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440. Project Development Considerations

- 440.1. Environmental
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440.1.1 Introduction

440.5.

All projects require the following activities:

Airport Leasing

- 1. Analysis of environmental impacts
- 2. Coordination with local governments, resource agencies, and federally certified tribes
- 3. Obtainment of required environmental permits and clearances
- 4. Completion of a public involvement process

The project environmental document is prepared during the design stage, using as its foundation the purpose and need (problem statement) and the description and comparison of alternatives.

Final recommendations on how to solve the project's problem statement are the responsibility of the project manager. FAA approval of the completed environmental document, including any public hearing transcripts and certification, constitutes acceptance of the project location and concepts described in the document.

For projects at Anchorage International Airport, which is in an air quality non-attainment area, address conformity with the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP states: "Projects in non-attainment areas cannot increase the number or severity of violations in the area substantially affected by the project." You must address project-level conformity determinations (hot spot analysis) for projects not of the type listed in 40 CFR 51.460.

During final design and PS&E, obtain remaining permits and clearances, and design the project to include permit stipulations and mitigation commitments made in the environmental document.

440.1.2 Initial Environmental and Public Involvement

Soon after receiving the initial approved PDA, and as part of PMP development, the project manager meets with the regional environmental coordinator for a project identification meeting to identify environmental issues, processes, permit requirements, and timelines, and to establish starting dates for environmental and public involvement activities for the work plan. On all projects, complete and record in the project's environmental document an analysis of the social, economic, and environmental effects.

Close and continuous coordination with the environmental section is necessary throughout project development to ensure that the environmental impacts of all reasonable alternatives are being considered.

Early coordination with the public and resource and regulatory agencies through "scoping" is an important aspect of project development. This process establishes the issues to be addressed in the environmental document and the permits that are necessary for construction of the project.

At a minimum, any project that may affect protected resources (e.g. wetlands, floodplains, fish streams, coastal zones and historic sites) requires consultation with state and federal resource agencies and federally recognized tribes.

The regional environmental coordinator sends a scoping letter to federal resource agency area supervisors, local planning authorities, involved federally recognized tribes, and Alaska Native regional corporations. When there is no local planning authority in a community, the letter is sent to the administrative officer (e.g. mayor).

The scoping letter:

- Describes the project in as much detail as possible
- Cites all resources the project will affect
- Identifies any known required permits

Each scoping letter should offer the opportunity to meet (face to face) to discuss the project in the field and in the office. The comment period is generally 30 days, but a 21-day notice is sufficient for minor

projects.

Providing information electronically can expedite the scoping process. Establishing an FTP (file transfer protocol) site is an excellent way to quickly exchange information, such as photos and design drawings, with agencies and interested parties.

The comments received during scoping are documented in the comments and coordination section of the environmental document.

440.1.3 Environmental Classification

One of three levels of documentation is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The regional environmental coordinator recommends the appropriate class.

Classes of actions are defined in order 5050.4A.

Class I: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

If a project is expected to have a significant effect on the environment, the environmental process requires Notice of Intent, preparation, and FAA approval of a draft EIS, circulation of the draft EIS for comments and public hearing, recommendation on how/whether to proceed, a final EIS, the Record of Decision (ROD), and a published notice of availability. The environmental issues to be addressed vary by project, and some may not become apparent until later in the design process.

The duration of environmental activities, from the PDA to the FAA issuing of the ROD, can take as long as three to four years.

Class II: Categorical Exclusion (CE)

A CE project has no significant individual or cumulative effect on the environment. The list of airport actions that qualify as a CE are identified in FAA Order 5050.4A, Paragraph 23.

The process for a CE, where scoping is not required, can usually be completed within 10 days. A CE that requires agency and public coordination can take 45 days or more, depending on the issues being considered.

Class III: Environmental Assessment (EA)

If the significance of project impacts is not clearly identifiable, an EA is prepared. The EA results either in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a conclusion that an EIS is required, if significant impacts are found.

The process requires public notice, preparation and FAA approval of an EA, notice of availability, public hearing, or hearing opportunity, recommendation on how/ whether to proceed, and (usually) approval of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The duration of environmental activity from inception through approval of a FONSI recommendation can take up to a year.

For any document type, the type of environmental investigation can extend the time required. The environmental phase can, in a sense, become openended. Schedule field investigations as soon as possible because of the limited field session in Alaska.

Do not release the CE, draft EA, and draft EIS documents to the public until after approval by the Department and the FAA.

