

**APPENDIXH**

**SECTION 106 CONSULTATION**

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STATE OF ALASKA

3130-1R-FAA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

NORTHERN REGION PRECONSTRUCTION

2301 PEGER ROAD  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-5316  
TELEPHONE: (907) 451-2238  
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FAX: (907) 451-5103

December 21, 2007

Re: Noatak Airport Relocation  
Project No. 61478  
**Finding of No Historic Properties  
Affected Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)**

REDU  
311 2 4 700  
OHA

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

**No Historic Properties Affected**  
**Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer**  
Date: 1-31-2008  
File No.: 3130-1R-FAA 52

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is proposing to relocate the Noatak Airport. Noatak is approximately 55 miles north of Kotzebue and 70 miles north of the Arctic Circle on the west shore of the Noatak River. The existing airport is located south of the village. The proposed project site is located west of the village at approximately 67.57° North Latitude and 162.97° West Longitude (Sections 16-21 and 28-32; Township 25 North; Range 19 West of the Kateel River Meridian). A location and vicinity map are shown on Figure 1.

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium riverbank erosion studies indicate that the runway embankment will be encroached by the Noatak River by 2010. DOT&PF has determined that this erosion necessitates relocating the Noatak airport away from the Noatak River. Major components of the project include:

- Relocating the airport runway and facilities west of the existing airport and village.
- Constructing a two-mile access road between the village and new airport.
- Constructing a vehicle bridge across the Kuchoruk Creek.

Material for the project components is expected to come from a 256-acre gravel bar material site in the Noatak River. Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in Spring 2009.

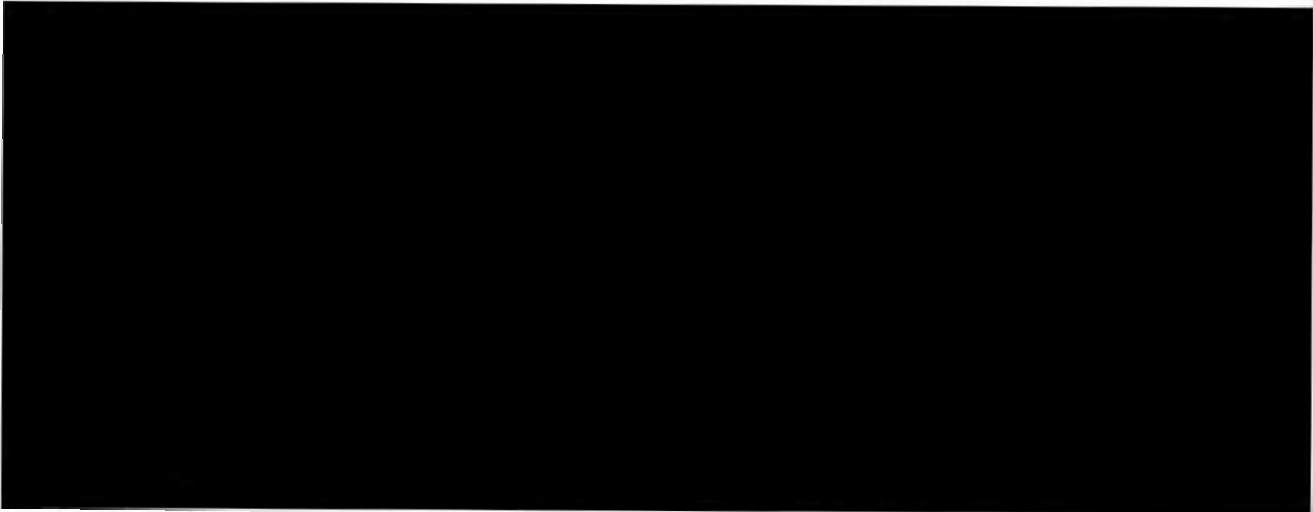
**Historic Property Identification Efforts**

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is shown on Figure 2. The APE includes the location of the proposed airport site, airport access road, Kuchoruk Creek bridge, in-river material source, and material haul routes. Many cultural and archaeological surveys have been conducted in the village of Noatak, and its surroundings. USKH, Inc., on behalf of DOT&PF, hired Charles M. Mobley & Associates to perform archaeological investigations of the APE in support of the Section 106 process for this project.

**Finding of No Historic Properties  
Affected Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)**

Two investigations were conducted. The first, summarized in *Oral History and Archival Research for the Noatak Airport Relocation, Noatak, Alaska* (Mobley 2006), concludes that the prevalence of wetlands at the new airport property indicates a low probability for containing archaeological sites. A winter trail used traditionally by Noatak villagers will be crossed by the new airport and/or access road, but was judged ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by Mobley. The report recommends further analysis of the upland and riverbank sections of the APE.

The second archaeological investigation covers two material sites (the proposed site and one alternate site, subsequently dropped from consideration), the airport access road, new bridge location, and riverbank section of the APE, and is documented in detail in *Noatak Airport Relocation Archaeological Survey, Noatak, Alaska* (Mobley 2007). No cultural resources of significance or otherwise eligible to the NRHP were found in any of the four surveyed areas. The report further states "In summary, the Noatak Airport relocation as proposed thus far will not disturb any known cultural resources eligible to the National Register of Historic Places." Both reports have been submitted to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology for its review and records.



The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred on January 31, 2006 with a determination of "no historic properties affected" for the geotechnical sampling program to support this project (SHPO File No. 3130-IRFAA). The sampling program APE included the proposed airport location and the proposed material site.

Furthermore, the DOT&PF distributed project scoping letters to the Native Village of Noatak, Maniilaq Association, NANA Corporation, and Northwest Arctic Borough, and a Government-to-Government Consultation Initiation letter to Mr. James Adams, President of the Native Village of Noatak, in March 2006. No comments or concerns regarding historic or cultural resources were raised by these entities.

**Finding of No Historic Properties  
Affected Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)**

**Agency Determination**

Based on the two archaeological investigations, review of AHRS data, scoping efforts, and the prevalence of wetlands, DOT&PF did not find any historic properties within the project APE. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the DOT&PF has determined on behalf of FAA that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project. Please direct your concurrence or comments to me at the address above. If you have any questions or need further information, please call Ryan Anderson, P.E., Engineering Manager, at (907) 451-5129.

Sincerely,



Bruce W. Campbell  
Environmental Coordinator

dt

Enclosures: Figure 1–Location and Vicinity Map  
Figure 2–Area of Potential Effect

cc: Ryan Anderson, P.E., Engineer Manager, DOT&PF, Northern Region  
Jackson Fox, Environmental Analyst, USKH  
Patricia Wagonner, Environmental Manager, USKH

## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Northern Region  
Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5316  
Main: 907-451-2273  
Toll free: 800-451-2363  
Dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
State/Federal Project Number(s):Z614780000/Pending  
Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Ms. Judith E. Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Alaska 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 Alaskan Region, Airports Division of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), proposes to relocate the Noatak Airport approximately 2 miles west of Noatak, AK (Noatak Airport Relocation). The existing airport and community are located 48 miles northwest of Kotzebue, and 71 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The proposed project is located at 67°33'39" North Latitude and 162°58'48" West Longitude; Sections 5, 8, 16-21, 29-32, Township (T) 25, Range (R) 19W; Sections 5-7, 18-20, 29, 32, T26, R19W; Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32, T27, R19W; Sections 5-7, 17-21, 28, 33, T28, R19W; Sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34, T29, R19W; Kateel River Meridian; United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Noatak C-2 (Figure 1).

Previous consultations regarding the proposed project occurred between 2006-2008. The SHPO concurred on January 31, 2006 with a determination of "no historic properties affected" for the geotechnical sampling program to support this project (SHPO File No. 3130-IRFAA). The DOT&PF distributed project scoping letters to the Native Village of Noatak, Maniilaq Association, NANA Regional Corporation, and Northwest Arctic Borough, and a Government-to-Government Consultation Initiation letter to Mr. James Adams, President of the Native Village of Noatak, in March 2006. No comments or concerns regarding historic or cultural resources were raised by these entities. Following completion of the 2006 field investigations,

the DOT&PF submitted a finding of No Historic Properties Affected determination in December 2007, and SHPO concurred on January 31, 2008.

Since 2008 proposed project elements have changed and the Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been revised. For purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, the DOT&PF is re-initiating this consultation with you to assist us in determining the revised APE and identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

### **Project Description**

The proposed project would create a safe, reliable, and cost-effective facility that provides the community with adequate access, supports the community's long-term development goals, and is consistent with current FAA safety regulations. The existing airport is threatened by Noatak River erosion, which will necessitate permanent runway closure. Consequently, there is insufficient land to address other existing airport deficiencies. Time critical airport relocation ensures continued safe and reliable air transportation for Noatak.

The proposed project includes the following features (Figures 2-3):

- Airport relocation located approximately 2 miles west of Noatak.
- Airport Access Road with overhead electrical line and new bridge at Kuchoruk Creek.
  - The access road would be approximately 2 miles long and 24 feet wide with side slopes that include safety features (e.g., signage) where required, and culverts installed to maintain drainage patterns.
  - The bridge would cross Kuchoruk Creek and be designed to accommodate high water and aufeis. Abutments would be placed on either side of the creek within the floodplain. Work may be required below ordinary high water of the creek; however no in-water work is anticipated.
- River Material Sources (South and East) with overland access roads.
  - Local gravels within the Noatak River drainage would be used for construction; excavation may occur below the water table.
  - A pioneer material source access road would accommodate safe summertime access between River Material Source (South) and the Airport Access Road. The road would be designed to prevent damage to underlying soil hydrology.
- Equipment and Materials Mobilization.
  - Equipment and materials will be transported along the existing Delong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) from the Red Dog Mine Port approximately 40 miles inland to the proposed start of a winter snow road (Route 3).
  - Route 3 would provide overland access between the DMTS and the Airport Access Road via a 28.2-mile winter snow road. Presence of adequate snow depth would be required for winter route use.
  - Construct gravel pads for staging areas

### **Preliminary Area of Potential Effect**

The Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE) is shown on Figures 2-4. The Preliminary APE includes direct-impact areas at the locations of the proposed airport site, airport access road,

Kuchoruk Creek Bridge, in-river material sources, and equipment and material haul routes. The APE will be finalized after comments are received from your agency and the consulting parties.

### **Identification Efforts**

Many cultural and archaeological surveys have been conducted along the DMTS as well as in Noatak and its surroundings. Archaeological research began along portions of the DMTS in 1977 and has continued through the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s to support Red Dog Mine operation and expansion (Anderson 1977; Brownell and Blake 2017; Gaines et al. 2006; Gerlach and Hall 1986; Hall 1982, 1983, 1987; McClenahan and Gibson 1990; McConnell 2005; SRBA 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014; Tremayne 2016). In 2006, Charles M. Mobley & Associates performed archaeological investigations of the APE in support of the Section 106 identification process for this project. The results of two field investigations, conducted in the spring and summer of 2006 are presented in the following paragraphs.

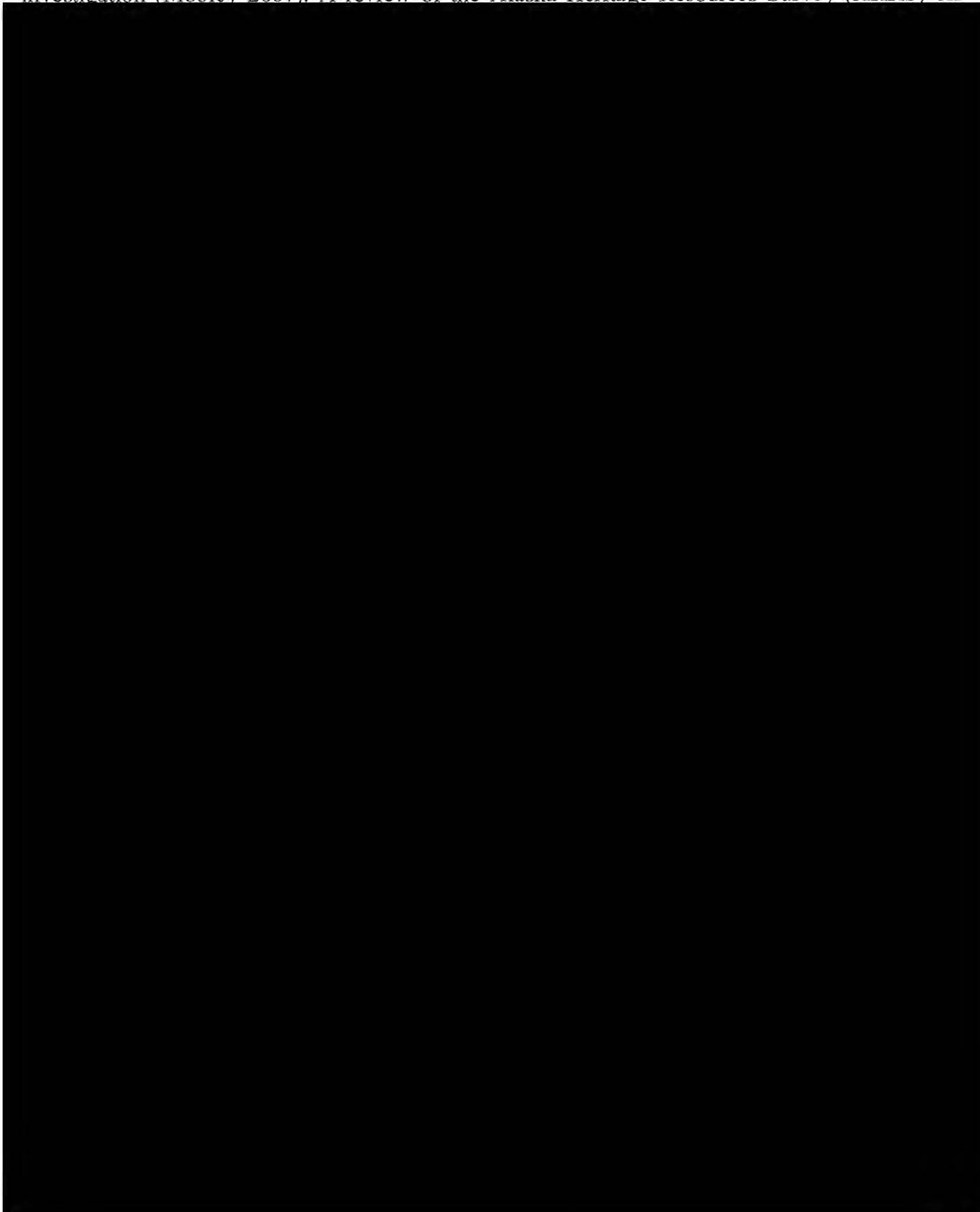
In February 2006, Charles Mobley conducted interviews with knowledgeable Noatak residents regarding the historic and contemporary land use in and around the APE; the results of this work were summarized in Oral History and Archival Research for the Noatak Airport Relocation, Noatak, Alaska (Mobley 2006). No pre-contact or historic resources were identified within the APE and Mobley (2006) concluded that the wetlands within and surrounding the proposed airport location had low potential for containing archaeological sites. A winter trail used traditionally by Noatak villagers to access coastal resources was recommended to be ineligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing. Mobley (2006) recommended that an archaeological field investigation should be conducted, and that fieldwork should focus on the portion of the proposed pioneer access road along the cut bank immediately west of the South Noatak River material source.

A second field investigation, described in the report entitled Noatak Airport Relocation Archaeological Survey, Noatak, Alaska (Mobley 2007) summarized the results of archaeological fieldwork conducted in September 2006 within the proposed APE, including around the South Noatak River material source area. During this investigation, Mobley surveyed the cut bank along the west side of the Noatak River, south of the confluence with Kuchoruk Creek. No cultural resources were identified in the course of this survey project and Mobley (2007) recommended that the proposed Noatak Airport Relocation Project would not disturb any known historic properties. Both reports were submitted to the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology for review and consideration during State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) review of the project results and findings in 2007.

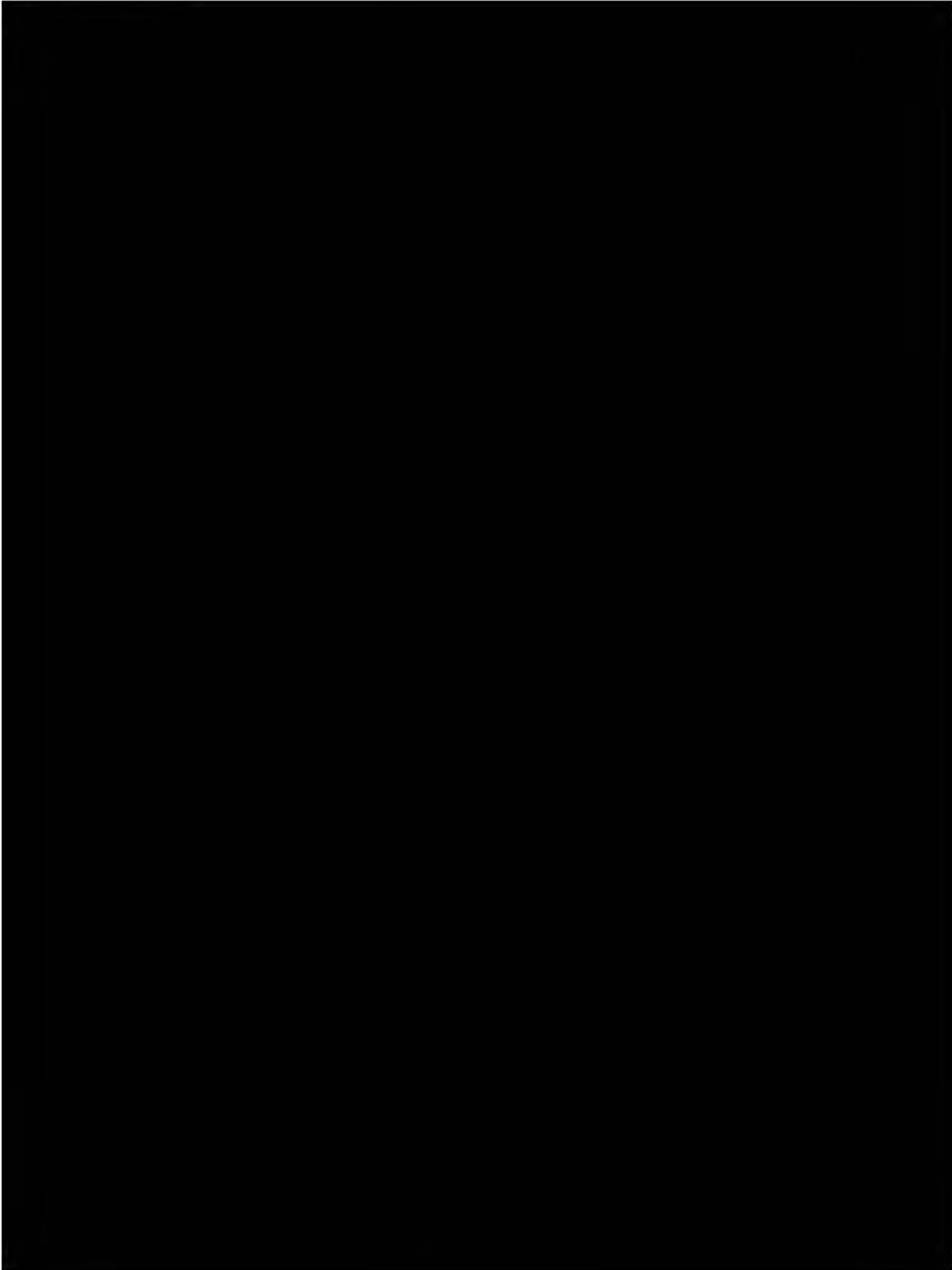
In December 2007, the DOT&PF on behalf of the FAA determined that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed Noatak Airport Relocation Project, and the SHPO concurred with this finding on January 31, 2008 (SHPO File No. 3130-IRFAA).

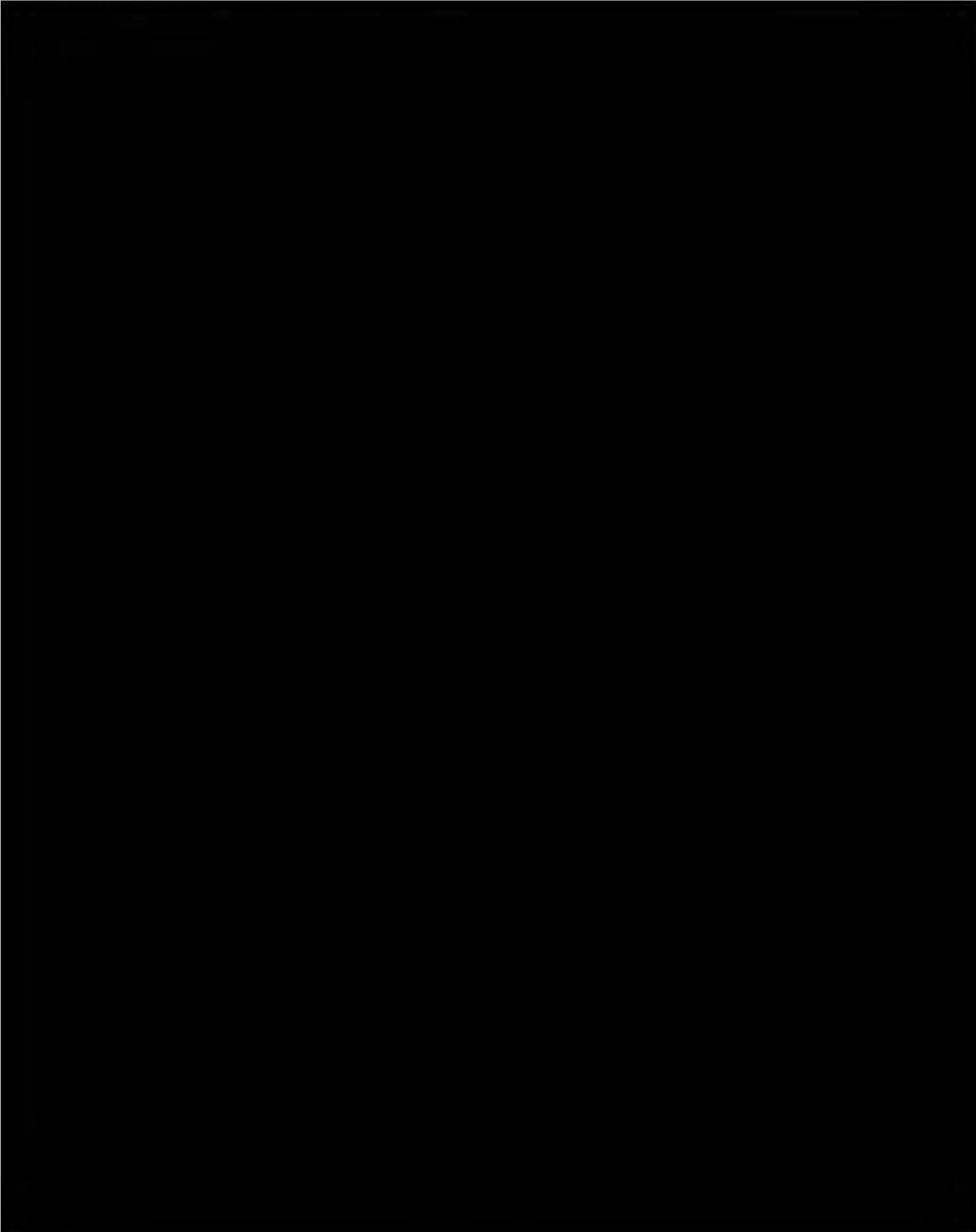
The project description was modified in 2017, which changed the undertaking APE definition and the APE now includes the DMTS winter haul route that was not assessed as part of the 2006 field investigation (Mobley 2006). In addition, the proposed pioneer road haul route to the south material source was previously proposed as a winter only haul route, and never considered for summertime access. The route of the proposed pioneer access road was also shifted north of the

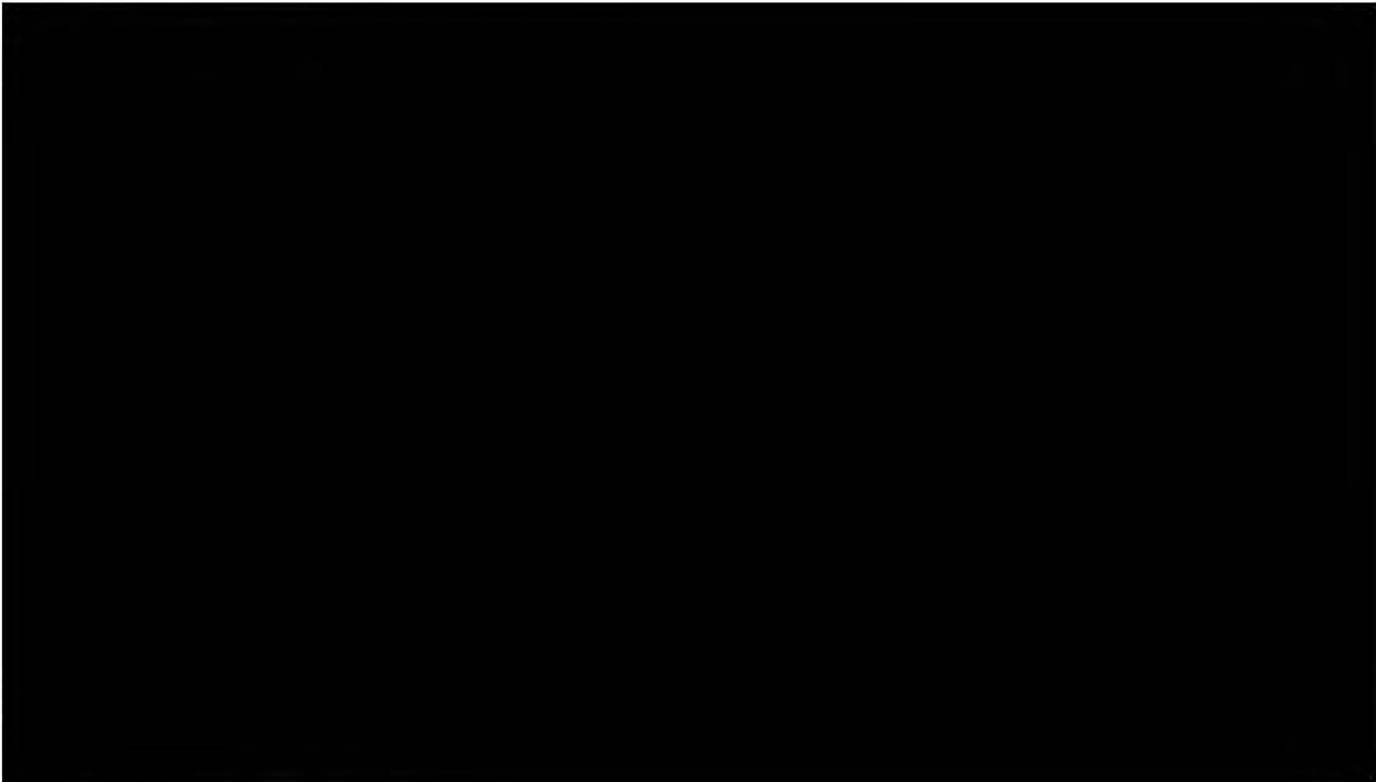
Kuchoruk Creek/Noatak River confluence to avoid crossing Kuchoruk Creek. The current route of the proposed pioneer access road was not assessed during the 2006 archaeological field investigation (Mobley 2007). A review of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) on











**Consultation Efforts**

On behalf of FAA, the DOT&PF has identified the following potentially interested parties to initiate consultation with regarding this project: the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); the National Park Service (NPS); the Native Village of Kivalina; the City of Kivalina; the Native Village of Noatak; NANA Regional Corporation; Maniilaq Association; the Northwest Arctic Borough; NPS-Western Arctic National Parklands; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

If you have questions or comments related to this proposed project, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at 907-451-5293, or by e-mail at [thomas.gamza@alaska.gov](mailto:thomas.gamza@alaska.gov).

Your timely response will greatly assist us in incorporating your concerns into project development. For that purpose, we respectfully request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas A. Gamza', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas A. Gamza  
Cultural Resource Specialist-Archaeologist (PQI)  
State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

Enclosures:

- Figure 1: Location and Vicinity Map
- Figure 2: Preliminary Area of Potential Effect
- Figure 3: Land Ownership and Preliminary Area of Potential Effect
- Figure 4: Cape Krusenstern National Historic Landmark & National Monument Boundary

Electronic cc w/ enclosures:

- Jack Gilbertsen, FAA, Alaska Region, Regional Environmental Manager
- Melissa Goldstein, DOT&PF Statewide Environmental NEPA Manager
- Melissa Jensen, DOT&PF, Northern Region, Environmental Impact Analyst
- Christopher Johnston, P.E., DOT&PF Northern Region, Project Manager
- Brett Nelson, DOT&PF Northern Region, Regional Environmental Manager
- Kathy Price, DOT&PF, Statewide Cultural Resources Manager

## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



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In Reply Refer To:  
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February 21, 2019

Norman Monroe, President  
Native Village of Noatak  
PO Box 89  
Noatak, AK 99761

Dear Mr. Monroe,

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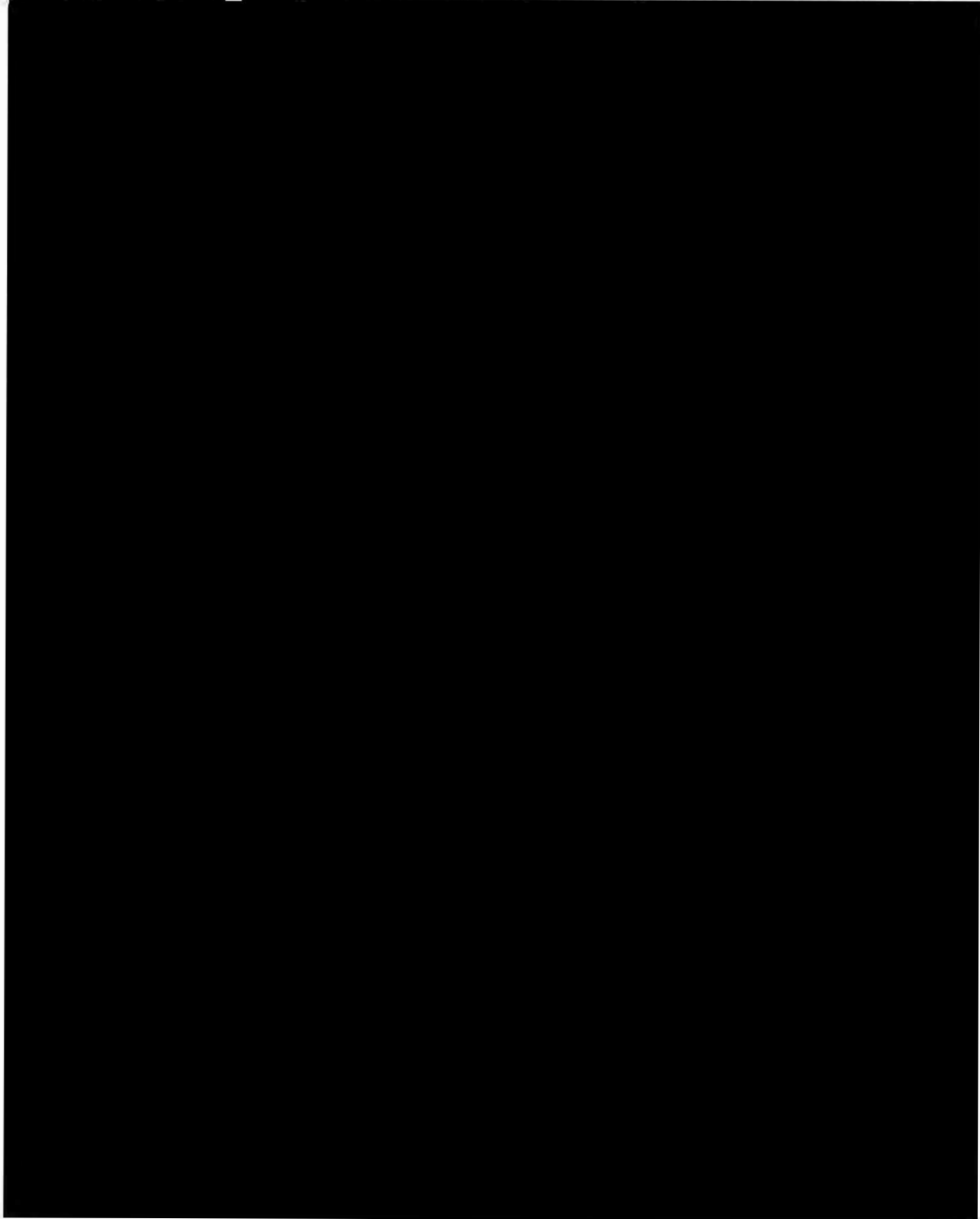
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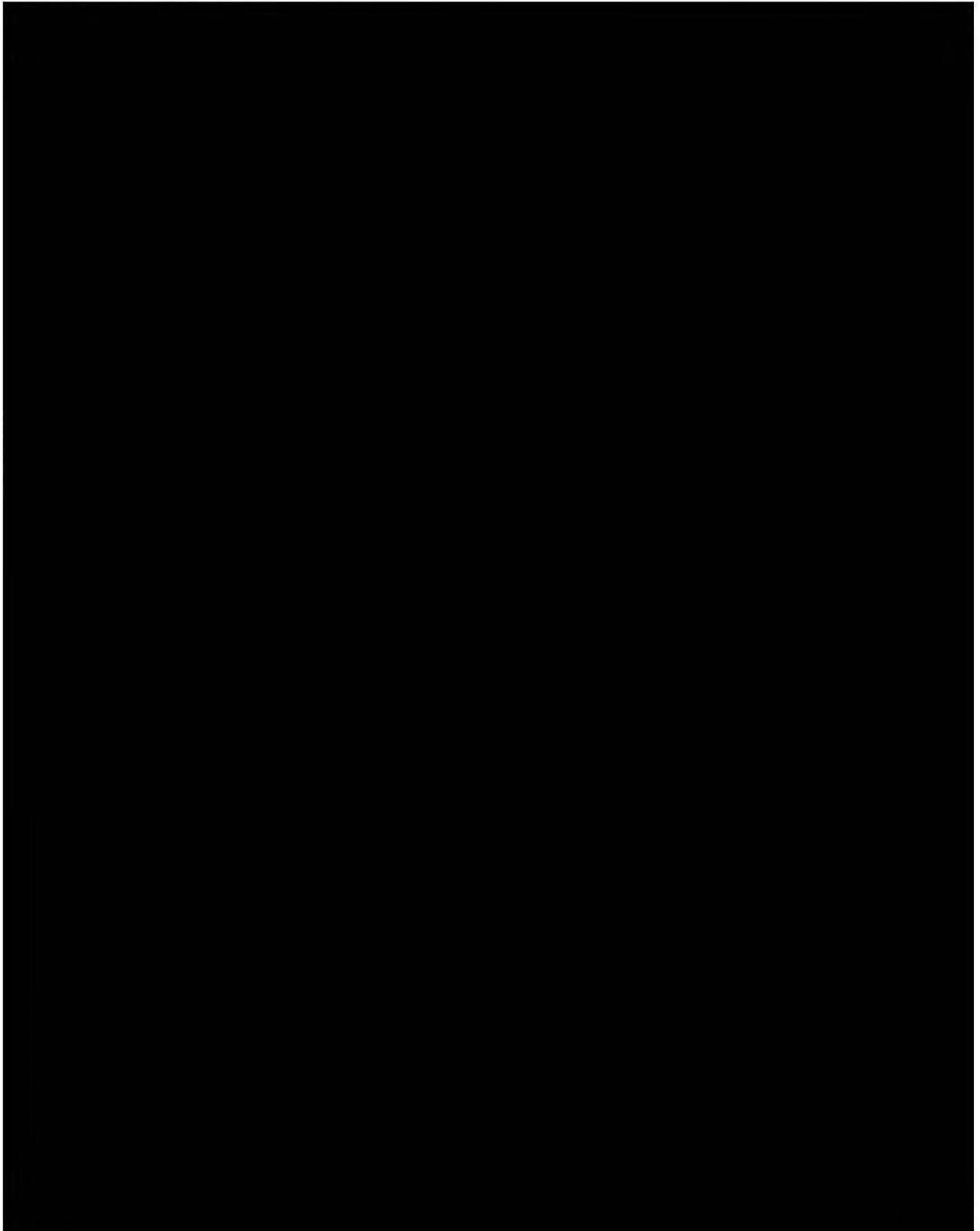
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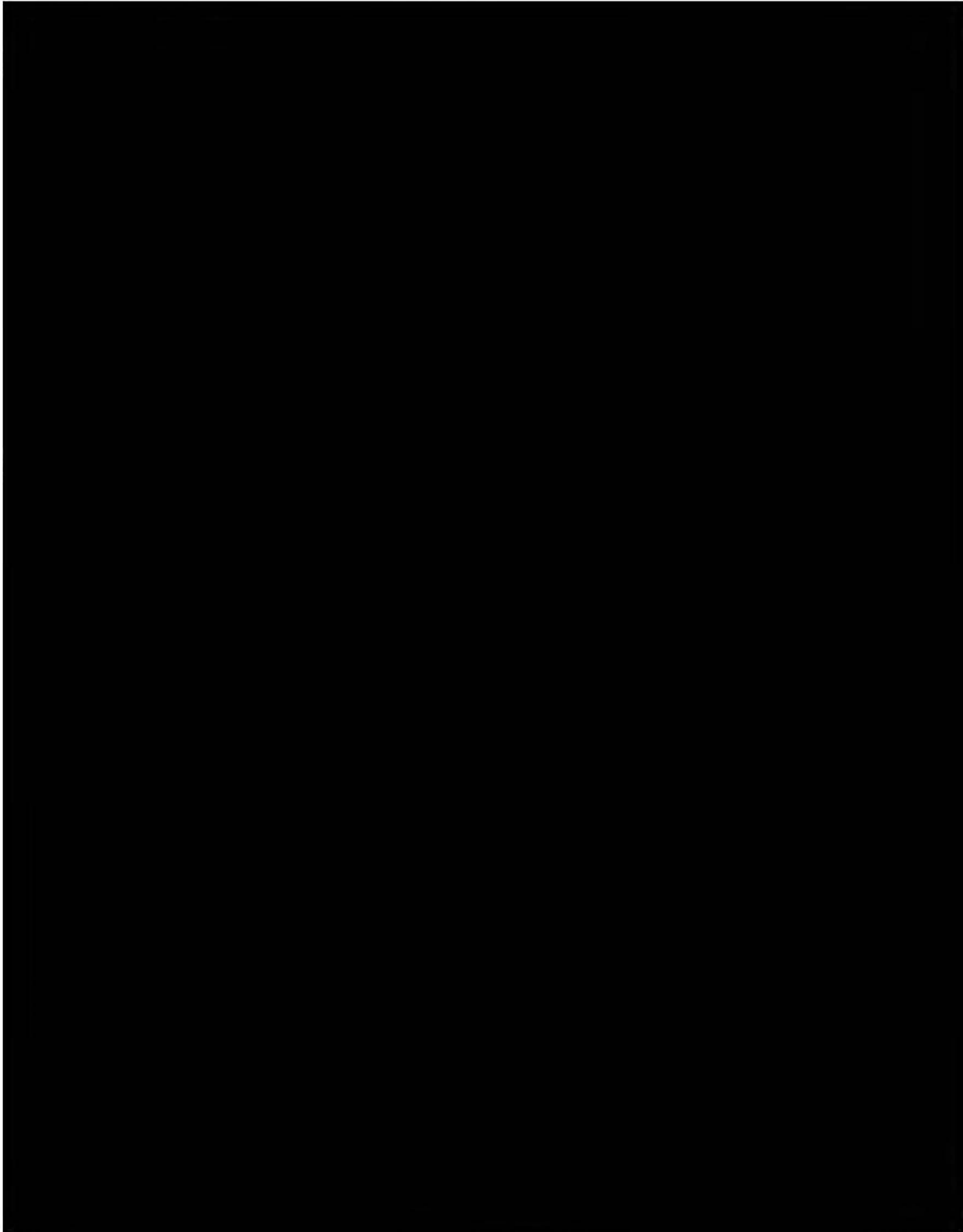
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If you have questions or comments related to this proposed project, or would like to inform us of places of traditional religious and cultural importance may be impacted by the proposed project, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at 907-451-5293, or by e-mail at [thomas.gamza@alaska.gov](mailto:thomas.gamza@alaska.gov)

