

State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PROJECTS

Project Name: Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594

Project Number (state/federal): 60262/0714(023)

Date: 3/7/2014

CE Designation: 23 CFR 771.117(d)(3)

23 CFR 771.117() ()

List of Attachments: Figure 1 Location & Vicinity Map, Figures 2-4 Material Site Maps, Figures 5-7 Bridge & Approaches, Figure 8 Wetland Legend, Appendix A-Class of Action, Appendix B-Section 106 Coordination, Appendix C-USFWS Coordination, Appendix D-Public Involvement, Appendix E-Scoping Coordination, Appendix F-Coast Guard Permit Coordination.

I. Project Purpose and Need

The existing Ruby Creek bridge is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. In addition, during high flow events the stream deposits significant amounts of gravel near the bridge posing a risk to the structure and roadway.

The purpose of this project is to replace the existing bridge with a new bridge having an improved hydraulic capacity, and satisfying current design criteria. The new bridge crossing will also provide improved bridge integrity, safety, and reduce maintenance efforts and their associated costs.

II. Project Description

The project is located 28 miles south of Delta Junction, Alaska. See Figure 1 Location & Vicinity Map. It consists of the following potential work items:

1. construction of a new bridge near the existing location,
2. hydraulic improvements to include a bridge grade raise, bridge span lengthening, spill-thru abutments, channel work, and dike modifications,
3. realignment of streambed and removal material up and downstream of bridge to mitigate past maintenance activities and deposition.
4. realignment of the highway approach road,
5. new and replacement culverts,
6. alteration of existing residential driveways,
7. construction staging areas,
8. removal of the old bridge and roadway up to 100 feet on each side of existing bridge,
9. material stockpile removal, and
10. utility relocation.

Temporary construction work may include a temporary bypass road/bridge, stream diversions, temporary fills to isolate work areas from surrounding waters, a temporary work bridge or causeway to facilitate bridge work, and/or temporary erosion control measures.

Three existing material sites near the project are potential sites for contractor use (Figures 1-4). Expansion of two of the sites is proposed (Figures 3 & 4).

III. Environmental Consequences

- For each yes, summarize the activity evaluated and the magnitude of the impact.
- For any consequence category with an asterisk (*), additional information must be attached such as an alternatives analysis, agency coordination or consultation, avoidance measures, public notices, or mitigation statement.
- Include direct and indirect impacts in each analysis.

A. Right-of-Way Impacts

	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Additional right-of-way required.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Permanent easements required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Estimated number of parcels: <u>NA</u>			
• Full or partial property acquisition required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Estimated number of full parcels: <u>0</u>			
• Estimated number of partial parcels: <u>2</u>			
• Property transfer from state or federal agency required. <i>If yes, list agency in No. 4 below.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Business or residential relocations required. <i>If yes, summarize the findings of the conceptual stage relocation study in No. 4 below and attach the conceptual stage relocation study.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Number of relocations: <u>0</u>			
• Type of relocation: Residential: <input type="checkbox"/> Business: <input type="checkbox"/> Residential (Indicate number: <u>NA</u>) Business (Indicate number: <u>NA</u>)			
• Last-resort housing required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the project or activity have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations as defined in E.O. 12898 (DOT Order 6640.23, December 1998)?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The project will involve use of ANILCA land that requires an ANILCA Tile XI approval. <i>If yes, the project is not assigned to the State per the 6004 MOU and the CE must be processed by FHWA.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Summarize the right-of-way impacts, if any: Proposed right-of-way is shaded on Figure 6. Partial acquisition is anticipated from two private residential land parcels in the northeast and southeast quadrants of the bridge crossing. Property transfers are anticipated from DNR and/or BLM for lands upstream and downstream along the stream channel. Renewed agreements with DNR are planned for the material sites including some site expansions (Figure 2-4).			

B. Social and Cultural Impacts

	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. The project will affect neighborhoods or community cohesion.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. The project will affect travel patterns and accessibility (e.g. vehicular, commuter, bicycle, or pedestrian).		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. The project will affect school boundaries, recreation areas, churches, businesses, police and fire protection, etc.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. The project will affect the elderly, handicapped, nondrivers, transit-dependent, minority and ethnic groups, or the economically disadvantaged.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- B. Social and Cultural Impacts** N/A YES NO
5. There are unresolved project issues or concerns of a federally-recognized Indian Tribe [as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(m)]. *If yes, the project is not assigned to the State per the 6004 MOU and the CE must be processed by FHWA.*
6. Summarize the social and cultural impacts, if any:
Travel patterns and accessibility on the highway will remain unchanged. Improvements to residential driveways are proposed.

- C. Economic Impacts** N/A YES NO
1. The project will have adverse economic impacts on the regional and/or local economy, such as effects on development, tax revenues and public expenditures, employment opportunities, accessibility, and retail sales.
2. The project will adversely affect established businesses or business districts.
3. Summarize the economic impacts, if any:
No adverse economic impacts are anticipated.

- D. Land Use and Transportation Plans** N/A YES NO
1. Project is consistent with land use plan(s).
a. Identify the land use plan(s) and date NA
2. Project is consistent with transportation plan(s).
a. Identify the transportation plan(s) and date. Interior Alaska Transportation Plan, November 2010
3. Project would induce adverse indirect and cumulative effects on land use or transportation. *If yes, attach analysis.*
4. Summarize how the project is consistent or inconsistent with the land use plan(s) and transportation plan(s):

The project is consistent with the current Interior Alaska Transportation Plan's goal (page 20, goal #4) to preserve the existing transportation facilities and extending the life of these facilities.

The project does not change land use or induce land use change but corrects bridge deficiencies in order to preserve the function and safety of the existing roadway such that it continues to serve the existing land uses.

- E. Impacts to Historic Properties** N/A YES NO
1. Does the project involve a road that is included on the "List of Roads Treated as Eligible" in the Alaska Historic Roads PA? *If yes, follow the Interim Guidance for Addressing Alaska Historic Roads.*
2. Does the project qualify as a listed activity that has no potential to cause effects to historic properties? *If yes, attach concurrence from the FHWA Area Engineer (non-assigned projects) or Statewide NEPA Manager for 6004-assigned projects.* *
- a. Indicate the appropriate policy directive or memo that identifies the project as an action with no potential to cause effects to historic properties:
NA

E. Impacts to Historic Properties

N/A YES NO

3. Is a National Register of Historic Places listed or eligible property in the Area of Potential Effect?
4. Date Consultation/Initiation Letters sent 1/25/2012 *Attach copies to this form.*
- a. List consulting parties SHPO, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Healy Lake Village Corporation, Deltana Community Corporation, Mendas Cha-ag Native Corporation, Healy Lake Traditional Council, Doyon Limited
- b. If no letters were sent, explain why not. *Attach "Section 106 Proceed Directly to Findings Worksheet", if applicable* NA
5. Date "Finding of Effect" Letters sent 7/9/2013 *Attach copies to this form*
- a. State any changes to consulting parties Ahtna added
6. List responding consulting parties, comment date, and summarize:
Tanana Chiefs Conference - 2/6/2012 (Appendix B) - Requested detailed study of two previously recorded archaeological sites, XMH-252 and XMH299. Subsequent survey efforts were unable to locate the sites due to disturbance from stream erosion and gravel extraction.
Healy Lake Trade Village Corporation CEO Robert Fifer responded to the Section 106 Finding letter on 7/10/2013 (Appendix B) indicating that after their review of the project and conversation with an archaeologist, they have determined there is no known cultural impact to Healy Lake Tribe.
7. Are there any unresolved issues with consulting parties?
- a. If yes, list NA
8. Date SHPO concurred with "Finding of Effect" 7/26/2013 *Attach copy to this form.*
9. Will there be an adverse effect on a historic property? *If yes, attach correspondence (including response from ACHP) and signed MOA. If yes, Programmatic Agreements (PCEs) do not apply.*
10. Summarize any effects to historic properties. *List affected sites (by AHRS number only) and any commitments or mitigative measures. Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.*

FHWA determined and SHPO concurred (7/26/2013 letter, Appendix B) that the project would have no adverse effect on historic properties. No mitigation measures are proposed.