440.1.4 Environmental Process

The environmental process and approvals are described in the *Alaska Environmental Procedures Manual for Aviation*.

440.1.5 Agency Coordination and Public Hearing

Early coordination is required with local, state, and federal agencies, as it aids in identifying probable effects and determining the type and scope of the environmental document. The environmental coordinator initiates this process at the direction of the engineering manager.

In accordance with the Airport and Airways Improvement Act, the sponsoring agency for a proposed airport development project must offer the opportunity for formal public hearings if the project involves the following:

- 5. New airport location
- 6. New runway
- 7. Major extension of existing runway

Public meetings can be held at any time, but a formal public hearing is held after approval of the CE, draft EA, or draft EIS.

Whether or not a public hearing should be held in all other situations is discretionary. The FAA has provided guidelines for determining whether hearings should be held based on:

1. The magnitude of the proposal in terms of

- environmental impacts
- 2. The degree of interest in the proposal as evidenced by requests for a hearing from public officials and private citizens
- 3. The complexity of issues and likelihood that relevant information will be presented at the hearing
- 4. The extent to which effective public involvement has already been achieved through means other than public hearings

The FAA requires that the sponsor consult with air carriers and fixed base operators regarding the proposed project and submit documentation of the consultation.

Public involvement in accordance with current Department policy and procedures generally consists of:

- 1. An early workshop during project development to help identify issues, goals, values, and possible impacts
- 2. Development of a mailing list(s) and ongoing discussion with agencies, the public, and individuals during development
- 3. A public hearing, or opportunity for hearing, after approval of a draft EA or draft EIS to present studies and interaction in a public forum
- 4. Availability of the completed EA or final EIS

440.1.6 Permits and Clearances

The environmental section obtains required permits and clearances based on information and drawings provided by the project manager or designated support staff.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit application must accompany the environmental document when it is submitted to the FAA for approval. Obtain FAA approval of the environmental document prior to advertising the project unless the regional preconstruction engineer approves (in writing) advertising the project without FAA approval of the environmental document.

Permits and clearances typically required are:

Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP)

Determination of consistency with the state's ACMP plan is required on all projects in the coastal zone before contract award. Refer to Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1971 and Alaska Coastal Management Act of 1977 (AS 46.40 and 44.19).

Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Approval from DNR is required for projects that affect state refuges, critical habitat areas, cataloged anadromous fish streams, and resident fish streams. All DNR approval(s)/permit(s) must be obtained before the ATA. Projects must provide for habitat protection and accommodation of fish passage (AS 41.05.870, 41.05. 840).

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

All projects that may adversely affect EFH require consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. EFH means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity.

If the regional environmental coordinator determines that the project may adversely affect EFH, the project must comply with procedures described in the EFH Finding for Airport Projects in Alaska (James W. Balsiger, Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS, to Byron K. Huffman, Airports Division Manager, FAA, dated July 31, 2002).

Archaeological and Historical ("Cultural")

All projects for construction require clearance from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) during the design stage (AS 41.35.070 and 36 CFR 800).

Federal and state projects may entail a Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act) review. This process can involve:

- Surveying and researching to identify sites on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- Assessing the effect of the project on such sites
- Implementing approved mitigation measures for sites adversely impacted. The clearance process may take a considerable amount of time. You must obtain clearance for the project corridor and for materials sources and disposal sites. If materials sources and

disposal sites are contractor-furnished, the contractor is responsible for obtaining clearance.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Projects involving fill in wetland areas, rivers, lakes, streams, navigable waters of the U.S., or coastal waters require an individual or nationwide USACE permit, per Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers & Harbors Act of 1889.

Obtain a consistency determination with the Alaska Coastal Management Program for Corps permits for projects in a coastal zone. Also, obtain a water quality assurance certification (Section 401) from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) through the Corps permit process.

Design features such as typical section, alignment, slope limits, etc., must be detailed enough to obtain a Corps of Engineers permit and to avoid costly "loops" and project delays. These features can be fine-tuned during the design phase in recognition that a minor modification to the permit is acceptable.

Wetland use as a vegetative buffer strip requires approval from the Corps of Engineers. Include the use of wetlands as a buffer strip in the narrative of the project Corps of Engineers' 404 permit.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit currently addresses projects that disturb more than 1 acre of ground by requiring the contractor to use the Department's Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) as a basis for preparing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). ESCP guidance is provided in Section 620.1 of this manual.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)

18 AAC 72.600 requires written approval from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) of all plans that construct, alter, install, modify, or operate any part of a nondomestic wastewater treatment works or disposal system. The project Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) requires DEC approval prior to advertising.