Your timely response will greatly assist us in incorporating your concerns into project development. For that purpose, we respectfully request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

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Jack Gilbertsen, FAA, Alaska Region, Regional Environmental Manager  
Melissa Goldstein, DOT&PF Statewide Environmental NEPA Manager  
Melissa Jensen, DOT&PF, Northern Region, Environmental Impact Analyst  
Christopher Johnston, P.E., DOT&PF Northern Region, Project Manager  
Brett Nelson, DOT&PF Northern Region, Regional Environmental Manager  
Kathy Price, DOT&PF, Statewide Cultural Resources Manager

## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



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Northern Region  
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In Reply Refer To:  
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State/Federal Project Number(s):Z614780000/Pending  
Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Lowell Sage Jr., President  
Native Village of Kivalina  
PO Box 50051  
Kivalina, AK 99750

Dear Mr. Sage,

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaskan Region, Airports Division of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), proposes to relocate the Noatak Airport approximately 2 miles west of Noatak, AK (Noatak Airport Relocation). The existing airport and community are located 48 miles northwest of Kotzebue, and 71 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The proposed project is located at 67°33'39" North Latitude and 162°58'48" West Longitude; Sections 5, 8, 16-21, 29-32, Township (T) 25, Range (R) 19W; Sections 5-7, 18-20, 29, 32, T26, R19W; Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32, T27, R19W; Sections 5-7, 17-21, 28, 33, T28, R19W; Sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34, T29, R19W; Kateel River Meridian; United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Noatak C-2 (Figure 1).

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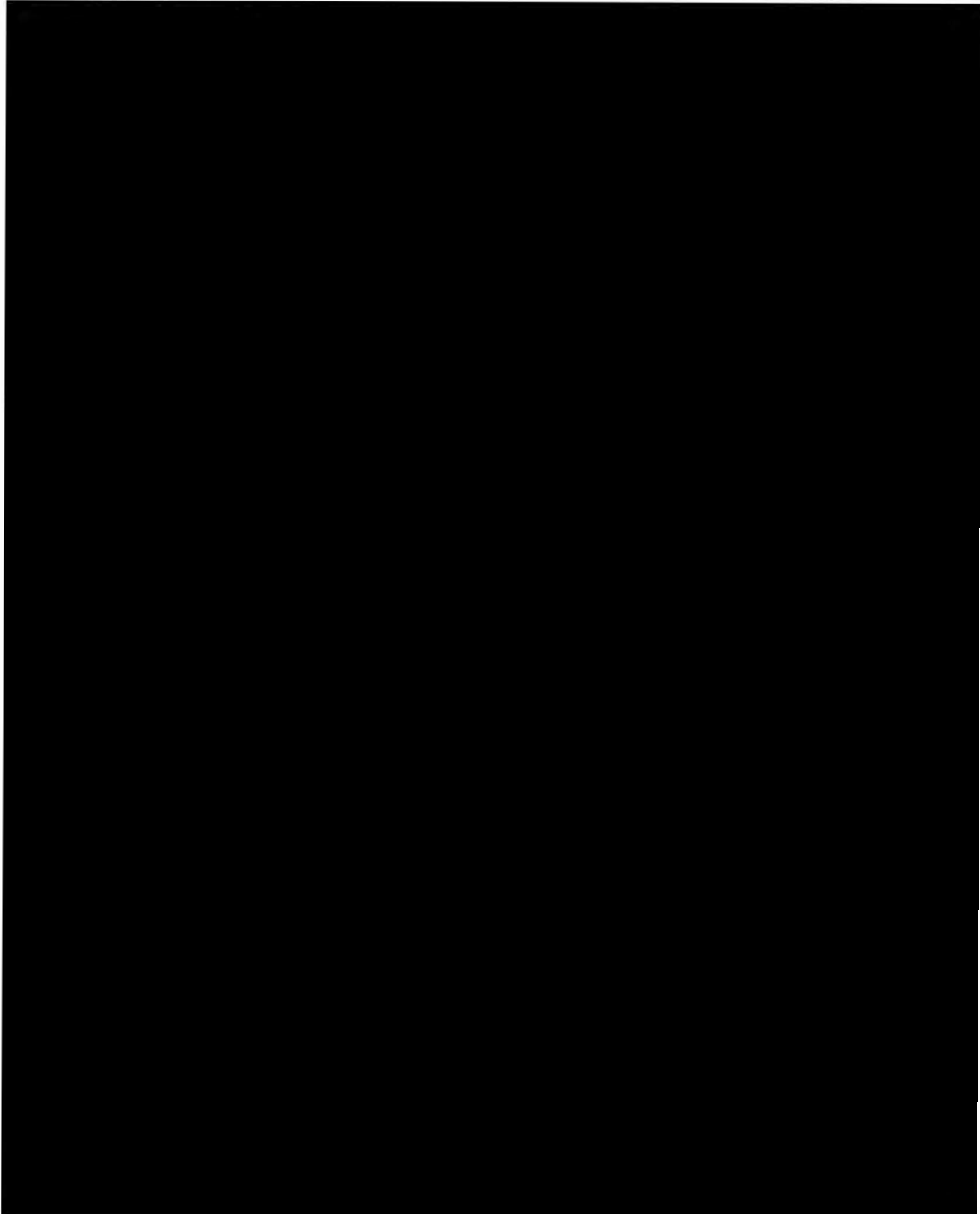
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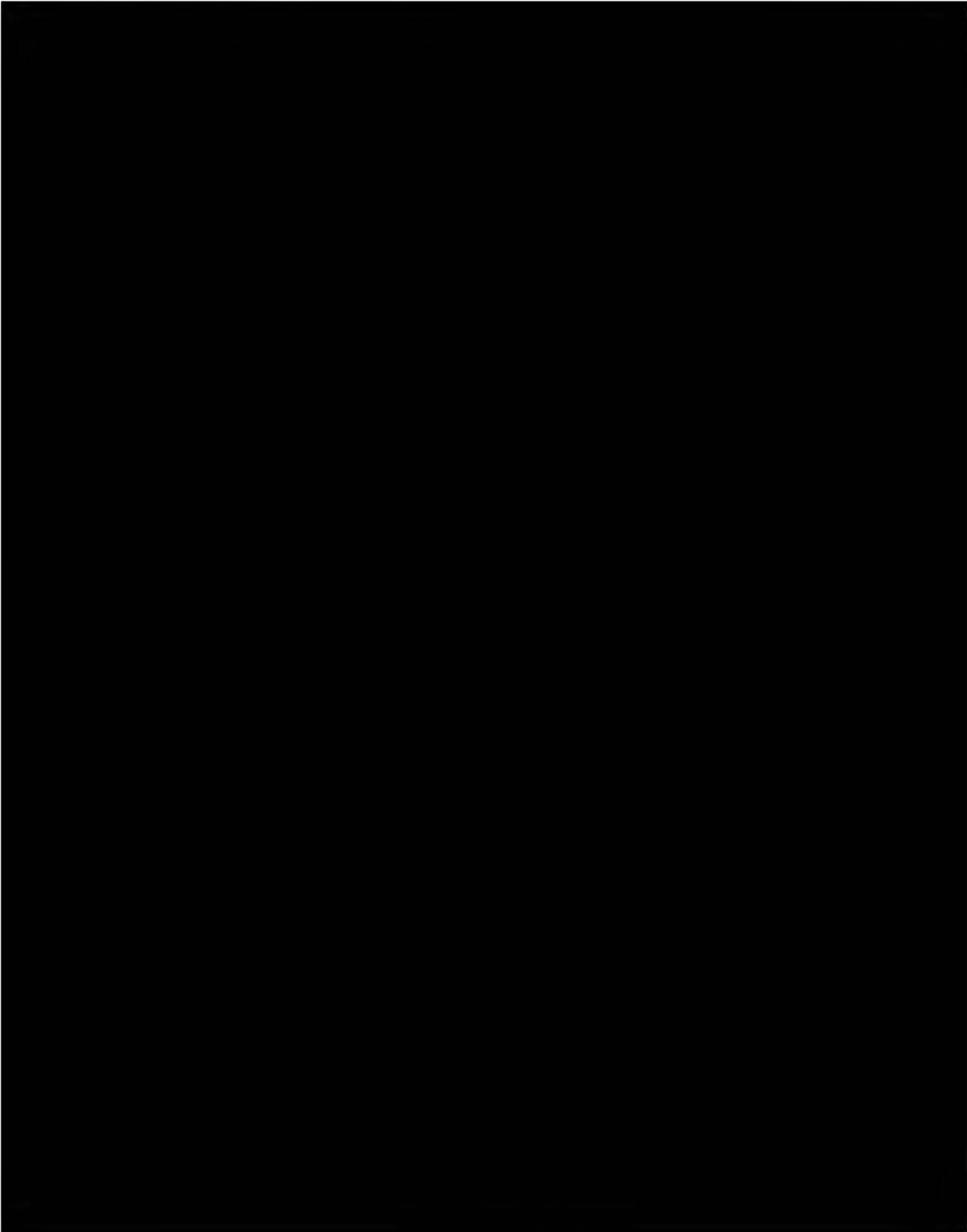
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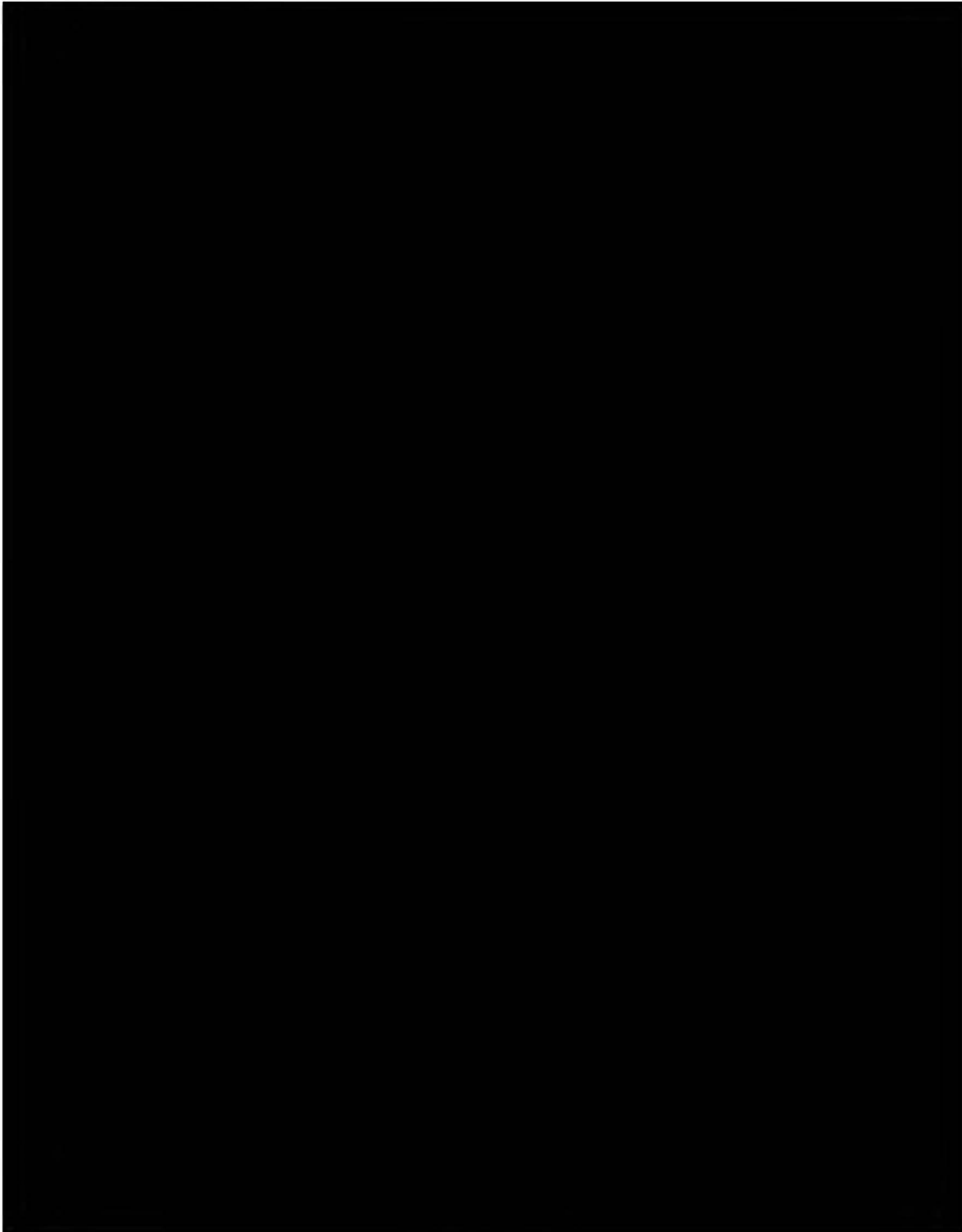
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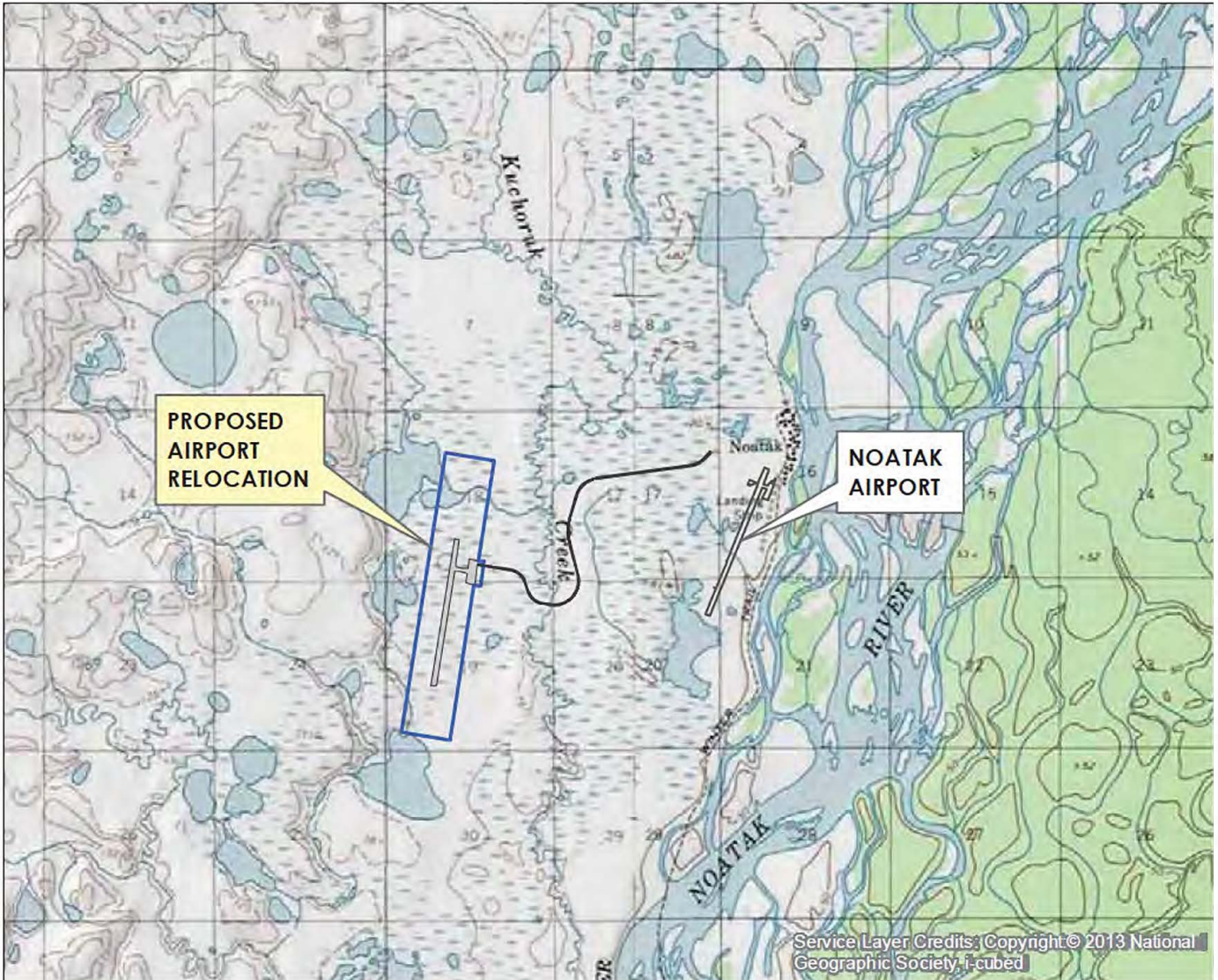
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State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

Enclosures:

- Figure 1: Location and Vicinity Map
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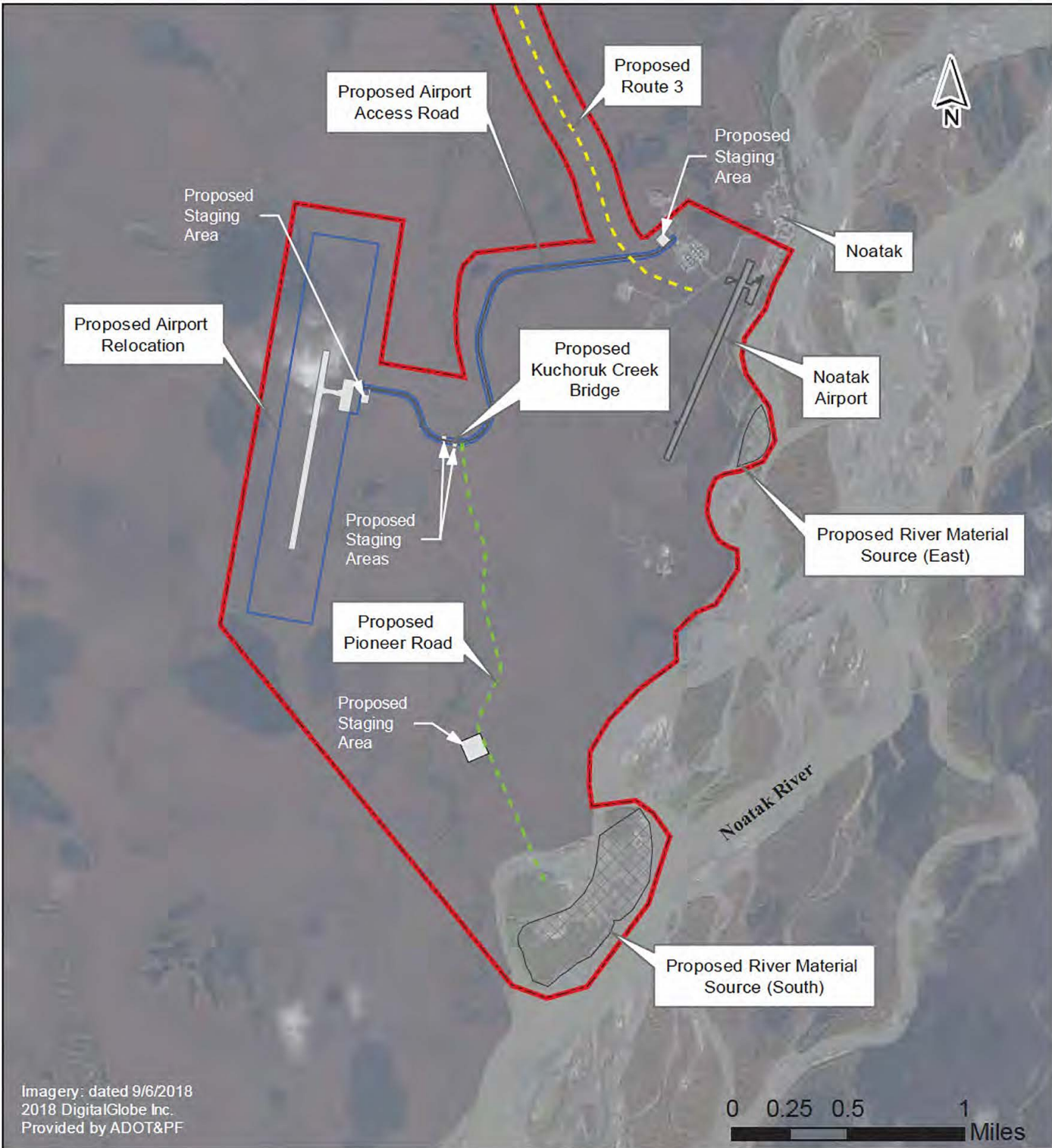
Project Origin: City of Noatak  
 Kotzebue Recording District,  
 T25, R19W, Sections 5,8,16-21, 29-32  
 T26, R19W, Sections 5-7, 18-20, 29, 32  
 T27, R19W, Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32  
 T28, R19W, Sections 5-7, 17-21, 28, 33  
 T29, R19W, Sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34  
 Kateel River Meridian

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	
NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION NOATAK, ALASKA <b>Location &amp; Vicinity Map</b>	
DATE: February, 2019	FIGURE 1



I:\2047059000\GIS\mxd\Section\_106\Fig-01\_Loc-Vic\_Map.mxd, revised: 2019-02-12 By: cpannone

I:\2047059000\GIS\mxd\Section 106\2047059000\_Sect106\_Fig.02\_APE.mxd Revised: 2019-02-12 By: cpannone



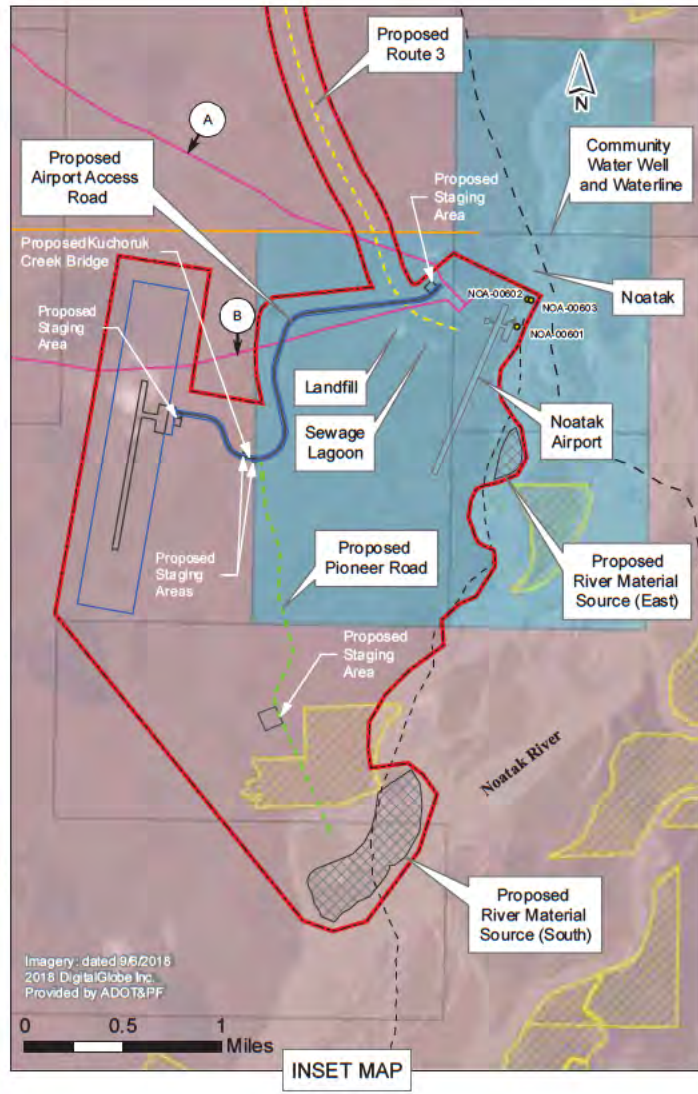
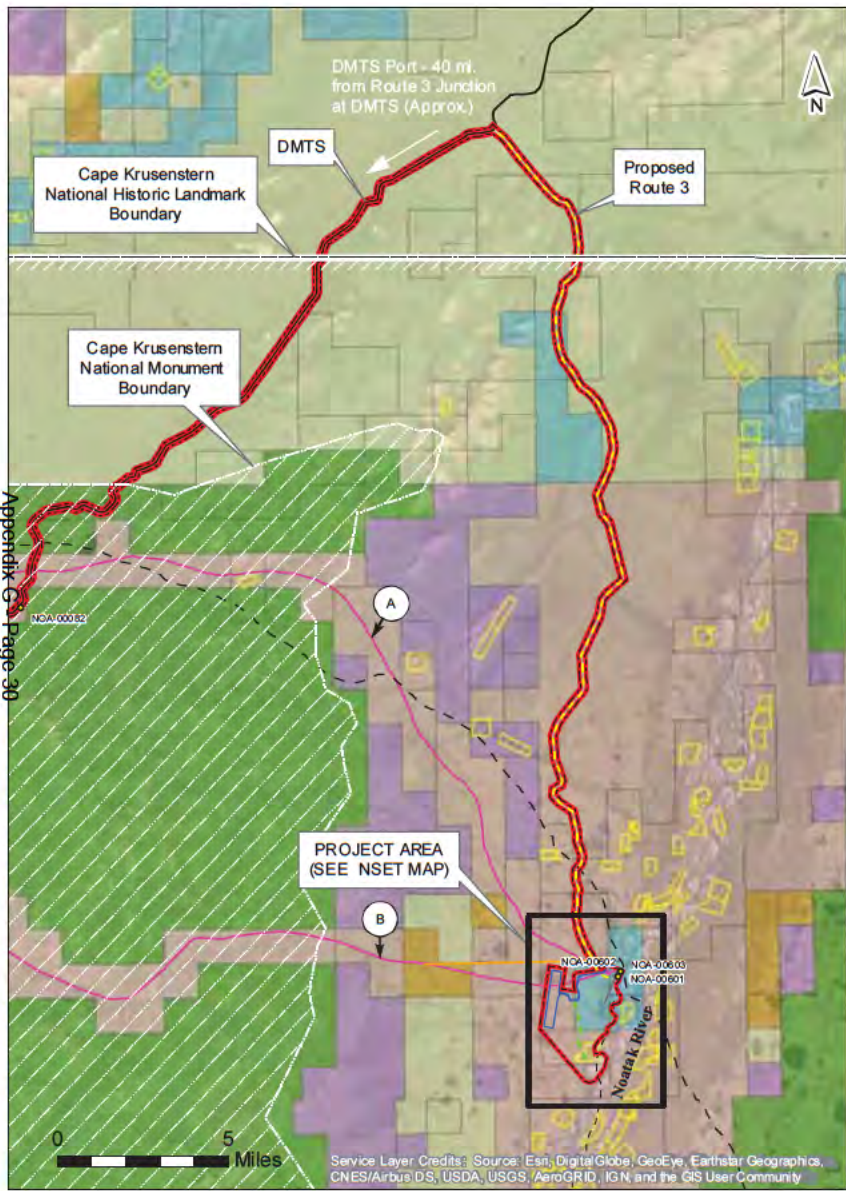
Imagery: dated 9/6/2018  
2018 DigitalGlobe Inc.  
Provided by ADOT&PF

**LEGEND**

-  Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE)
-  Proposed Airport Property
-  Proposed Runway & Apron
-  Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)
-  Proposed Pioneer Road

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	
NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION NOATAK, ALASKA <b>Preliminary APE</b>	
DATE: February, 2019	FIGURE 2

U:\2017\10330300\010\mwf\ecdn\_010\2017103300\_010\Fig\_03\_LandAPE.mxd Revised: 2019-02-12 By: casamere



**LEGEND**

- Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- Proposed Airport Property
- Proposed Runway & Apron
- Proposed Airport Access
- Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)
- Proposed Pioneer Road
- National Park Service Easements
- 17(b) Easement
- NAB Winter Trail
- Kotzebue - Noatak Trail (RS2477 Trail)
- Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Site

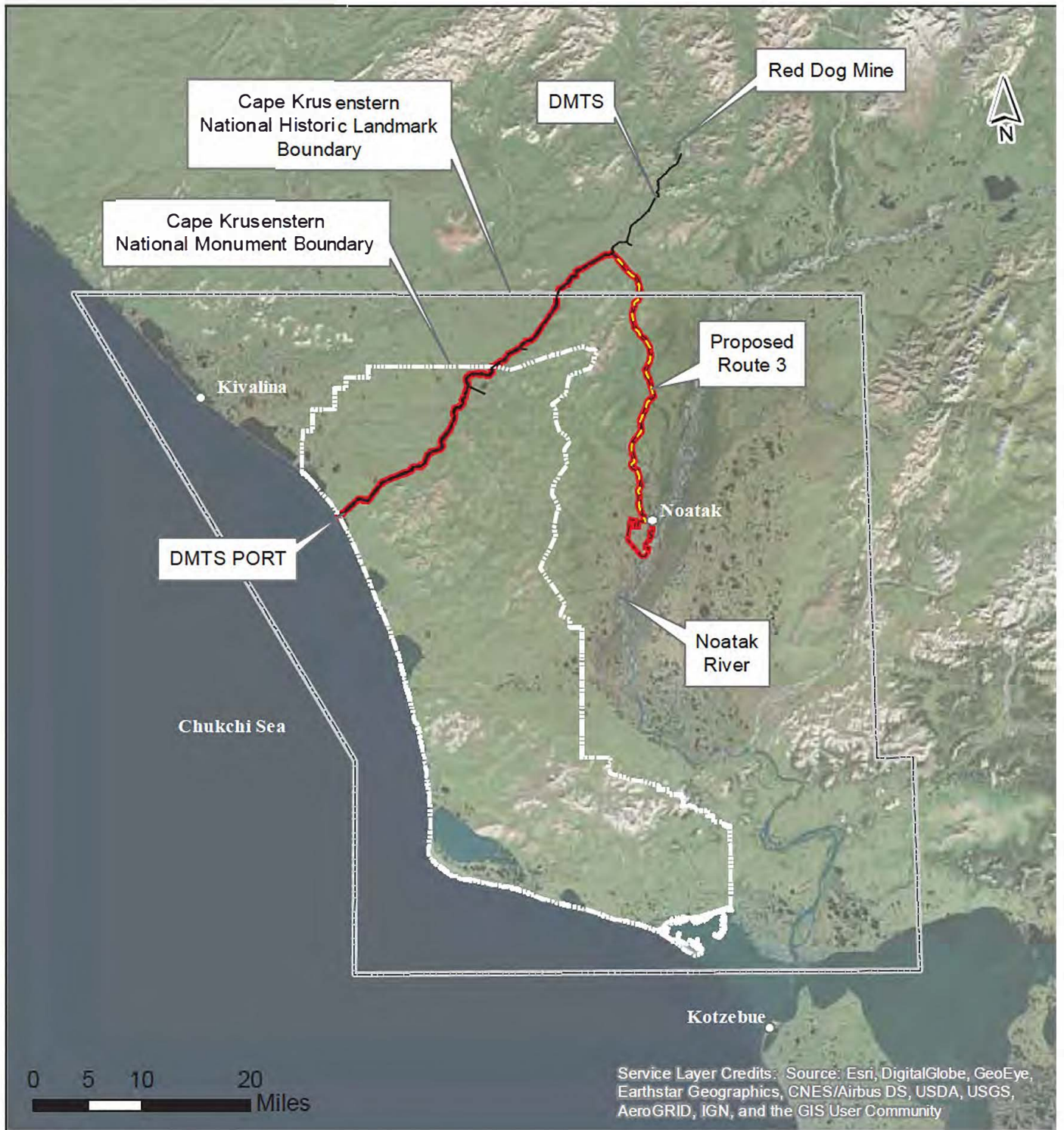
**LAND OWNERSHIP**

- BLM
- National Park Service
- Native Corporation
- Other Private or Municipal
- State
- State and Native
- Native Allotment




**Notes and Citations:**

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane Alaska 7 FIPS 5007 Feet
2. Imagery Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN and the GIS User Community, Orthoimagery Noatak 2016 SID.
3. Land Status Data Source: Originator: Alaska Department of Natural Resources Information Resource Management. Title: General Land Status - October 2017 - Allotment - Clipped to 143360 Coordinate (EPSG 3336 NAD83 Alaska Albers).