F. Wetland Impacts

N/A YES NO

1. Project affects wetlands as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). *If yes, document public and agency coordination required per E.O. 11990, Protection of Wetlands.* *
2. Are the wetlands delineated in accordance with the "Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Alaska Region (Version 2.0) Sept. 2007"?
3. Estimated area of wetland involvement (acres): <1 acre
4. Estimated fill quantities (cubic yards): 5000 c.y.
5. Estimated dredge quantities (cubic yards): NA

- | F. <u>Wetland Impacts</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6. Is a USACE authorization anticipated?
<i>If yes, identify type:</i> NWP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> General Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Wetlands Finding <i>Attach the following supporting documentation as appropriate:</i> | | | |
| • <i>Avoidance and Minimization Checklist, and Mitigation Statement</i> | | | |
| • <i>Wetlands Delineation.</i> | | | |
| • <i>Jurisdictional Determination.</i> | | | |
| • <i>Copies of public and resource agency letters received in response to the request for comments.</i> | | | |
| a. Are there practicable alternatives to the proposed construction in wetlands? <i>If yes, the project cannot be approved as proposed.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Does the project include all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands? <i>If no, the project cannot be approved as proposed.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Only practicable alternative: Based on the evaluation of avoidance and minimization alternatives, there are no practicable alternatives that would avoid the project's impacts on wetlands. The project includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the affected wetlands as a result of construction. <i>If no, the project cannot be approved as proposed.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Summarize the wetlands impacts and mitigation, if any. Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI. | | | |

Project area wetland boundaries and types are shown on Figures 2-8. Wetlands within material sites are expected to be avoided. The project is estimated to impact less than one acre of wetlands. The potential impact location is shown on Figure 6.

- | G. <u>Water Body Involvement</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Project affects a water body. | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Project affects a navigable water body as defined by USCG, (i.e. Section 9). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Project affects Waters of the U.S. as defined by the USACE, Section 404. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Project affects Navigable Waters of the U.S. as defined by the USACE (Section 10) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Project affects fish passage across a stream frequented by salmon or other fish(i.e. Title 16.05.841) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Project affects a cataloged anadromous fish stream, river or lake (i.e. Title 16.05.871). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Project affects a designated Wild and Scenic River or land adjacent to a Wild and Scenic River. <i>If yes, the Regional Environmental Manager should consult with the Statewide NEPA Manager (assigned CEs) or FHWA Area Engineer and FHWA Environmental Program Manager (non-assigned CEs) to determine applicability of Section 4(f).</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Proposed water body involvement: Bridge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culvert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embankment Fill <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relocation <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temporary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 9. Type of stream or river habitat impacted: Spawning <input type="checkbox"/> Rearing <input type="checkbox"/> Pool <input type="checkbox"/> Riffle <input type="checkbox"/> Undercut bank <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 10. Amount of fill below (cubic yards): OHW <u>20,000</u> MHW <u>NA</u> HTL <u>NA</u> | | | |

11. Summarize the water body impacts and mitigation, if any. *Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.*

Impacts to Ruby Creek and the MS 71-0-004-2 material site pond would occur. Streams within material sites including Donnelly Creek would be avoided.

Permanent: Replacement of the bridge, replacement of approach culverts, modification to bridge approaches, removal of material stockpiles surrounding the bridge, and extraction of material from material site.

Potential Temporary: The nature of all temporary work in Ruby Creek is dependent on contractor operations. This work may involve temporary bypass roads, stream diversions, temporary fills to isolate work areas from surrounding waters, a temporary work bridge or causeway to facilitate bridge construction, and/or temporary erosion control measures.

H. Fish and Wildlife

N/A YES NO

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Anadromous and resident fish habitat. <i>Any activity or project that is conducted below the ordinary high water mark of an anadromous stream, river, or lake requires a Fish Habitat Permit.</i></p> <p>a. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: Alaska DFG Fisheries Database (2/10/2014)</p> <p>b. Anadromous fish habitat present in project area.</p> <p>c. Resident fish habitat present in project area</p> <p>d. Adverse effect on spawning habitat.</p> <p>e. Adverse effect on rearing habitat.</p> <p>f. Adverse effect on migration corridors.</p> <p>g. Adverse effect on subsistence species.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>2. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). <i>EFH includes any anadromous stream used by any of the five species of Pacific salmon for migration, spawning or rearing, as well as other coastal, nearshore and offshore areas as designated by NMFS.</i></p> <p>a. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: Alaska DFG Fisheries Database (2/10/2014)</p> <p>b. EFH present in project area</p> <p>c. Project proposes construction in EFH. <i>If yes, describe EFH impacts in H.6.</i></p> <p>d. Project may adversely affect EFH. <i>If yes, attach EFH Assessment.</i></p> <p>e. Project includes conservation recommendations proposed by NMFS. <i>If NMFS conservation recommendations are not adopted, formal notification must be made to NMFS. Summarize the final conservation measures in H.6 and list in Section VI.</i></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>3. Wildlife Resources:</p> <p>a. Project is in area of high wildlife/vehicle accidents.</p> <p>b. Project would bisect migration corridors.</p> <p>c. Project would segment habitat.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>4. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. <i>If yes to any below, consult with USFWS and attach documentation of consultation.</i></p> <p>a. Eagle data source(s) and date(s) : USFWS letter, 2/14/2014, Appendix C</p> <p>b. Project visible from an eagle nesting tree?</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |

- | H. <u>Fish and Wildlife</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c. Project within 330 feet of an eagle nesting tree? | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Project within 660 feet of an eagle nesting tree? | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Will the project require blasting or other activities that produce extreme loud noises within 1/2 a mile from an active nest? | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Is an eagle permit required? | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is the project consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Summarize fish and wildlife impacts and mitigation, including timing windows, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i> | | | |

Work would occur in Ruby Creek a resident fish-bearing stream. With implementation of DFG Fish Habitat Permit provisions no substantial impacts to fish are expected.

- | I. <u>Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E)</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: USFWS IPac Online System (2/10/2014) | | | |
| 2. Listed threatened or endangered species present in the project area. | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Threatened or endangered species migrate through the project area. | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Designated critical habitat in the project area. | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Proposed species present in project area. | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Candidate species present in project area. | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. What is the effect determination for the project? <i>Select one.</i> | | | |
| a. Project has no effect on listed or proposed T&E species or designated critical habitat. | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| b. Project is not likely to adversely affect a listed or proposed T&E species or designated critical habitat. <i>Informal Section 7 consultation is required. Attach consultation documentation, including concurrence from the Federal agency, to this form.</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| c. Project is likely to adversely affect a listed or proposed T&E species or designated critical habitat. <i>If yes, consult the FHWA Area Engineer (non-assigned projects) or Statewide NEPA Manager for 6004-assigned projects.</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 8. Summarize the findings of the consultation, conferencing, biological evaluation, or biological assessment and the opinion of the agency with jurisdiction, or state why no coordination was conducted. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i> | | | |

As search of the USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) was completed on 2/10/2014. The results indicated that there are no federally listed species or critical habitat found within the vicinity of the project vicinity. USFWS confirmed this in their 2/14/2014 letter attached in Appendix C.

