft-long x 60 ft-wide runway, a 3,780 ft x 120 ft. standard safety area, and a 60,000 sf (200 ft. x 300 ft.) standard apron and aviation support area. There will be edge and threshold lighting and 5,000 ft. separation from the existing landfill. Access to the new airport will be via an airport access road 20 ft-wide and approximately 1-mile long (Figure 2)

Material sources for the proposed project will be determined as the project progresses. Several material sites in the area will be evaluated by ADOT&PF in the near future. To date, we have identified several potential sources marked on Figure 3. Other areas proximate to the project area, including Tuluksak river bars, may also be evaluated.

The project will be developed pursuant to the 2003 *Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Impacts to Wetlands and Other Aquatic Resources, Mitigation, and Airport Improvement Projects in Alaska*.

We have identified the following information that will be necessary for completion of the environmental document:

- Wetlands fill – general description of the amount, type, and location of proposed fill
- Floodplain Identification
- Material source – general description of the amount, type, location of material source; proposed schedule for material haul; staging area
- Identification of project site contamination
- Construction impacts and schedule
- Native Allotments – potential need for easements for airport access roadway

Preliminary Identification of Permits, Authorizations, Consultations, and Determinations

We have identified the following list of permits, authorizations, consultations, and determinations that may be necessary for the proposed project;

ADNR	Fish Habitat Protection Permit
	Temporary Water Use Permit

	Land Use Permit for access and materials mining
	Material Sales Contract(s) for state-owned materials
	Interagency Land Management Assignment for Navigation Hazards Easement
	State Historic Preservation Office Consultation
USACE	Section 10 Permit
	Section 404 Permit
ADEC	Section 401 Certification
	Wastewater Review
EPA	NPDES General Permit
USFWS	Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation
	Bald Eagle Protection Act
NMFS	Essential Fish Habitat Assessment
ACMP	ADNR Office of Project Management and Permitting, Alaska Coastal Zone
	Consistency Review
Private	Native Allotment Easements
	Village Corporation Easements
	Acquisition of property interests
	Material sale contracts

Background Information

We have enclosed the following background information for your review prior to the agency scoping meeting:

- Tuluksak Native Community Resolution of Support for relocating the airport, June 4, 2004 (Resolution No. 03-10-35)
- Comments received at the Tuluksak Airport Relocation Public Meeting, held in Tuluksak, Alaska, July 28, 2005, are enclosed with this letter.
- Wetlands delineation trip report and environmental observations.

Project Schedule

The project is scheduled for construction in the federal fiscal year October 2007 – October 2008.

Agency Scoping Meeting

An agency scoping meeting will be held on **September 8, 2005, beginning at 9:00 a.m.**, in the Planning Conference Room located at ADOT&PF Central Region Headquarter Building, 4111 Aviation Drive, Anchorage.

In an effort to identify any concerns your agency might have with the proposed project, the Department wishes to:

- Identify all permits, authorizations, and/or clearances that must be obtained from your agency for the proposed project.
- Gather information and data with respect to the base floodplains, regulatory floodways, and/or special flood hazard areas associated with the drainages that could be affected by the proposed project.
- Gather information on known threatened and/or endangered species in the project area and vicinity.
- Determine whether essential fish habitat, pursuant to the Magnuson Act, exists in the project area.
- Gather information or data on important fish and wildlife habitats potentially affected by the proposal.
- Gather information on known active or inactive eagle nests in the project area.

- Identify any potential conflicts the project may have with the goals or objectives of the local land use plans.
- Identify water quality concerns.
- Gather information and/or data with respect to road use, access problems, land use concerns, subsistence use, and/or any other special conditions that may be affected by the proposed project.
- Gather information on the presence of sites, structures, and objects of historic, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance.

Please submit scoping comments or recommendations you may have regarding the described project. Written comments may be submitted to ADOT&PF, P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, Alaska, 99519 with attention to Jerry Ruehle, or via email to jerry_ruehle@dot.state.ak.us. All comments are requested no later than **September 16, 2005**.

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Project Manager, Ed Lightwood with R&M Consultants, Inc., at 907-522-1707 or via email at elightwood@rmconsult.com.