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	
NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION NOATAK, ALASKA <b>Land Ownership and Preliminary APE</b>	
DATE: February, 2019	FIGURE 3



**LEGEND**

-  Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE)
-  DeLong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS)
-  Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	
NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION NOATAK, ALASKA <b>Cape Krusenstern          National Historic Landmark</b>	
DATE: February, 2019	FIGURE 4



## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Northern Region  
Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5316  
Main: 907-451-2273  
Toll free: 800-451-2363  
Dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
State/Federal Project Number(s):Z614780000/Pending  
Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Honorable Austin Swan Sr., Mayor  
City of Kivalina  
PO Box 50079  
Kivalina, AK 99750

Dear Mayor Swan,

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaskan Region, Airports Division of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), proposes to relocate the Noatak Airport approximately 2 miles west of Noatak, AK (Noatak Airport Relocation). The existing airport and community are located 48 miles northwest of Kotzebue, and 71 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The proposed project is located at 67°33'39" North Latitude and 162°58'48" West Longitude; Sections 5, 8,16-21, 29-32, Township (T) 25, Range (R) 19W; Sections 5-7, 18-20, 29, 32, T26, R19W; Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32, T27, R19W; Sections 5-7, 17-21, 28, 33, T28, R19W; Sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34, T29, R19W; Kateel River Meridian; United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Noatak C-2 (Figure 1).

Previous consultations regarding the proposed project occurred between 2006-2008. The SHPO concurred on January 31, 2006 with a determination of "no historic properties affected" for the geotechnical sampling program to support this project (SHPO File No. 3130-IRFAA). The DOT&PF distributed project scoping letters to the Native Village of Noatak, Maniilaq Association, NANA Regional Corporation, and Northwest Arctic Borough, and a Government-to-Government Consultation Initiation letter to Mr. James Adams, President of the Native Village of Noatak, in March 2006. No comments or concerns regarding historic or cultural resources were raised by these entities. Following completion of the 2006 field investigations,

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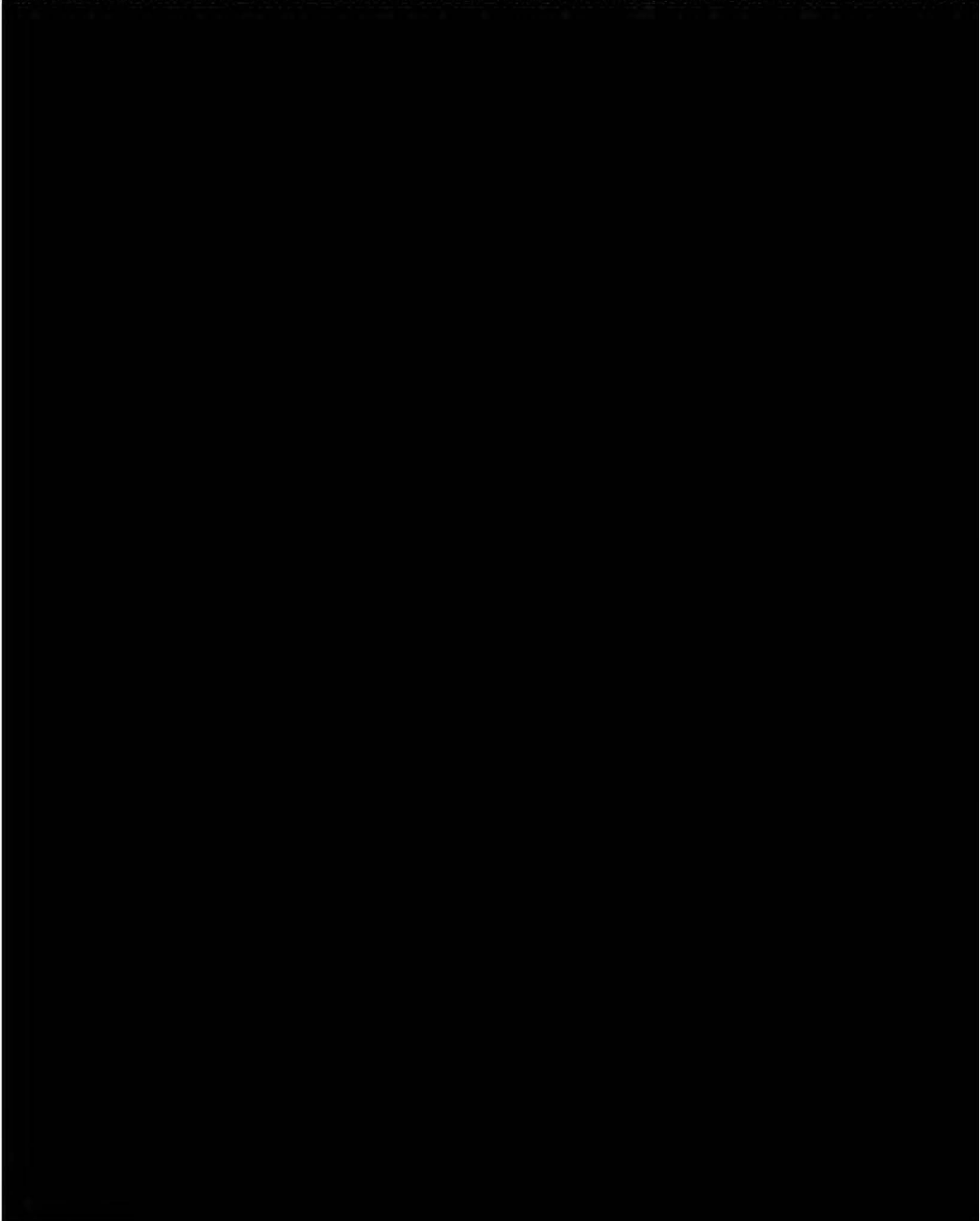
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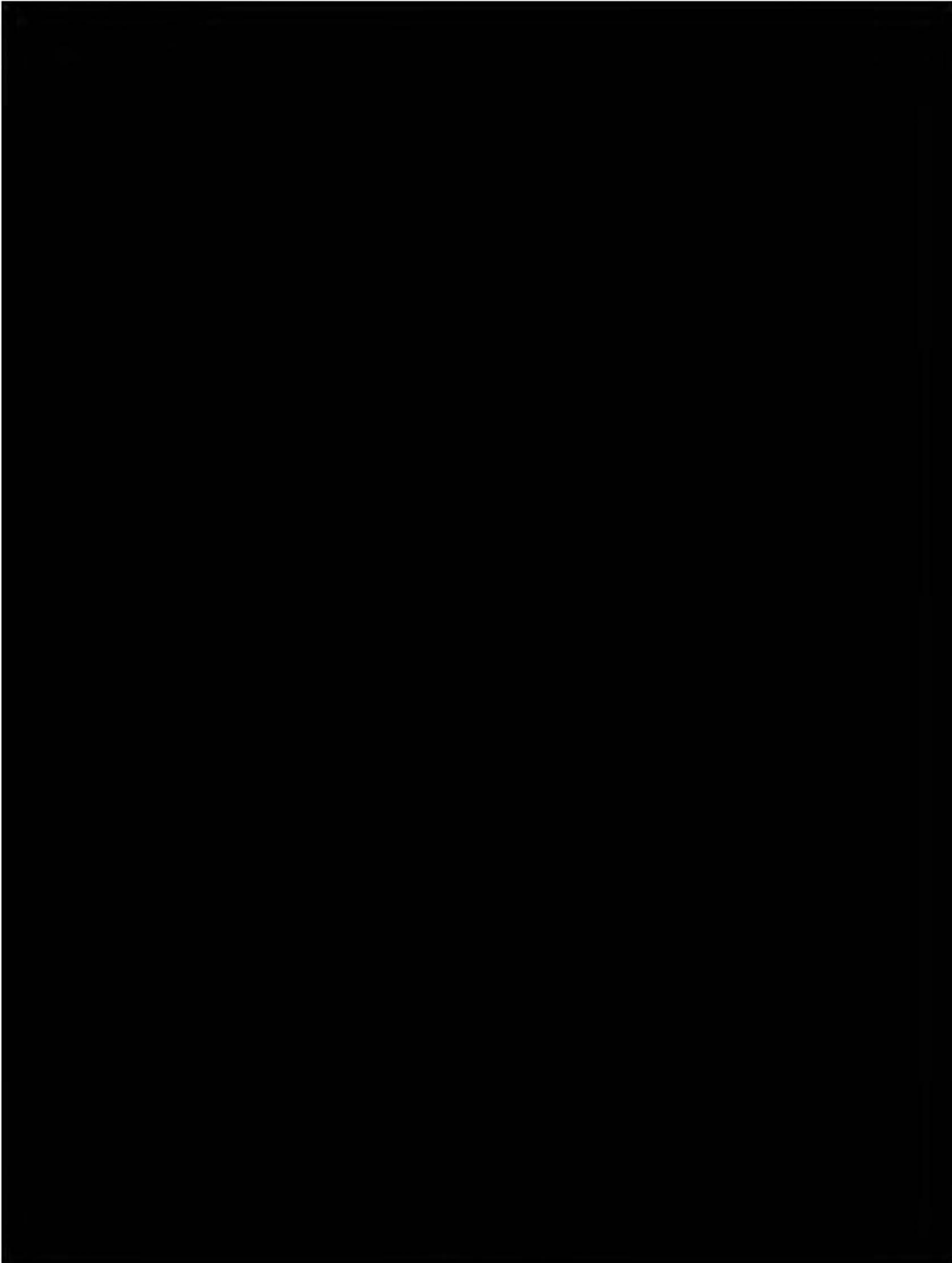
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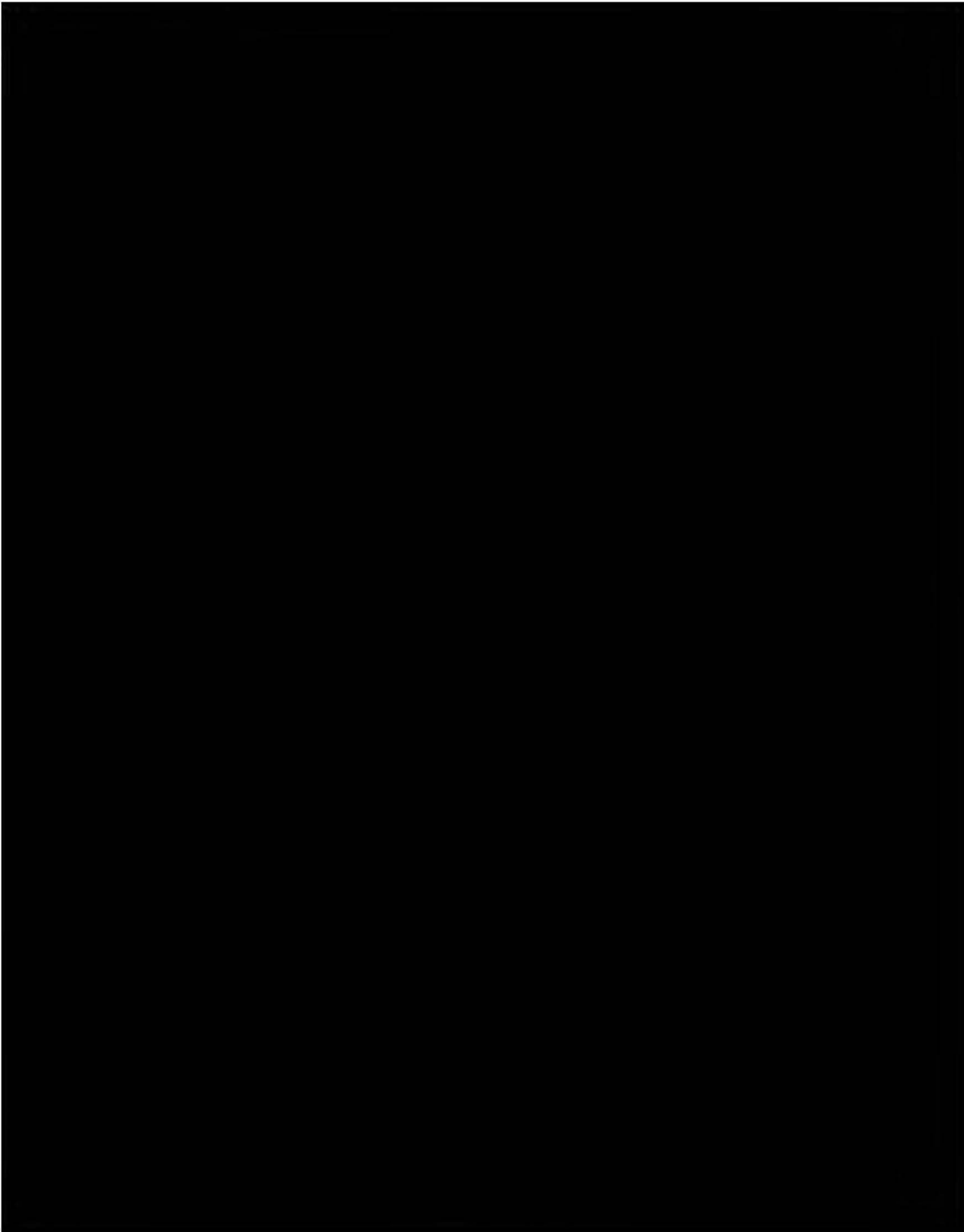
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## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Northern Region  
Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5316  
Main: 907-451-2273  
Toll free: 800-451-2363  
Dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
State/Federal Project Number(s):Z614780000/Pending  
Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Bert Frost, Regional Director  
Alaska Regional Office  
National Park Service  
240 West 5th Avenue, Suite 114  
Anchorage, AK 99501

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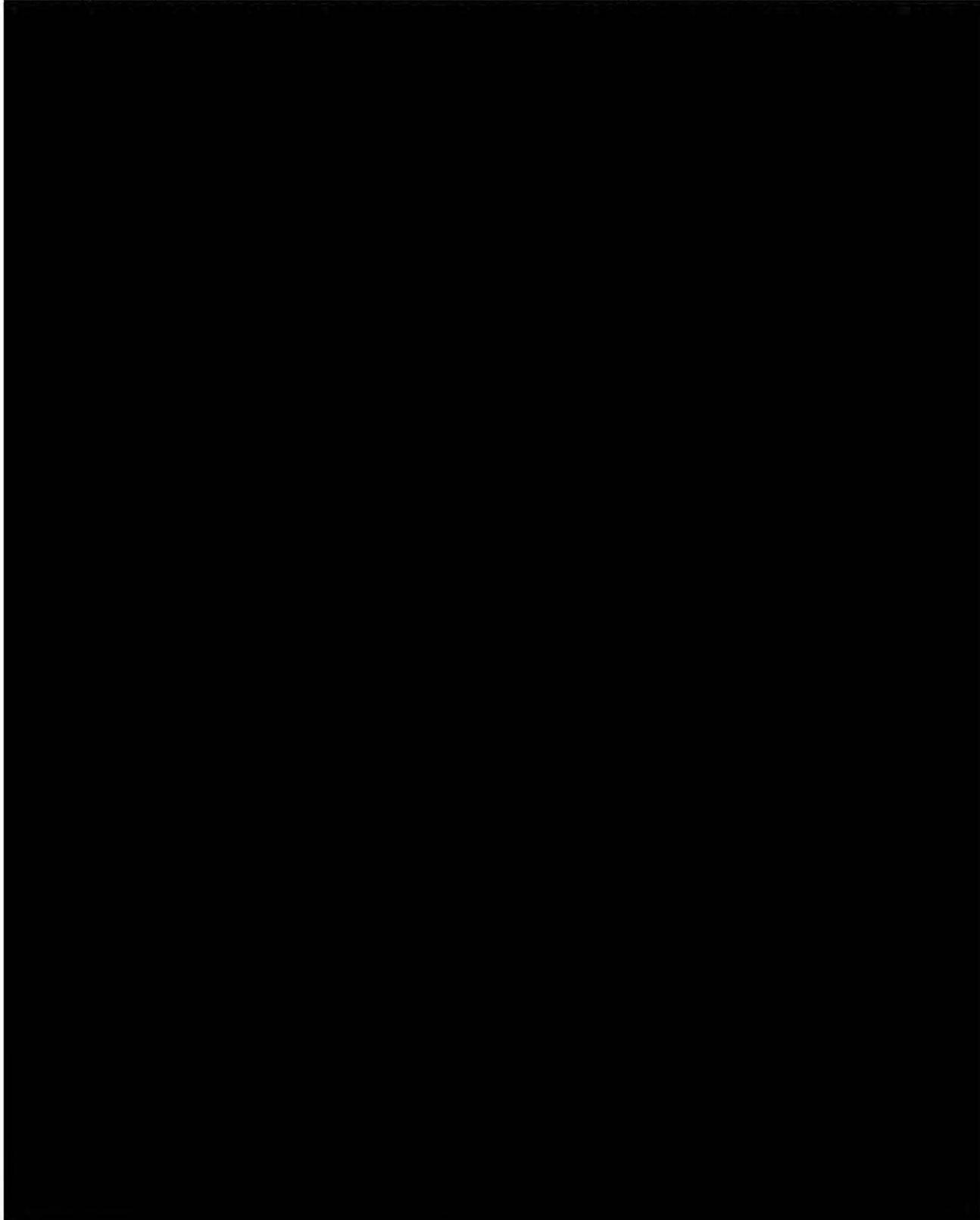
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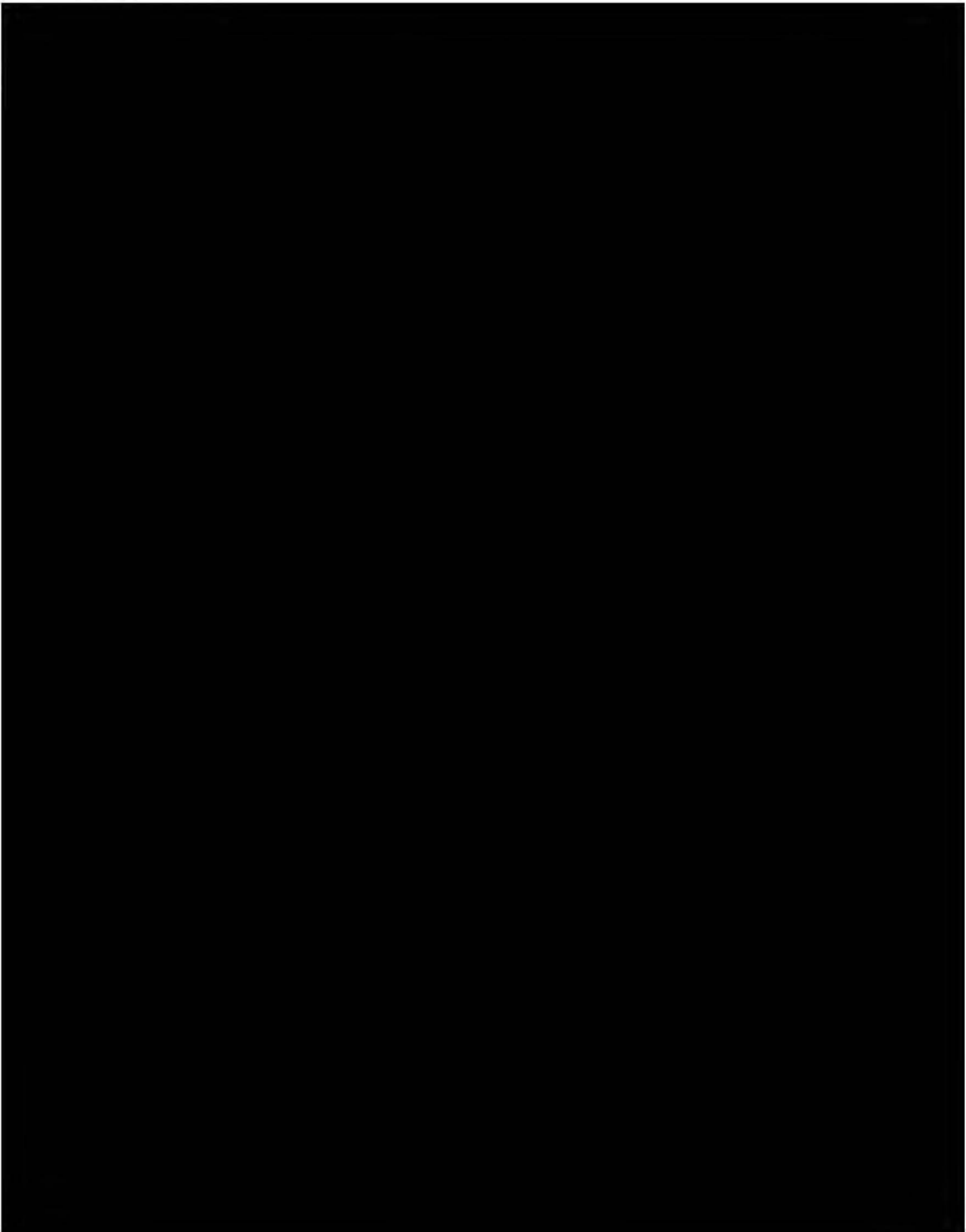
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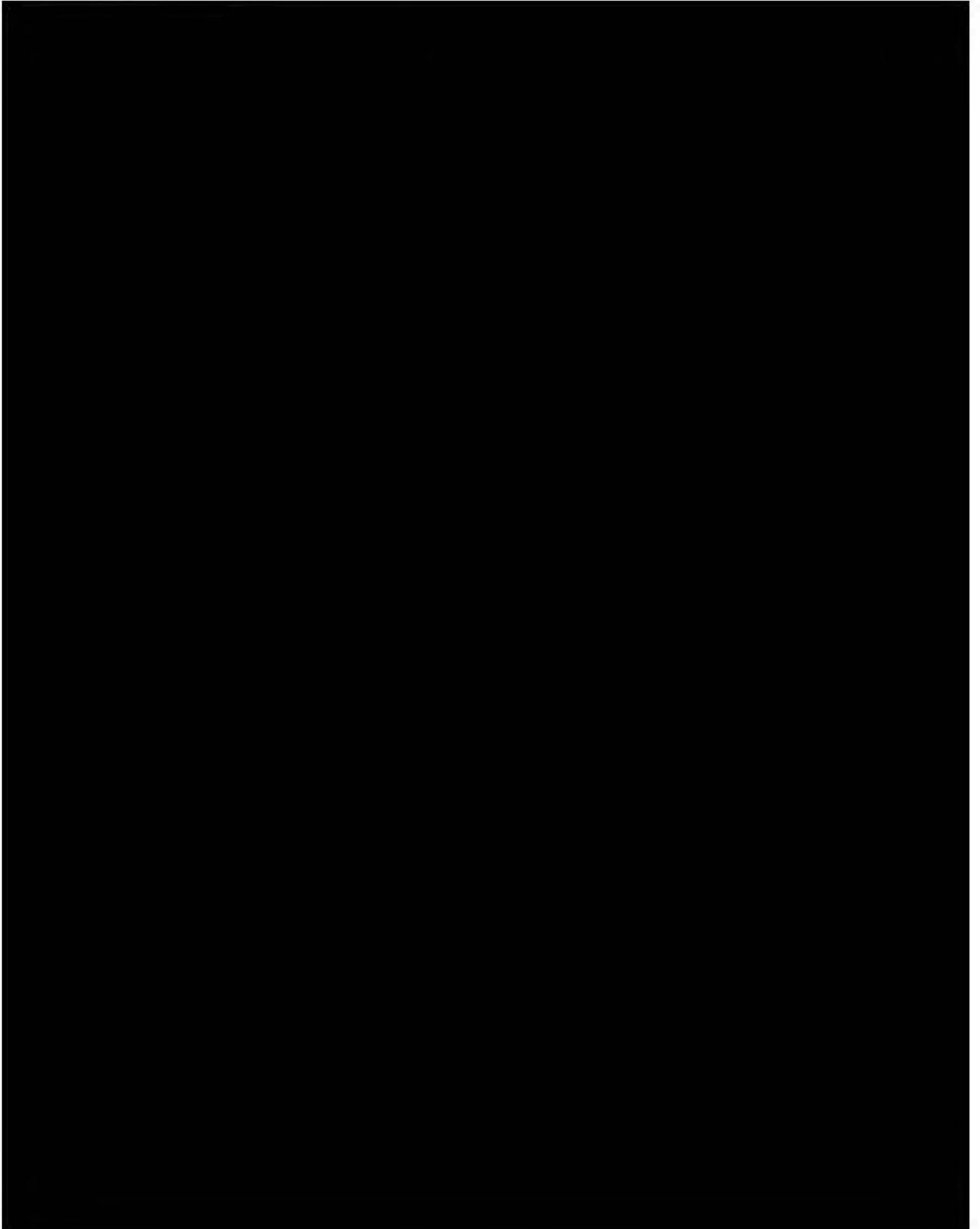
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Cultural Resource Specialist-Archaeologist (PQI)  
State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

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## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Northern Region  
Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5316  
Main: 907-451-2273  
Toll free: 800-451-2363  
Dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
State/Federal Project Number(s):Z614780000/Pending  
Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Rhea Hood, Archeologist  
Alaska Regional Office  
National Park Service  
240 West 5th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Hood,

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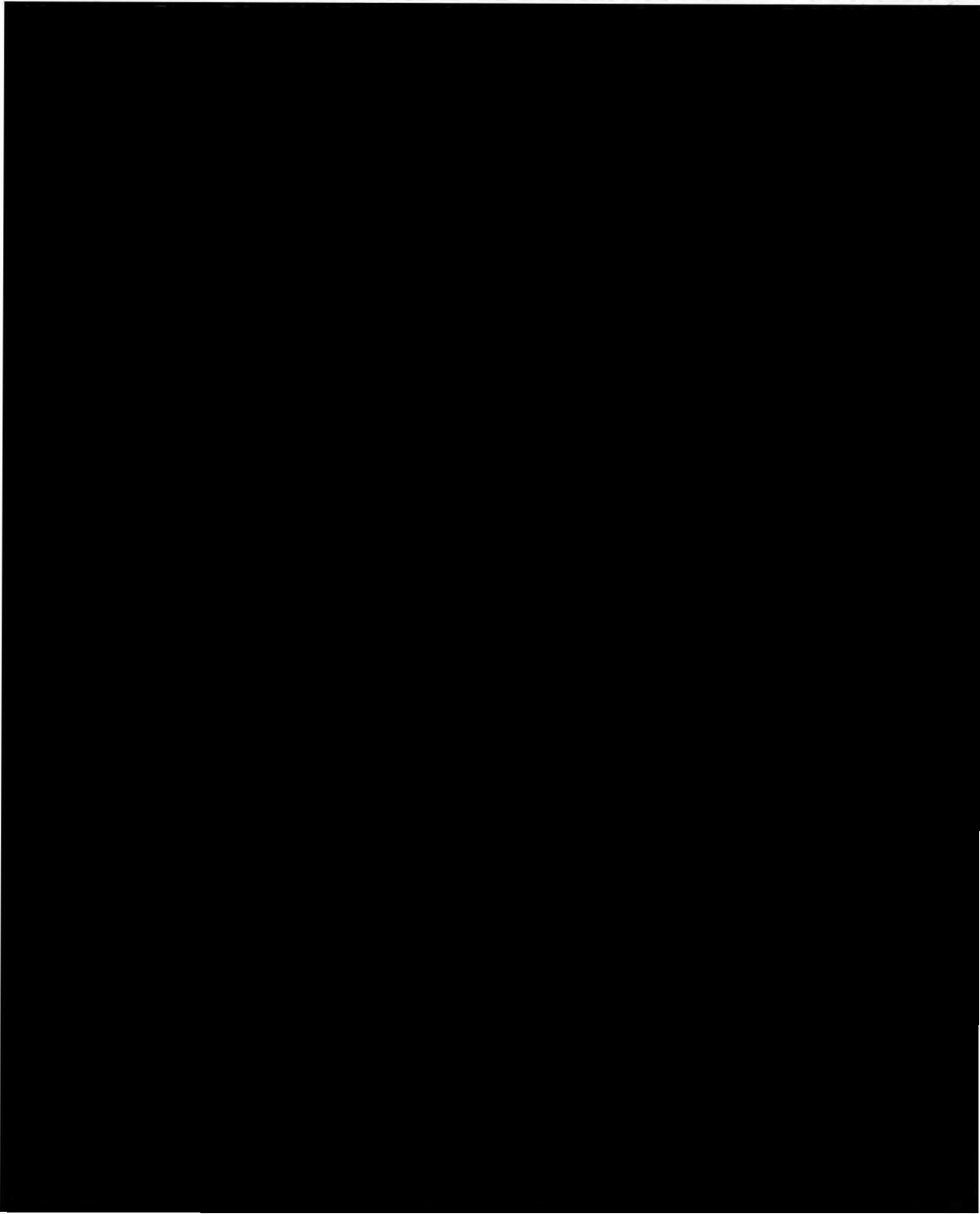
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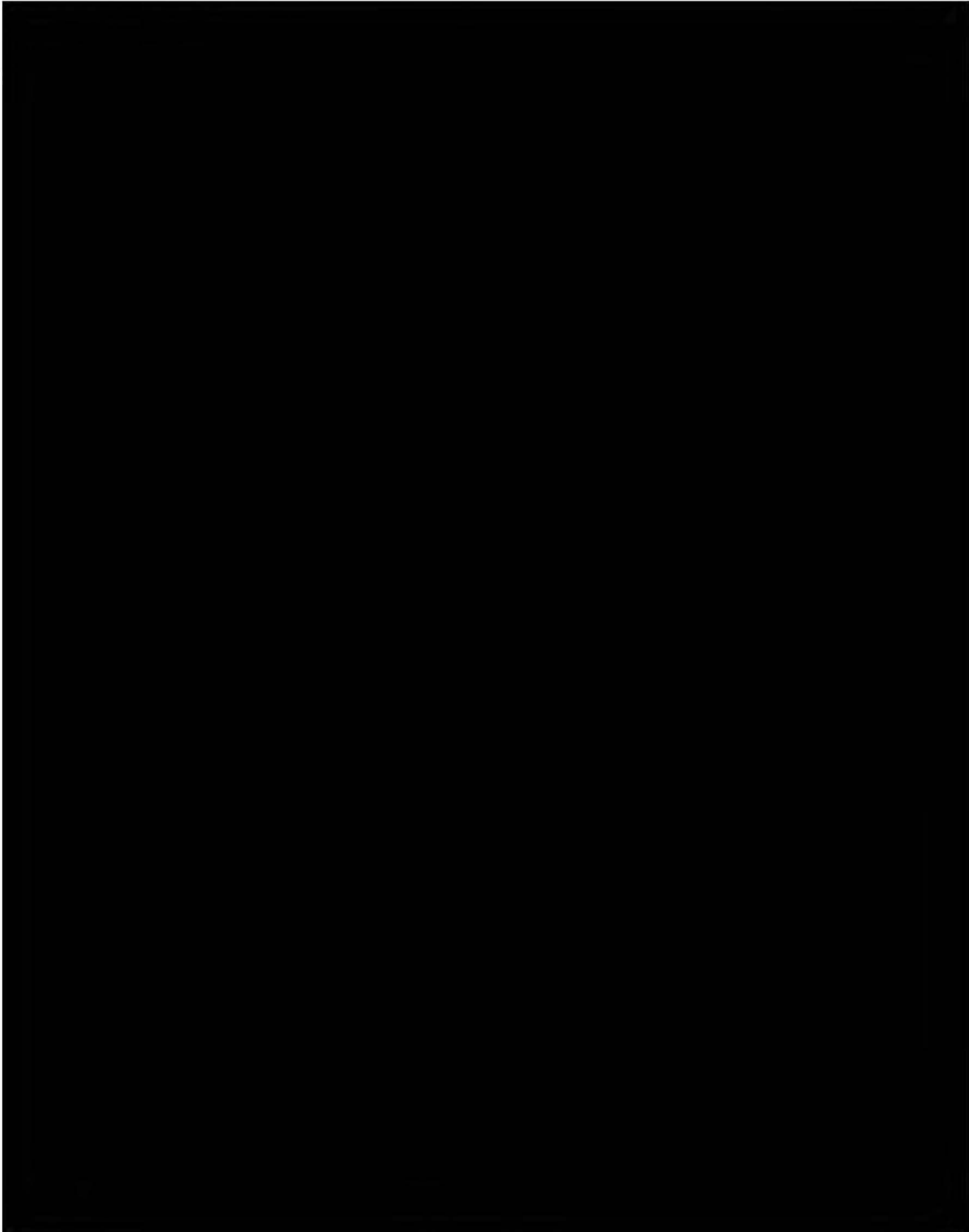
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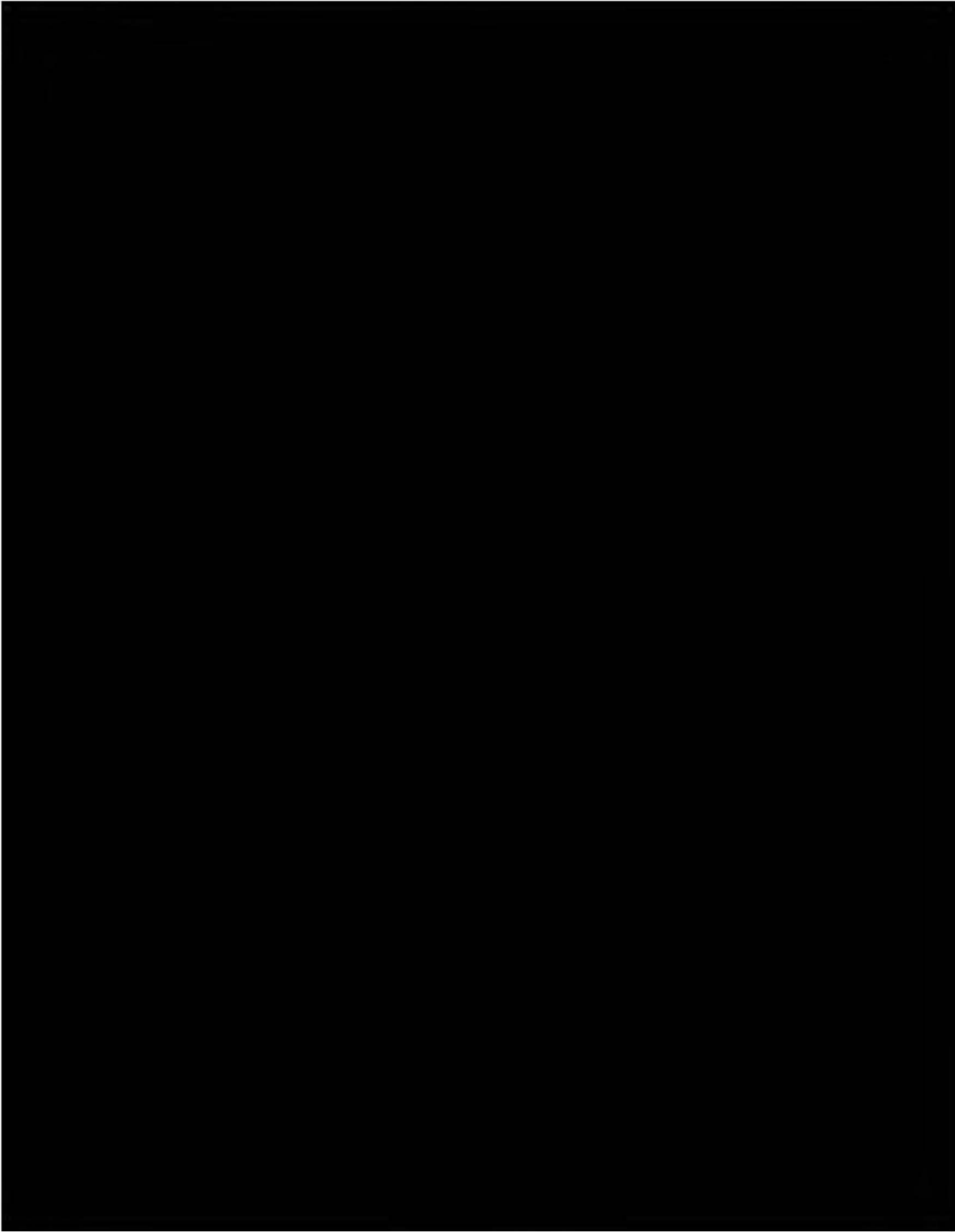
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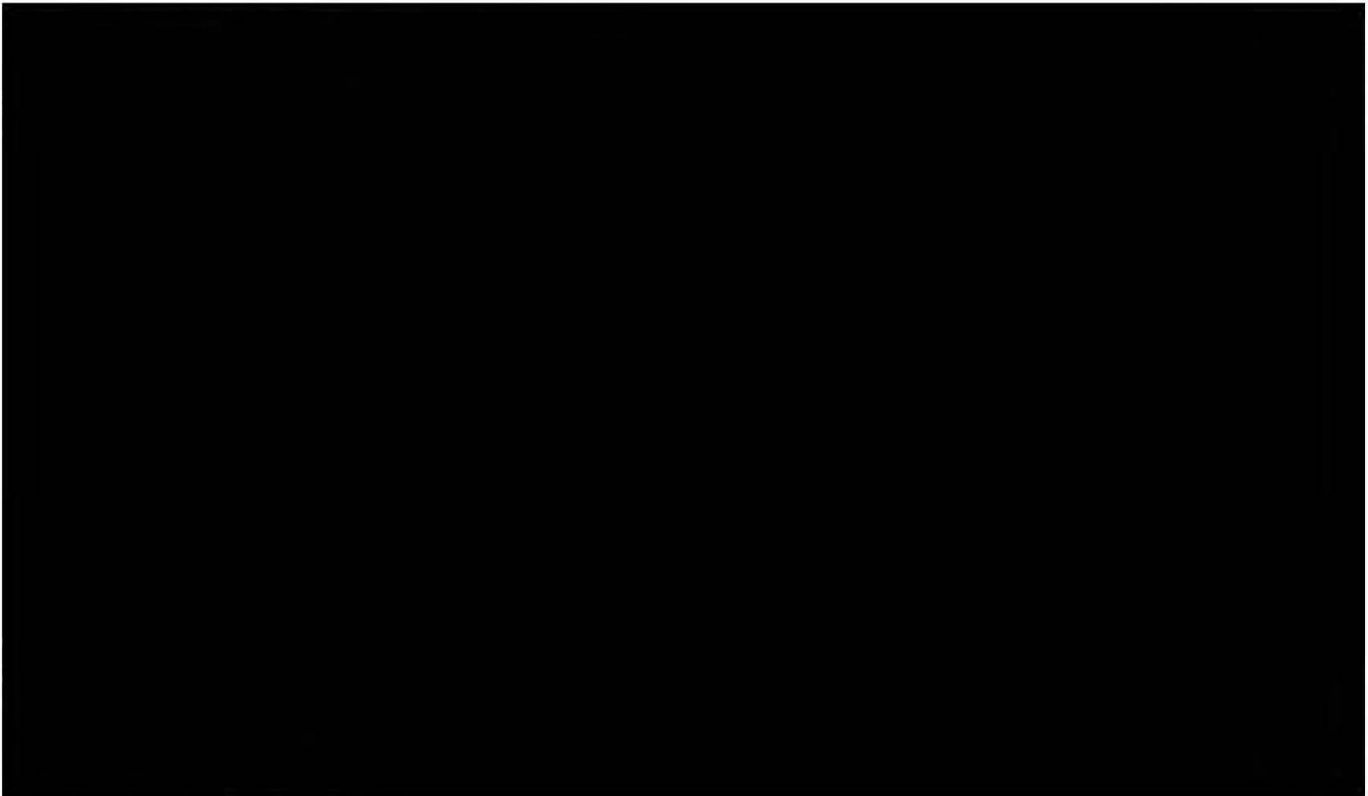
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In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
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Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Maija Lukin, Superintendent  
NPS-Western Arctic National Parklands  
PO Box 1029  
Kotzebue, AK 99752