- | J. <u>Invasive Species</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: AKEPIC Database (2/10/2014) | | | |
| 2. Does the project include all practicable measures to minimize the introduction or spread invasive species, making the project consistent with E.O. 13112 (Invasive Species)? <i>If yes, list measures in J.3.</i> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. Summarize invasive species impacts and minimization measures, if any. *Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.*

A review of the AKEPIC database found occurrence records in the vicinity of the Donnelly Creek Material Site (MS 71-0-005-2) for the following species: white sweet clover (*melilotus alba medikus*), narrowleaf hawksbeard (*crepis tectorum L.*), prostrate knotweed (*polygonum aviculare*), foxtail barley (*hordeum jubatum*), herb sophia (*descurainia sophia*), common dandelion (*taraxacum officinale*), common plantain (*plantago major*), pineapple weed (*matricaria discoidea*), and lambsquarters (*chenopodium album*).

With the implementation of practicable measures to minimize the introduction or spread of invasive species, the project is expected to result in no substantial invasive species impacts. Minimization measures proposed are: 1) Avoid the use of listed noxious species for landscaping and erosion control purposes. 2) Sequence construction activities to minimized disturbed areas. 3) Implement timely seeding of project-disturbed areas with non-invasive species providing adequate cover.

K. Hazardous Waste

	<u>N/A</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Database name(s) and date(s) queried: Alaska DEC Contaminated Site Database & Dept. of Interior National Atlas Database (2/10/2014)			
2. There are potentially contaminated sites within or adjacent to the existing and/or proposed ROW.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. There are identified contaminated sites within or adjacent to the existing and/or proposed ROW.	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Extensive excavation is proposed adjacent to, or within, a known hazardous waste site, or the potential for encountering hazardous waste during construction is high. <i>If yes, attach the hazardous waste investigation report and approved ADEC Corrective Action Plan.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> *		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Summarize the hazardous waste impacts and mitigation, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i>			

A review of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) contaminated site database was completed on 2/10/2014. One site (DEC File# 120.38.013) was found to be the the vicinity of the project. The site name is Big State Logistics Vehicle Rollover – MP 235.8 Richardson Highway. The DEC database reports the following: “On 3/15/13 a pup trailer/tank attached to a tanker truck overturned releasing approximately 2000 gallons of diesel fuel to the ground in the road right-of-way. Initial excavation was limited to maintain the integrity of the road bed. Ethylbenzene, xylenes, GRO, and DRO (and possibly benzene) remain above DEC cleanup levels.”

A review of the U.S Department of Interior’s National Atlas database of potentially contaminated sites revealed no sites of concern for encountering contamination within the project area.

The only identified contaminated site (DEC File# 120.38.013) in the project vicinity is well outside the anticipated project work area and the right-of way associated with the project. Contamination is not expected to be encountered with this project.

- | L. <u>Air Quality (Conformity)</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The project is located in an air quality maintenance area or nonattainment area (CO or PM-10 or PM-2.5). <i>If yes, indicate CO <input type="checkbox"/> or PM-10 <input type="checkbox"/> or PM-2.5 <input type="checkbox"/>, and complete the remainder of this section.</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The project is included in a conforming Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a. List dates of FHWA/FTA conformity determination: _____ | | | |
| 3. The project is exempt from an air quality analysis per 40 CFR 93.126 (Table 2 and Exempt Projects). <i>If no, a project-level air quality conformity determination is required for CO nonattainment and maintenance areas, and a qualitative project-level analysis is required for both PM-2.5 and PM-10 nonattainment and maintenance areas.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Have there been a significant change in the scope or the design concept as described in the most recent conforming TIP and LRTP? <i>If yes, describe changes in L.8. In addition, the project must satisfy the conformity rule's requirements for projects not from a plan and TIP, or the plan and TIP must be modified to incorporate the revised project (including a new conformity analysis).</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. A CO project-level analysis was completed meeting the requirements of Section 93.123 of the conformity rule. The results satisfy the requirements of Section 93.116(a) for all areas or 93.116(b) for nonattainment areas. <i>Attach a copy of the analysis.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. A PM-2.5 project-level air quality analysis was completed meeting the requirements of Section 93.123 of the conformity rule. The results satisfy the requirements of Section 93.116. <i>Attach a copy of the analysis.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. A PM-10 project-level air quality analysis was completed meeting the requirements of Section 93.123 of the conformity rule. The results satisfy the requirements of Section 93.116. <i>Attach a copy of the analysis.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Summarize air quality impacts, mitigation, and agency coordination, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i> | | | |

The project is not located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area.

- | M. <u>Floodplain Impacts (23 CFR 650, Subpart A)</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Project encroaches into the base (100 year) flood plain in fresh or marine waters. Identify floodplain map source and date : <u>NA</u> | | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>If yes, attach documentation of public involvement conducted per E.O. 11988 and 23 CFR 650.109. Consult with the regional or Statewide Hydraulics/Hydrology expert. Attach the required location hydraulic study developed per 23 CFR 650.111. Answer questions M.1.a through d.</i> | | | |
| <i>If no, skip to M.2.</i> | | | |
| a. Is there a longitudinal encroachment into the 100-year floodplain? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Is there significant encroachment as defined by 23 CFR 650.105(q)? <i>If yes, the project cannot be approved as proposed without a finding that the proposed action is the "Only Practicable Alternative" as defined in 23 CFR 650.113. Attach the finding for approval.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | M. <u>Floodplain Impacts (23 CFR 650, Subpart A)</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| c. Project encroaches into a regulatory floodway. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. The proposed action would increase the base flood elevation one-foot or greater. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> * | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Project conforms to local flood hazard requirements. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Project is consistent with E.O. 11988 (Floodplain Protection). <i>If no, the project cannot be approved as proposed.</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Summarize floodplain impacts and mitigation, if any. <i>Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.</i> | | | |
- The project is not located within a FEMA-mapped 100-year floodplain.

- | N. <u>Noise Impacts (23 CFR 772)</u> | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Does the project involve any of the following? <i>If yes, complete N.1.a. If no, a noise analysis is not required. Skip to section O.</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of highway on a new location. • Substantial alteration in vertical or horizontal alignment as defined in 23 CFR 772.5. • An increase in the number of through lanes. • Addition of an auxiliary lane (except a turn lane). • Addition or relocation of interchange lanes or ramps added to a quadrant to complete an existing partial interchange. • Restriping existing pavement for the purpose of adding a through-traffic lane or an auxiliary lane. • Addition of a new or substantial alteration of a weigh station, rest stop, ride-share lot or toll plaza. | | | |
| a. Identify below which category of land uses are adjacent: <i>A noise analysis is required if any lands in Categories A through E are identified, and the response to N.1 is 'yes'.</i> | | | |
| <i>Category A: Lands on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important public need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Category B: Residential. This includes undeveloped lands permitted for this category.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Category C (exterior): Active sport areas, amphitheaters, auditoriums, campgrounds, cemeteries, daycare centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, parks, picnic areas, places of worship, playgrounds, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, recreation areas, Section 4(f) sites, schools, television studios, trails, and trail crossings. This includes undeveloped lands permitted for this category.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Category D (interior): Auditoriums, day care centers, hospitals, libraries, medical facilities, places of worship, public meeting rooms, public or nonprofit institutional structures, radio studios, recording studios, schools, and television studios.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>Category E: Hotels, motels, offices, restaurants/bars, and other developed lands, properties or activities not listed above. This includes undeveloped lands permitted for</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

N. Noise Impacts (23 CFR 772) N/A YES NO
this category.

2. Does the noise analysis identify a noise impact? *If yes, explain in N.3*

3. Summarize the findings of the attached noise analysis and noise abatement worksheet, if applicable:

Not Applicable.