Sincerely,



Jerry O. Ruehle
Environmental Coordinator
Central Region ADOT&PF

Enclosures:

Figure 1 Vicinity Map
Figure 2 Alternatives Map
Figure 3 Potential Materials Sites Map
Figure 4 Wetlands Map
Appendix A Preliminary Research Results
July 28, 2005 Public Meeting Notes
July 28, 2005 Wetlands Delineation Trip Report and Environmental Observations
Tuluksak Native Community Resolution No. 03-10-35

cc: Jim Amundsen, P.E., Project Manager
Dan Golden, Environmental Team Leader
Rich Sewell, Area Planner

Appendix A Preliminary Research Results

Preliminary research of state and federal resources indicates the following:

Anadromous Fish Streams. The Kuskokwim and Tuluksak Rivers have been cataloged in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) *Catalog of Waters Important to the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes*. These rivers provide spawning rearing and migration habitat for the five species of Pacific salmon indigenous to Alaska, sheefish, whitefish, Arctic char, Dolly Varden, burbot and Northern pike.

Navigability. If additional barge landings are required for construction activities (material delivery, staging), a Section 10 permit may be required from the USACE.

Floodplain Management. The project may involve development in the floodplain and additional research will be conducted with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for flood maps and information regarding base floodplains, regulatory floodways, and/or special flood hazard areas associated with the drainages that could be affected by the proposed project.

Wetlands. The project requires a USACE jurisdictional determination for wetlands involvement. A field survey was conducted on July 28 and 29, 2005, to verify wetland and upland boundaries, complete functional assessments of each wetland type, and identify potential habitats and habitat values. The USACE determination is pending. The wetlands field notes are included with the scoping letter.

Threatened and Endangered Species. We will consult as necessary with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the abundance and distribution of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species in the project area. However, the publication, *Alaska's Threatened and Endangered Species*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, May 2005, indicates that T&E species are not present in the project area. The *ESA Listed Species Consultation Guide* in the publication indicates that no consultation is necessary.

Essential Fish Habitat. The Kuskokwim and Tuluksak Rivers are considered essential fish habitat (EFH). The area to which the airport would be relocated, and the airport access road alternatives are located primarily in uplands. There is no encroachment of permanent project features on EFH. Several potential material sites have been identified near the project site. Potentially, material could be obtained from Kuskokwim or Tuluksak River sandbars. The feasibility and practicability of developing these river material sites is being determined. In deciding whether to develop river material sites, ADOT&PF will determine whether there may be adverse effects to EFH. ADOT&PF will comply with the coordination, notification, consultation, and EFH assessments requirements set forth by NMFS. In addition, if development is pursued, it will be in accordance with EFH Conservation Recommendations made by NMFS, if any, and other regulatory agency permit requirements.

Material Source. We have identified several potential material sources for the proposed project and these are described on Figure 3. Other areas proximate to the project area, including Kuskokwim and Tuluksak river bars, may also be evaluated.

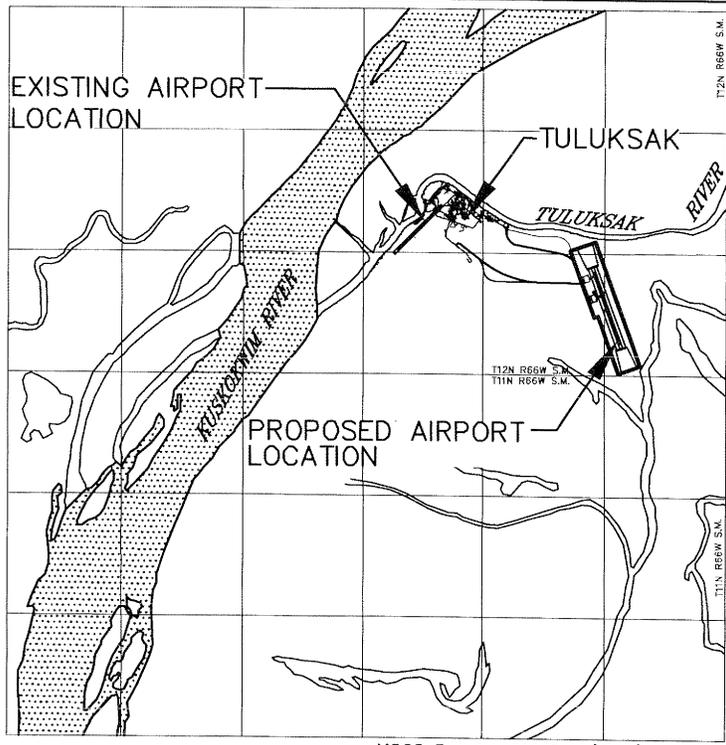
Publicly Owned Parks, Recreation Areas, and Refuges. The project is not located in a State of Alaska Refuge, Critical Habitat Area or Sanctuary.