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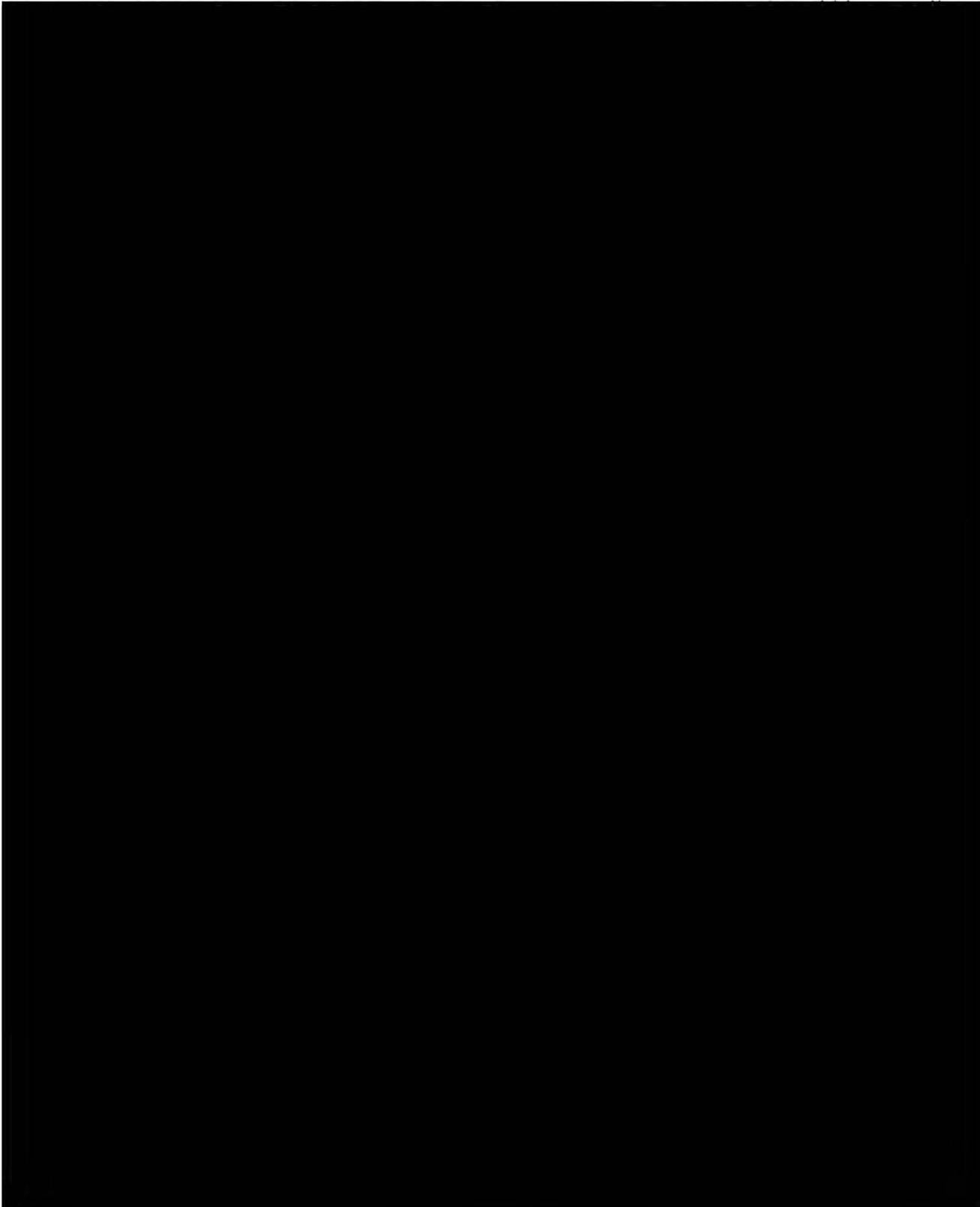
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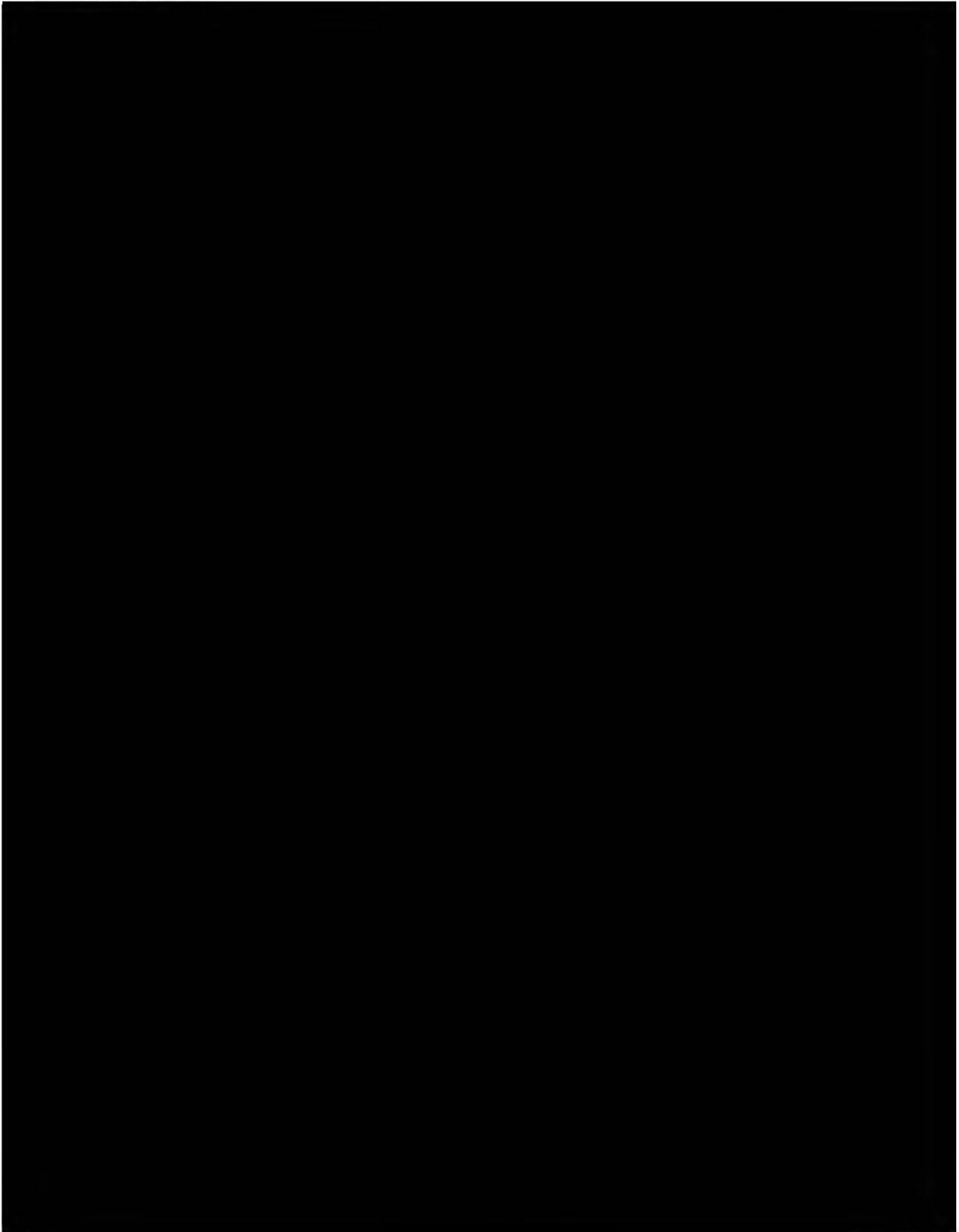
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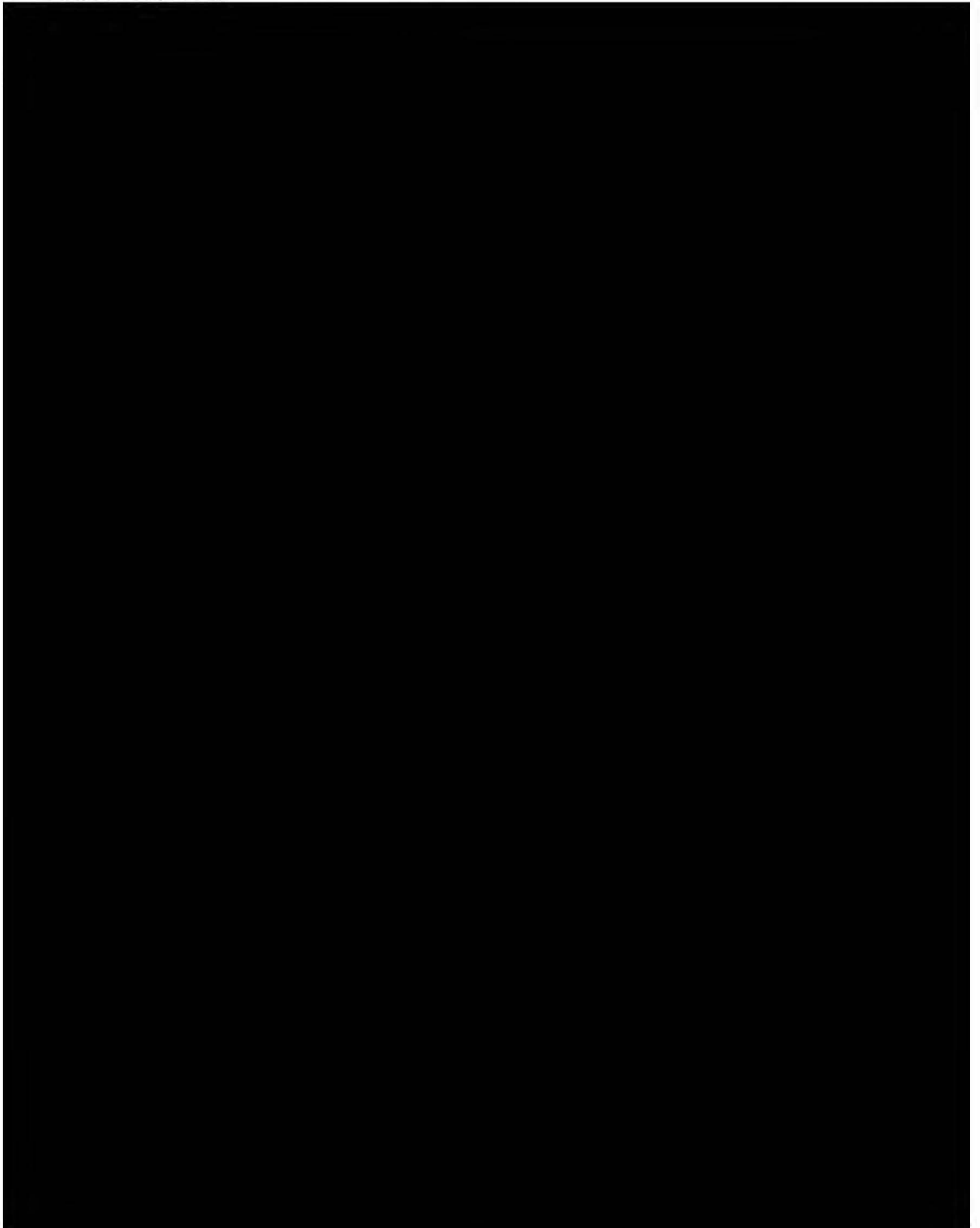
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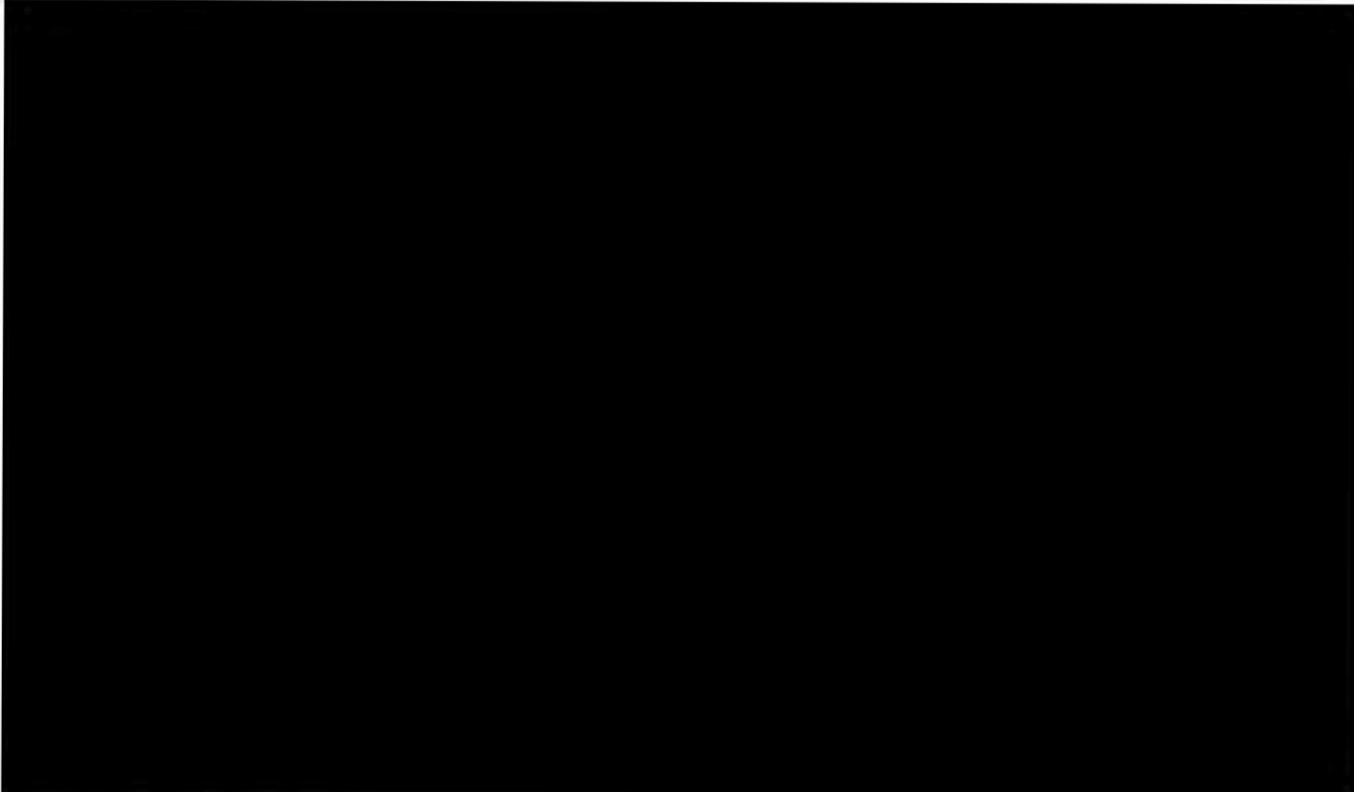
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In Reply Refer To:  
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February 21, 2019

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Northwest Arctic Borough  
P.O. Box 1110  
Kotzebue, AK 99752

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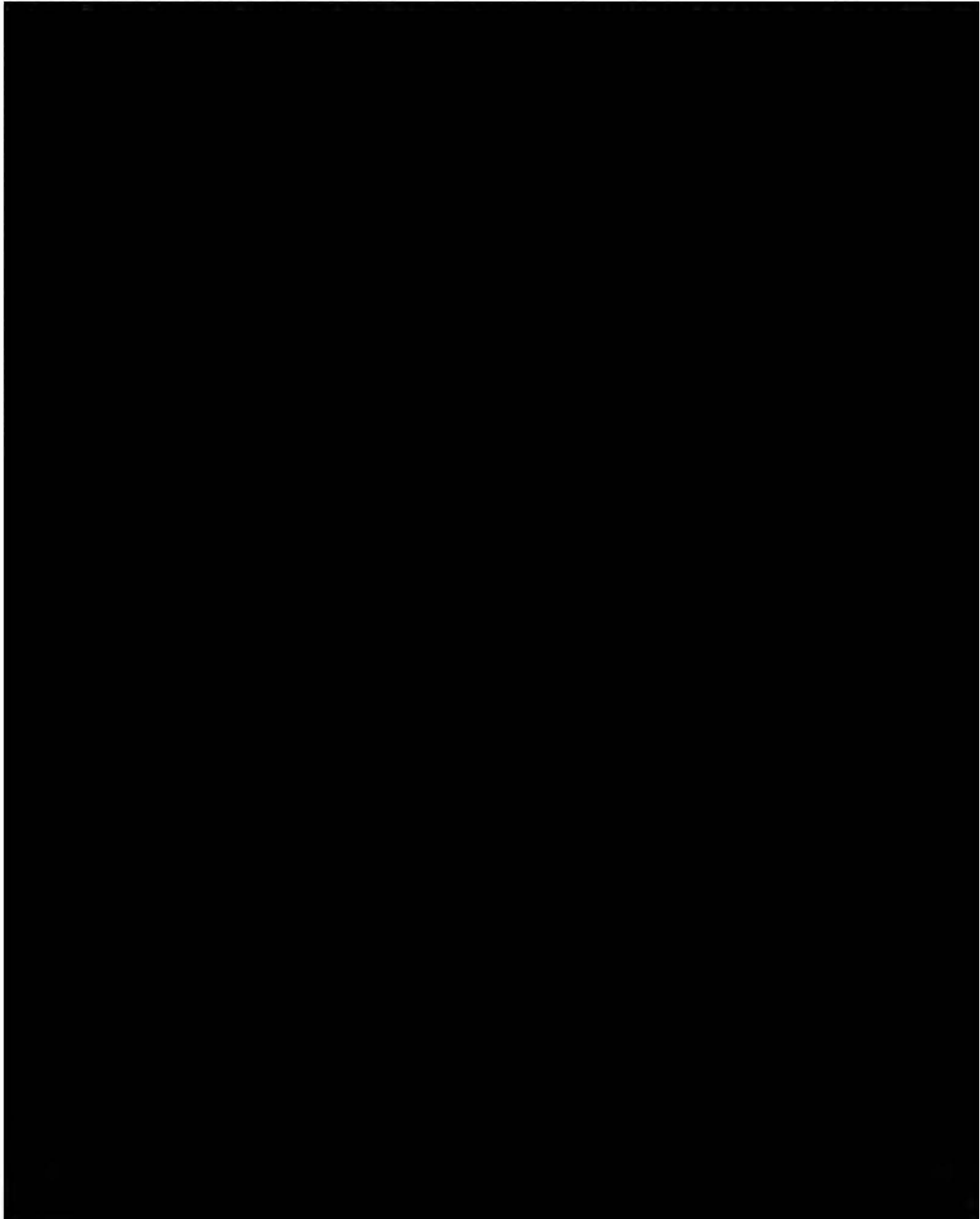
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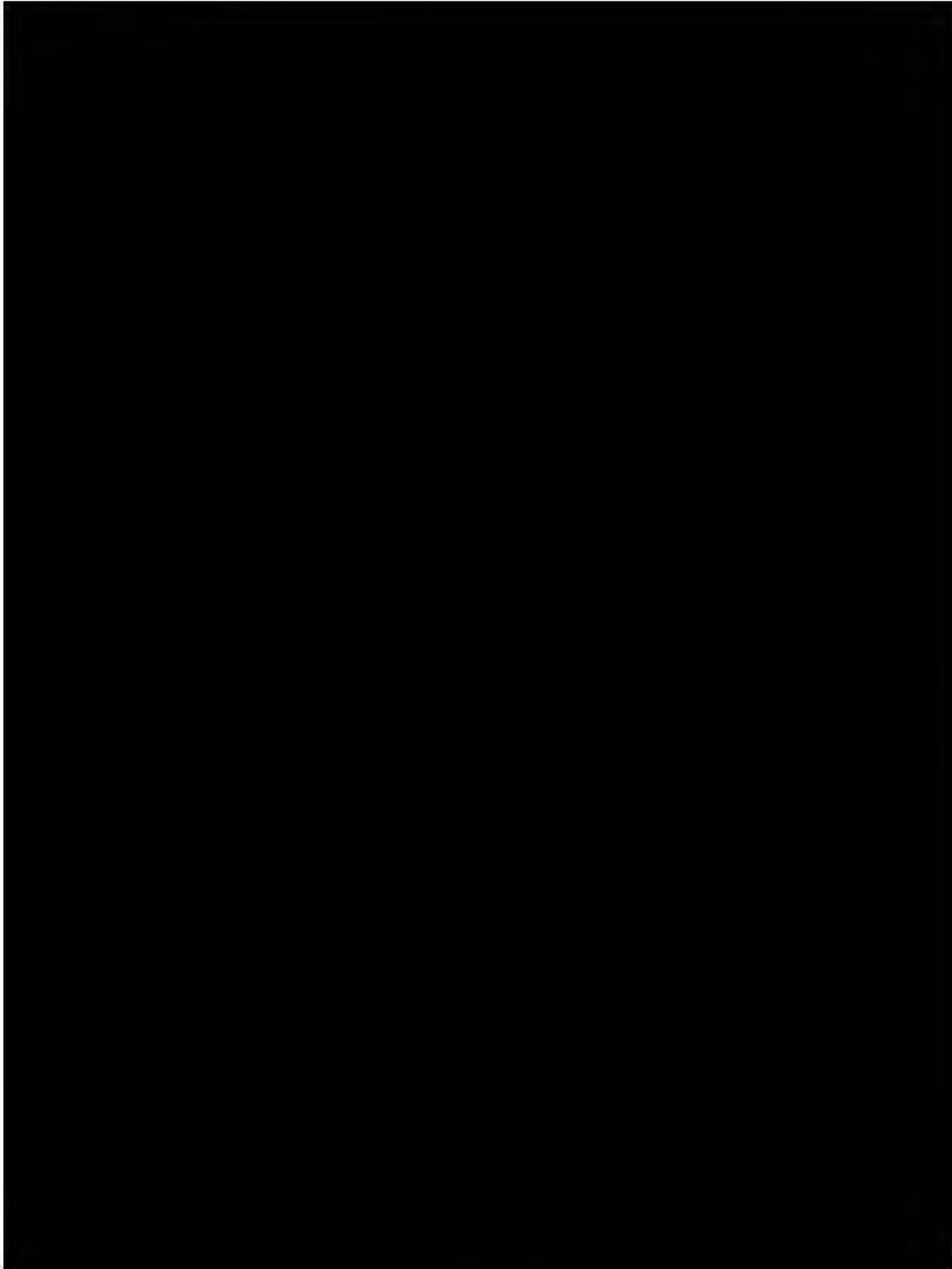
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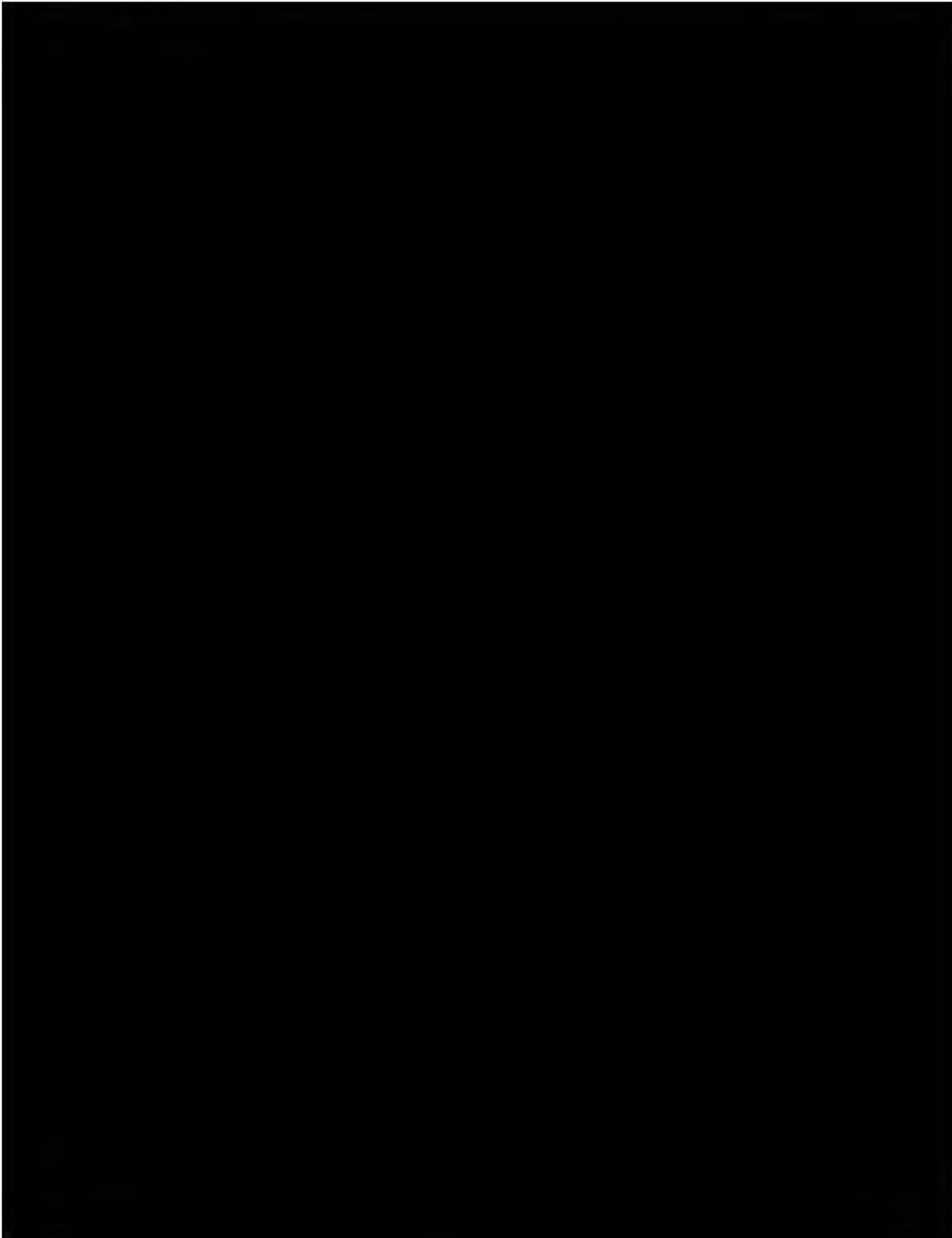
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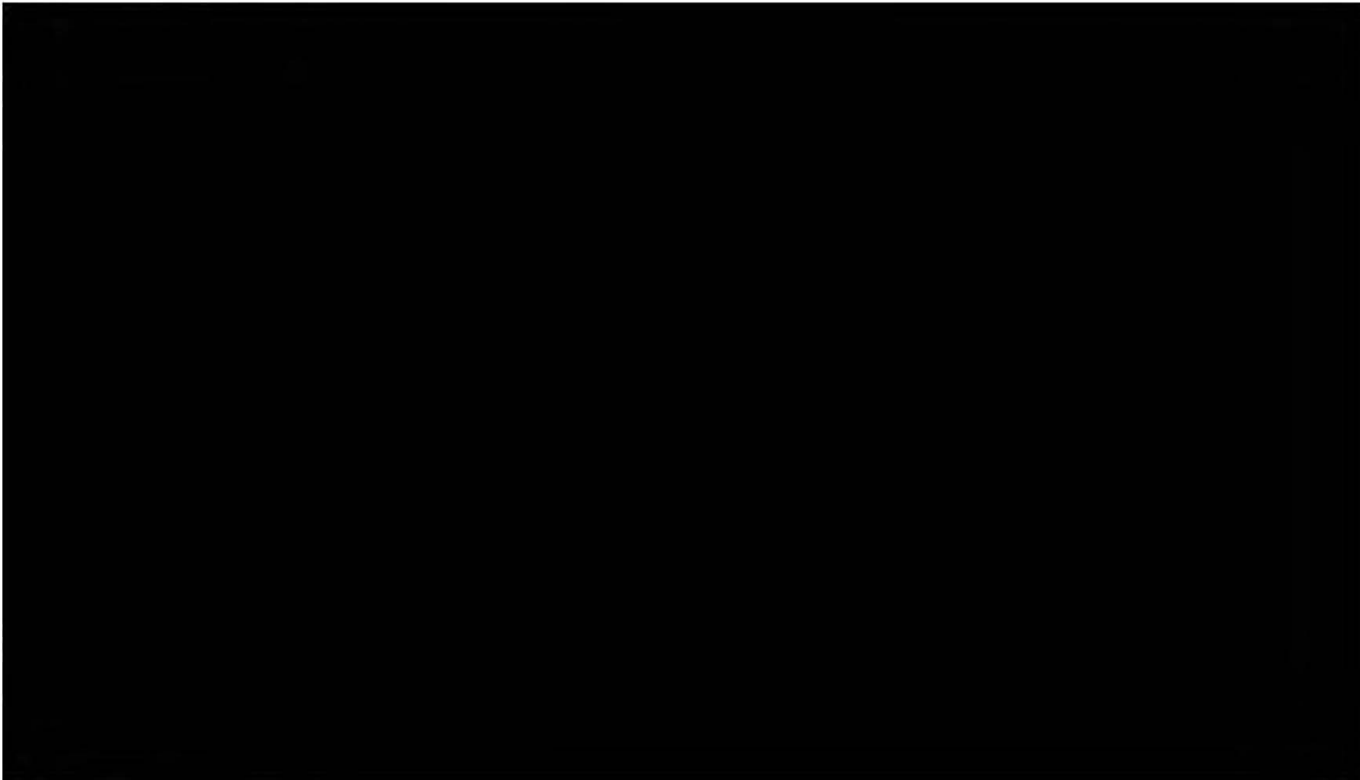
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State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