O. Water Quality Impacts N/A YES NO

1. Project would involve a public or private drinking water source. *If yes, explain in O.7*

2. Project would result in a discharge of storm water to a Water of the U.S. (per 40 CFR 230.3(s))

3. Project would discharge storm water into or affect an ADEC designated Impaired Waterbody. *If any of the Impaired Waterbodies have an approved or established Total Maximum Daily Load, describe project impacts in O.7*

a. List name(s), location(s), and pollutant(s) causing impairment:

Not Applicable

4. Estimate the acreage of ground-disturbing activities that will result from the project? 70 acres

5. Is there a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) APDES permit, or will runoff be mixed with discharges from an APDES permitted industrial facility?

a. If yes, list APDES permit number and type: Not Applicable

6. Would the project discharge storm water to a water body within a national park or state park; a national or state wildlife refuge? *If yes and Alaska Construction General Permit applies to the project, consultation with ADEC is required at least 30 days prior to planned start of construction activities.*

7. Summarize the water quality impacts and mitigation, if any. *Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.*

No discharges of stormwater to Waters of the U.S. are proposed other than the potential for overland runoff. In order to minimize water quality impacts, temporary erosion control and stabilization measures [Best Management Practices (BMPs)] would be used during construction activities to minimize erosion of soils and transportation of sediment beyond the immediate construction site. Water quality is expected to meet state and federal water quality standards. As necessary, in compliance with the APDES General Permit for Construction Activities, the construction contractor would issue a Notice of Intent to the ADEC for storm water discharges associated with construction activities and, before construction, a SWPPP, if needed, would be completed for ADEC review.

P. Construction Impacts N/A YES NO

1. There will be temporary degradation of water quality.

2. There will be a temporary stream diversion.

3. There will be temporary degradation of air quality.

4. There will be temporary delays and detours of traffic.

5. There will be temporary impacts on businesses.

P. Construction Impacts

N/A YES NO

- 6. There will be temporary noise impacts.
- 7. There will be other construction impacts.
- 8. Summarize construction impacts and mitigation for each ‘yes’ above. *Include any commitments or mitigative measures in Section VI.*

Water Quality - *There would be temporary impacts to water quality during construction. Work within Ruby Creek is required to replace the bridge and install riprap protection.*

Mitigation: *In order to minimize water quality impacts, temporary erosion control and stabilization measures (BMPs) would be utilized during construction to minimize erosion of soils and transportation of sediment beyond the immediate construction site.*

Mitigation: *The contractor would be required to develop a Hazardous Materials Control Plan to address containment, cleanup, and disposal of all construction related discharges of petroleum fuels, oils, and/or other hazardous substances. Wastes generated during construction would be properly handled, contained, and disposed of at an appropriately permitted disposal facility, in accordance with State and Federal laws.*

Temporary Stream Diversion - *Replacing the bridge may require temporary stream diversions during the installation. The contractor may use temporary fills and dewatering systems as needed to accomplish this work.*

Mitigation: *Permit provisions related to any necessary diversion/dewatering would be followed.*

Air Quality - *Temporary degradation of air quality may occur from the increased airborne particulate levels and emissions from heavy equipment and dust during construction activities.*

Mitigation: *Watering of dust prone areas during construction would be implemented as needed to minimize air quality impacts.*

Traffic - *Temporary detours and delays may occur during construction.*

Mitigation: *Sufficient notice would be provided to highway users of any temporary detours and delays.*

Businesses - *Business road users relying on transportation along the project routes may be temporarily impacted during construction due to temporary traffic detours and lane closures.*

Mitigation: *Sufficient notice would be provided to highway users of any temporary detours and delays.*

Noise - *There would be a temporary increase in noise during construction due to the use of heavy equipment.*

Mitigation: *The project would comply with any local noise ordinance or a variance obtained.*

Other – *Soil disturbance provides opportunity for invasive plants to become established and out-compete native plant growth and to spread invasive plants present in the project area.*

Mitigation: *Practicable measures would be implemented to minimize the introduction or spread of noxious weeds as described in item J.3.*

- | Q. Section 4(f)/6(f) | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Section 4(f) (23 CFR 774) | | | |
| a. Does a Section 4(f) resource exist within the project area; or is the project adjacent to a Section 4(f) resource? <i>If yes, attach consultation with the Statewide NEPA Manager (assigned CEs) or FHWA Environmental Program Manager (non-assigned CEs) to determine applicability of Section 4(f)</i> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Does an exception listed in 23 CFR 774.13 apply to this project? <i>If yes, attach consultation with the Statewide NEPA Manager (assigned CEs) or FHWA Environmental Program Manager (non-assigned CEs), and documentation from the official with jurisdiction, if required.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Does the project result in the “use” of a Section 4(f) property? “Use” includes a permanent incorporation of land, adverse temporary occupancy, or constructive use. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Has a <i>de minimis</i> impact finding been prepared for the project? <i>If yes, attach the finding.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Has a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation been prepared for the project? <i>If yes, attach the evaluation.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Does the project require an Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation? <i>If yes, the project is not assigned to the State per the 6004 MOU and the CE must be processed by FHWA. Attach the evaluation.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Section 6(f) (36 CFR 59) | | | |
| a. Were funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA) used for improvement to a property that will be affected by this project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Is the use of the property receiving LWCFA funds a “conversion of use” per Section 6(f) of the LWCFA? <i>Attach the correspondence received from the ADNR 6(f) Grants Administrator.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Summarize Section 4(f)/6(f) involvement, if any: | | | |

Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) approvals do not apply. FHWA determined that the project would not adversely affect the treated-as-eligible Richardson Highway. SHPO, the official with jurisdiction, concurred on 7/26/2013. SHPO concurrence is located in Appendix B.

- | IV. Permits and Authorizations | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|--|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. USACE, Section 404/10 <i>Includes Abbreviated Permit Process, Nationwide Permit, and General Permit</i> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Coast Guard, Section 9 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. ADF&G Fish Habitat Permit (Title 16.05.871 and Title 16.05.841) | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Flood Hazard | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. ADEC Non-domestic Wastewater Plan Approval | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. ADEC 401 | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. ADEC APDES | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Noise | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Eagle Permit | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Other. <i>If yes, list below.</i> | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Potential DNR Land Use and/or BLM Permits. | | | |

V. Comments and Coordination

N/A YES NO

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Public/agency involvement for project. <i>Required if protected resources are involved.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Public Meetings. Date(s): <u>Fall 2012</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Newspaper ads. <i>Attach certified affidavit of publication as an appendix.</i>
Name of newspaper and date: <u>February 20, 2014, Appendix D</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Agency scoping letters. Date sent: <u>June 25, 2012, Appendix E</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Agency scoping meeting. Date of meeting: <u>Not Applicable</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Field review. Date: <u>Not Applicable</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Summarize comments and coordination efforts for this project. Discuss pertinent issues raised. <i>Attach correspondence that demonstrates coordination and that there are no unresolved issues.</i> | | |

Scoping Letters: Agency scoping letters were sent out on 6/25/2012 (Appendix E). One response from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was received (Appendix C). The USFWS response comments are summarized as follows:

- 1) There are no threatened or endangered species in the project area.
- 2) The USFWS has no records of eagle nests in the proposed project area. Should an active eagle nest be observed in the project area please contact the USFWS office.
- 3) The USFWS recommend considering migratory bird impacts when planning land clearing activities.
- 4) The USFWS recommends spanning the Ruby Creek floodplain with the new bridge and providing 100-foot wide vegetated buffers along open water bodies.
- 5) The USFWS recommends material site reclamation plans be developed.
- 6) The USFWS recommends best management practices to prevent introduction of invasive plants.