Historic, Archeological, and Cultural Properties. We will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to determine if the project would affect cultural or historic properties. Preliminary review of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) for Tuluksak indicates there are no recorded AHRS sites in the project area, at the proposed material source locations, or along the proposed roadway alternatives.

Coastal Zone Management. The project is located within the Cenaliulriit Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA). In accordance with 11 AAC 100.010, land and water uses and activities occurring inside the CRSA, that are subject to a consistency review and District enforceable policies, include land and water uses and activities requiring federal permits or authorizations (see 11 AAC 110.400), and land and water uses and activities requiring state permits or authorizations. A coastal consistency review will be coordinated by the ADNR Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPM&P).

Local Government. The Tuluksak Native Community (TNC) is the recognized IRA Council by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The TNC has an adopted Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

project\1247.01\Civil\W_P\T_AGENCY_MTC. 1=1000. 08/15/05 at 16:07 by:REF: 51247BDA1, 51247DES, 51247EXRW, 51247TOPO



TULUKSAK VICINITY MAP
N.T.S.

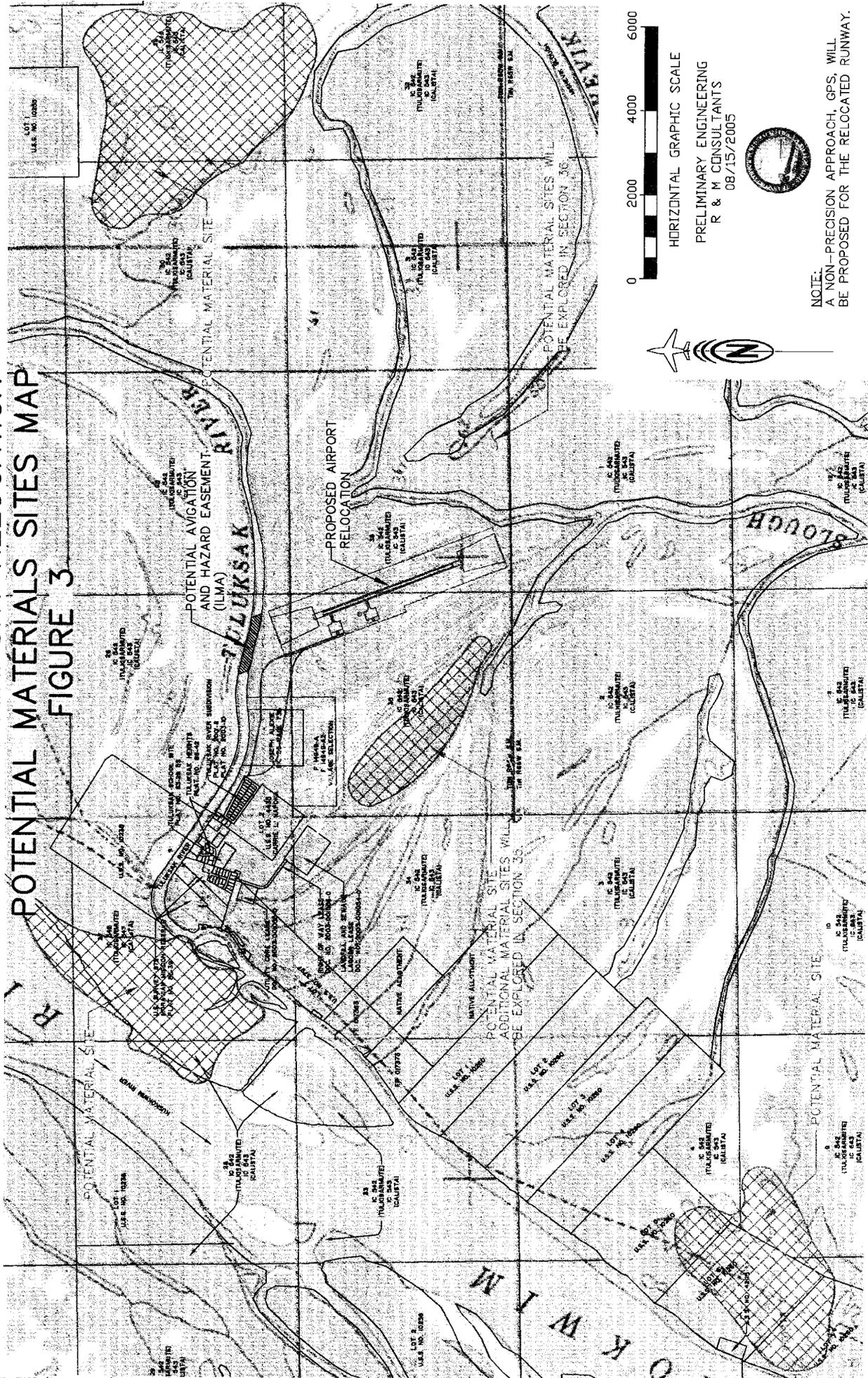
DWN:
CKD:
DATE:
SCALE:

PREPARED BY:
R&M CONSULTANTS, INC.

TULUKSAK
A.I.P. NO. X-XX-XXXX-XX
PROJ. NO 1247.01
VICINITY MAP

FIGURE
1

TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION POTENTIAL MATERIALS SITES MAP FIGURE 3



HORIZONTAL GRAPHIC SCALE
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
R & M CONSULTANTS
08/15/2005

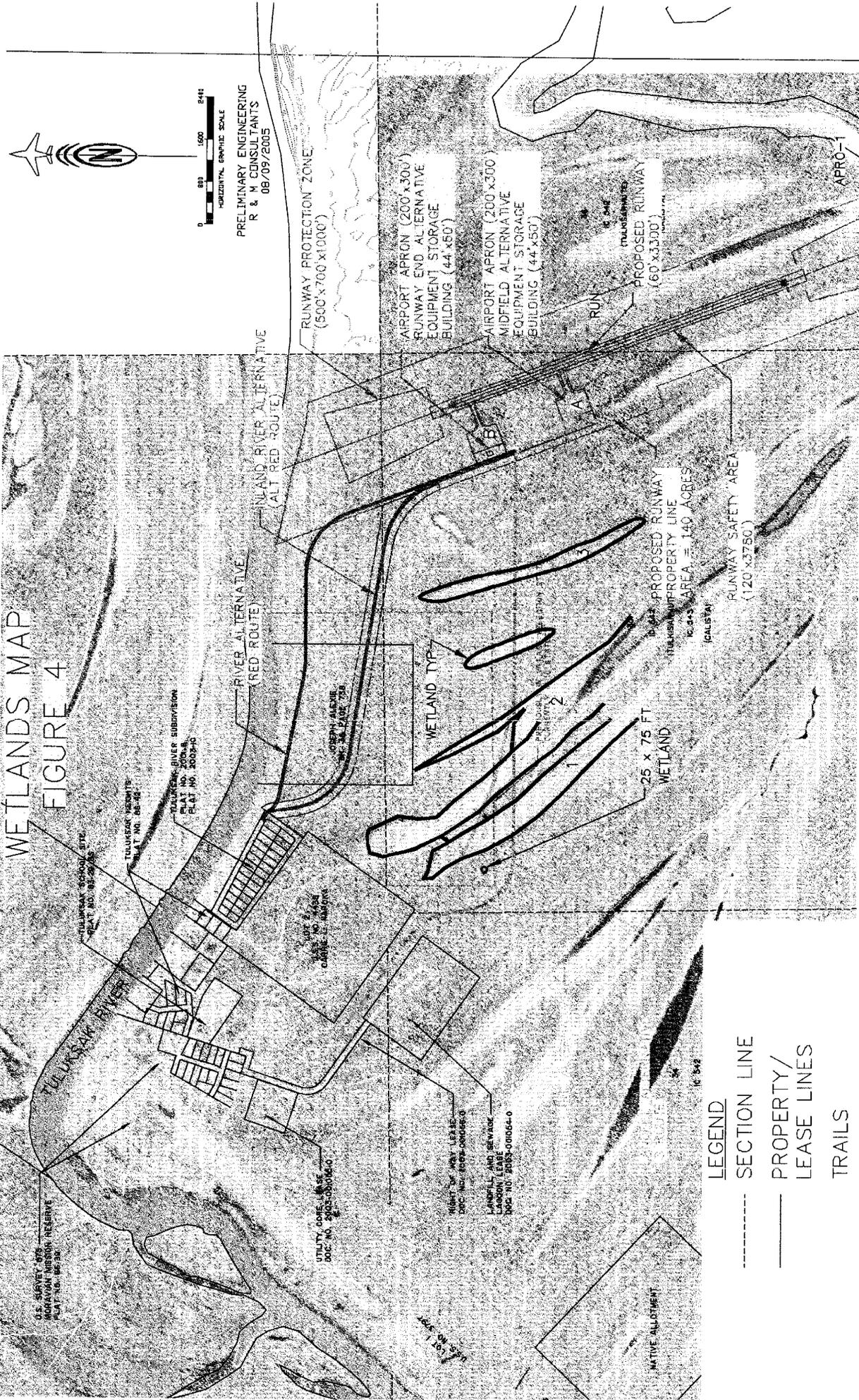


NOTE:
A NON-PRECISION APPROACH, GPS, WILL
BE PROPOSED FOR THE RELOCATED RUNWAY.

TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION

WETLANDS MAP

FIGURE 4



- LEGEND**
- SECTION LINE
 - PROPERTY/LEASE LINES
 - TRAILS

0 800 1600 2400
HORIZONTAL GRAPHIC SCALE

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING
R & M CONSULTANTS
08/09/2005

maillist for Tuluksak Airport Relo # 51795
Project Scoping

Company	FirstName	LastName	Address1	City	State	PostalCode
Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Habitat Mgmt. & Permitting	Mr. Stewart	Seaberg, Area Manager	550 W. 7 th Avenue, Suite 1420	Anchorage,	AK	99501
Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Ms. Judith	Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer	550 W. 7th Avenue, Ste. 1310	Anchorage,	AK	99501
Alaska Department of Natural Resources Office of Project Management and Permitting	Ms. Christine	Ballard	550 W. 7 th Avenue, Suite 1660	Anchorage,	AK	99501
Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation	Ms. Mel	Langdon, Section Manager, Stormwater and Wetlands	555 Cordova Street	Anchorage,	AK	99501