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## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



THE STATE  
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GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

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Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5316  
Main: 907-451-2273  
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In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
State/Federal Project Number(s):Z614780000/Pending  
Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Tim Gilbert, President/CEO  
Maniilaq Association  
P.O. Box 256, #733 2nd Avenue  
Kotzebue, AK 99752

Dear Mr. Gilbert,

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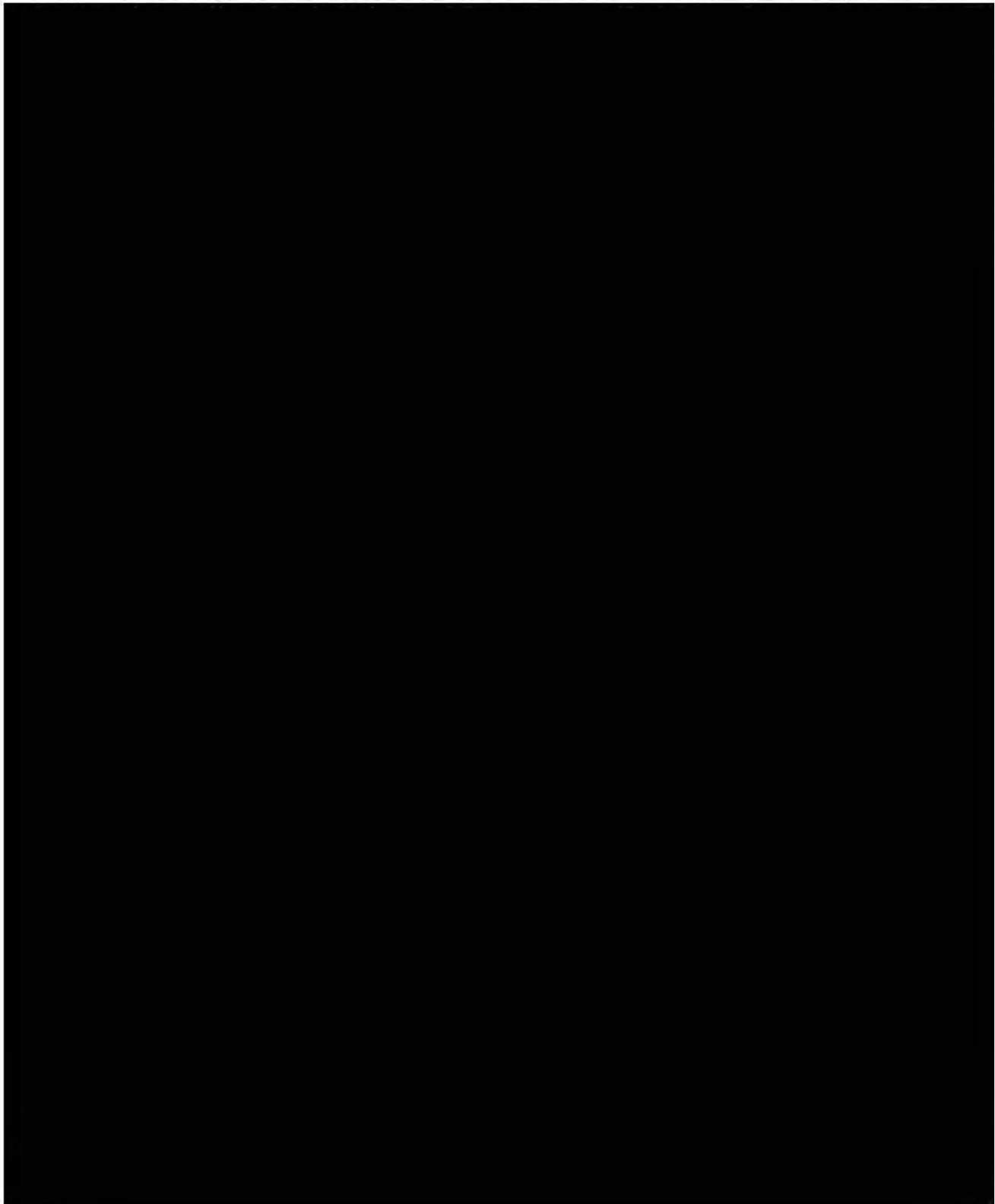
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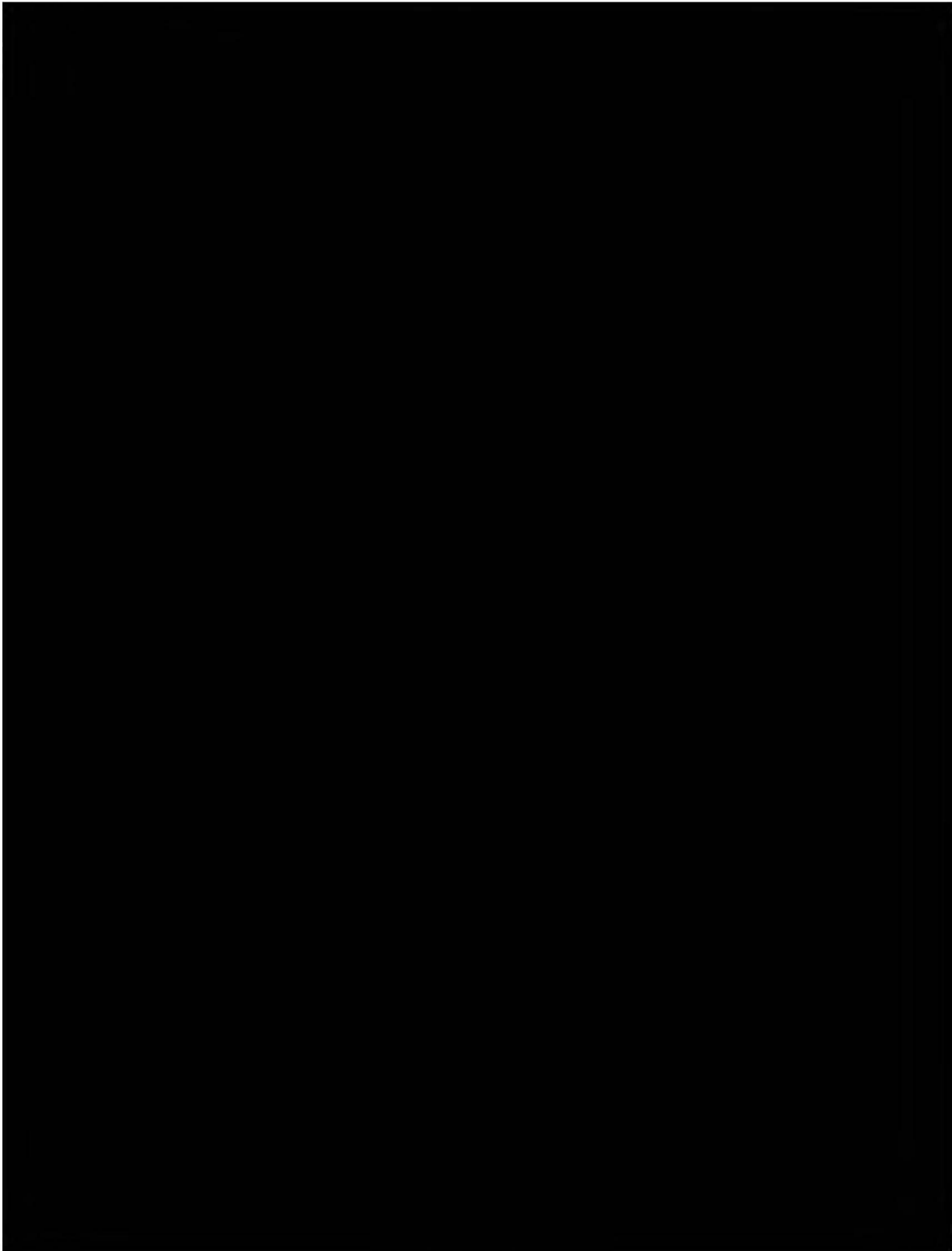
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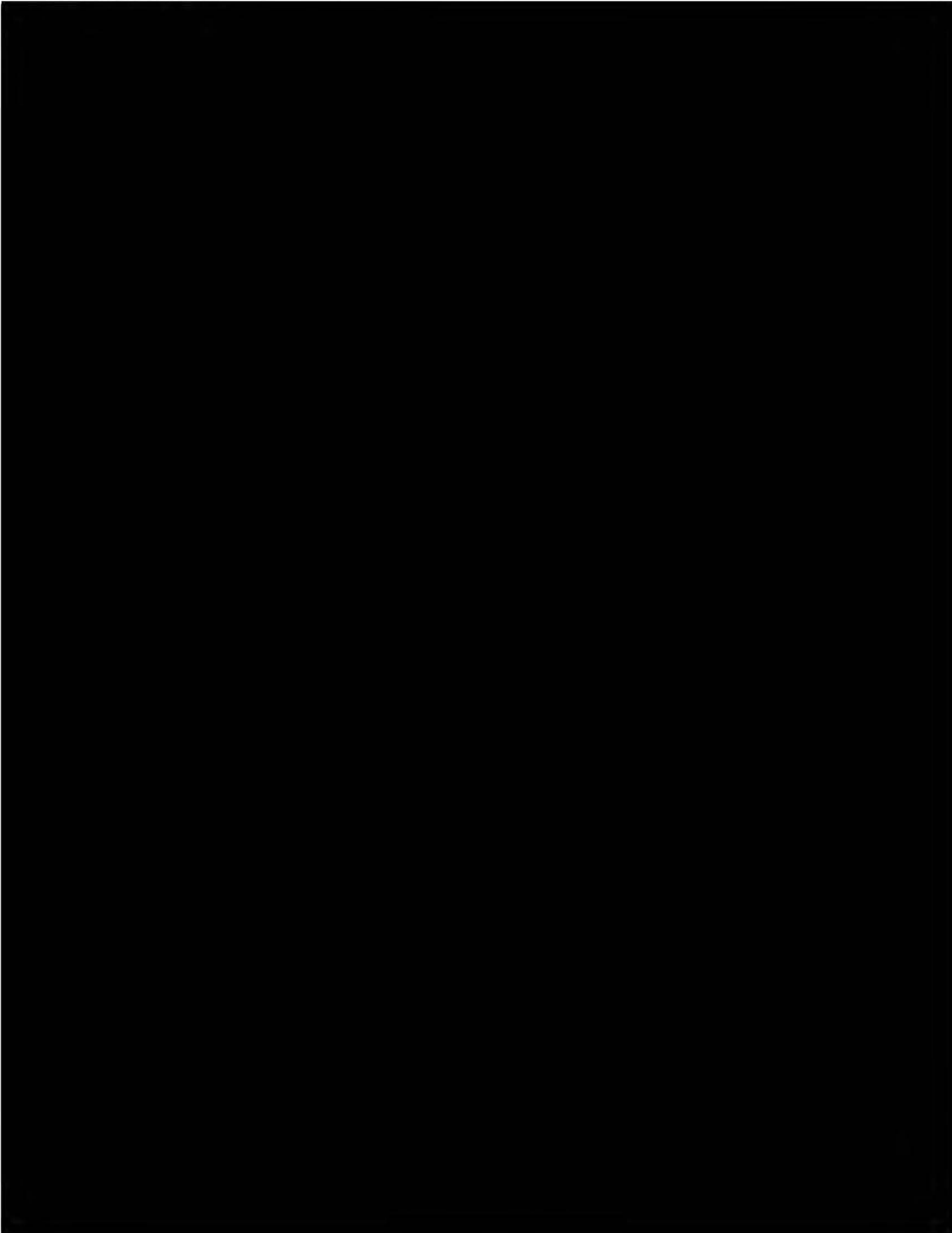
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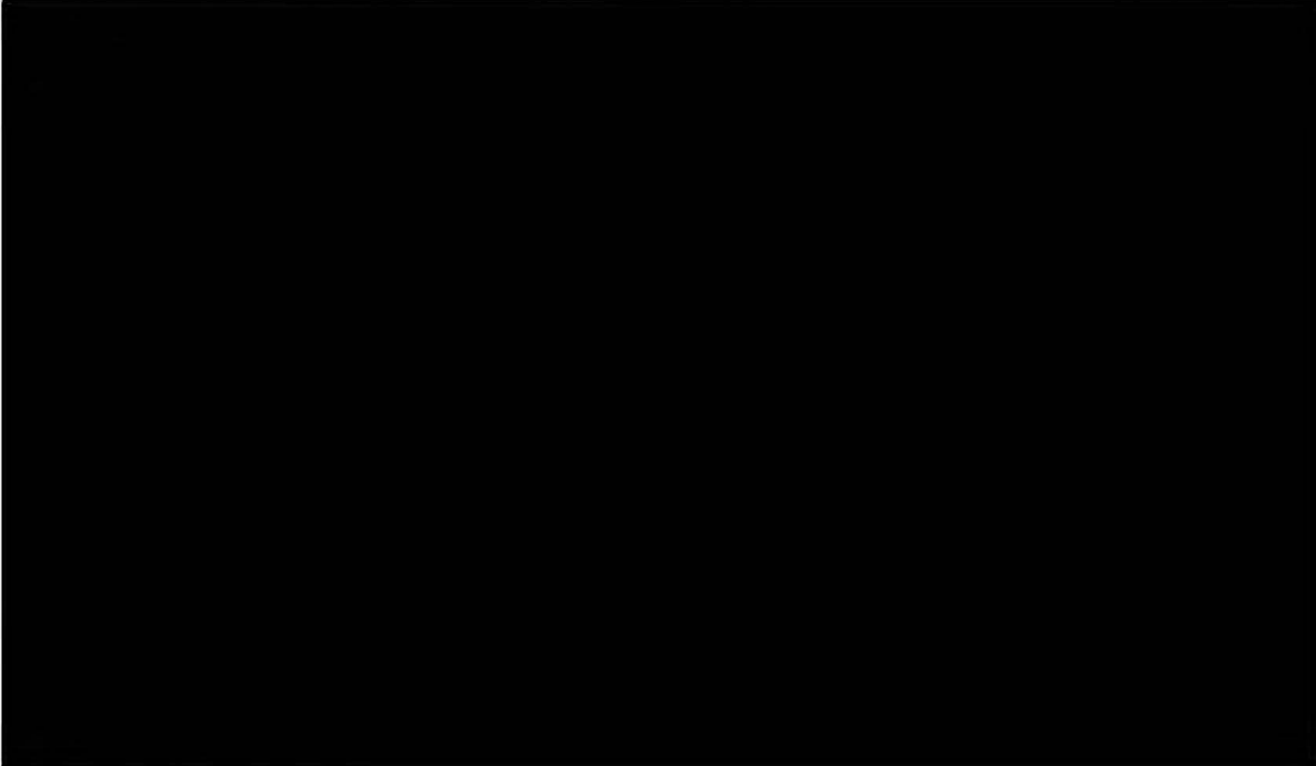
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In Reply Refer To:  
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State/Federal Project Number(s):Z614780000/Pending  
Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Eugene Peltola Jr., Regional Director  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Regional Office  
3601C Street, Suite 1100  
Anchorage, AK 99503-59

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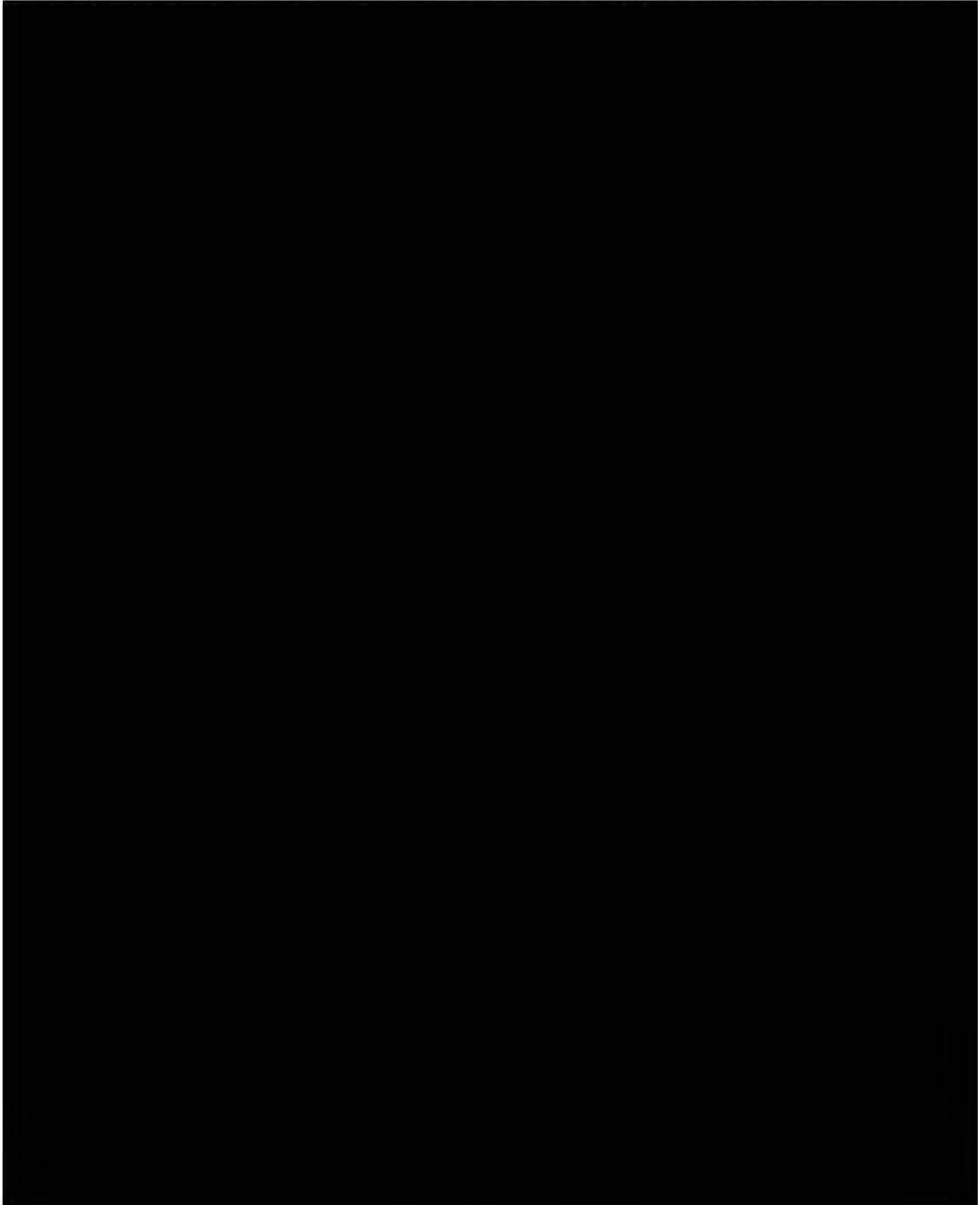
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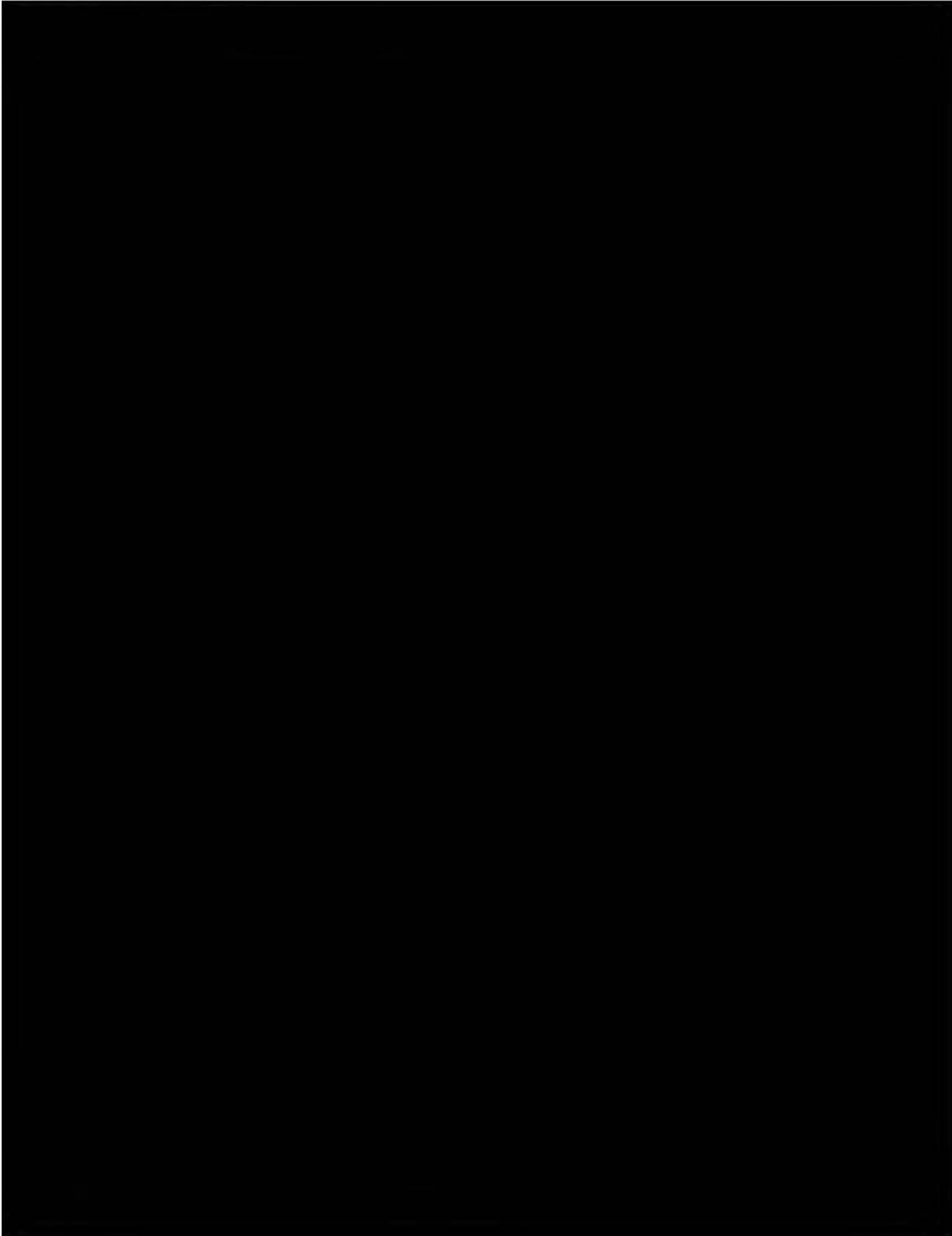
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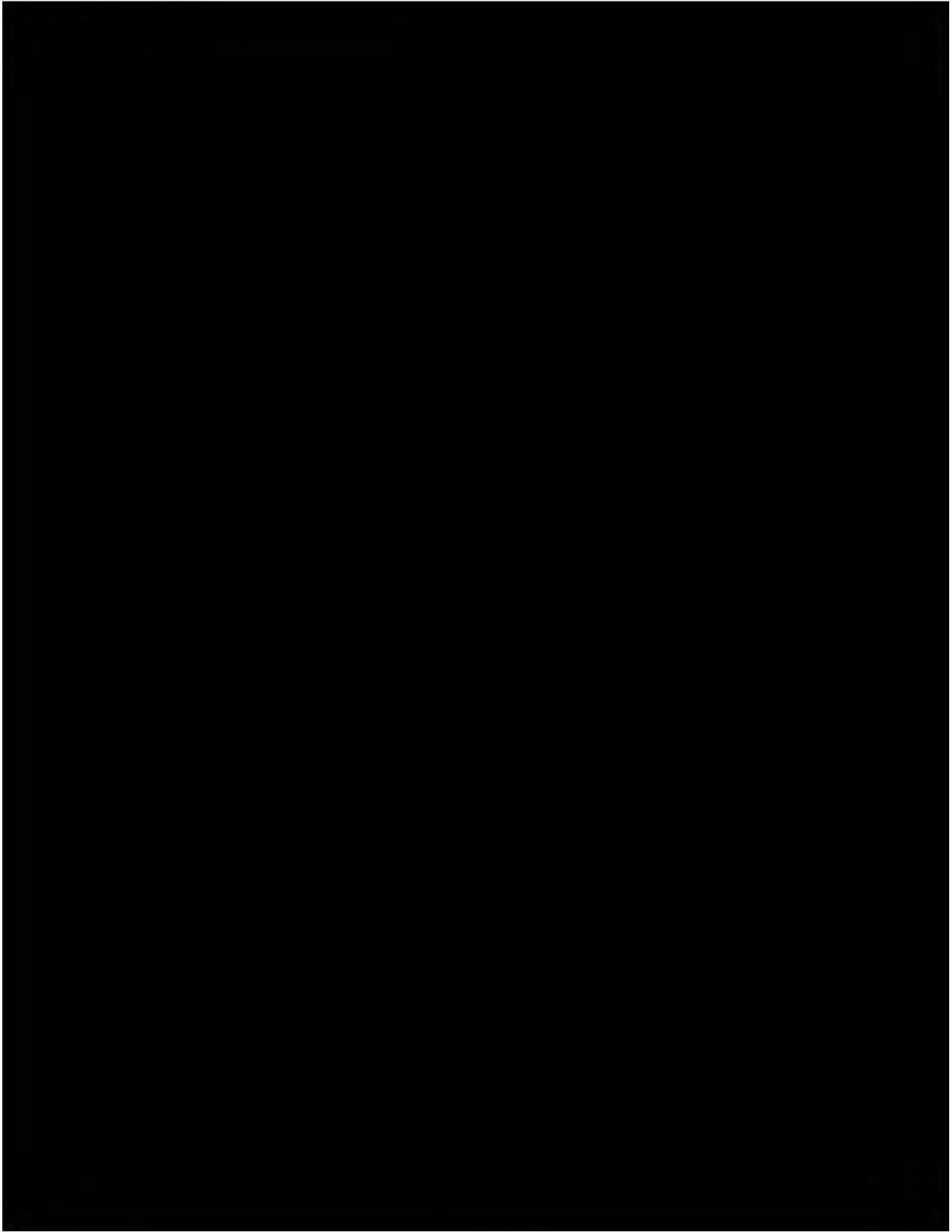
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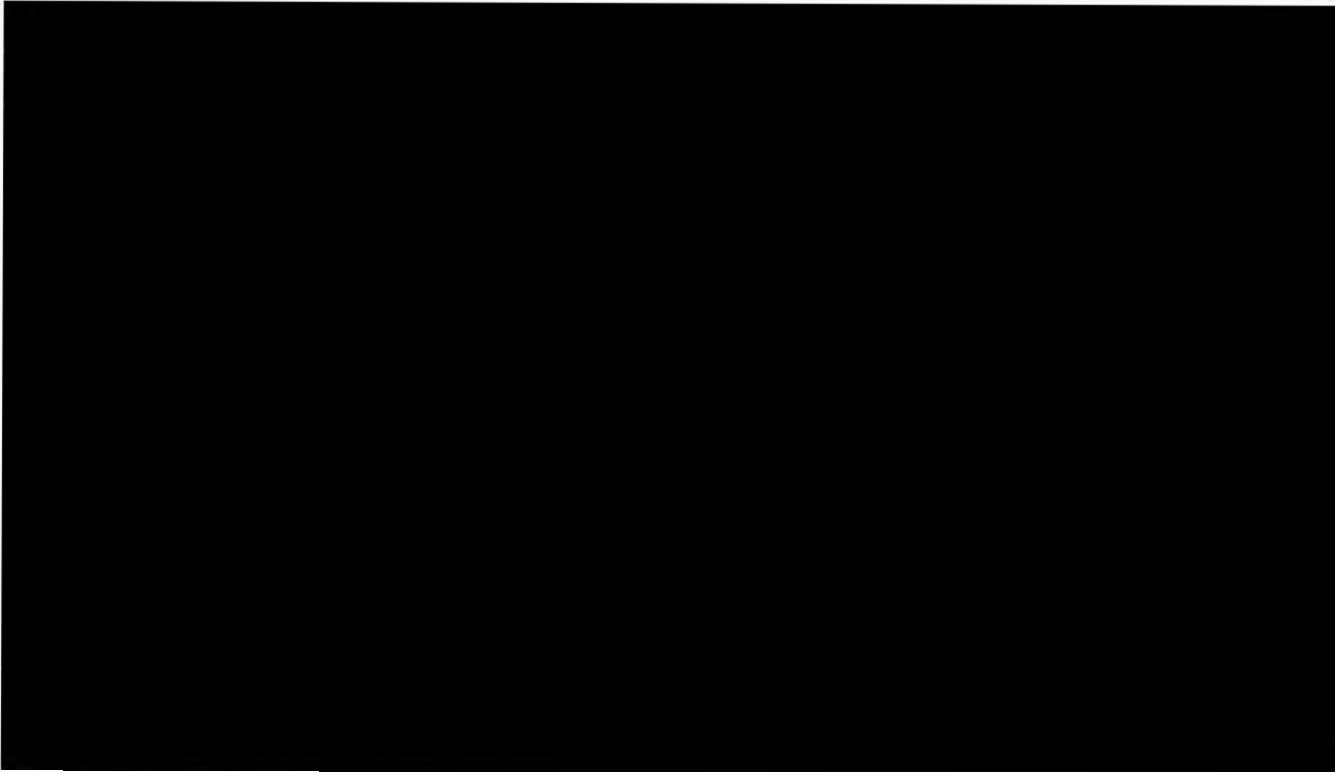
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Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Regional Office  
3601C Street, Suite 1100  
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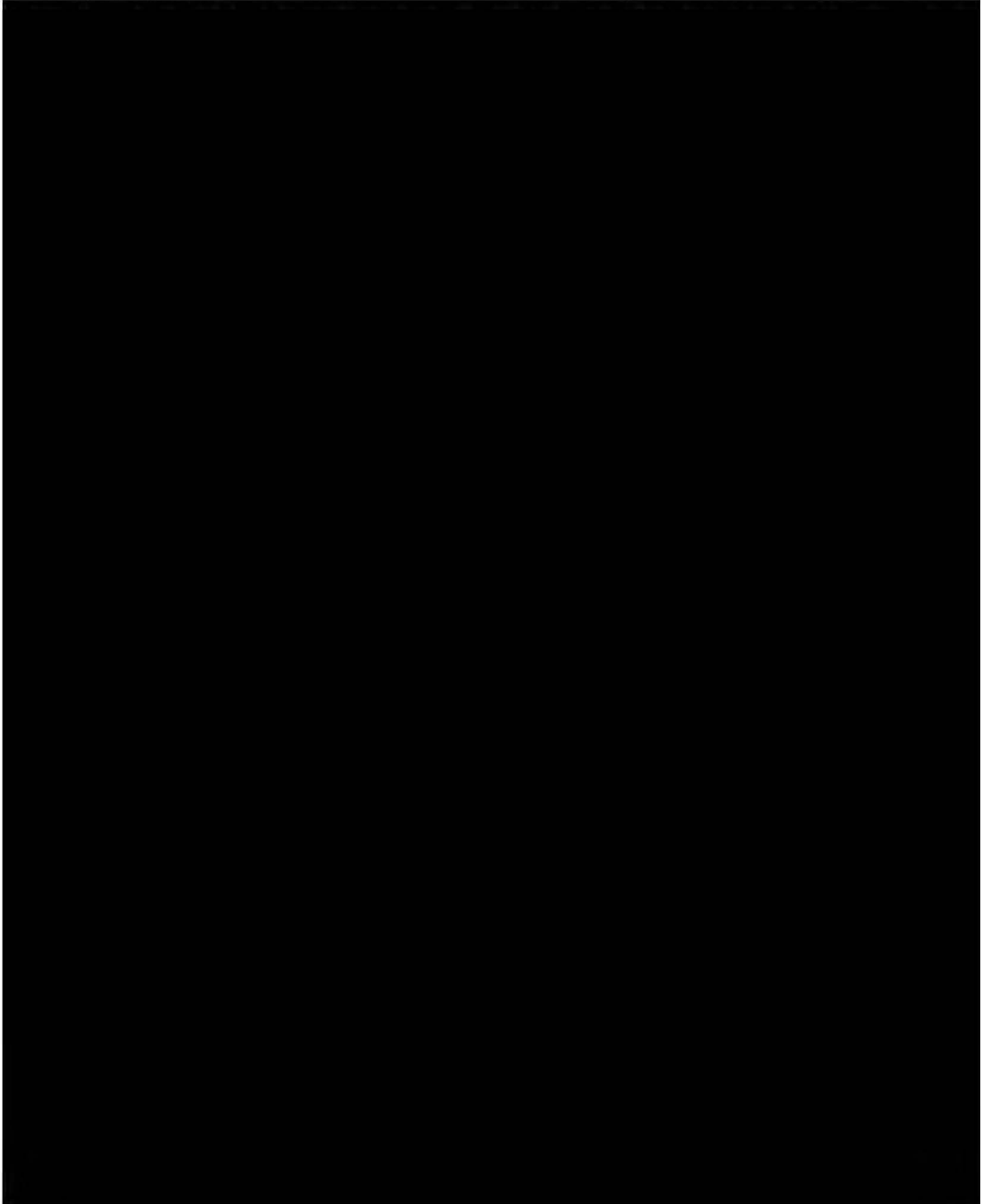
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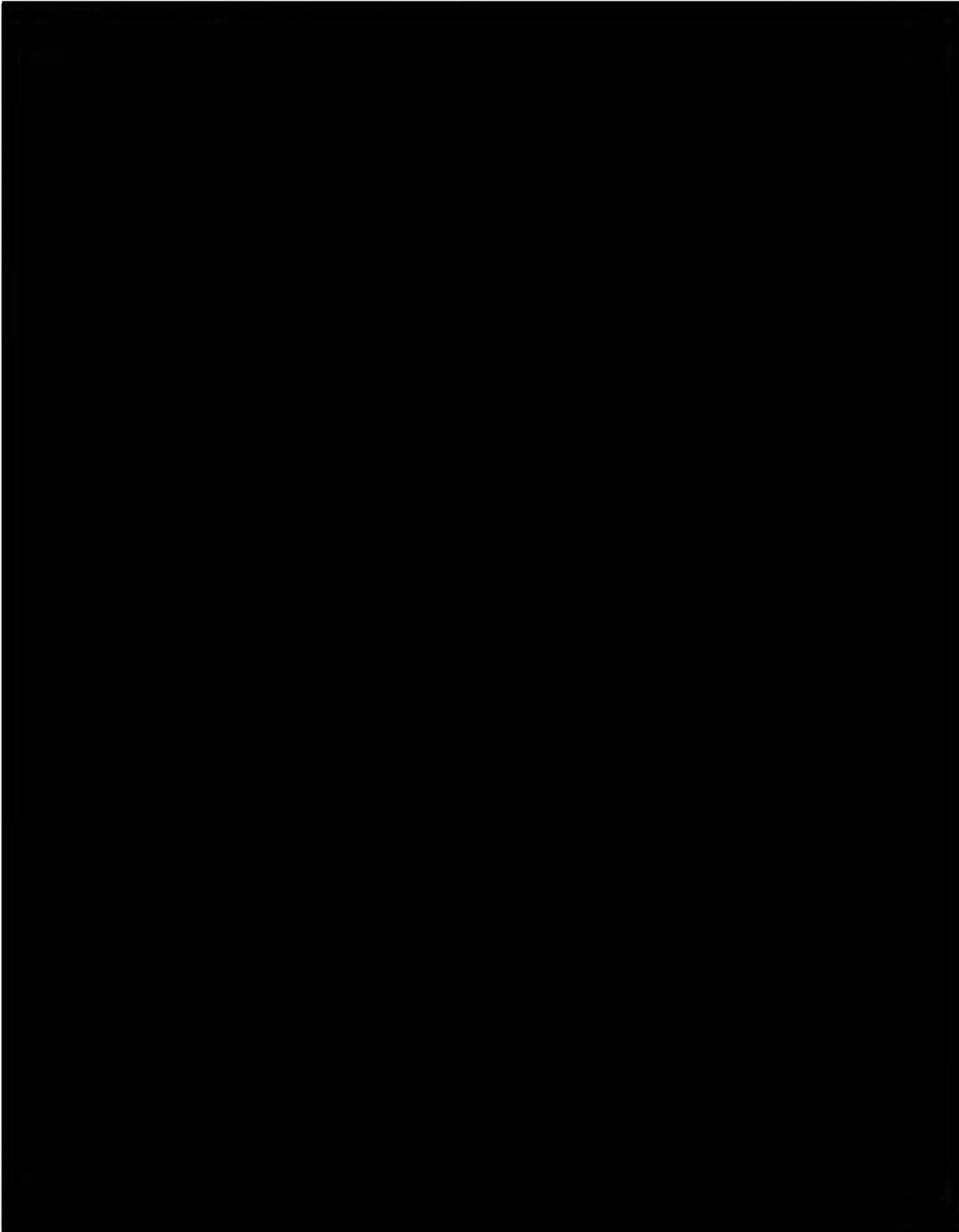
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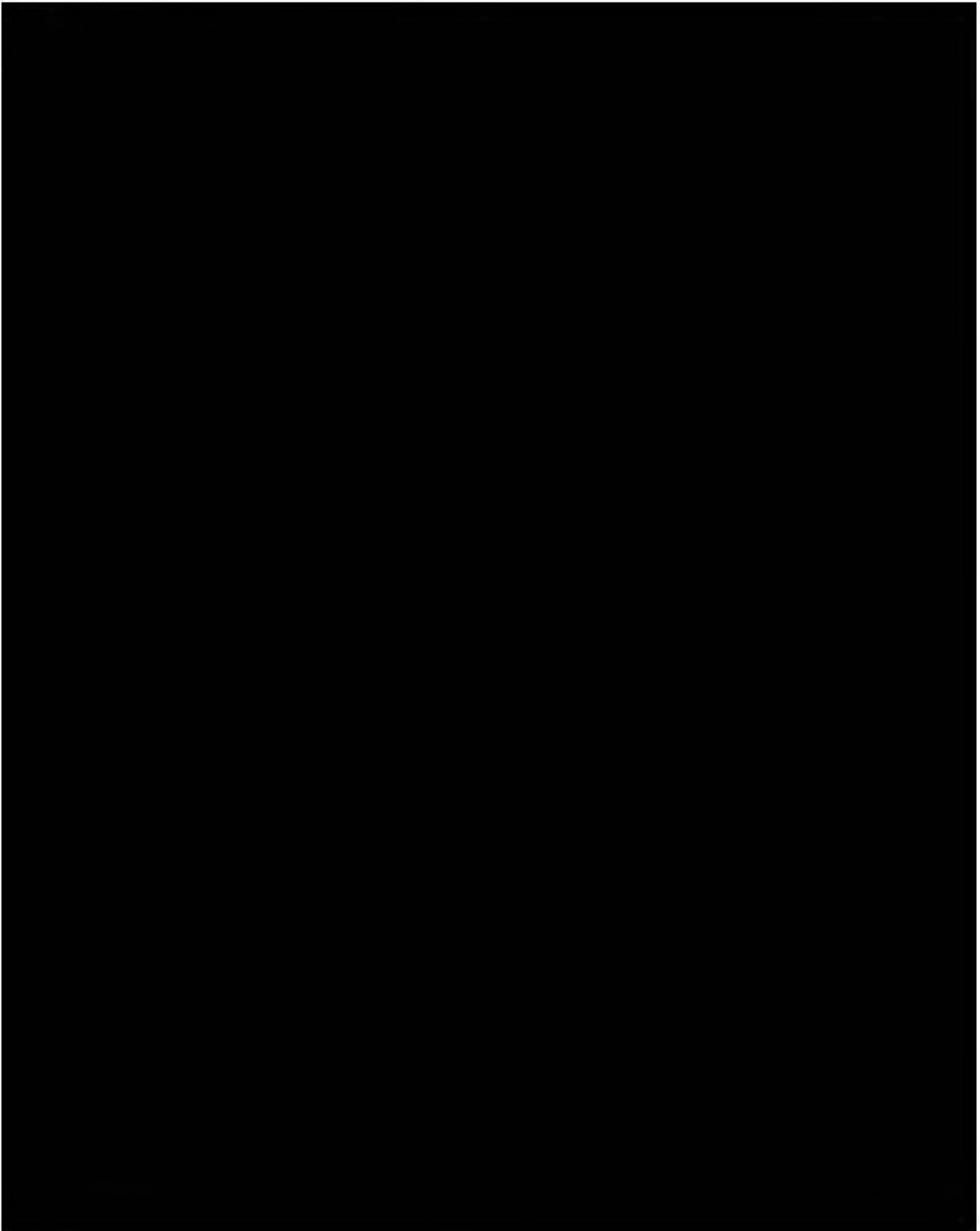
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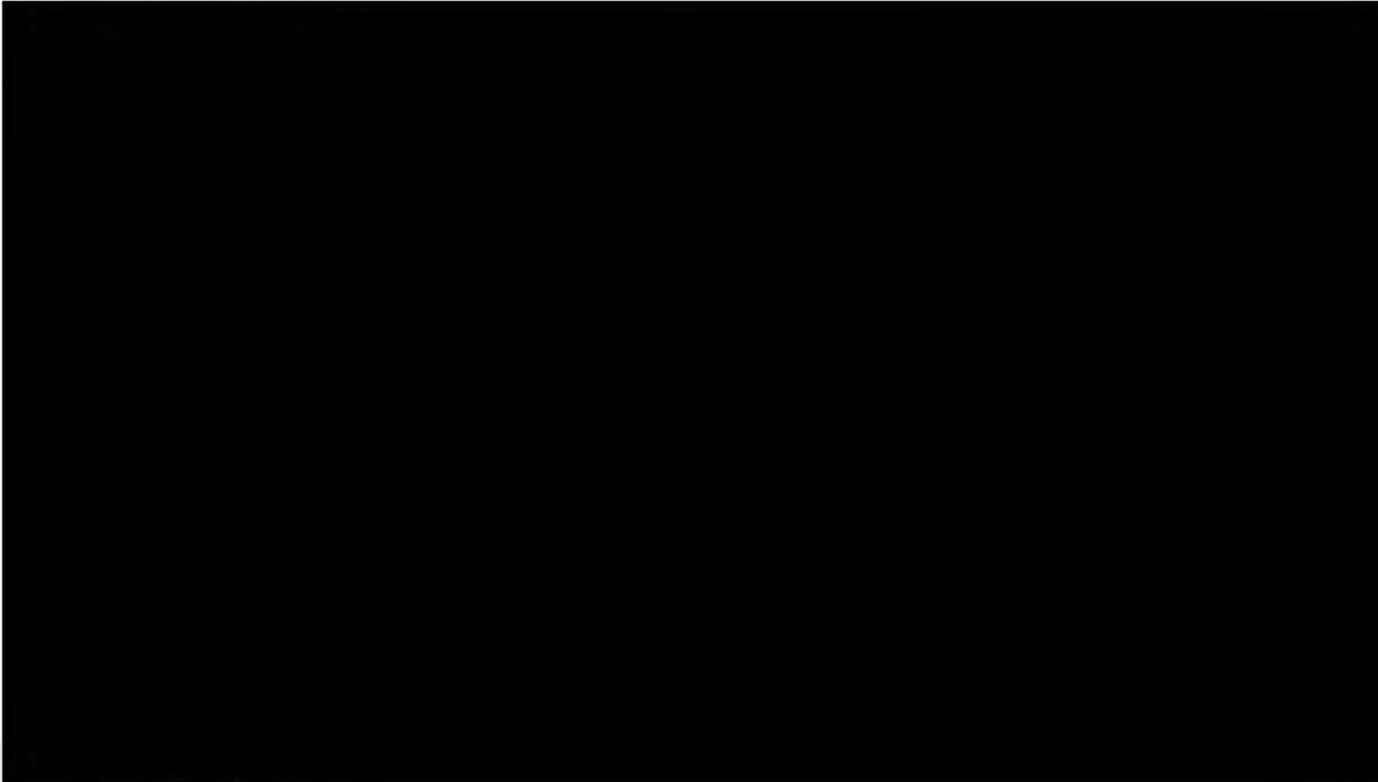
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Your timely response will greatly assist us in incorporating your concerns into project development. For that purpose, we respectfully request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Gamza  
Cultural Resource Specialist-Archaeologist (PQI)  
State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