Storm water runoff from a highway is "nondomestic wastewater" as defined by DEC.

Submit project plans to DEC for approval of both the storm water collection and disposal system (e.g. ditches) and the ESCP prior to advertising.

Local Government

AS 35.30 does not apply to airport capital improvement projects. However, the FAA requires that when a new airport is constructed in a non-metropolitan area, the sponsor provides a certification that the community supports the location of the proposed airport.

440.2. Materials Sites and Soils/Foundation Investigation

The regional Materials staff performs soils investigations and reports in accordance with the Department's *Geotechnical Procedures Manual* and *AASHTO Manual on Subsurface Investigations*.

Their purpose is to determine the nature of underlying soils along the project alignment, estimate the availability and characteristics of construction materials, recommend earthwork structural design parameters, and identify and make recommendations for resolving special geotechnical problems.

This work may be contracted to a consultant in the event regional or statewide Materials are unable to undertake the necessary geotechnical investigation.

440.2.1 Material Sites

Give special consideration to remote rural projects that require borrow, processed aggregates or rock. It is preferrable to use local material sources to the extent possible. Whether materials meeting the project requirements are obtainable in proximity to (locally) the project or must be barged in has a significant effect on project cost and schedule. Providing accurate information on the quality and quantity of locally sourced materials, or clearly delineating that imported materials will be required to meet specifications, reduces risk to bidders and gives DOT&PF better pricing.

Best practices for using local material sources on remote rural projects are detailed in the following flow charts provided later in this section:

- Figure 440-2 Determine Local Material Category (Part 1)
- Figure 440-3 Determine Optimal Use of Local Materials Sources (Part 2)

• Figure 440-4 Permits and Landowner Agreements (Part 3)

Tasks displayed as shaded boxes in these flowcharts are those that may require extra effort in the preconstruction phase but add project value by potentially minimizing the need for imported materials, reducing the contractor's effort and uncertainty during bidding to obtain permits and agreements, and providing a fair bidding environment.

The standard specifications for a material may be modified at the discretion of the project manager in consultation with regional materials section. This modification must be justified and approved by FAA. Include a discussion and justification of this modification in the Engineer's Design Report in Section E.2.

Part 1: Determine Local Material Availability and Categories (Ref: Figure 440-2)

For making an initial determination on local material source availability, use the Department's Materials Site Inventory (MSI) that is part of the Geotechnical Asset Management (GAM) Program. The GIS website is found here:

https://akdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=a3c965428a3b4f5b973d358d9f53096c

Consult the Regional Materials Section for information relevant to each site and to identify other potential sites not included in the MSI. If there is no information at the project location or the existing information is insufficient, the project manager in coordination with the regional materials engineer should consider conducting a materials site investigation.

Suitability is determined by the material's conformance with the *Standard Specifications for Airport Construction* as modified by any approved MOS.

Part 2: Determine Optimal Use of Local Material Sources (Ref: Figure 440-3)

Imported materials are those brought in from outside the vicinity of the project. Give consideration to mode of transportation: whether materials can be hauled in via an ice road or winter road or must be barged.

When the local material category is "suitable only for some material types," the designer is encouraged to

consider ways to make the local material suitable by modifying the standard specifications, blending with imported material, or making modifications to the typical sections, including considering technologies such as geosynthetics or chemical treatments. Consult the Regional Materials Section on how and when materials and specifications can be modified to provide acceptable performance.

Part 3: Permits and Landowner Agreements (Ref: Figure 440-4)

Tasks shown in Figure 440-4 are intended to provide a fair bidding environment. Items in shaded boxes are most critical to ensuring this and project managers are encouraged to complete these work items during preconstruction.

Include all landowner agreements and permits in the contract appendices following existing standards.

A Fair Bid Letter is a written guarantee from a private material site owner that all bidders will be given the same price. It should include the actual royalty rates for materials obtained from the material site. The Project Manager obtains the Fair Bid Letter.

ROW agreements may include but are not limited to Right of Entry, Temporary Construction Easement, Temporary Construction Permit, and permanent rightof-way.

Material Sales Agreements are obtained by the joint effort of the Project Manager and ROW Section.

Obtaining these agreements can be time intensive and should be initiated early.

When a Mandatory Source is used, complete a public interest finding in accordance with P&P 10.02.013

Information to include in the Bid and Contract Documents

When materials are anticipated to be imported, identify all pay items expected to be imported in a Special Notice to Bidders. Additional information may be included on the plans or in the Special Provisions.