FHWA Coordination: FHWA has agreed that the project is exempt from the need for a Coast Guard Bridge. FHWA's 7/28/2011 coordination email is in Appendix F.

Community Meeting: In Fall 2012, DOT&PF staff had a community meeting with those living in the project area. DOT&PF staff met individually and as a group with each of the three surrounding property owners to discuss possible impacts and concerns. At the time of visit, Department staff was considering an upstream alignment near the Trans-Alaska Pipeline to mitigate the gravel deposition problem at the current bridge location. One property owner followed up the meeting with a written letter describing concerns with both alternatives under consideration. The owner preferred the current proposal of a bridge near the existing location primarily because it maintains access to adjacent properties from the Richardson Highway and not from an old remnant of the highway alignment. After geotechnical investigations were completed, the Department concluded that the upstream alignment is not suitable from a long-term maintenance and cost perspective and therefore the property owner's concerns with access were satisfied.

Public Notice: A public notice of the proposed project and its potential to affected resources was placed in Delta Wind newspaper and posted on the State of Alaska public notice website on 2/20/2014. A copy of the newspaper affidavit of publication and website public notice are attached in Appendix D. No responses have been received.

VI. Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Measures

List all environmental commitments and mitigation measures included in the project.

1. Direct impacts to wetlands and streams within the potential material sites would be avoided.
2. The project would comply with all water-related and fisheries-related permit conditions such that substantial adverse effects to fisheries and waters would not occur.
3. The design of the bridge would be coordinated with the DFG so that it would adequately accommodate fish passage, as needed.
4. Practicable measures would be implemented to minimize the introduction or spread of noxious weeds as described in item J.3.
5. Best management practices would be implemented during construction to minimized detachment and transport of sediment beyond the construction site. As necessary, in compliance with the APDES General Permit for Construction Activities, the construction contractor would issue a Notice of Intent to the ADEC for storm water discharges associated with construction activities and, before construction, a SWPPP, if needed, would be completed for ADEC review.
6. Sufficient notice would be provided to highway users of temporary detours and delays.
7. Watering of dust prone areas during construction would be implemented as needed to minimize air quality impacts.
8. The contractor would be required to develop a Hazardous Materials Control Plan to address containment, cleanup, and disposal of all construction related discharges of petroleum fuels, oils, and/or other hazardous substances. Wastes generated during construction would be properly handled, contained, and disposed of at an appropriately permitted disposal facility, in accordance with State and Federal laws.
9. Permit provisions related to any necessary diversion/dewatering would be followed.

VII. Environmental Documentation Approval

- | | <u>N/A</u> | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Do any unusual circumstances exist, as described in 23 C.F.R. 771.117 (b)? <i>If yes, the CE Documentation form cannot be approved.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this 6004 Program approval statement apply?
“The State has determined that this project has no significant impact(s) on the environment and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act. The State has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out, the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to Chapter 3 of title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated September 20, 2012, executed between the FHWA and the State.” <i>If no, the CE must be approved by FHWA.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. For 6004 projects: The project meets the criteria of the DOT&PF Programmatic Approval 2 authorized in the November 6, 2012 “CE Directive – Delegation of Approval Authority for Certain CEs under 6004 MOU”. <i>If yes, the CE may be approved by the Regional Environmental. If no, the CE may be approved by a Statewide NEPA Manager.</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

VII. Environmental Documentation Approval

N/A YES NO

4. **For non-assigned projects:** The project meets the criteria of the April 13, 2012 “Programmatic Categorical Exclusion for Use on Federal-Aid Highway Projects in Alaska” between FHWA and DOT&PF. *If yes, the CE may be approved by the Regional Environmental Manager. If no, the CE may be approved by FHWA Area Engineer.*