Enclosures:

- Figure 1: Location and Vicinity Map
- Figure 2: Preliminary Area of Potential Effect
- Figure 3: Land Ownership and Preliminary Area of Potential Effect
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## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Northern Region  
Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5316  
Main: 907-451-2273  
Toll free: 800-451-2363  
Dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
State/Federal Project Number(s):Z614780000/Pending  
Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

Wayne Westlake, President & CEO  
NANA Regional Corporation, Inc.  
PO Box 49  
Kotzebue, AK 99752

Dear Mr. Westlake,

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaskan Region, Airports Division of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), proposes to relocate the Noatak Airport approximately 2 miles west of Noatak, AK (Noatak Airport Relocation). The existing airport and community are located 48 miles northwest of Kotzebue, and 71 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The proposed project is located at 67°33'39" North Latitude and 162°58'48" West Longitude; Sections 5, 8, 16-21, 29-32, Township (T) 25, Range (R) 19W; Sections 5-7, 18-20, 29, 32, T26, R19W; Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32, T27, R19W; Sections 5-7, 17-21, 28, 33, T28, R19W; Sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34, T29, R19W; Kateel River Meridian; United States Geological Survey Quadrangle Noatak C-2 (Figure 1).

Previous consultations regarding the proposed project occurred between 2006-2008. The SHPO concurred on January 31, 2006 with a determination of "no historic properties affected" for the geotechnical sampling program to support this project (SHPO File No. 3130-IRFAA). The DOT&PF distributed project scoping letters to the Native Village of Noatak, Maniilaq Association, NANA Regional Corporation, and Northwest Arctic Borough, and a Government-to-Government Consultation Initiation letter to Mr. James Adams, President of the Native Village of Noatak, in March 2006. No comments or concerns regarding historic or cultural resources were raised by these entities. Following completion of the 2006 field investigations,

the DOT&PF submitted a finding of No Historic Properties Affected determination in December 2007, and SHPO concurred on January 31, 2008.

Since 2008 proposed project elements have changed and the Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been revised. For purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, the DOT&PF is re-initiating this consultation with you to assist us in determining the revised APE and identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

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The proposed project would create a safe, reliable, and cost-effective facility that provides the community with adequate access, supports the community's long-term development goals, and is consistent with current FAA safety regulations. The existing airport is threatened by Noatak River erosion, which will necessitate permanent runway closure. Consequently, there is insufficient land to address other existing airport deficiencies. Time critical airport relocation ensures continued safe and reliable air transportation for Noatak.

The proposed project includes the following features (Figures 2-3):

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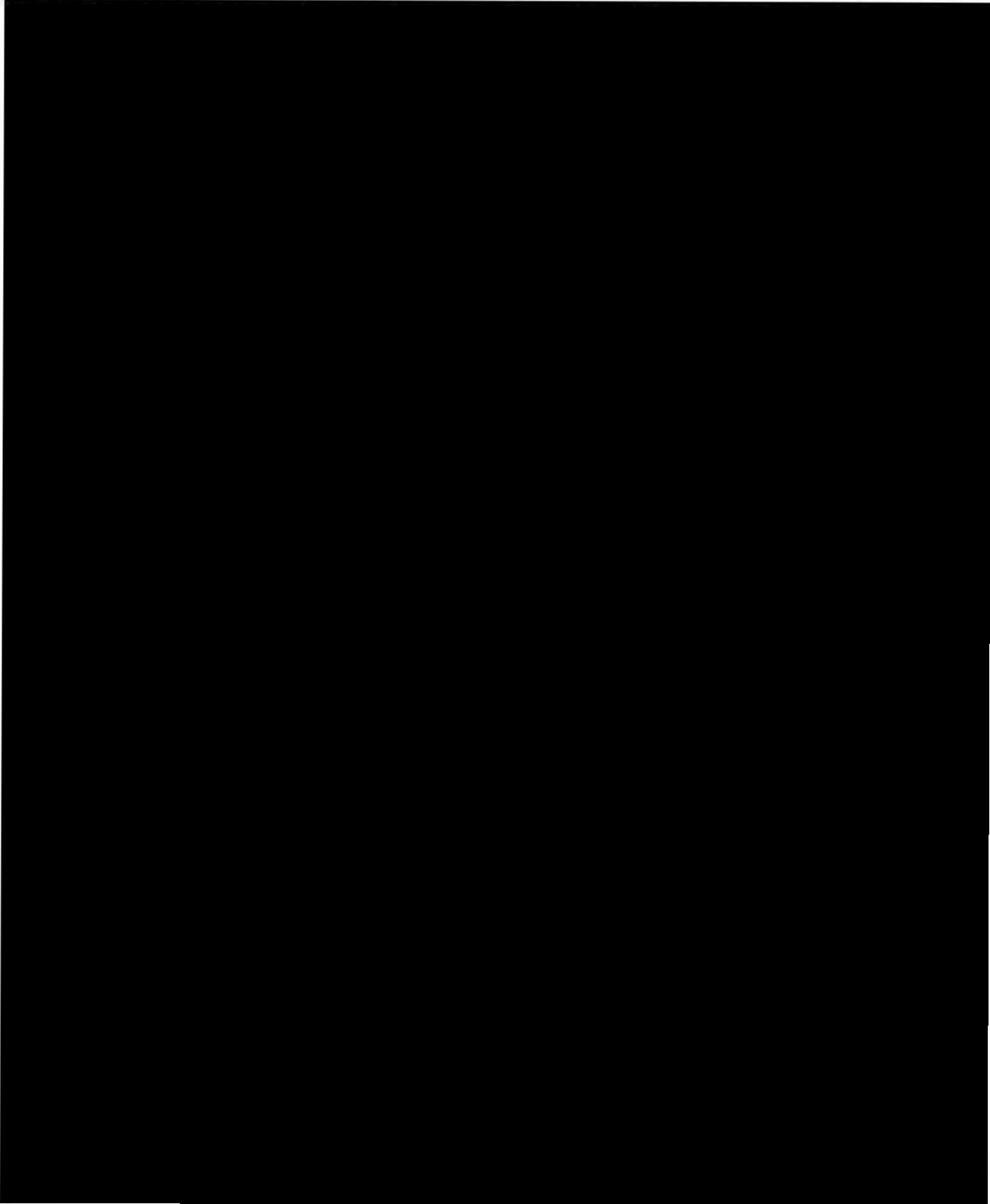
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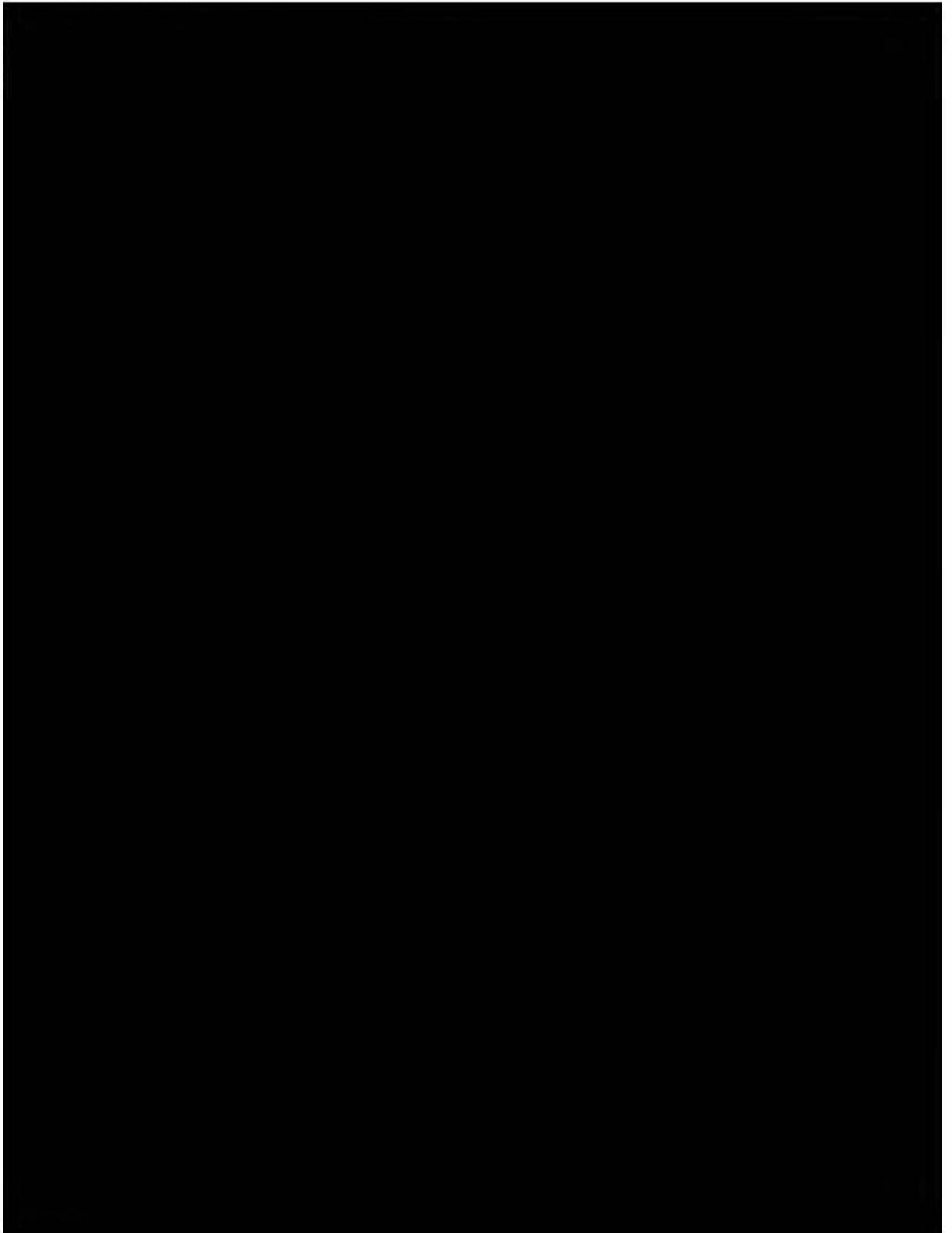
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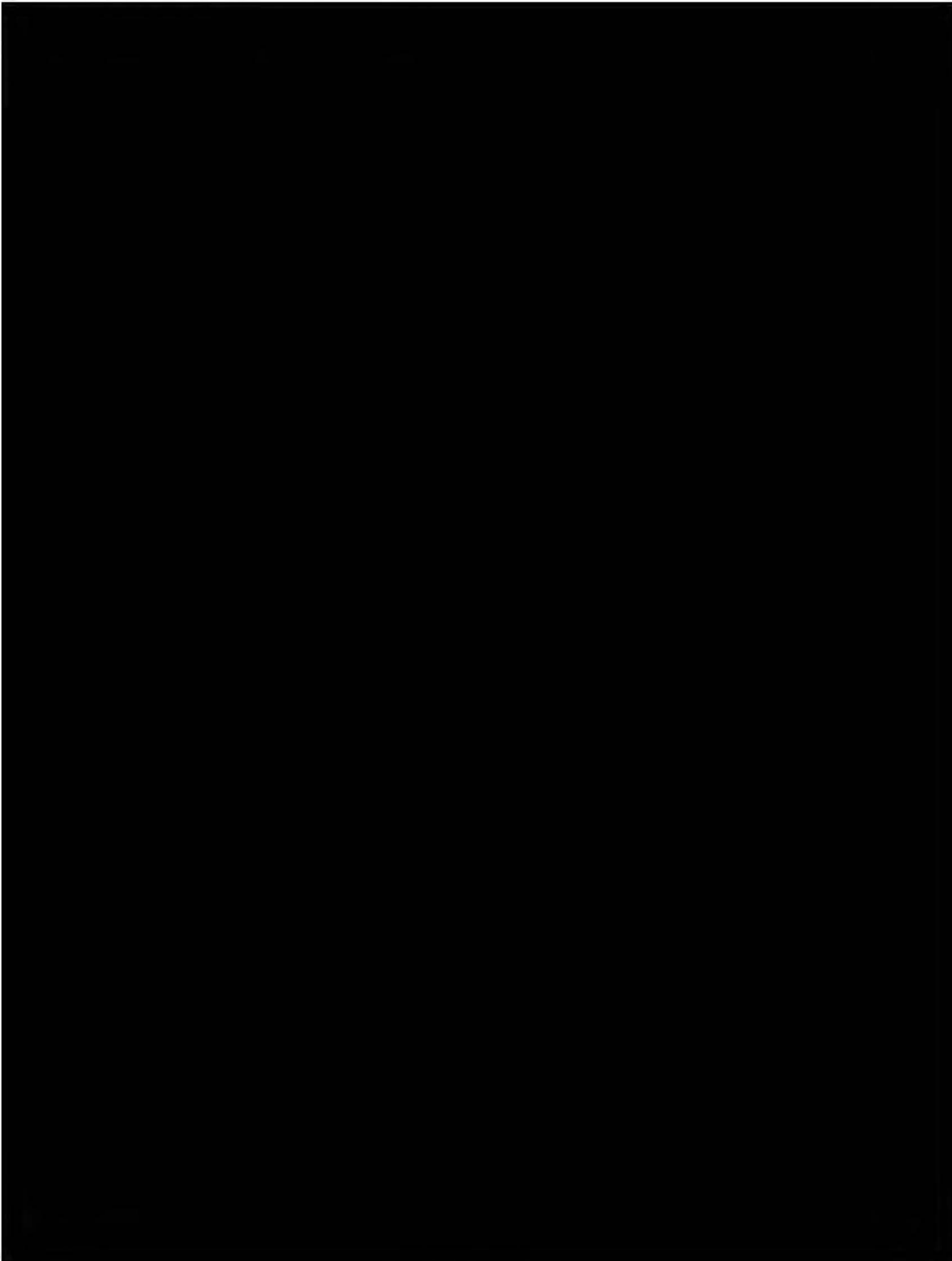
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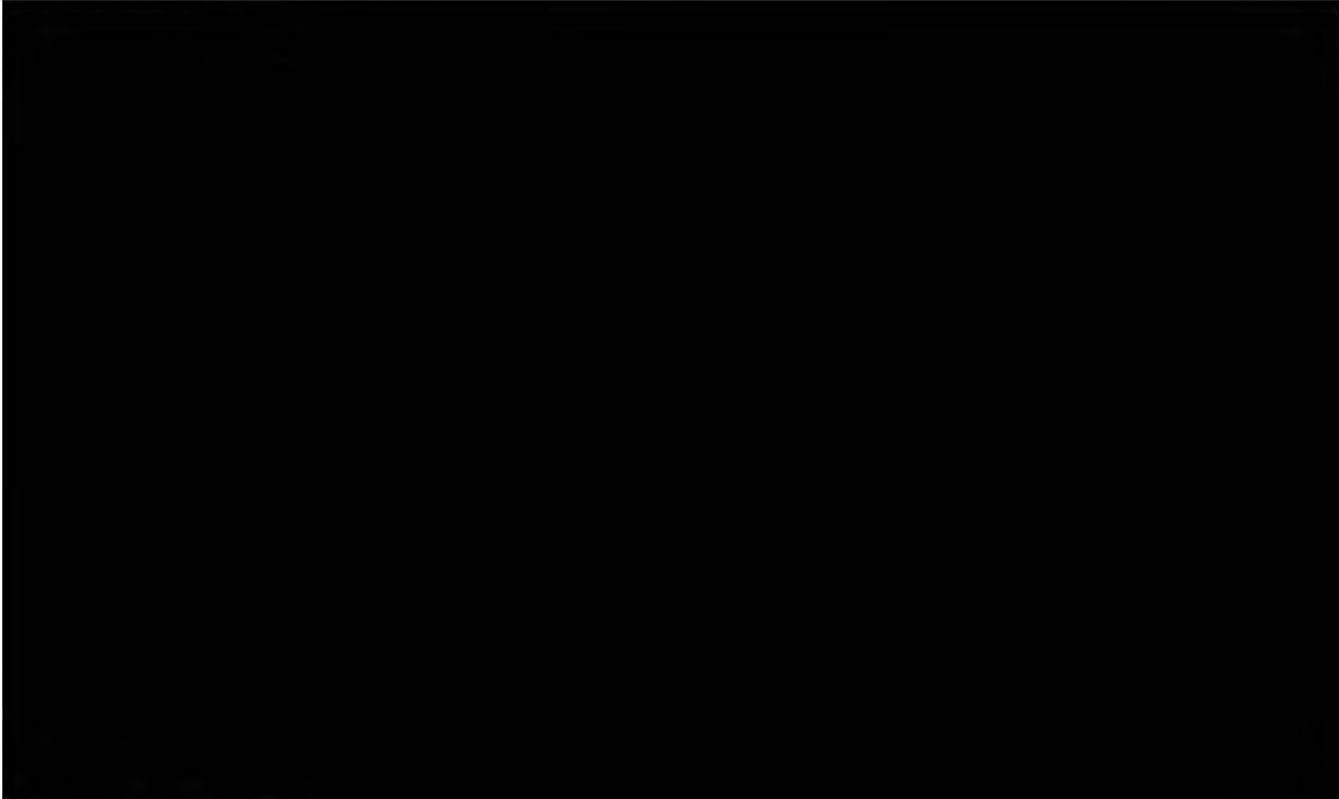
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## Department of Transportation and Public Facilities



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Northern Region  
Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road  
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Toll free: 800-451-2363  
Dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
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Initiation of Consultation

February 21, 2019

John Lincoln, Vice President of Lands  
NANA Regional Corporation, Inc.  
PO Box 49  
Kotzebue, AK 99752

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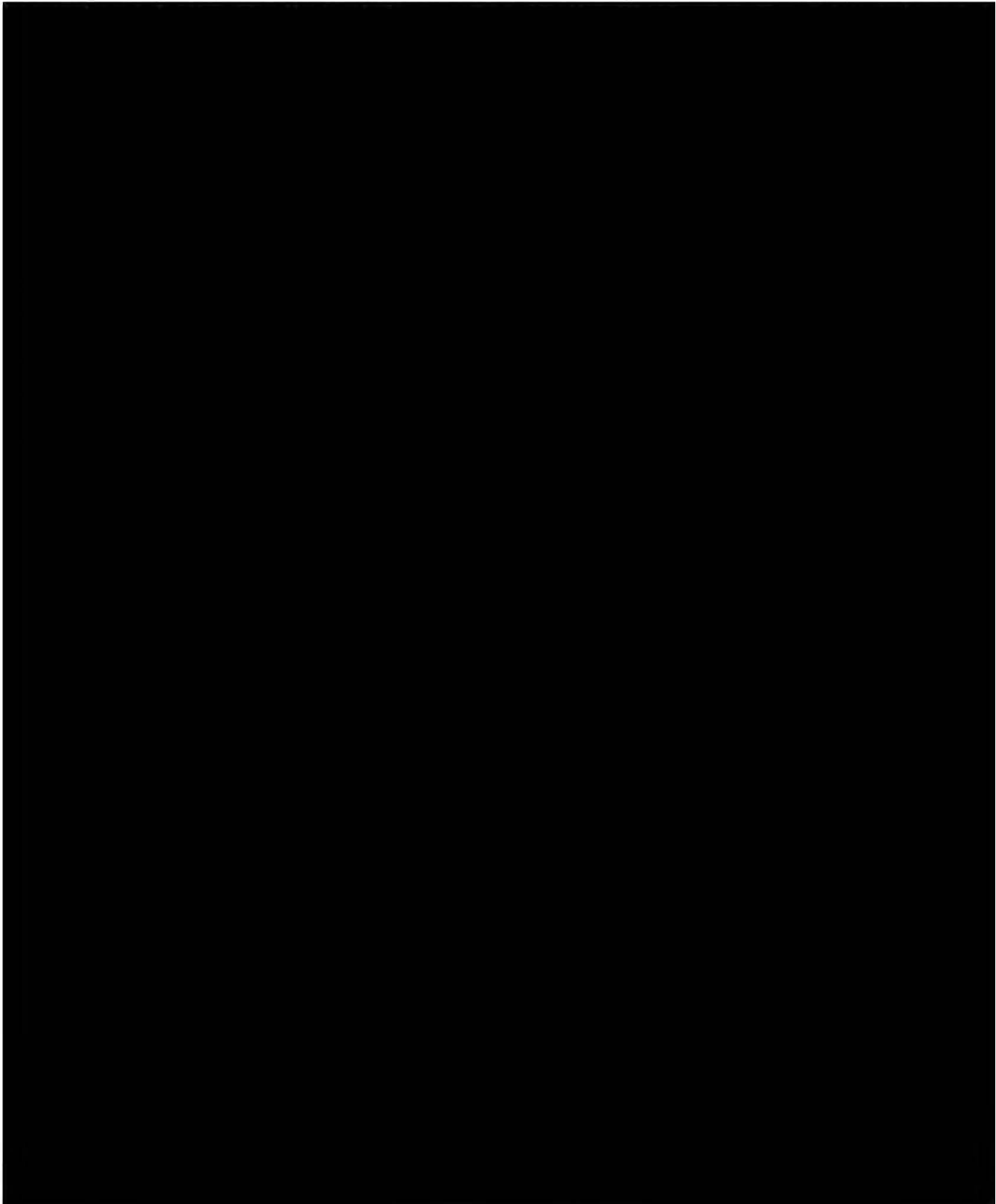
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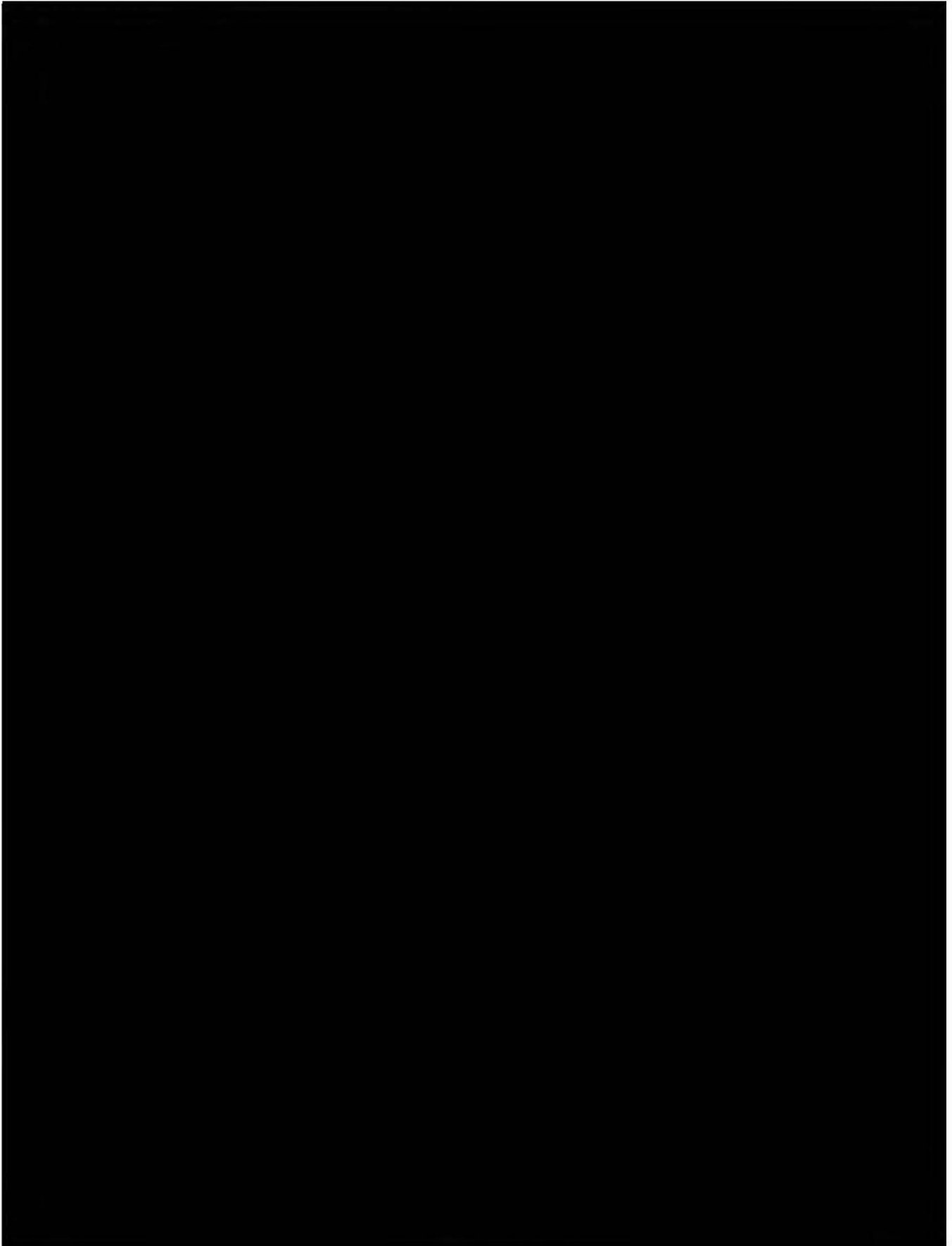
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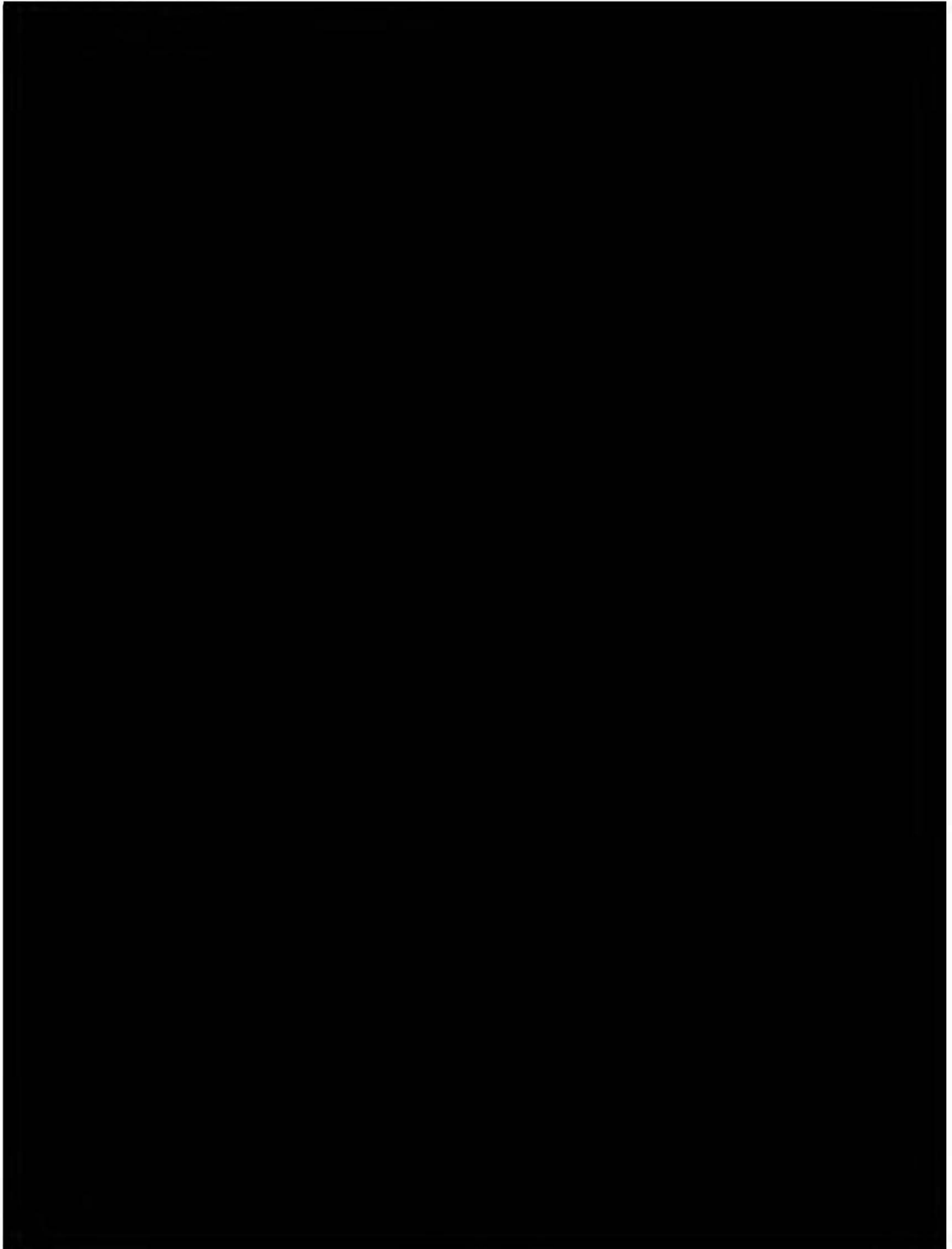
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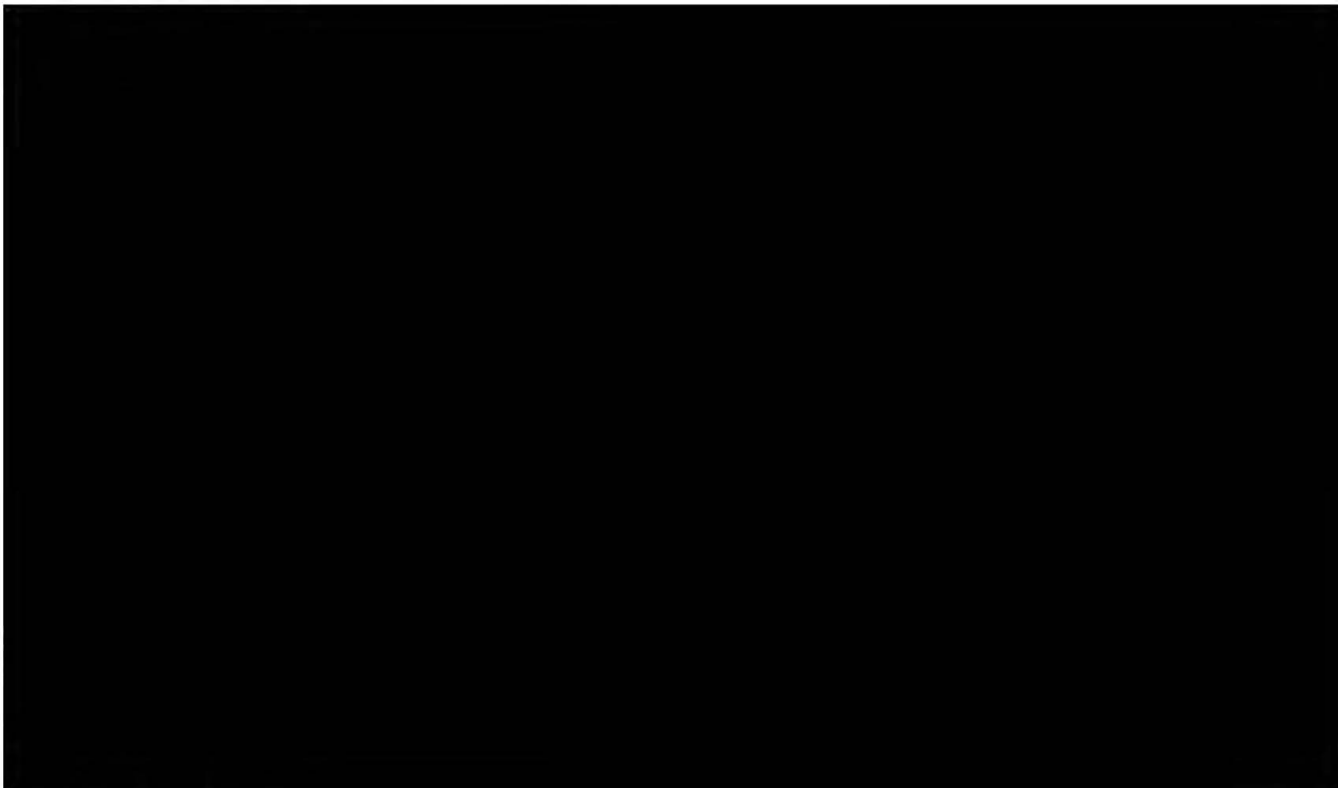
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State of Alaska DOT&PF Northern Region