When a Material Site Agreement is obtained for the project, include a copy in an appendix to the contract.

Fair Bid Letters shall be included as supplemental information at advertising.

When an Available, Designated, or Mandatory
Materials Source (for definitions see SSAC Section

60-02) is used on a project, provide available sitespecific information as supplemental information to bidders. Table 440-1 provides a matrix defining responsibility for obtaining rights to material sources.

Include copies of all permits and landowner agreement in an appendix to the contract.

Table 440-1 Material Source Responsibility Matrix

	Contractor- Furnished Source	Mandatory Source	Designated Source	Available Source
Who owns the subsurface rights?	It depends, see narrative	The Department must obtain rights	The Department must obtain rights	The Department must obtain rights
Who obtains permits?	Contractor	Department	Department	Department or Contractor
Materials Report required	No	Yes	Yes	See below
Who prepares mining and reclamation plan?	Contractor – acceptable to Department	Department	Contractor	Contractor

The following definitions of the various types of material sources are derived from Section 60-02 of the SSAC:

Contractor-Furnished Source: A material source that is from a commercial plant or any material source that is not identified-below.

Mandatory Source: A material source required for use by the Department. A Public Interest Finding (PIF) is required to designate a material source as mandatory (See P&P 10.02.013).

Designated Source: A material source that is made available to the contractor, but is not required for use.

Available Source: A material source identified as available for use to the contractor. The Department makes no guarantee as to the quality or quantity of material available. Provide any available information as supplemental information and note its availability in the Notice to Bidders. The contractor is responsible for making their own determination of the quality and quantity of material available.

Excluded Material Source: A material source

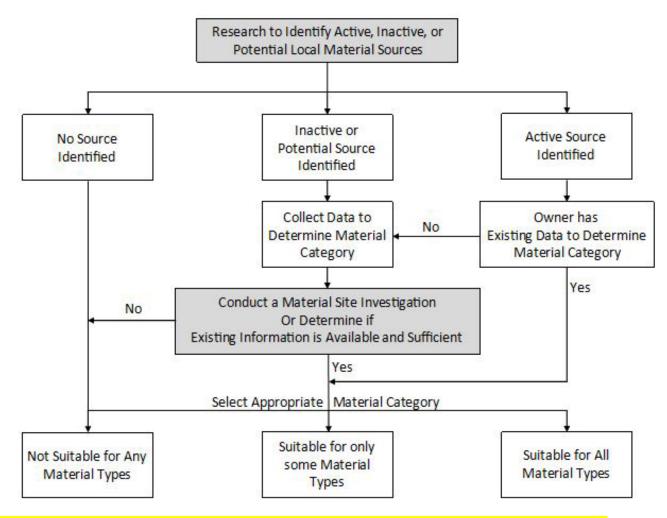
that is excluded from use. It may be considered by the contractor as a contractor-furnished source, unless it is identified in the contract as an Excluded Materials source.

To use data from a materials report for a mandatory or designated material source, it must be a project specific report.

The permits necessary for a material source can be numerous and may include:

- Wetlands
- Floodplain
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Conditional use permit
- Noise

Where Table 440-1 indicates the Department is responsible for obtaining rights to use or otherwise develop a material source, do so prior to advertising a project.



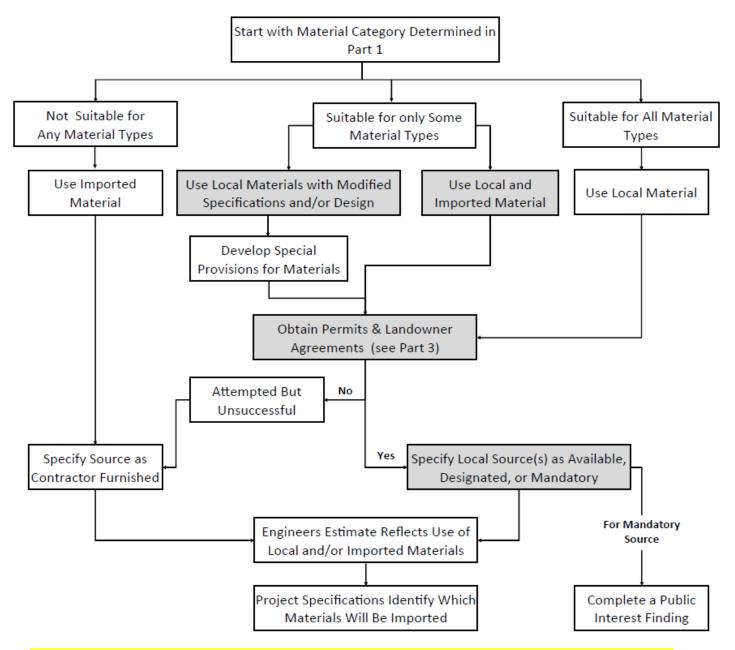
Note: Items in shaded boxes are most critical to ensuring a fair bid environment and project managers are encouraged to complete these work items during preconstruction.