VIII. Environmental Documentation Approval Signatures

Prepared by: Robert A. Effinger
[Sign] Environmental Impact Analyst

Date: 3/7/14

Robert A. Effinger
[Print Name] Environmental Impact Analyst

Reviewed by: Sarah E. Schacher
[Sign] Engineering Manager

Date: 3/7/2014

Sarah E. Schacher
[Print Name] Engineering Manager

Approved by: Brett D Nelson
[Sign] Regional Environmental Manager

Date: 3-7-14

Brett D Nelson
[Print Name] Regional Environmental Manager

Assigned CE

Approved by: _____
[Sign] DOT&PF Statewide NEPA Manager

Date: _____

[Print Name] DOT&PF Statewide NEPA Manager

Non-Assigned CE

Approved by: _____
[Sign] FHWA Area Engineer

Date: _____

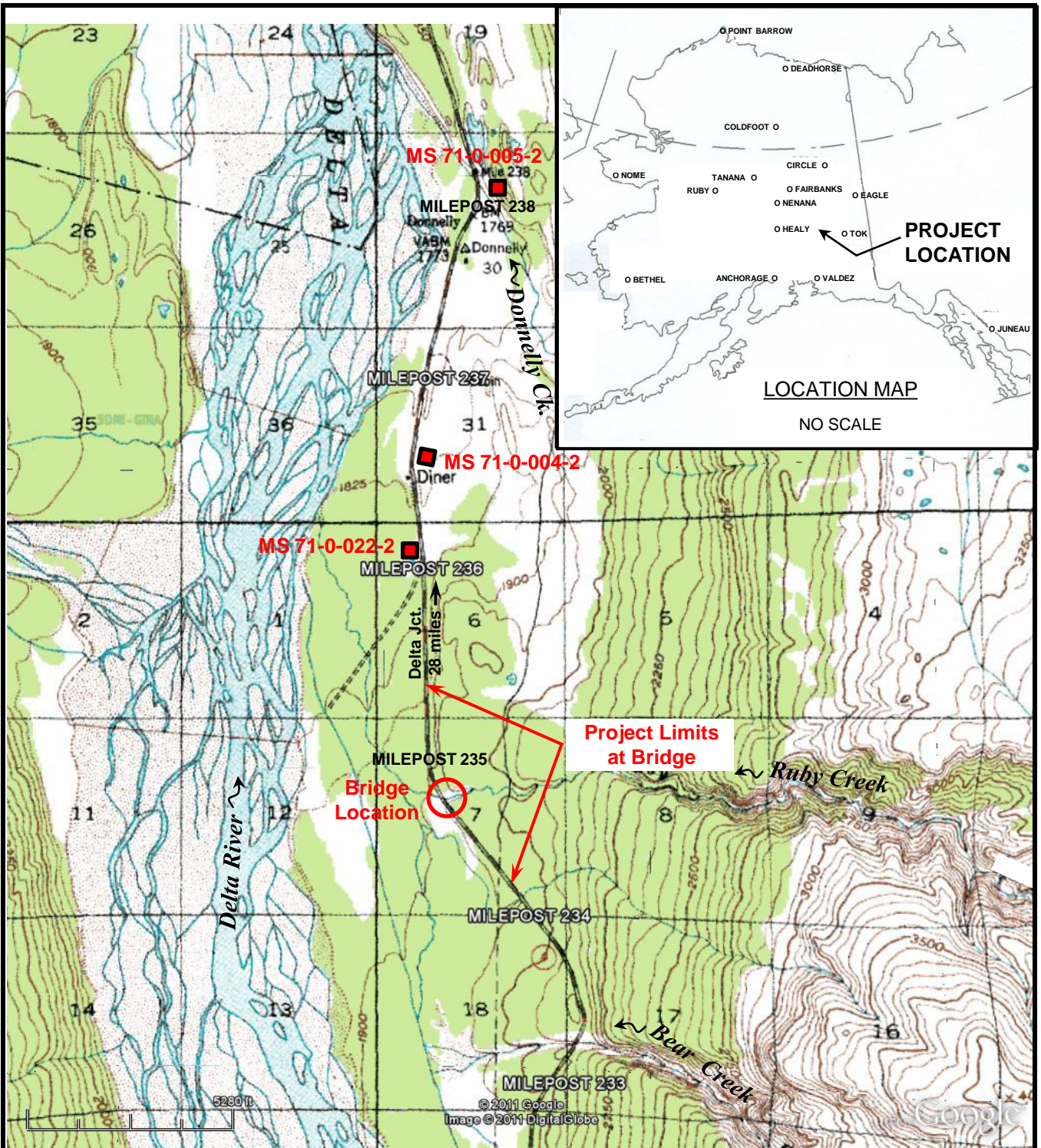
[Print Name] FHWA Area Engineer

FHWA PCE Quality Control Review

Reviewed by: _____
[Sign] FHWA

Date: _____

[Print Name] FHWA



■ Material Sites

Location and Vicinity Map

T14S, R10E; Section 30 & 31
 T15S, R10E; Sections 6 & 7
 USGS Mount Hayes C4
 Fairbanks Meridian

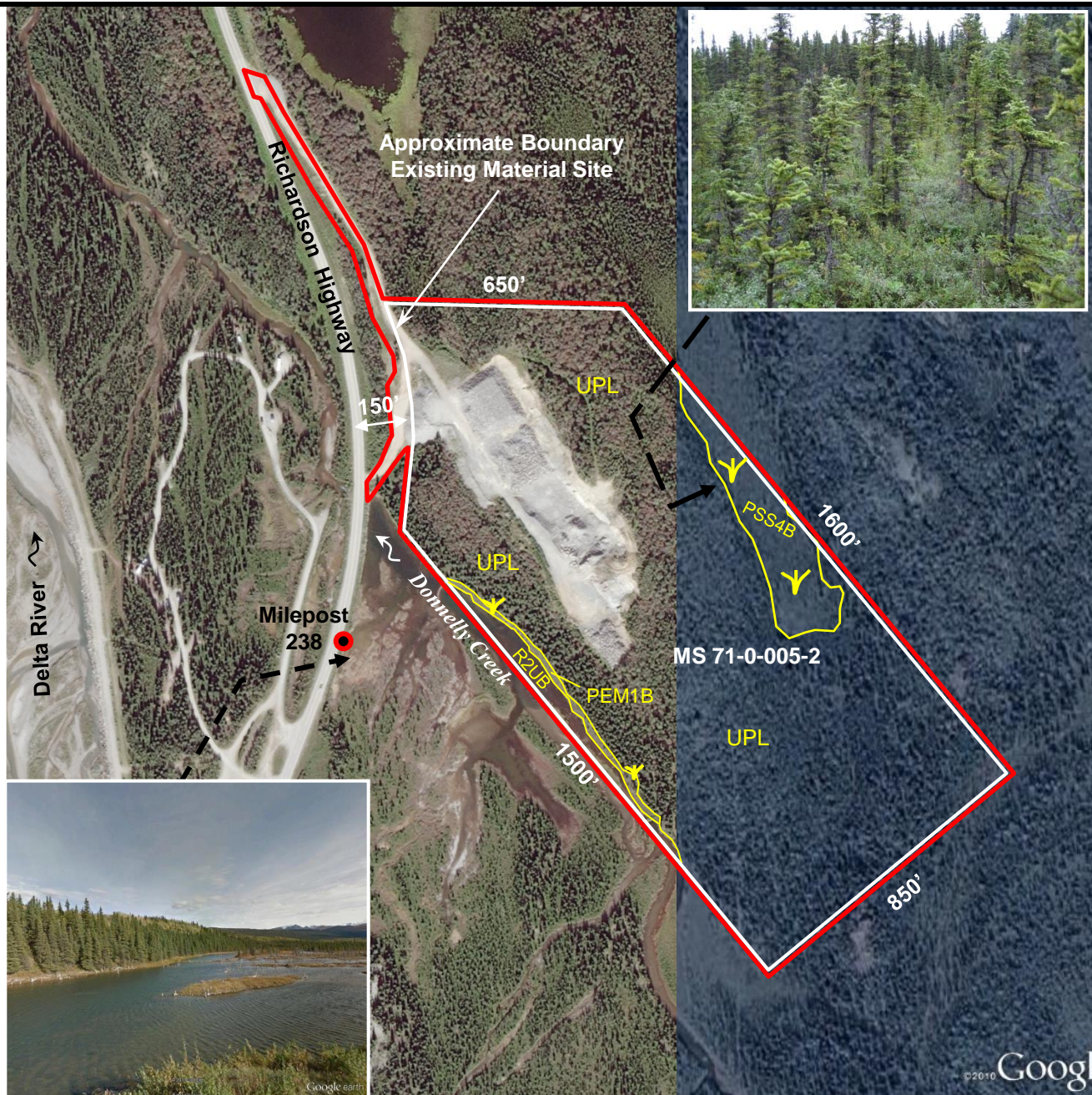
STATE OF ALASKA
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
 Northern Region

Richardson Highway MP 235
 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594
 BR-0714(23)/60262