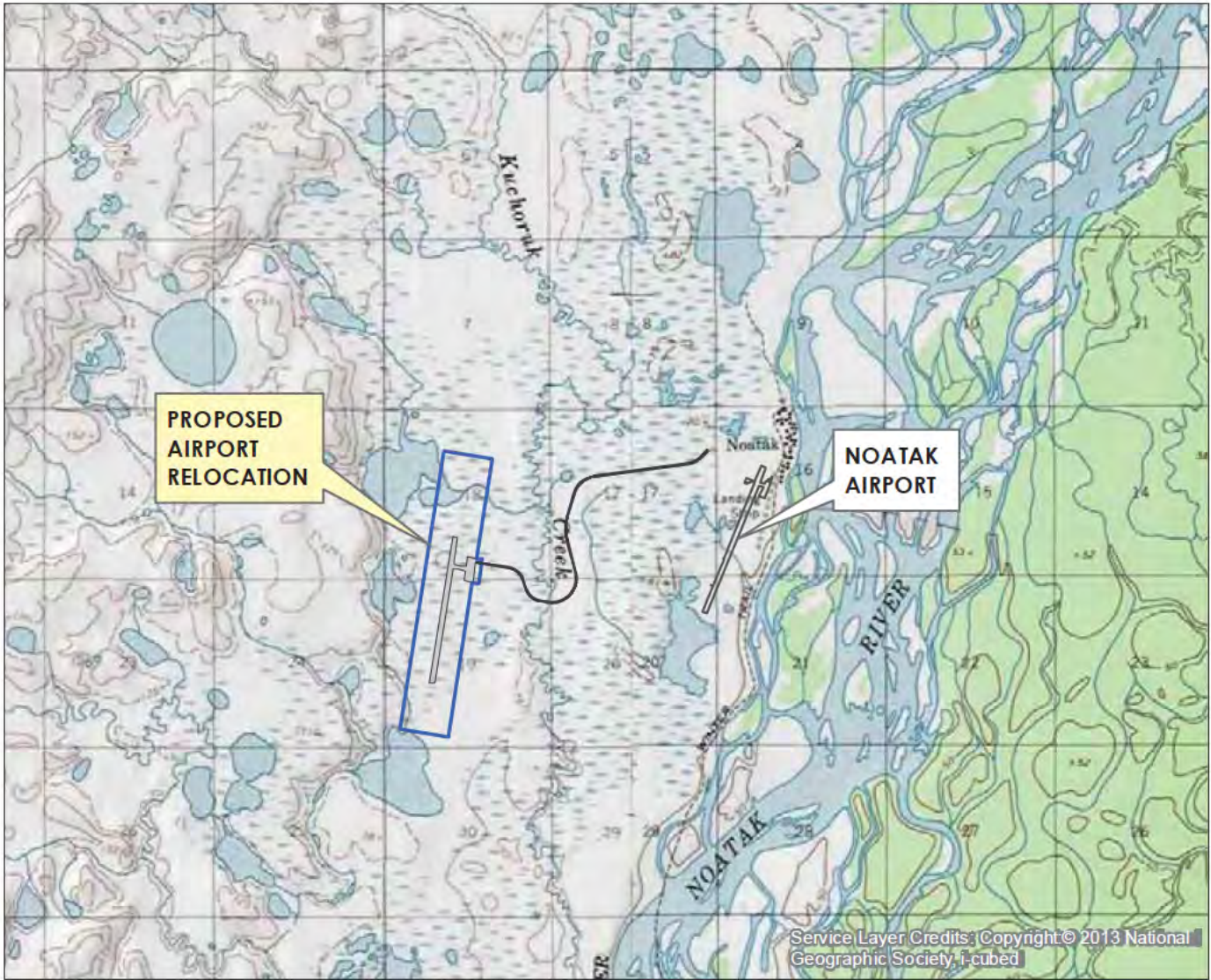
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U:\2047059000\GIS\mxd\Section\_10612047059000\_Sec106\_Fig01\_LocVic\_Map.mxd Revised: 2019-02-12 By: cpannons



Project Origin: City of Noatak  
 Kotzebue Recording District,  
 T25, R19W, Sections 5,8,16-21, 29-32  
 T26, R19W, Sections 5-7, 18-20, 29, 32  
 T27, R19W, Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32  
 T28, R19W, Sections 5-7, 17-21, 28, 33  
 T29, R19W, Sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34  
 Kateel River Meridian



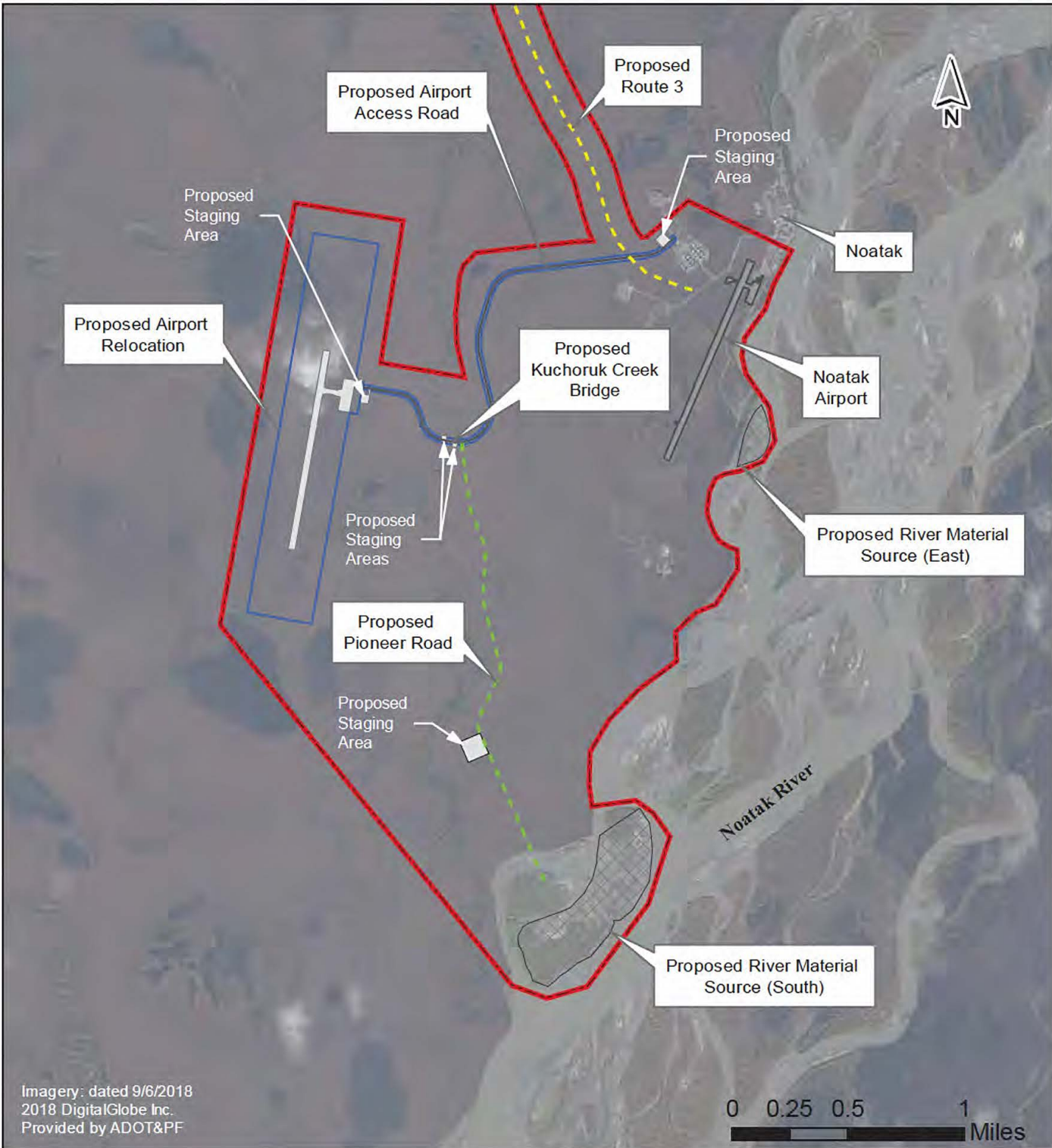
STATE OF ALASKA  
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

**NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION  
 NOATAK, ALASKA  
 Location & Vicinity Map**

DATE: February, 2019

FIGURE 1

I:\2047059000\GIS\mxd\Section 106\2047059000\_Sect106\_Fig.02\_APE.mxd Revised: 2019-02-12 By: cpannon



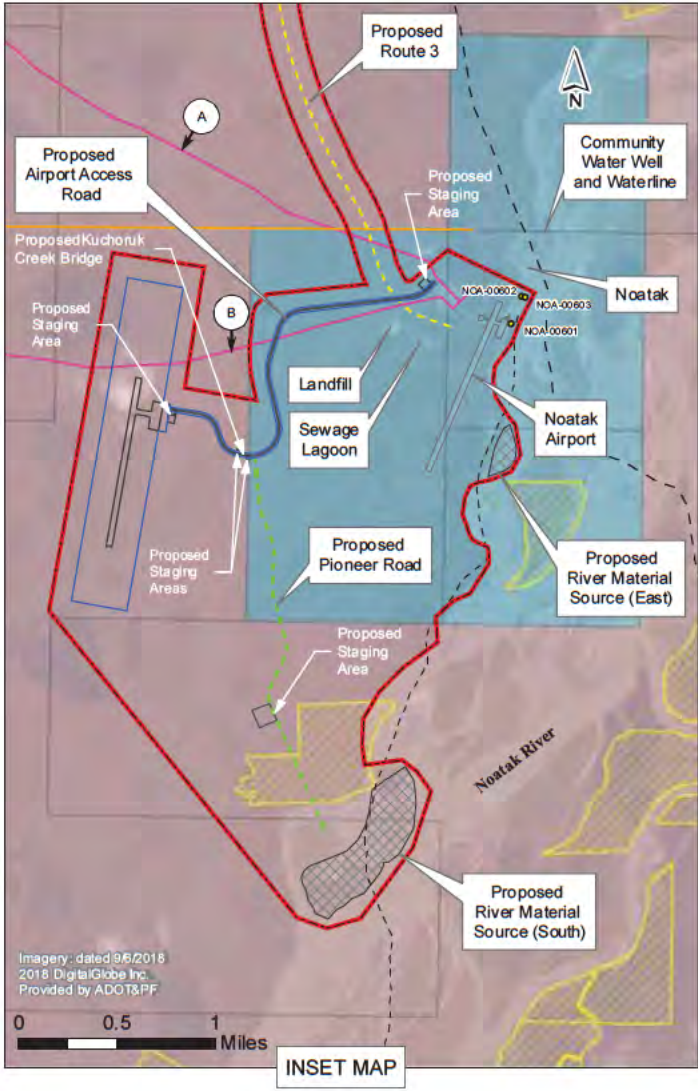
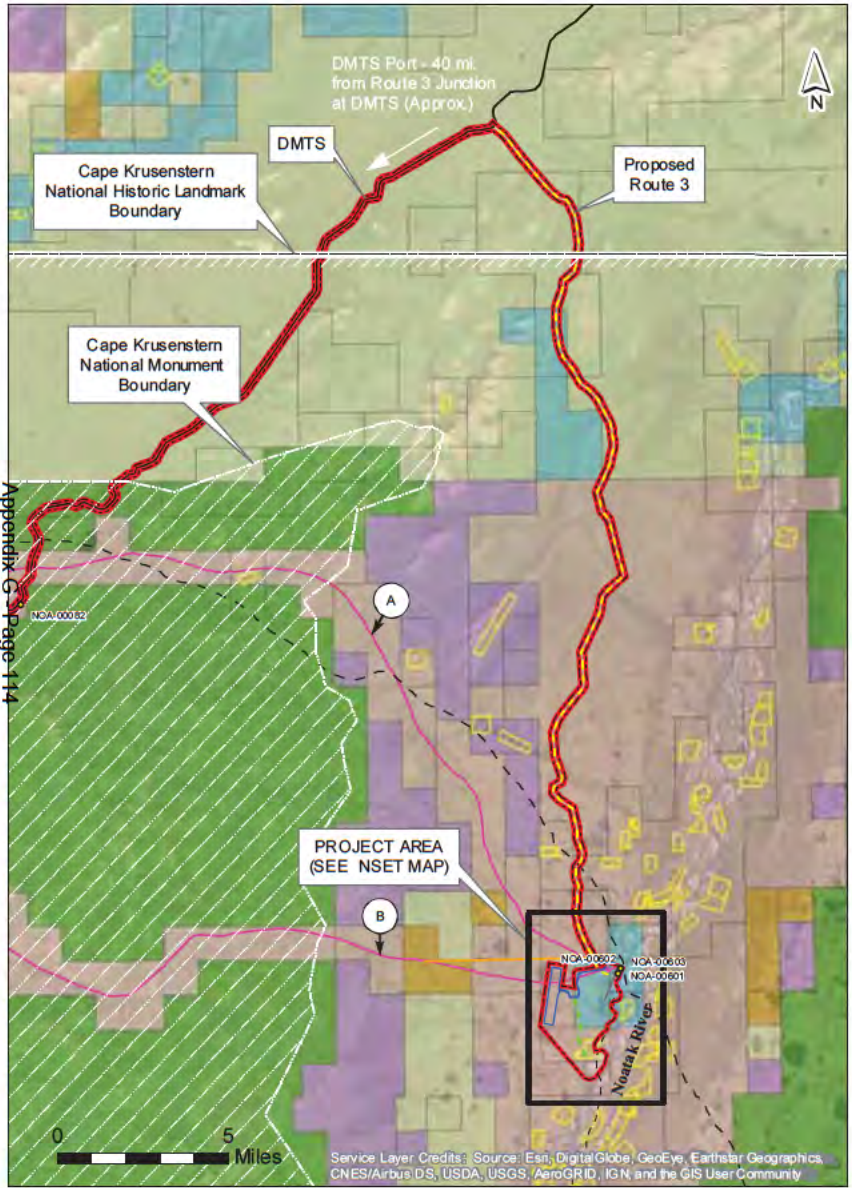
Imagery: dated 9/6/2018  
2018 DigitalGlobe Inc.  
Provided by ADOT&PF

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**LEGEND**

-  Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE)
-  Proposed Airport Property
-  Proposed Runway & Apron
-  Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)
-  Proposed Pioneer Road

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	
NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION NOATAK, ALASKA <b>Preliminary APE</b>	
DATE: February, 2019	FIGURE 2



**LEGEND**

- Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- Proposed Airport Property
- Proposed Runway & Apron
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- Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)
- Proposed Pioneer Road
- National Park Service Easements
- 17(b) Easement
- NAB Winter Trail
- Kotzebue - Noatak Trail (RS2477 Trail)
- Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Site

**LAND OWNERSHIP**

- BLM
- National Park Service
- Native Corporation
- Other Private or Municipal
- State
- State and Native
- Native Allotment

- Notes and Citations:**
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 State Plane Alaska 7 FIPS 5007 Feet
  2. Imagery Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN and the GIS User Community, Orthoimagery Noatak 2016 SID.
  3. Land Status Data Source: Original, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Information Resource Management, Title General Land Status - October 2017 - All Aerials - Clipped to 143360 Coastline (EPSG 3338 NAD83 Alaska Albers).

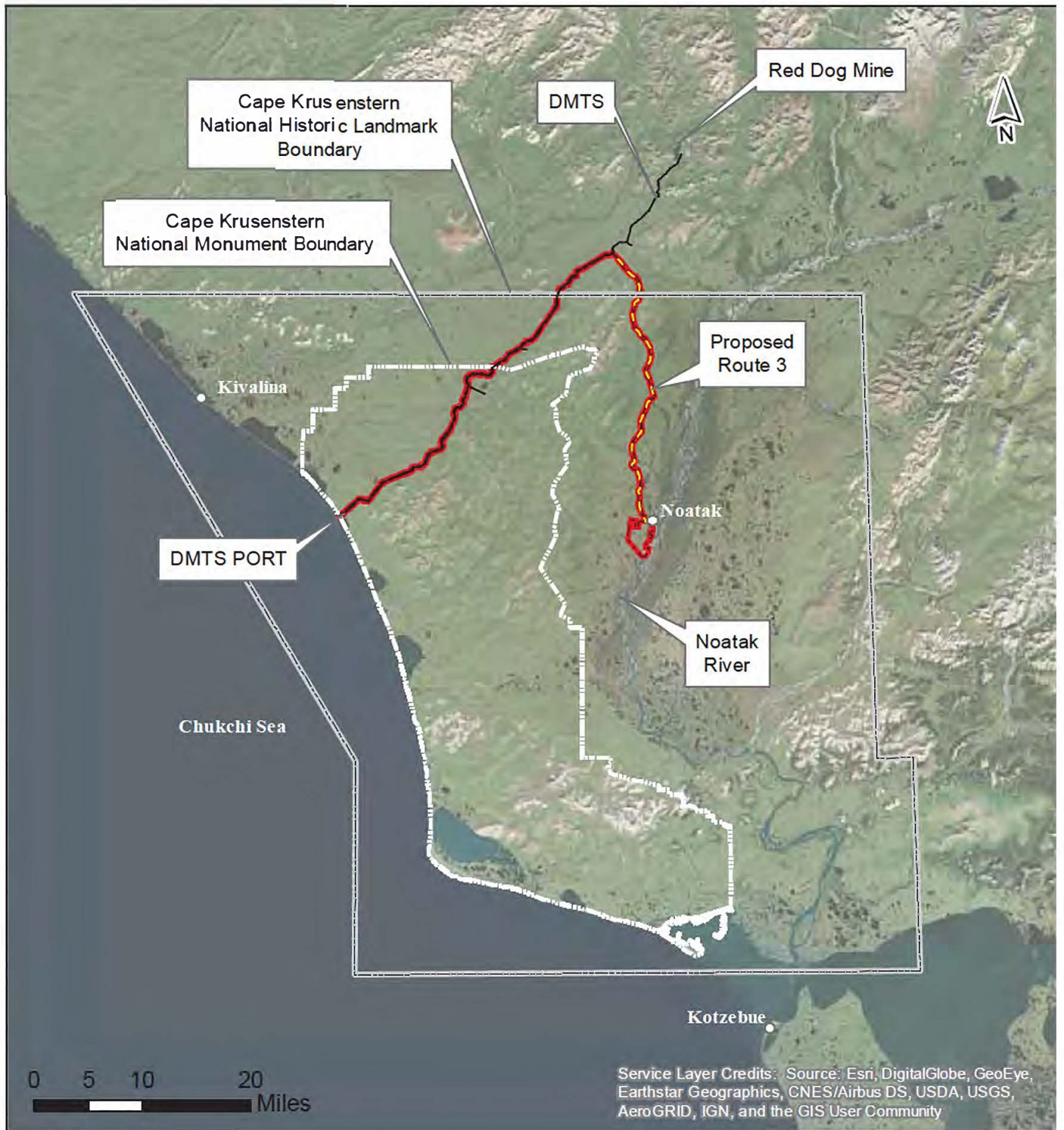
STATE OF ALASKA  
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION  
NOATAK, ALASKA  
**Land Ownership and Preliminary APE**

DATE: February, 2019      FIGURE 3




U:\2017\10302000\010\mwf\ecm\103020103000\_01ec\103020103000\_01ec\Fig03\_LandAPE.mxd      Revised: 2019-02-12 By: cstanment

\\2047059000\GIS\Sim\di\Section\_106\2047059000\_Sect106\_Fig.04\_Cape Krusenstern NHL.mxd Revised: 2019-02-11 By: cpannon



Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

**LEGEND**

-  Preliminary Area of Potential Effect (APE)
-  DeLong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS)
-  Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	
NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION NOATAK, ALASKA <b>Cape Krusenstern          National Historic Landmark</b>	
DATE: February, 2019	FIGURE 4



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Alaska Region  
240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 114  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.B (AKRO-CR)

April 1, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL – NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Thomas A. Gamza  
State of Alaska DOT&PF, Northern Region  
2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316

Subject: Noatak Airport Relocation Project. State/Federal Project No.  
Z614780000/Pending, Initiation of Consultation

Dear Mr. Gamza:

Thank you for reinitiating consultation for the proposed Noatak Airport Relocation Project, State/Federal Project No. Z614780000. The National Park Service (NPS) continues to serve as a consulting party for this project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 306108) to help ensure the integrity of Cape Krusenstern Archeological District National Historic Landmark (NHL).

As described, the project consists of building a new airport and runway, building an access road and bridge crossing Kuchoruk Creek, opening in-river material extraction sites and constructing access roads to those sites, constructing a 28.2-mile winter snow road from Delong Mountain Transportation System to the Noatak Airport construction site (DMTS winter haul route), and installing gravel pads for staging areas.

[REDACTED]

Based on your summary of previous cultural resource identification efforts we understand that [REDACTED] cultural sites were identified in the APE. We also understand that the proposed DMTS winter haul route and a material site pioneer access road (north of Kuchoruk Creek/Noatak River confluence) have not been surveyed. We recognize that there is still the potential for discovery in the un-surveyed areas as the project is implemented. Because the Cape Krusenstern

Archeological National Historic Landmark is designated under Criterion D, for its potential to provide important information about history of the lower Noatak Valley as “an avenue between coast and interior for millennia, a wealth of archaeological sites...with a high potential for new studies on the prehistoric occupation...of the western arctic” and Beringia. The nomination notes that the Village of Noatak is on a site “evidencing prehistoric occupation.”

Given that there is potential for finding cultural resources within the NHL, we would appreciate receiving a copy of plans for inadvertent discoveries, as well as final reports with information that arises as a result of inadvertent discoveries.

We appreciate DOT&PF’s inclusion of NPS throughout this Section 106 process. If you have questions about our comments or concerns, please contact Rhea Hood at 907-644-3460 or rhea\_hood@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Pederson Weinberger". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Jennifer Pederson Weinberger  
Cultural Resources Program Manager

cc:

Rhea Hood, NPS Archeologist  
Maija Lukin, Superintendent, NPS Western Arctic Parklands  
Mark Rollins, Review & Compliance, Alaska State Historic Preservation Office



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Transportation and  
Public Facilities

NORTHERN REGION  
Design and Engineering Services

2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5388  
Main: 907-451-2200  
Fax: 907-451-5126  
TDD: 907-451-2363  
dot.alaska.gov

In Reply Refer To:  
Noatak Airport Relocation  
Project Numbers (State/Federal): Z614780000/AIP TBA  
No Historic Properties Adversely Affected  
Attention: This finding contains no (0) DOEs

August 26, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaskan Region, Airports Division of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), proposes to relocate the Noatak Airport approximately 2 miles west of Noatak, AK (Noatak Airport Relocation). The existing airport and community are located 48 miles northwest of Kotzebue, and 71 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The proposed project is located at 67°33'39" North Latitude and 162°58'48" West Longitude (see Table 1 and Figure 1).

Table 1. Project location

Township	Range	Section(s)	USGS Quad Map 1:63,360	Meridian
025N	019W	5, 8, 16-21, 29-32	Noatak C-2	Kateel River
026N	019W	5-7, 18-20, 29,32	Noatak C-2	Kateel River
027N	019W	4-5, 9, 16, 20-21, 29, 32	Noatak C-2	Kateel River
028N	019W	5-7, 17-21, 28, 33	Noatak C-2	Kateel River
029N	019W	7, 17-18, 20-21, 27-28, 33-34	Noatak C-2	Kateel River

The DOT&PF on behalf of FAA finds that no historic properties would be adversely affected by the proposed project pursuant to 36 CFR§800.5(b), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This submission provides documentation in support of this finding, as required at 36 CFR§800.11(e).

**Project Background**

On January 3, 2006, a findings letter was submitted by the DOT&PF Northern Region Environmental Coordinator on behalf of FAA to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) with a finding of

No Historic Properties Affected for geotechnical sampling on river bars in support of the Noatak Airport Relocation Project. The SHPO concurred with that finding on January 31, 2006 (SHPO File No. 3130-IRFAA).

On December 21, 2007, a findings letter was submitted by the DOT&PF Northern Region Environmental Coordinator on behalf of FAA with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for the Noatak Airport Relocation Project. The SHPO concurred with that finding on January 31, 2008 (SHPO File No. 3130-IRFAA).

Since 2008, proposed project elements have changed. On February 21, 2019, the DOT&PF re-initiated consultation with the SHPO and other consulting parties for assistance in determining the revised Area of Potential Effect (APE) and identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

### **Project Description**

The currently proposed project includes the following features (Figures 2-3):

- Airport relocation located approximately 2 miles west of Noatak.
- Installation of the new Airport Access Road with overhead electrical line and new bridge at Kuchoruk Creek.
  - The access road would be approximately 2 miles long and 24 feet wide with side slopes that include safety features (e.g., signage) where required, and culverts installed to maintain drainage patterns.
  - The bridge would cross Kuchoruk Creek and be designed to accommodate high water and aufeis (ice accumulation on the road surface). Abutments would be placed on either side of the creek within the floodplain.
- River Material Sources (South and East) with installation of a new overland access road.
  - Local gravels within the Noatak River drainage would be used for construction.
  - A pioneer material source access road to accommodate safe summertime access between River Material Source (South) and the Airport Access Road.
- Equipment and Materials Mobilization.
  - Equipment and materials will be transported along the existing Delong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) (see Figure 3 in red/black) from the Red Dog Mine Port approximately 40 miles inland to the proposed start of a winter snow road (Route 3) (see Figure 3).
  - Route 3 would provide overland access between the DMTS and the Airport Access Road via a 28.2-mile winter snow road.
  - Construct gravel pads for staging areas (see Figure 3).

### **Area of Potential Effect**

The Project Area of Potential Effect (APE) is shown on Figures 2-4. The APE includes areas of potential ground-disturbance from construction activities at the locations of the proposed airport site, airport access road, Kuchoruk Creek Bridge, in-river material sources, staging areas, and equipment and material haul routes. Visual effects on adjacent properties were taken into consideration when determining the APE, and none were identified.

### **Identification Efforts**







**Additional Identification Efforts**

A search of the DOT&PF Northern Region Cultural Resources Library indicated that the project APE in and around the Noatak Airport [including the proposed winter haul route, proposed pioneer road, proposed runway and apron, proposed staging areas, and the proposed river material sources (east and south)] has

<sup>1</sup> Referred to in this document as the winter trail or the trail

undergone several cultural resources surveys in support of telecommunications and DOT&PF projects (see Blanchard and McIntosh 2016; Holman 2020; Mobley 2006, 2007; and Wiersum 1986). The Delong Mountain Transportation System haul route has also been surveyed for cultural resources in support of the Red Dog Mine operations and expansion (see Anderson 1977; Brownell and Blake 2017; Gaines et al. 2006; Gerlach and Hall 1986; Hall 1982, 1983, 1987; McClenahan and Gibson 1990; McConnell 2005; SRBA 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014; Tremayne 2016). The DOT&PF Archaeologist-Cultural Resources Specialist (PQI) believes that this level of identification is sufficient for this project.

## **Finding of Effect**

*NOA-00042, Cape Kruzenstern Archaeological District National Monument-National Historic Landmark (NHL)* – As the entirety of the Noatak Airport Relocation Project is located within the Cape Kruzenstern NHL, it is important to assess the effects that project activities will have on the NHL. The current project APE where ground disturbing activities will occur was surveyed for cultural resources by Holman (2020) and portions of the project APE were surveyed by Blanchard and McIntosh (2016), Mobley (2006, 2007), and Wiersum (1986). No additional AHRs sites within the project were uncovered as a result of those cultural resources surveys. However, because the Cape Kruzenstern NHL is significant under Criterion D, and has a wealth of archaeological sites with a high potential for discovering new sites, the DOT&PF has developed an inadvertent discovery plan (see Attachment 2) to help ensure that project activities do not cause an adverse effect on the NHL. The inadvertent discovery plan establishes protocols to follow if cultural resources are encountered during construction activities. With the extensive archaeological survey coverage within the project APE coupled with the inadvertent discovery plan in place for the NHL, the DOT&PF Northern Region PQI believes that a **No Historic Properties Adversely Affected** finding is appropriate for the Cape Kruzenstern National Historic Landmark and seeks the SHPO's concurrence with this finding.

Overall, the DOT&PF Northern Region PQI seeks concurrence from the Alaska SHPO for a finding of **No Historic Properties Adversely Affected** for the project as presented.

