

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

CENTRAL REGION DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
PRELIMINARY DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTAL

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January 18, 2006

Subject: West Dowling Road Connection
Project No. 55012

Request for Jurisdictional Determination

Don R. Rice
South Unit Coordinator, North Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 6898
Elmendorf Airforce AFB, AK 99506-6898

Dear Mr. Rice:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing to extend and improve West Dowling Road. The purpose of the project is to provide congestion relief, improved traffic safety and improved level of service on parallel arterials. The proposed improvements will include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, drainage improvements, intersection lighting, transit accommodations, necessary utility relocations, arterial connections and several new bridges and structures.

In accordance with the 1992 Permit Accord between our agencies, I am writing to inform you that ADOT&PF has determined that the proposed action would affect U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) jurisdictional wetlands and request your concurrence. To assist you in your determination, I have enclosed the West Dowling Road Connection Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination. As you are aware, federally funded projects are mandated to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to wetlands to the greatest extent possible. The selection of alternatives for the West Dowling Road Connection Project must take into account among other factors the potential effects on wetlands.

The enclosed report describes the wetland delineation process used for this project, discusses the types of wetlands and Waters of the U. S. found within the project area and their functions, and contains detailed maps delineating wetland boundaries. The report also contains all the wetland delineation data forms and photographs collected during field investigations.

ADOT&PF has determined that Tina Lake and its contiguous wetlands are not jurisdictional. ADOT&PF has determined that the wetlands east of C Street, the wetlands north of Dowling road and west of the railroad and the wetlands north and east of Blueberry Lake are jurisdictional.

Please review the enclosed report and respond back to Brian Elliot, Environmental Team Leader at the letterhead address or email him at brian_elliott@dot.state.ak.us. I'd appreciate a response by February 15, 2006. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Bill Ballard
Statewide Environmental Coordinator

Enclosures: Preliminary Regulatory Assessment Form
West Dowling Road Connection Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination

Cc w/o enclosures: Brian Elliott, ADOT&PF (Central Region) Environmental Team Leader
Miriam McCulloch, P.E., ADOT&PF (Central Region), Project Manager
Dan Simpson, PE, HDR, Project Manager