Alaska Dept. of Transp. & Public Facilities	Mr. L. J.	Davis	P.O. Box 505	Bethel,	AK	99559
Calista Corporation	Ms. June	McAtee, Land Planning Director	301 Calista Court, Ste. A	Anchorage,	AK	99518-3028
National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat Conservation	Ms. Jeanne	Hanson, Western Alaska Office Supervisor	222 W. 7th Avenue, #43	Anchorage,	AK	99513-7577
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Mr. Mike	Reardon	P. O. Box 346	Bethel,	AK	99559
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Mr. Don	Rice, Lead Project Manager	P.O. Box 6898 CO-R-N	Elmendorf AFB,	AK	99506-6898
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office	Ms. Anne	Rappoport, Field Supervisor	605 W. 4th Avenue, Room G61	Anchorage,	AK	99501-2231
U.S. Environmental Protection	Ms. Colleen	Burgh, NEPA Coordinator	222 W. 7th Ave. #19	Anchorage,	AK	99513

Company	FirstName	LastName	Address1	City	State	PostalCode
Agency Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development	Ms. Christy	Miller	550 W. 7 th Avenue, Suite 1770	Anchorage,	AK	99501-3510
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Mr. Cal	Miller	800 W. Evergreen, Suite 100	Palmer,	AK	99645
Tuluksak Native Community	Moses	Peter, President	P.O. Box 95	Tuluksak,	AK	99679
Tulkisarmute, Inc.	Joseph	Alexie, President	P.O. Box 95	Tuluksak,	AK	99679
Cenaliulriit CRSA	John	Oscar, Coastal Coordinator	P.O. Box 69	Mekoryuk,	AK	99630

TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT
Agency Scoping Meeting
September 8, 2005

Purpose of Scoping Meeting

Early coordination with resource agencies to:

- Identify scope of environmental analysis
- Identify potential environmental impacts
- Identify necessary permits and authorizations and mitigation
- Identify need for additional studies



Project History Overview

Tuluksak Airport Improvement Plan

- Master Plan Effort (1996)
 - Alternatives analyzed only addressed improvement of airport at current location
- Subsequent project development delayed to allow Village and ADOT&PF discussion
- Resolution 03-10-35
 - 2003, TNC passed resolution in support of relocating airport 1 mile east of village
- Environmental Assessment
 - began June 2005
 - Public Meeting July 28, 2005



Region/Vicinity

- Located in the Lower Kuskokwim Region
- On the Tuluksak River near confluence with Kuskokwim River
- Approximately 50 miles northeast of Bethel & 350 miles west of Anchorage
- In the Calista Region
- Not connected to state road system



Land Use & Land Ownership

- Tuluksak Native Community (TNC) Land Use Plan
- Cenaliulriit Coastal Management Plan
- Land ownership
 - Native Allotments
 - Village Corporation IC & selected lands
 - Calista Regional Corporation IC Lands



TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT
Agency Scoping Meeting
September 8, 2005

Project Purpose and Need

Provide Tuluksak with an airport that meets current Alaska Aviation System Plan (AASP) standards for Community Airports and FAA standards.



Facility Dimensional Deficiencies

Standard	Existing
● Runway: 3,300 ft. x 60 ft.	● Runway: 2,499 ft. x 30 ft.
● Safety area: 3,780 ft. x 120 ft.	● Safety area: 2,972 ft. x 66 - 98 ft.
● Apron: 60,000 sq. ft.	● Apron: 8,712 sq. ft. (132 ft.- long by 66 ft.-wide)



Other Deficiencies

- Separation from landfill is only 820 feet – the standard is 5,000 feet
- Some must cross runway for access to apron
- No taxiway or lighting
- Homes are in the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ)
- Expansion at current location constrained by existing community development



Environmental Document

- Proposed Action
- Alternatives Considered
- Affected Environment
- Environmental Consequences
- Permits, Authorizations, & Consultations – Agencies Involved
- Public Involvement Summary



TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT

Agency Scoping Meeting

September 8, 2005

Proposed Action

- Construct a new airport approximately 1-mile east of community
- Construct a new access road approximately 1-mile long and 20 feet wide surface
- Develop Material Site(s)



Alternatives Considered

- No Action
 - Continued use of existing runway
- 1996 Master Plan Effort - Alternatives
 - Improve airport at current location
- 2003 Community Preference
 - Construct new airport 1 mile east of community
 - Connected by a 20-ft. wide access road



Preferred Airport Location

- Insert map

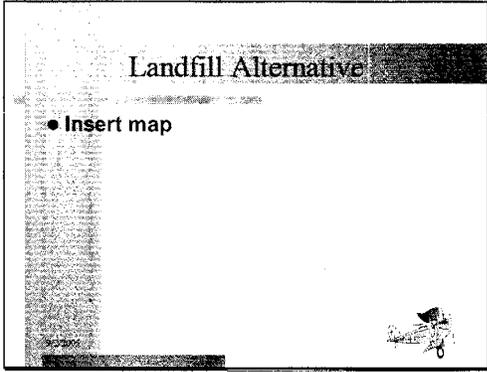


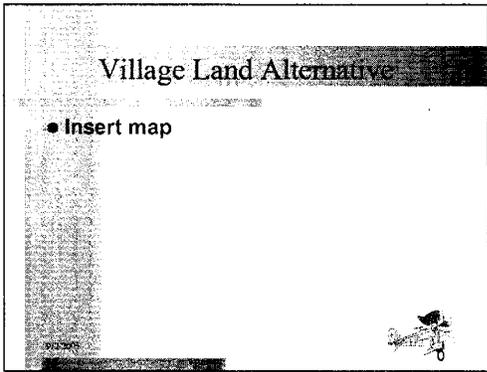
Airport Access Road Alternatives Considered