## **Consulting Parties**

On February 21, 2019, the DOT&PF, on behalf of FAA sent out consultation initiation letters to the following potential interested parties regarding this project: The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), National Park Service (NPS); the Native Village of Kivalina; the City of Kivalina; the Native Village of Noatak; NANA Regional Corporation; Maniilaq Association; the Northwest Arctic Borough; NPS-Western Arctic National Parklands; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Comments were received from Mark Rollins of the SHPO office reference 3130-1R FAA RevComp ID #2019-00227 on March 12, 2019 indicating that the project is within the boundary of NOA-00042, Cape Kruzenstern Archaeological District National Monument-National Historic Landmark (NHL). As such, they requested that DOT&PF give special consideration to the project's possible effects on the historic properties within and adjacent to the APE. The SHPO had no objections to the APE and requested that we contact Rhea Hood at the NPS to discuss the project's potential effects on the NHL. Comments were also received from Jennifer Pederson Weinberger and Rhea Hood of the NPS on April 1, 2019 requesting that an inadvertent discovery plan be implemented for the project and requesting final reports with information that arises as a result of inadvertent discoveries be sent to NPS. An inadvertent discovery plan is included as part of this findings letter (see Attachment 2). No other comments were received.

Please direct your concurrence or comments to me at my address above, by telephone 907-451-2227, or by e-mail at [holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,



Holly J. McKinney  
Cultural Resource Specialist -Archaeologist (PQI)  
State of Alaska DOT&PF, Northern Region

**Enclosures:**

- Figure 1: Location and Vicinity map
- Figure 2: Area of Potential Effect
- Figure 3: Land Ownership and Area of Potential Effect
- Figure 4: Cape Krusenstern National Historic Landmark & National Monument Boundary

Attachment 1: Noatak Airport Relocation Project: Cultural Resources Survey Report (Holman, 2020).

Attachment 2: Noatak Airport Relocation Project Inadvertent Discovery Plan

**References:**

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Blanchard, Morgan R., and Jill Baxter-McIntosh

2016 Class II and Class III Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Noatak Tower in Noatak, Alaska. Report prepared for Unicom and the Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office.

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2010 Nuiqsut Caribou Subsistence Monitoring Project: Results of Year One Hunter Interviews. Prepared for ConocoPhillips, Alaska, Inc. Anchorage, Alaska.

Braund, Stephen R. and Associates

2011 Nuiqsut Caribou Subsistence Monitoring Project: Results of Year Two Hunter Interviews. Prepared for ConocoPhillips, Alaska, Inc. Anchorage, Alaska.

Braund, Stephen R. and Associates

2012 Nuiqsut Caribou Subsistence Monitoring Project: Results of Year Three Hunter Interviews. Prepared for ConocoPhillips, Alaska, Inc. Anchorage, Alaska.

Braund, Stephen R. and Associates

2013 Nuiqsut Caribou Subsistence Monitoring Project: Results of Year Four Hunter Interviews. Prepared for ConocoPhillips, Alaska, Inc. Anchorage, Alaska.

Braund, Stephen R. and Associates

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2006 Cultural Resources Survey of Material Source 2 Extension for Red Dog Operations, Alaska. Report prepared for Teck Cominco Alaska, Inc.

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Mobley, Charles M. and Associates

2007 Noatak Airport Relocation Archaeological Survey, Noatak, Alaska. Report prepared for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

State of Alaska

2001 Trails Map Produced by: Alaska Division of Natural Resources, Division of Support Services, Lands and Records Information Section. Printed March 23, 2001.

Tremayne, Andrew

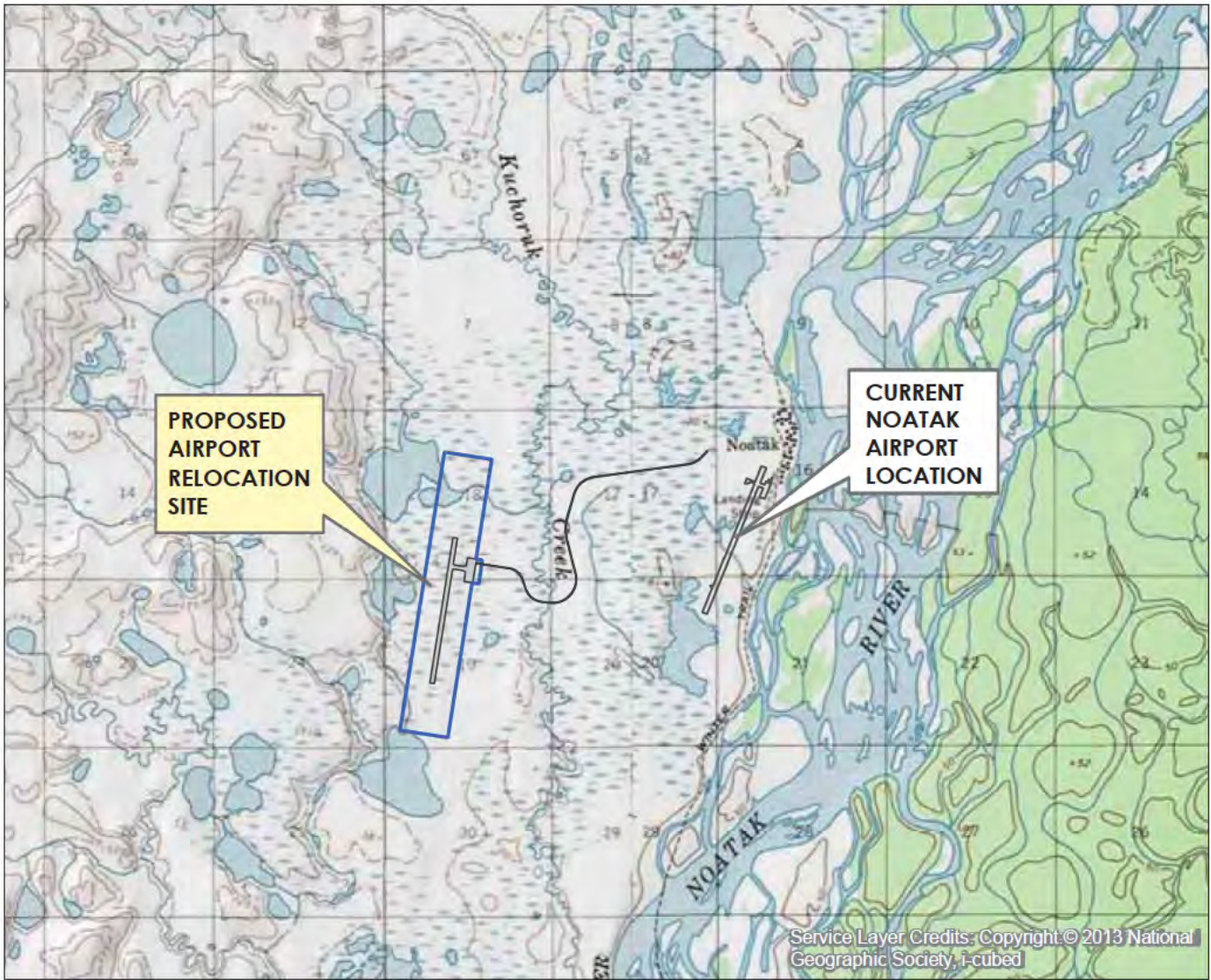
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Wiersum, Wayne E.

1986 An Archaeological Appraisal of the Proposed Airport Project at Selawik, Ambler, Deering, and Noatak, Alaska. Report prepared for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

**Electronic cc w/ enclosures:**

Jack Gilbertsen, FAA, Alaska Region, Regional Environmental Manager  
Christopher Johnston, P.E., DOT&PF Northern Region, Project Manager  
Melissa Jensen, DOT&PF, Northern Region, Environmental Impact Analyst  
Molly Proue, DOT&PF Statewide Environmental NEPA Manager  
Kathy Price, DOT&PF, Statewide Cultural Resources Manager

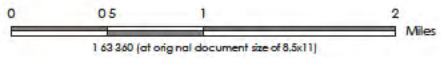


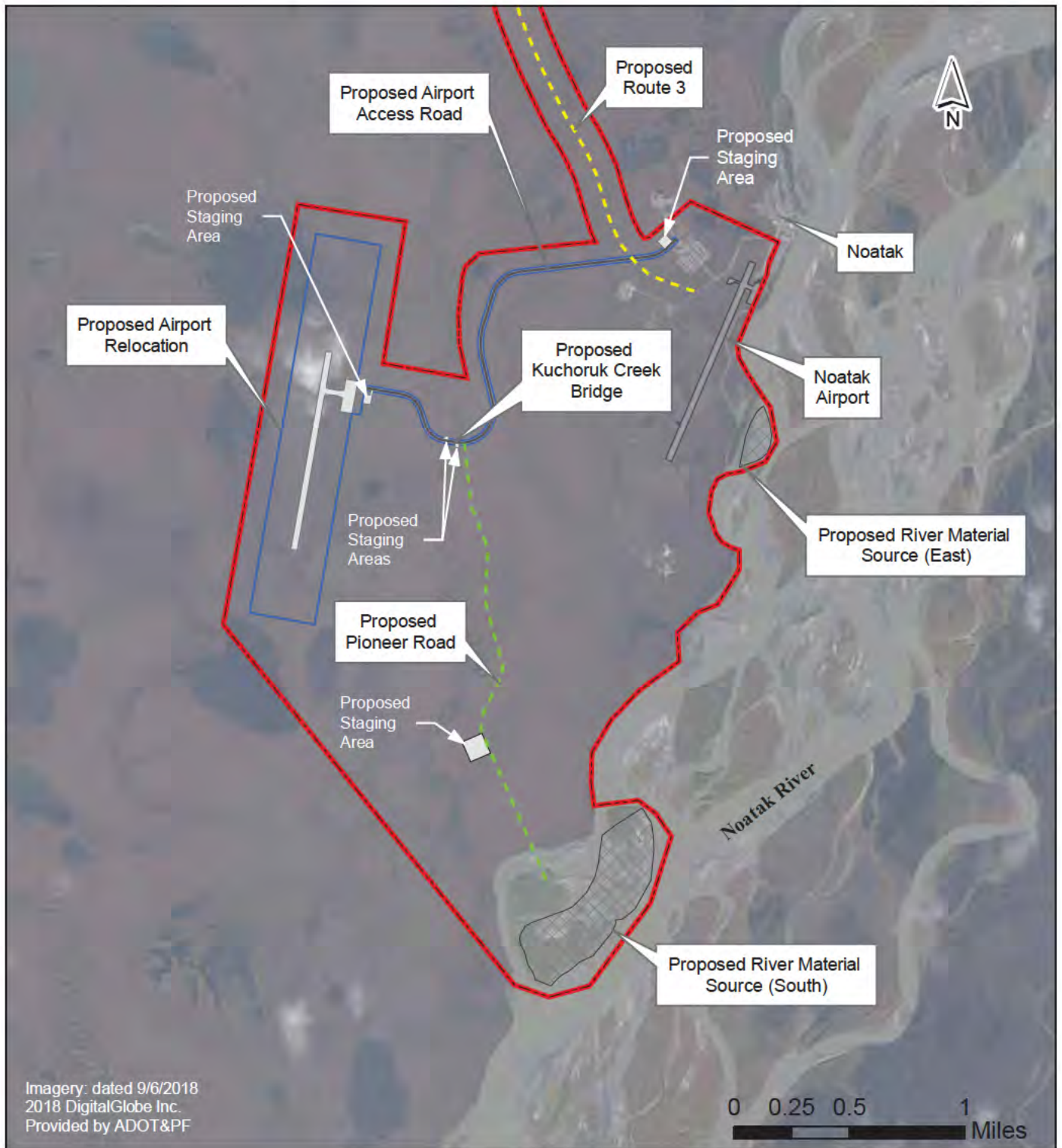
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Project Origin: City of Noatak  
 Kotzebue Recording District,  
 T25, R19W, Sections 5,8,16-21, 29-32  
 T26, R19W, Sections 5-7, 18-20, 29, 32  
 T27, R19W, Sections 4, 5, 9, 16, 20, 21, 29, 32  
 T28, R19W, Sections 5-7, 17-21, 28, 33  
 T29, R19W, Sections 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28, 33, 34  
 Kateel River Meridian

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	
NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION NOATAK, ALASKA <b>Location &amp; Vicinity Map</b>	
DATE: August 2021	FIGURE 1





**LEGEND**

- Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- Proposed Airport Property
- Proposed Runway & Apron
- Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)
- Proposed Pioneer Road

STATE OF ALASKA  
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION  
 NOATAK, ALASKA  
**Area of Potential Effect**

DATE: August 2021

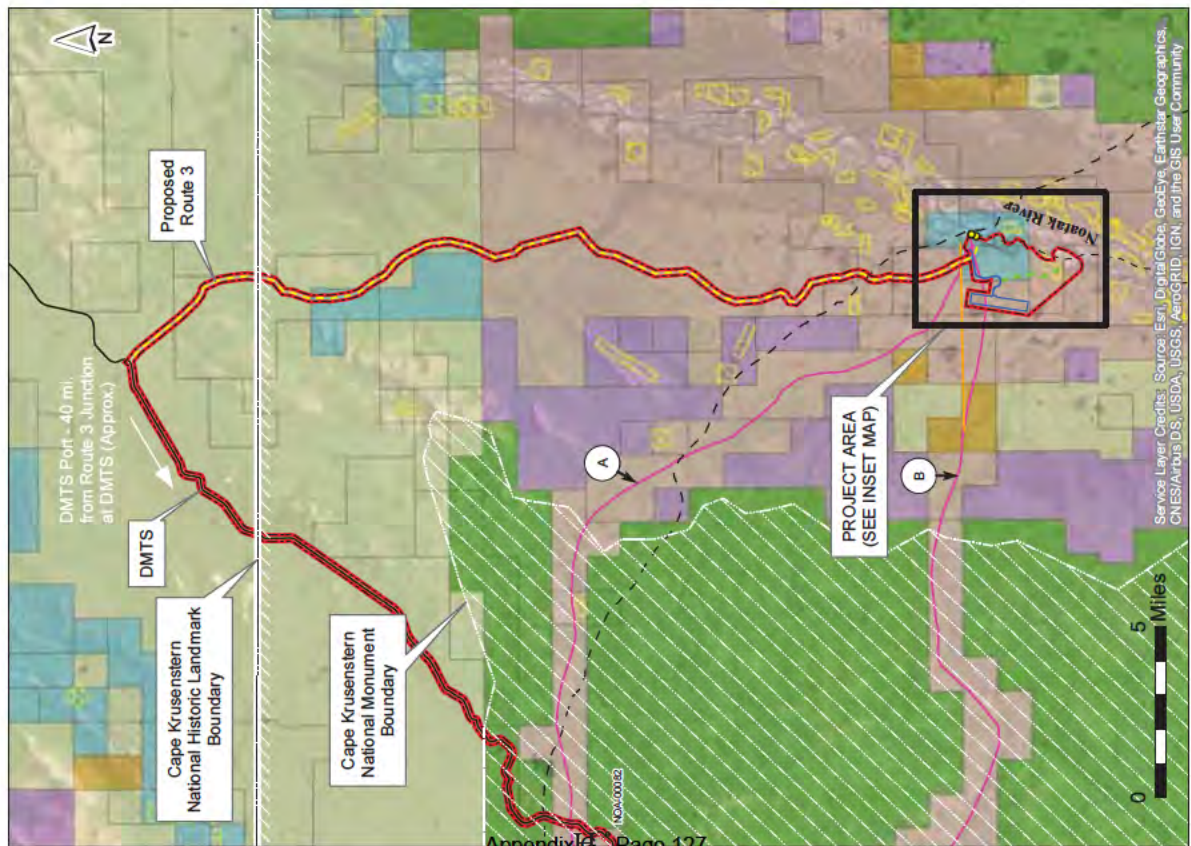
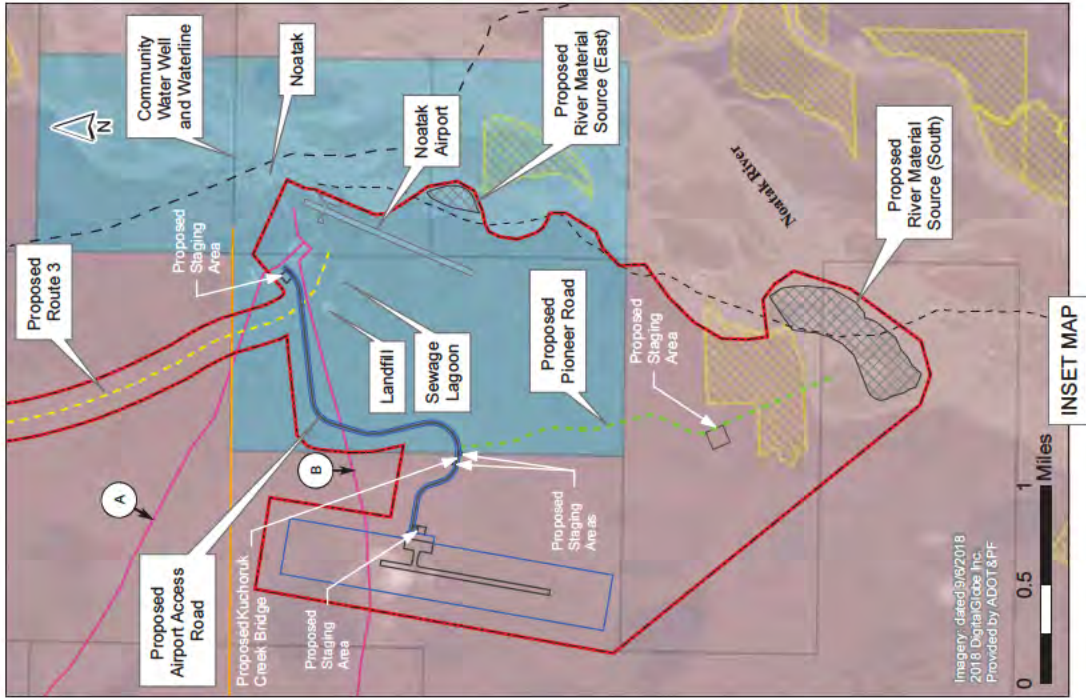
FIGURE 2

- LEGEND**
- Area of Potential Effect (APE)
  - Proposed Airport Property
  - Proposed Runway & Apron
  - Proposed Airport Access
  - Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)
  - Proposed Pioneer Road
  - National Park Service Easements
  - ANCSA 17(b) Easement
  - NAB Winter Trail
  - Kozzebue - Noatak Trail (RS2477 Trail)
  - Alaska Heritage Resources Survey Site
- LAND OWNERSHIP**
- BLM
  - National Park Service
  - Native Corporation
  - Other Private or Municipal
  - State
  - State and Native
  - Native Allotment

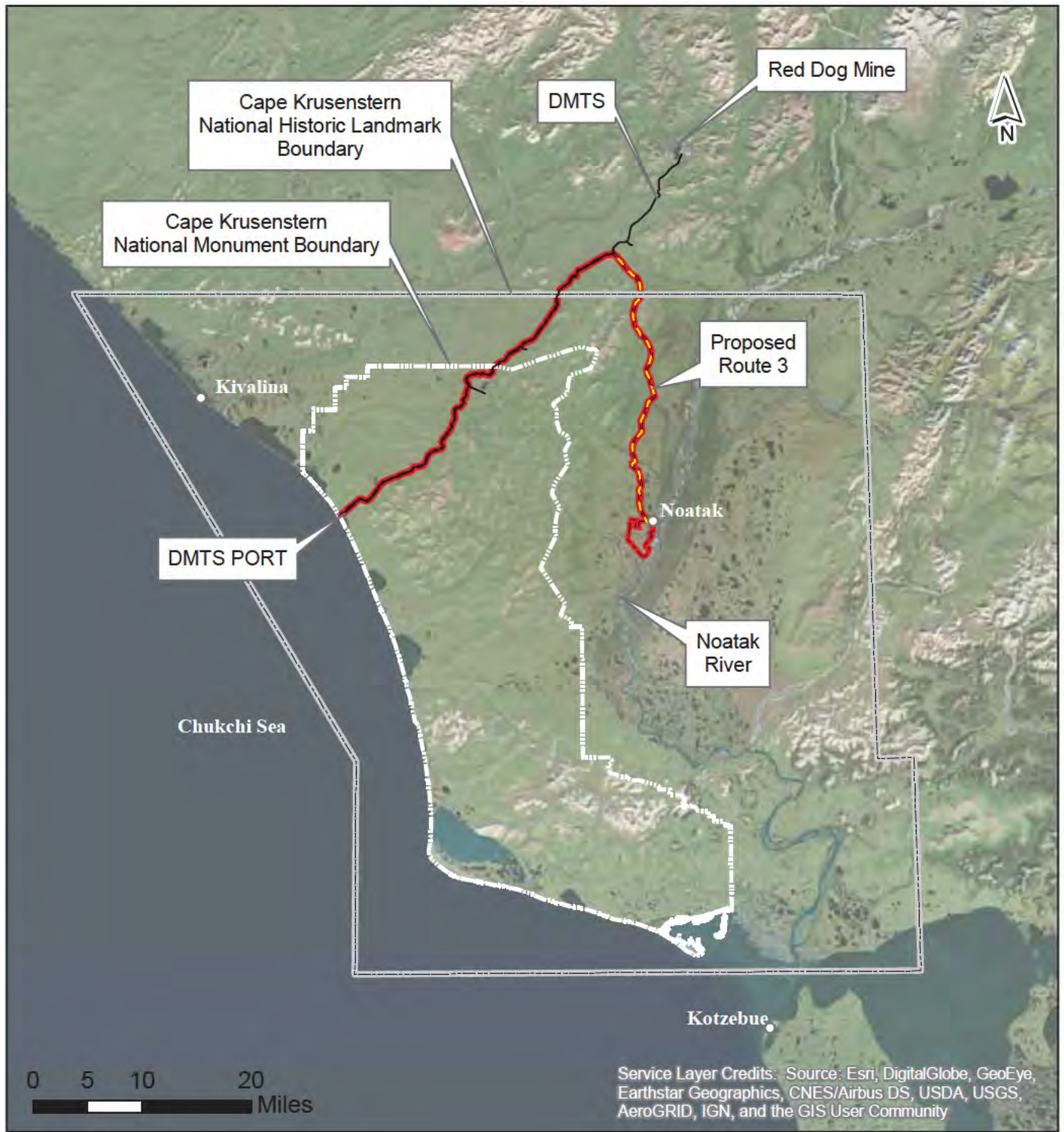
**Notes and Citations:**

- Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Alaska 7 FIPS 5007 Feet
- Imagery: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community, Orthomage, Noatak, 2016 SD.
- Land Status Data Source: Originator: Alaska Department of Natural Resources - October 2017 - All Attributes - Clipped to 1:63,360 Contourline [EPSG:3328 NAD83 Alaska Albers].

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709
NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION NOATAK, ALASKA Land Ownership and APE
DATE: August 2021
FIGURE 3










Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

**LEGEND**

-  Area of Potential Effect (APE)
-  DeLong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS)
-  Proposed Winter Snow Road (Route 3)

STATE OF ALASKA  
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities  
 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, AK 99709

NOATAK AIRPORT RELOCATION  
 NOATAK, ALASKA  
**Cape Krusenstern  
 National Historic Landmark**

DATE: August 2021

FIGURE 4

## Hillman, Kacy

---

**From:** Jensen, Melissa L (DOT) <melissa.jensen@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 7:44 AM  
**To:** Hillman, Kacy; Lindberg, Sara  
**Subject:** FW: Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

---

**From:** Ortiz, Liz M (DNR) <liz.ortiz@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <holly.mckinney@alaska.gov>  
**Cc:** Gilbertsen, Jack (FAA) <jack.gilbertsen@faa.gov>; Gordon, Keith (FAA) <keith.gordon@faa.gov>; Johnston, Christopher F (DOT) <chris.johnston@alaska.gov>; Jensen, Melissa L (DOT) <melissa.jensen@alaska.gov>; Nelson, Brett D (DOT) <brett.nelson@alaska.gov>; Price, Kathy E (DOT) <kathy.price@alaska.gov>; Proue, Molly M (DOT) <molly.proue@alaska.gov>; Ortiz, Liz M (DNR) <liz.ortiz@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

3130-1R FAA / 2021-00989

Good afternoon Holly,

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence (dated August 26, 2021) concerning the subject project on August 26, 2021. Per ACHP Covid-19 guidance, our office has entered tolling and reviews may be delayed as a result. Federal agencies should consider our comments after the 30-day period until our office has resumed normal work procedures. Following our review of the documentation provided, we concur with the finding of No Historic Properties Adversely Affected. Please note that our office may need to re-evaluate our concurrence if changes are made to the project's scope or design, including changes to materials sources or set-down areas.

In addition to our concurrence, our office has comments on the associated Inadvertent Discovery Plan:

- Please distribute the Inadvertent Discovery plan to NPS staff if you haven't already done so. Our last record of consultation was 2019 with their request to develop the plan. Your point of contact for this is Rhea Hood ([rhea\\_hood@nps.gov](mailto:rhea_hood@nps.gov)).
- The staffing at Alaska State Medical Examiner's Office has changed since the development of the Inadvertent Discovery Plan. Please update the Appendices with the following contacts- Anne Waisanen, Operations Administrator, 907-334-2202, [anne.waisanen@alaska.gov](mailto:anne.waisanen@alaska.gov) and Gary Zientek, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, 907-334-2200, [gary.zientek@alaska.gov](mailto:gary.zientek@alaska.gov)

As stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3, other consulting parties such as the local government and Tribes are required to be notified of the undertaking. Additional information provided by the local government, Tribes, or other consulting parties may cause our office to re-evaluate our comments and recommendations. Please note that our response does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties.

Should unidentified archaeological resources be discovered in the course of the project, work must be interrupted until the resources have been evaluated in terms of the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria (36 CFR 60.4), in consultation with our office. Please note that some sites can be deeply buried or underwater, and that fossils are considered cultural resources subject to the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

This email serves as our office's official correspondence for the purposes of Section 106. Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. Please contact Liz Ortiz at 269-8722 or [liz.ortiz@alaska.gov](mailto:liz.ortiz@alaska.gov) if you have any questions or we can be of further assistance.

Best,  
Liz Ortiz

Archaeologist II - Review and Compliance  
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office  
Office of History and Archaeology  
Department of Natural Resources  
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1310  
Anchorage AK, 99501  
(907) 269-8722  
[liz.ortiz@alaska.gov](mailto:liz.ortiz@alaska.gov)

We are currently teleworking; email communication is best. Be well!

---

**From:** Ortiz, Liz M (DNR)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 2:32 PM  
**To:** McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)>; DNR, Parks OHA Review Compliance (DNR sponsored) <[oha.revcomp@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.revcomp@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Gilbertsen, Jack (FAA) <[jack.gilbertsen@faa.gov](mailto:jack.gilbertsen@faa.gov)>; Gordon, Keith (FAA) <[keith.gordon@faa.gov](mailto:keith.gordon@faa.gov)>; Johnston, Christopher F (DOT) <[chris.johnston@alaska.gov](mailto:chris.johnston@alaska.gov)>; Jensen, Melissa L (DOT) <[melissa.jensen@alaska.gov](mailto:melissa.jensen@alaska.gov)>; Nelson, Brett D (DOT) <[brett.nelson@alaska.gov](mailto:brett.nelson@alaska.gov)>; Price, Kathy E (DOT) <[kathy.price@alaska.gov](mailto:kathy.price@alaska.gov)>; Proue, Molly M (DOT) <[molly.proue@alaska.gov](mailto:molly.proue@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

Good afternoon Holly,

Documentation received and logged with me under file number 2021-00989. Our office is still in tolling, but I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Thanks,  
Liz Ortiz

Archaeologist II - Review and Compliance  
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office  
Office of History and Archaeology  
Department of Natural Resources  
550 W. 7th Ave, Suite 1310  
Anchorage AK, 99501  
(907) 269-8722  
[liz.ortiz@alaska.gov](mailto:liz.ortiz@alaska.gov)

We are currently teleworking; email communication is best. Be well!

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**From:** McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:51 AM  
**To:** DNR, Parks OHA Review Compliance (DNR sponsored) <[oha.revcomp@alaska.gov](mailto:oha.revcomp@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ortiz, Liz M (DNR) <[liz.ortiz@alaska.gov](mailto:liz.ortiz@alaska.gov)>; Gilbertsen, Jack (FAA) <[jack.gilbertsen@faa.gov](mailto:jack.gilbertsen@faa.gov)>; Gordon, Keith (FAA)

<[keith.gordon@faa.gov](mailto:keith.gordon@faa.gov)>; Johnston, Christopher F (DOT) <[chris.johnston@alaska.gov](mailto:chris.johnston@alaska.gov)>; Jensen, Melissa L (DOT) <[melissa.jensen@alaska.gov](mailto:melissa.jensen@alaska.gov)>; Nelson, Brett D (DOT) <[brett.nelson@alaska.gov](mailto:brett.nelson@alaska.gov)>; Price, Kathy E (DOT) <[kathy.price@alaska.gov](mailto:kathy.price@alaska.gov)>; Proue, Molly M (DOT) <[molly.proue@alaska.gov](mailto:molly.proue@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

Hi Liz,

Please see attached findings letter for the Noatak Airport Relocation project.

Sincerely,  
Holly McKinney



Holly McKinney, PhD  
Archaeologist (PQI)  
Cultural Resource Specialist  
Alaska DOT&PF  
2301 Peger Road / Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Office (907) 451-2227  
Fax (907)451-5126

In-Office Schedule: Monday-Friday 7:00AM-3:00PM

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# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Interior Region 11 • Alaska  
240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 114  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1.B (AKRO-CR)

October 6, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL – NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

Holly J. McKinney  
Cultural Resource Specialist -Archaeologist (PQI)  
State of Alaska DOT&PF, Northern Region  
2301 Peger Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5388

Subject: Noatak Airport Relocation, Project Numbers (State/Federal): Z614780000/AIP  
TBA, No Historic Properties Adversely Affected

Dear Ms. McKinney:

Thank you for your letter dated August 26, 2021 requesting National Park Service comment on the Noatak Airport Relocation, Project Numbers (State/Federal): Z614780000/AIP TBA.

The above referenced project is within the boundaries of the Cape Krusenstern Archeological District National Historic Landmark (NHL). The National Park Service (NPS) administers the NHL program for the Secretary of the Interior. Federal agencies undertaking a project within an NHL must be in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The NPS serves as an interested party throughout the Section 106 process to ensure the integrity of the NHL.

We have reviewed the project information provided for the new airport location which includes: installation of a new Airport Access Road with overhead electrical, culverts, and a bridge crossing Kuchoruk Creek; two local gravel sources within the Noatak River drainage area with a new access road; and equipment and material transportation and construction staging areas.

We find the considerations, including negative testing results from multiple past cultural resource surveys in the project Area of Potential Effects and the development of an inadvertent discovery plan, for the Cape Krusenstern Archeological District NHL to be sufficient.

We appreciate being notified of inadvertent discoveries related to the Noatak Airport Relocation and the Cape Krusenstern Archeological District NHL when they occur. Please update the Notification of Cultural Resource Discovery contact list to reflect that the only NPS contact for this project is Rhea Hood, Interior Region 11 - Alaska NHL Program Archaeologist, and remove

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INTERIOR REGION 11 • ALASKA

both the NPS Acting Regional Director and the Western Arctic National Parklands Superintendent from the list.

Thank you for including NPS as a consulting partner in your plan to protect this NHL. Please direct questions and correspondence to Rhea Hood at rhea\_hood@nps.gov. We look forward to working with you to minimize harm to this important archeological district.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pederson Weinberger  
Cultural Resources Program Manager

cc:

Rhea Hood (rhea\_hood@nps.gov)

Sarah Meitl, SHPO Review and Compliance Coordinator (sarah.meitl@alaska.gov)

**From:** [McKinney, Holly Jean \(DOT\)](#)  
**To:** [Johnston, Christopher F \(DOT\)](#); [Jensen, Melissa L \(DOT\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:43:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [3130-1R FAA 2021-00989 SHPO concurrence on Noatak Airport Relocation Project 09222021.pdf](#)

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Happy Dance, we already have SHPO concurrence!! See attached. You are good to go Section 106-wise!

Best,  
Holly

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**From:** Johnston, Christopher F (DOT) <[chris.johnston@alaska.gov](mailto:chris.johnston@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:40 AM  
**To:** Jensen, Melissa L (DOT) <[melissa.jensen@alaska.gov](mailto:melissa.jensen@alaska.gov)>; McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

Wow! I didn't expect that to come back so quick or simple. Now just waiting on SHPO. Yay.

Chris

---

**From:** Jensen, Melissa L (DOT) <[melissa.jensen@alaska.gov](mailto:melissa.jensen@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:38 AM  
**To:** McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Johnston, Christopher F (DOT) <[chris.johnston@alaska.gov](mailto:chris.johnston@alaska.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

Yay!!! Thank you!

On Oct 13, 2021, at 11:36 AM, McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)> wrote:

Hi Chris and Missy,

We got concurrence from NPS on Noatak! I will add it to the project file in just a minute. I will also update the contact list in the IDP.

Best,  
Holly

---

**From:** Hood, Rhea E <[Rhea\\_Hood@nps.gov](mailto:Rhea_Hood@nps.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:16 AM

**To:** McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Clemens, Janet F <[Janet\\_Clemens@nps.gov](mailto:Janet_Clemens@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

Dear Holly,

Thank you for contacting the National Park Service regarding the Noatak Airport Relocation project.

Please see the attached NPS response on the proposed project. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Rhea Hood

Archaeologist, National Historic Landmarks Program  
Heritage Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Interior Region 11 - Alaska

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**From:** McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 2:09 PM  
**To:** Hood, Rhea E <[Rhea\\_Hood@nps.gov](mailto:Rhea_Hood@nps.gov)>  
**Cc:** Clemens, Janet F <[Janet\\_Clemens@nps.gov](mailto:Janet_Clemens@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

Hi Rhea,

Yes, please see attached.

Best,  
Holly

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**From:** Hood, Rhea E <[Rhea\\_Hood@nps.gov](mailto:Rhea_Hood@nps.gov)>



**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:41 AM  
**To:** McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)>  
**Cc:** Clemens, Janet F <[Janet\\_Clemens@nps.gov](mailto:Janet_Clemens@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

Hi Holly,  
Would it be possible to see a copy of the Noatak Airport Relocation project's inadvertent discovery plan?

Thank you!  
Rhea

Archaeologist, National Historic Landmarks Program  
Heritage Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Interior Region 11 - Alaska

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**From:** McKinney, Holly Jean (DOT) <[holly.mckinney@alaska.gov](mailto:holly.mckinney@alaska.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 11:54 AM  
**To:** Hood, Rhea E <[Rhea\\_Hood@nps.gov](mailto:Rhea_Hood@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Z614780000 Noatak Airport Relocation Findings

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Dear Ms. Hood,

Please see attached findings for the Noatak Airport Relocation Project.

Sincerely,  
Holly McKinney

<image001.png>

**Holly McKinney, PhD**

**Archaeologist (PQI)**

**Cultural Resource Specialist**

**Alaska DOT&PF**

2301 Peger Road / Fairbanks, AK 99709

Office (907) 451-2227

Fax (907)451-5126

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<NPS to DOT Cape K Noatak airport relocation\_2021-10-06.pdf>