

Sent to AL
8/15/05



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA
P.O. BOX 6898
ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA 99506-0898

AUG 09 2005

Regulatory Branch
South Section

Ms. Edrie Vinson, Environmental Project Manager
Federal Highway Administration
Alaska Division
~~705 West Ninth Street Room 851~~
Post Office Box 21648
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1648

Dear Ms. Vinson:

This letter is prepared in our capacity as cooperating agency for the Knik Arm Crossing, Anchorage, Alaska, Federal Highway Administration project No. ACSTP-0001 (277). At this time we are specifically commenting on the scoping meeting of July 14, 2005. All of the proposed alignment segments would impact wetlands or waters of the United States, regulated under Section 404 (b) 1, of the Clean Water Act, and the areas subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, are subject to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

While most of our specific comments on the scoping meeting are listed below, in general, I found a vast improvement in the wording of the Purpose and Need statement. While I feel more refinement is called for I applaud the progress.

I continue to be concerned about the long-range affects of the proposed project. While I am gratified to hear that some of the studies have been extended for several months, I cannot help but feel that we are rushing to decision without long-range knowledge of the impacts of this project on the delicate environment of Upper Cook Inlet.

I believe the interaction with the Alaska Railroad Corporation was quite beneficial to the process. It demonstrated a willingness to look at other alternatives besides a strictly vehicular bridge.

Sincerely,

Irwin T. Joy
Project Manager
South Section

Enclosure
Federal Highway
Administration
August 2, 2005
Juneau, Alaska

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