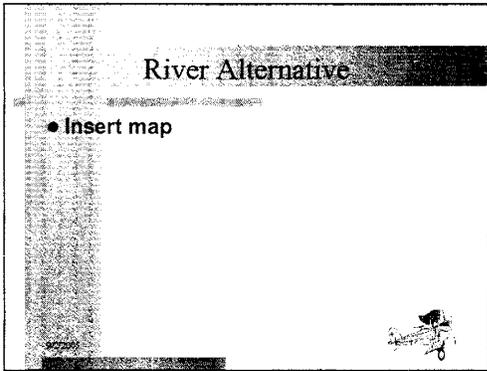
- Landfill Alternative
- Village Land Alternative
- River Alternative
- Inland River Alternative

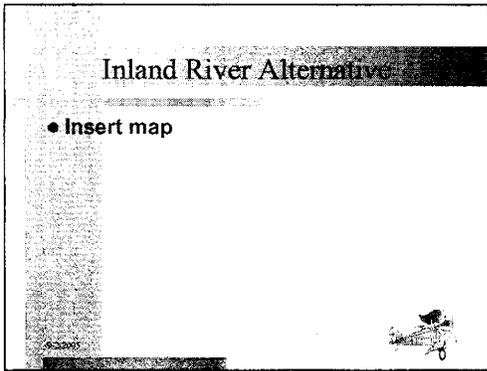


TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT
Agency Scoping Meeting
September 8, 2005









TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT
Agency Scoping Meeting
September 8, 2005

Potential Material Site(s)

● **Insert map**



3/2/05

Affected Environment

Environmental Assessment to include discussion of:

- Region/vicinity
- Vegetation/wetlands
- Topography, geology, soils
- Climate
- Fish and Wildlife
- Floodplain
- Population/socio-economics
- Government structure
- Land Use
- Transportation Facilities
- Historic, Architectural, Archeological, and Cultural Resources



3/2/05

Environmental Consequences

Analysis to date focused on:

- Wetlands
- Floodplains
- Water Quality
- Fish and Wildlife
- History, Archeology, Culture
- Land Use & Land Ownership



3/2/05

Potential Construction Impacts

May include:

- Potential placement of fill in wetlands
 - Airport, access road, barge landing
- Culverts
- Ice roads
- Disturbance to Migratory Bird Nesting
 - Seasonal restrictions
- Local trail crossings
- Material extraction and stockpiling
- Open burning of slash
- Dust and noise



3/2/05

TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT
Agency Scoping Meeting
September 8, 2005

Agency Involvement

Federal

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- USFWS
- NMFS
- EPA
- FEMA

State

- ADEC
- ADNR - OPMP, OHMP, SHPO
- ACMP



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- **Section 404, Placement of fill or dredged material in waters of the U.S.**
 - Runway, apron, safety area
 - Access road
 - Barge landing
- **Section 10, Navigability**
 - Barge landing



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- **Endangered Species Act**
- **Anadromous and resident fishes**
 - Five species of Pacific salmon
- **Large game**
 - No evidence of moose browse, animal scat, markings on trees
- **Migratory waterfowl nests**
- **Raptors - eagles**
 - No evidence of nests



National Marine Fisheries Service

Consultation regarding Essential Fish Habitat



TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT
Agency Scoping Meeting
September 8, 2005

Environmental Protection Agency

NPDES General Permits for Stormwater Discharges



FEMA & DCCED

Identification of:

- Floodplain
- Regulatory floodways, and/or
- Special flood hazard areas



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

- Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Wastewater Discharge Review
- Open Burn Permit



Alaska Department of Natural Resources

- OPMP – ACMP Consistency
- OHMP – Title 41
- DLWM
 - Navigation Hazard Easement(s)
 - Material Extraction – State Lands
 - Temporary Water Use
- SHPO – consultation/clearance
 - AHRs – no recorded sites
 - Tribal Consultation



TULUKSAK AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT
Agency Scoping Meeting
September 8, 2005

Schedule

Environmental

- June 2005 through March 2006

Design

- March 2006 through October 2007

Right-of-Way Acquisition & Construction

- October 2007 through October 2008



Agency Discussion

- **Proposed action**
 - Airport access road alternatives
 - Material sites
- **Scope of the EA**
- **Identification of permits, authorizations, consultations required**
- **Identification of additional studies needed**