Once Material Category is determined, Proceed to Part 2 Flow Chart

Figure 440-2

Local Material Sources on Rural Projects Flow Chart

Part 1 – Determine Local Material Category

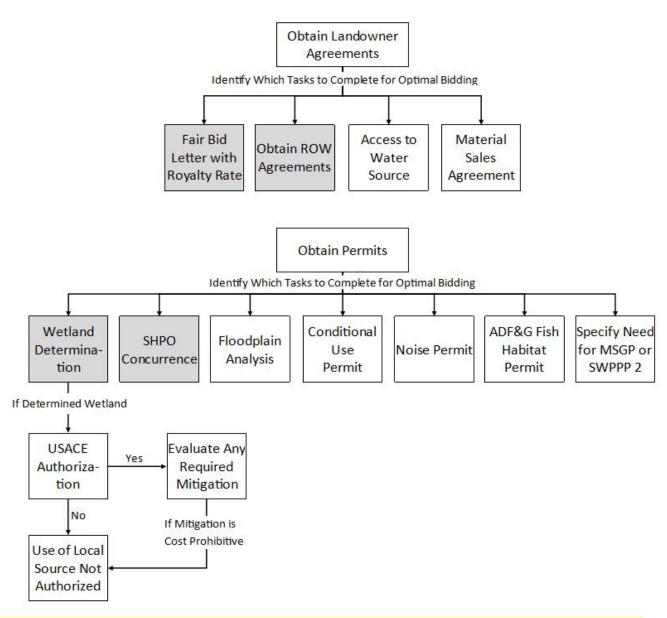


Note: Items in shaded boxes are most critical to ensuring a fair bid environment and project managers are encouraged to complete these work items during preconstruction.

Figure 440-3

Local Material Sources on Rural Projects Flow Chart

Part 2 – Determine Optimal Use of Local Material Sources



Note: Items in shaded boxes are most critical to ensuring a fair bid environment and project managers are encouraged to complete these work items during preconstruction.

Figure 440-4 Local Material Sources on Rural Projects Flow Chart Part 3 – Permits and Landowner Agreements

440.2.2 Initial Soils/Foundation Investigation

Conduct a geotechnical reconnaissance. Using the description of alternatives, the project scope, and the rough estimate of earthwork quantities as provided by the engineering manager, the engineering geologist evaluates the data, makes a field review, and then

summarizes, in a memo format report, a comparison of soils conditions, materials availability, and possible problems for each alternative. Test holes or pits may be necessary to verify materials source suitability. Major projects may require soil borings and a subsequent formal report. (*Note:* The *Engineers Geology Geotechnical Exploration Procedures*

Manual is a good reference when conducting geotechnical reconnaissance.)

Complete the review and refinement of the purpose and need, description of alternatives, and cost estimates for incorporation into the project's environmental document.

The preliminary study effort should be commensurate with the complexity of the project.

440.2.3 Soils/Foundations Investigation

Once the preferred alternative has been selected, geotechnical investigations are completed to support design of the selected alternative, that includes "centerline" and materials site borings and test pits, samples analyses, and preparation of a final report with recommendations for design. To support the field investigation, the engineering manager may provide possible line and grade data (existing and proposed), location of cuts and fills, estimates of earthwork quantities, and anticipated provisions for drainage.

The geologist prepares an exploration plan for the approval of the regional materials engineer and the engineering manager. If possible, the engineering manager or principal designer accompanies the geologist on a field review of the alignment and may return for first-hand review of problem areas during field investigations.

The final geotechnical report is not normally completed until after final alignment, grade, and geometry have been selected. Write preliminary geotechnical reports, or memoranda with interim design recommendations, as soon as the results of the fieldwork are known.

