

FAA Alaskan Region Airports Division

Airport Improvement Program Activities with No Potential to Cause Effects to Historic Properties Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Alaskan Region has determined that some airport improvement activities at federally obligated airports would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties in Alaska.

FAA has identified types of airport improvement activities with conditions that qualify as activities with “No Potential to Affect” historic properties and do not require additional review under the Section 106 process of the NHPA. The purpose of this memo is to provide activities, conditions, and documentation requirements to public agency Airport Sponsors (who control public use airports) that satisfy FAA NHPA obligations without requiring further consultation.

Documentation

- On a project-by-project basis, the Airport Sponsor will document the applicability of 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1) and this memo to the proposed activity. Include this information and an adequately described project scope in the project description section and in *National Historic Preservation Act Section 304a* of the FAA Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) form in accordance with FAA Airports CATEX Standard Operating Procedures.
- Environmental documents can be prepared by the Airport Sponsor with the oversight of the FAA. Regardless of the preparer, the FAA Official is responsible to make all NHPA determinations for FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) environmental documents.

Conditions

All of the following conditions must apply to the activity:

- a. The activity is within the scope of FAA’s CATEXs listed in FAA Order 1050.1F Paragraphs 5-6.1 through 5-6.6 that apply to FAA Office of Airports.
- b. Work is for AIP funded projects.
- c. No new ground disturbance, as defined below, is required to accomplish the work. Work is conducted within the existing footprint or within previously disturbed ground.
- d. No new ditching drainage work or new staging area development.
- e. Maintenance, repair, or replacement is in-kind or with similar materials consistent with existing facilities at that location.
- f. The project in its entirety meets all of the requirements of this document. Activities which are phases or portions of other projects shall be included in the Section 106 evaluations for that larger project as a whole.

Ground Disturbance Definitions

- “Ground disturbance” refers to any work or activity that compacts or disturbs the ground within the project area. The project area is defined as all areas where activities will occur, including: actual construction activities, permanent easements, temporary construction easements, staging areas for supplies and equipment, and designated waste areas or borrow pits.
- Work and activities that result in a disturbance of soil including: planting, excavating, digging, trenching, plowing, drilling, tunneling, auguring, backfilling, blasting, topsoil stripping, land leveling, peat removing, quarrying, and clearing and grading.
- Ground disturbance can also be caused by the use of hand tools: shovels, pick axe, post hole digger etc.; heavy equipment: excavators, backhoes, bulldozers, trenching and earth moving equipment, etc.; and heavy trucks: large four wheel drive trucks dump trucks and tractor trailers, etc.
- “New ground disturbance” refers to any ground disturbance in previously undisturbed soils. Intact subsurface soils may exist below and adjacent to disturbed soils and any work or activities in these areas are considered new ground disturbance. Proposed work or activities will include information of the depth at which the work will take place for consideration of the occurrence of intact subsurface soils.

Activities with No Potential to Cause Effects to Historic Properties

Administrative / General Actions – Airport actions that are administrative

1. Purchase of safety equipment such as snow removal equipment or other equipment necessary for airport operations and security equipment for airport security purposes – does not include new installation of fencing.
2. Completion of aeronautical surveys (i.e., LIDAR, aerial photography).
3. Airport Layout Plans (ALPs) conditional approvals, exhibit A, and Master Plan updates.
4. Additional qualifying activities are identified in FAA Order 5050.4b Table 6-1 ‘*Airport-specific Categorical Exclusions Unlikely to Involve Extraordinary Circumstances*’ for remaining actions.

Equipment and Instrumentation – Airport actions involving maintenance and repair or replacement of equipment or instruments necessary for operations and safety.

5. Maintain, repair, or replacement on airport property of airfield or approach lighting systems, visual approach aids, beacons, electrical distribution systems including conduit repair or replacement in existing locations.
6. Maintain, repair or replacement of communications, navigation aids, surveillance and weather systems and other essentially similar facilities and equipment.
7. Maintain, repair, or replacement of minor miscellaneous items such as segmented circles, wind indicators, wind measure devices, landing directional equipment.

8. Maintain, repair, replacement, or removal of signs and signals.

Facility Maintenance – Airport actions involving maintenance and repair or replacement of AIP funded airfield and landside facilities.

9. Maintain, repair, or replacement of runways, taxiways, aprons, embankments, shoulders, runway safety areas including Engineered Material Arresting Systems, access and service roads, parking areas, grounds, rights-of-ways. Acceptable activities and materials include: removal and replacement of paved or gravel surfaces, crack sealing, seal coating, asphalt repair, minor grading to existing design, aggregate and riprap replacement, and application of dust palliative.
10. Marking and grooving associated with the above listed existing facilities.
11. Cleaning and reconditioning of ditches and catch basins to original design slope, cleaning repair and maintenance of culverts and drainage structures, replacement of similar diameter culverts qualifying for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #3, and replacement of materials for embankment stabilization and erosion control.
12. Removal of obstructions to air navigation, including brush cutting and removal of new growth areas on airport property within Object Free Area (OFA) and Object Free Zone (OFZ) out to Building Restriction Line (BRL) if previously cleared and/or disturbed.
13. Removal, repair, or replacement of fencing, guardrails or barriers.
14. Herbicide and pesticide application for vegetation control.

FAA reserves the right to amend or modify the airport activity list and/or procedures at any time. FAA will notify Airport Sponsors in writing of any amendment or modification to this memo and the date of that amendment. FAA reserves the right to revoke the contents of this memo.

This authority is effective immediately and will remain in effect until it is either revoked or modified by FAA Alaskan Region Airports Division.



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Date