Donnelly, Alaska

DATE: 3/7/14

Figure 1

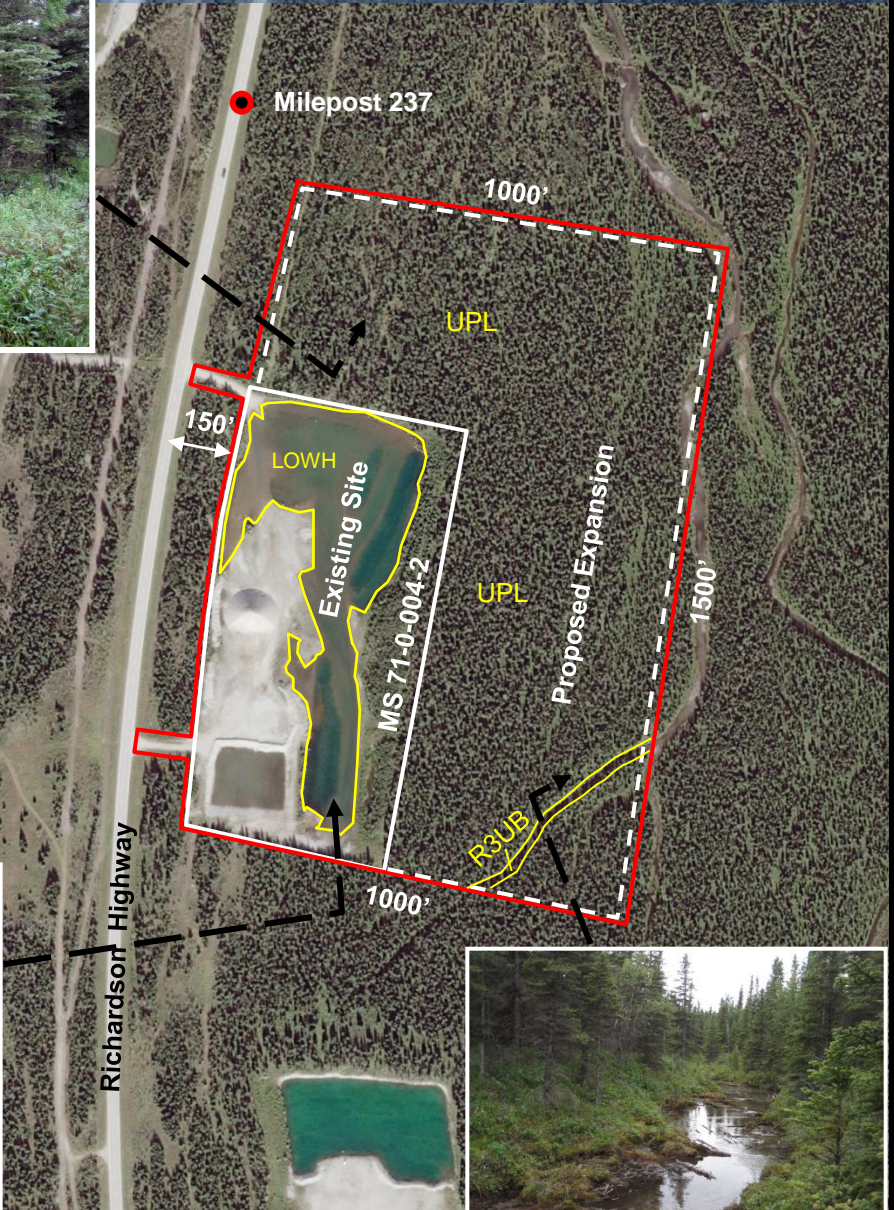


— Potential Project Work Limits

Material Site MS 71-0-005-2 Donnelly Creek

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 3/7/14	Figure 2



— Potential Project Work Limits

Material Site MS 71-0-004-2

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 3/7/14	Figure 3

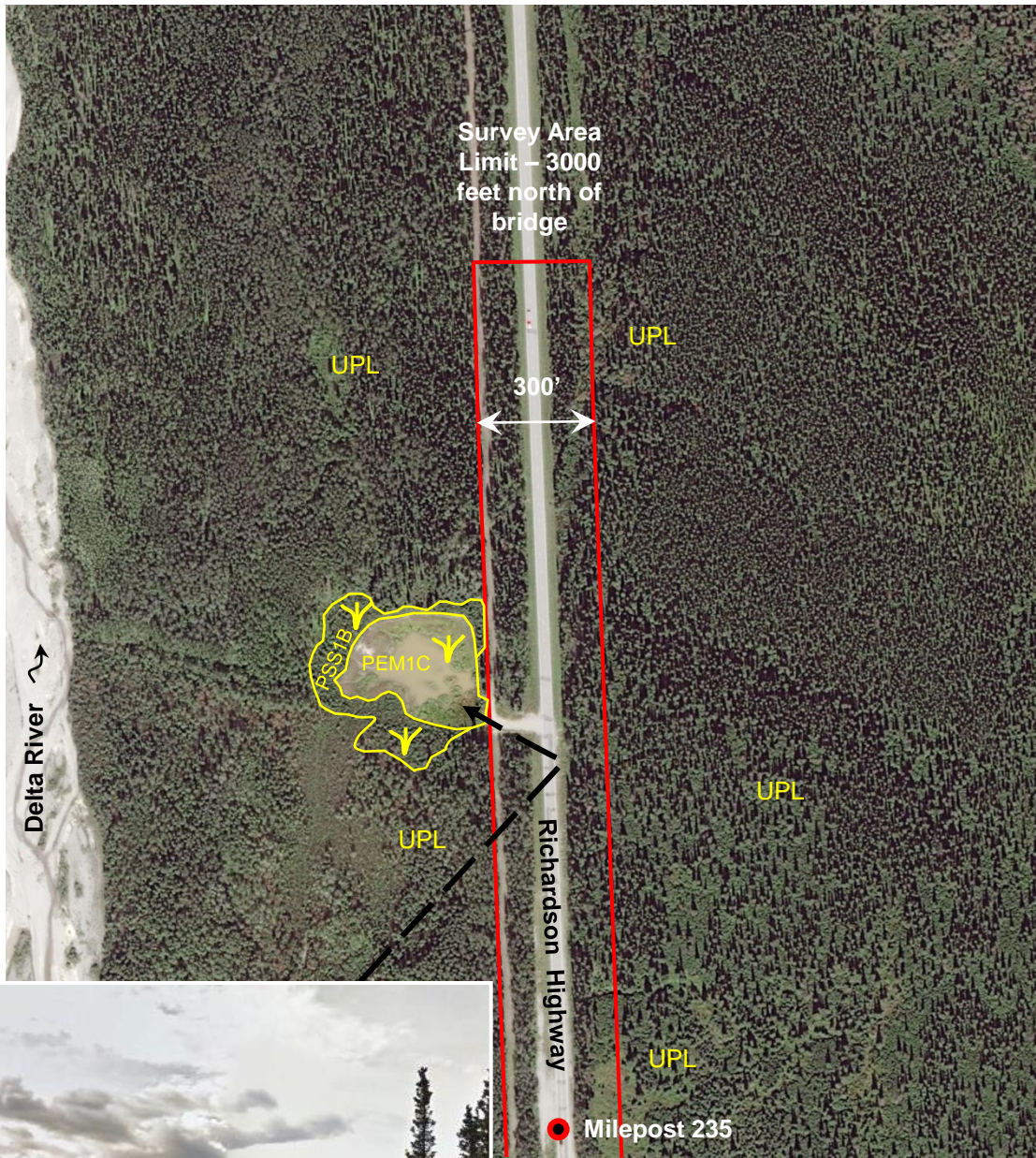


1 inch ~ 400 feet

— Potential Project Work Limits

Material Site MS 71-0-022-2

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 3/7/14	Figure 4



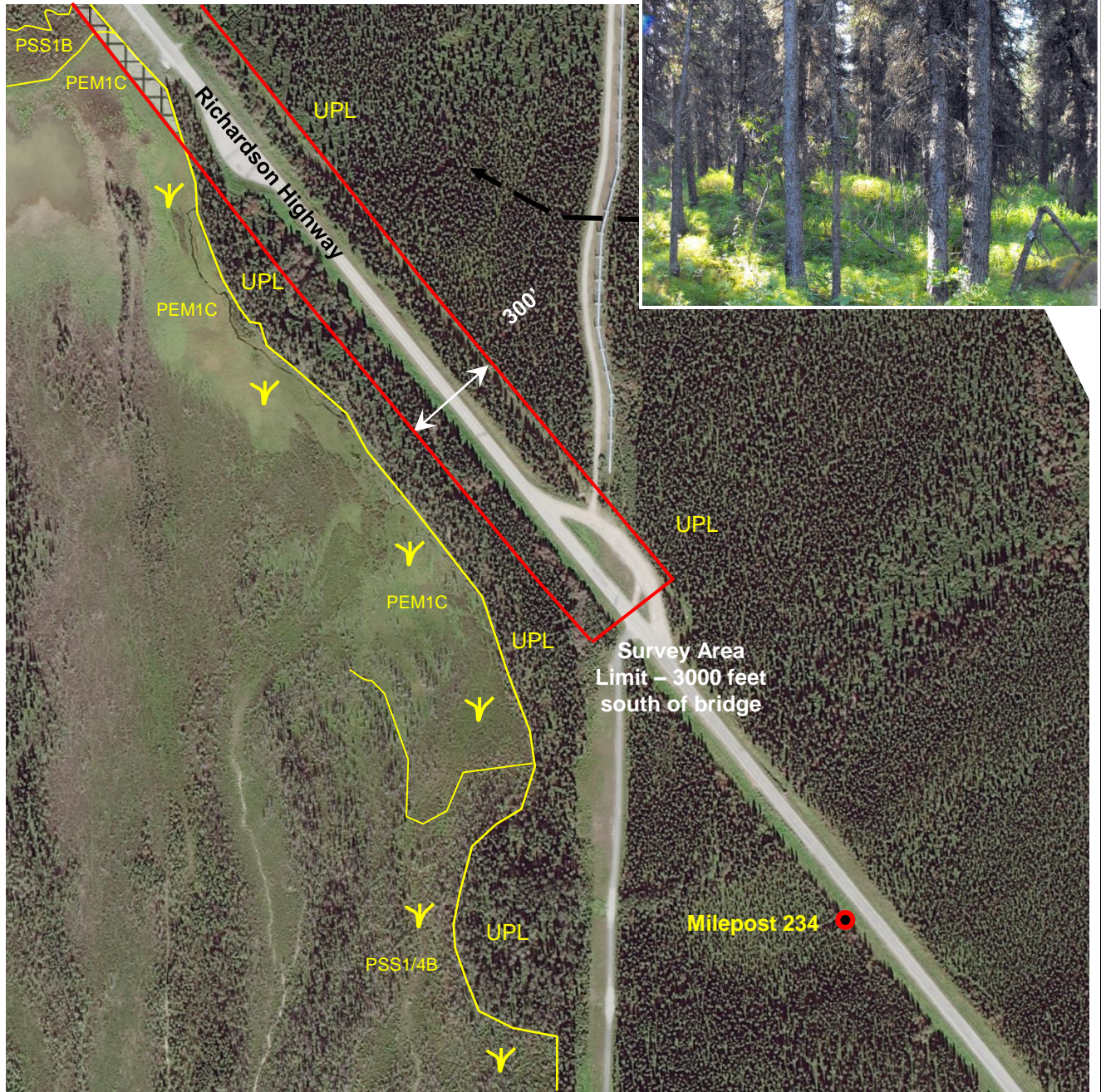
North of Ruby Creek Bridge

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 3/7/14	Figure 5



1 inch ~ 400 feet

— Potential Project Work Limits



South of Ruby Creek Bridge

— Potential Project Work Limits

◊ Potential Wetland Impact Area

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 3/7/14	Figure 7

**Cowardin Classification Symbol Key
For Wetlands and Waters**

Symbol	System	Sub System	Class	Subclass	Water Regime
PFO4B	P=Palustrine		FO=Forested	4=Needle-leafed Evergreen	B=Saturated
PSS1B PSS4B PSS1/4B	P=Palustrine		SS=Scrub Shrub	1=Broad-leafed Deciduous 4=Needle-leafed Evergreen	B=Saturated
PEM1B PEM1C	P=Palustrine		EM=Emergent	1=Persistent	B=Saturated C=Seasonally Flooded
LOWH	L=Lacustrine		OW=Open Water		H=Permanently Flooded
R2UB R3UB R5USC	R=Riverine	2=Lower Perennial 3=Upper Perennial 5=Unknown Perennial	UB=Unconsolidated Bottom US=Unconsolidated Shore		C=Seasonally Flooded
UPL=Upland					

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 3/7/14	Figure 8

Appendix A

Class of Action Determination

Effinger, Robert A (DOT)

From: Peter.Forsling@dot.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 8:17 AM
To: Campbell, Bruce W (DOT); Horne, Taylor C (DOT)
Cc: Effinger, Robert A (DOT); Schacher, Sarah E (DOT); White, Ben M (DOT); Russell, Amy J K (DOT); John.Lohrey@dot.gov
Subject: RE: Ruby Creek Bridge Replacement - 60262 - Assignment Determination Request

Bruce, given that the SHPO opinion and FHWA opinion in 2006 agreed that Ruby Creek was not eligible, I concur; if the 106 process were to call this into question, we might have to re-evaluate.

Peter J. Forsling

Northern Region/Structural Engineer

 907-586-7427

Office 907-586-7418/Fax 907-586-7420

From: Campbell, Bruce W (DOT) [<mailto:bruce.campbell@alaska.gov>]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Horne, Taylor C (DOT); Forsling, Peter (FHWA)
Cc: Effinger, Robert A (DOT); Schacher, Sarah E (DOT); White, Ben M (DOT); Russell, Amy J K (DOT)
Subject: RE: Ruby Creek Bridge Replacement - 60262 - Assignment Determination Request

Pete,