440.3. Right-of-Way

The Right-of-Way section obtains the land interests necessary for construction, operations, and maintenance of capital projects in accordance with the Department's *Right-of-Way Manual*. This process involves:

- 1. Identifying land needs based on the airport layout plan (ALP)
- 2. Researching titles to properties to be acquired
- 3. Preparing right-of-way plans, with measurements of areas needed
- 4. Appraising the fair market value of lands needed, including affected improvements

- 5. Negotiating property acquisitions
- 6. Relocating any displaced families and businesses
- 7. Certifying the Department's ownership or land interest
- 8. Controlling encroachments and disposing of lands no longer necessary for public use
- 9. Preparing programming requests for the engineering manager's approval

If negotiations fail, the Department may seek to acquire a property by eminent domain (condemnation) through the courts. Approval to proceed with acquisition through condemnation is reserved for the preconstruction engineer, and the Department of Law handles subsequent proceedings.

440.3.1 Initial Right-of-Way

Using a description of the alternative alignments provided by the engineering manager, ROW staff members prepare estimates of the probable number of parcels for each alternative, their acquisition and relocation costs, and "incidentals," that is, the cost of performing ROW activities.

Staff also assess each alternative in terms of the socioeconomic effects on residences and businesses, and how many displacements it would cause. They report the results in a Conceptual Stage Relocation Study, often in memo format, which is included in the project's environmental document.

If there is a public hearing on the environmental document, ROW presents information from the Conceptual Stage Relocation Study and discusses the acquisition and relocation processes as required by the *Right-of-Way Manual*.

As with other support groups, early and ongoing coordination with ROW helps determine the level of information needed from the engineering manager, facilitates early starts and steady progress, allows timely design response to feedback, and ensures coordination of the effects of plan changes.

440.3.2 Design Right-of-Way

Design changes affecting the amount or location of required land need to be coordinated closely with ROW and all other support groups.

If there is a design public hearing, ROW presents the updated relocation study and other information as

required by the Right-of-Way Manual.

Among other factors, the presence of hazardous materials or hazardous waste can significantly affect appraisals. It is important to identify and investigate suspect parcels early in the project development process, usually as part of environmental activities, so that any problems can be quantified and managed in time to minimize delay in the appraisal process.

Property owners may request construction items be added to the plans. The negotiator submits such requests for project manager approval, on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), a k a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), form. If negotiations are concluded successfully, ROW processes the legal and payment documents, arranges for clearing the acquired right-of-way of any improvements, and manages any relocation of families or businesses.

If negotiations fail or title complications exist, and if administrative settlement at a higher-than-market price is imprudent or unsuccessful, eminent domain proceedings are initiated through the Department of Law. These proceedings significantly affect project schedules and budgets. The proposed taking must be for the greatest public good and the least private injury, and the preconstruction engineer must approve the decision to proceed with condemnation.

Forward appraisals and administrative settlements to the FAA for a reasonableness-of-cost determination.

If specifically listed on the Invitation for Bids, make right-of-way information available to bidders.

440.4. Civil Rights Programs

There are numerous state and federal laws and regulations pertaining to civil rights. The Civil Rights Office is a good place to start for specific information. Provisions to implement nondiscrimination and entitlement programs are included in various contract "boilerplate" forms and in the specifications. The provisions for state-funded and federal-aid contracts are similar, but not identical.

440.4.1 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

The purpose of the DBE program is to provide an equal opportunity for participation of minority-owned and female-owned businesses in construction contracts and subcontracts.

On all federal-aid contracts, bidders must meet minority business recruitment procedures in order to be considered for award.

When design is nearly complete and ready for PS&E review, prepare a goals worksheet using a brief description of project scope and a listing of subcontractable work items from the engineer's estimate. From this worksheet, the Civil Rights Office in Anchorage establishes the goal, which is added to the bid schedule prior to advertising.

440.4.2 Title VI

Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Department has prepared a Title VI Work Plan to ensure compliance with federal civil rights laws and regulations in its programs. The work plan stipulates clauses to be included in construction contracts, professional service agreements, and property actions. It also places coordination and reporting requirements on project managers during the project development and public involvement processes. Copies of the work plan are available through the Civil Rights Office.

440.5. Airport Leasing

Airport leasing is responsible for management of state-owned airport lands in Alaska and therefore deals with airport users on a continuing basis.

Coordinate closely with airport leasing from project inception through final PS&E to ensure that the design is appropriate from a property management standpoint, and to help ensure airport user's needs are addressed as early in the design process as possible. Consult airport leasing when developing the PMP and PIP. Include airport leasing in the pre-design meeting and all reviews.