Please concur that this bridge replacement project may proceed as a 771.117(d)(3) Categorical Exclusion level of environmental document.

Thanks,

Bruce

From: Horne, Taylor C (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 12:04 PM
To: Campbell, Bruce W (DOT); Forsling, Peter (DOT sponsored)
Cc: Effinger, Robert A (DOT); Schacher, Sarah E (DOT); White, Ben M (DOT); Russell, Amy J K (DOT)
Subject: RE: Ruby Creek Bridge Replacement - 60262 - Assignment Determination Request

Bruce,

Attached is the Class of Action consultation form for the **60262 Ruby Creek Bridge Replacement** project. Based on the information provided, I concur that the project is not assignable under the 6004 MOU between DOT&PF and FHWA as the project involves the horizontal realignment of a segment of roadway, an activity that is not included in the MOU.

Under the September 2009 MOU for 6004, DOT&PF can only assume those projects specifically included in 23 CFR 771.117(c), 23 CFR 771.117(d), or in "Attachment 3" of the FHWA clarification letter dated August 19, 2009. FHWA has provided guidance indicating that construction of a new roadway or new alignment, including "re-alignment" of roadways, are not assignable under the MOU.

Therefore, I am forwarding this email to FHWA to inform them that this project will not be assigned to the State and will be processed under the DOT&PF/FHWA procedures within the *Environmental Procedures Manual* (Chapter 5). If you have additional information that may change this determination, or any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Taylor C. Horne

NEPA Program Manager
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
3132 Channel Drive, P.O. Box 112500
Juneau, Alaska 99811-2500
Phone: (907) 465-6957 FAX: (907) 465-5240

From: Campbell, Bruce W (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 10:01 AM
To: White, Ben M (DOT); Horne, Taylor C (DOT)
Cc: Effinger, Robert A (DOT); Schacher, Sarah E (DOT)
Subject: FW: Ruby Creek Bridge Replacement - 60262 - Assignment Determination Request

Taylor,
For your review and approval.
Thanks,
Bruce

From: Effinger, Robert A (DOT)
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 9:53 AM
To: Campbell, Bruce W (DOT)
Cc: Schacher, Sarah E (DOT)
Subject: Ruby Creek Bridge Replacement - 60262 - Assignment Determination Request

Bruce:
Please forward the attached Class of Action form to Statewide for their assignment determination.

We find the project to be a non-assigned CE.

It falls under d(3) on the CE action list but involves a realignment of the highway bridge and approaches, therefore apparently not assignable under 6004.

Bob Effinger
Environmental Analyst
Alaska Department of Transportation & PF
Northern Region – Fairbanks
bob.effinger@alaska.gov
(907)451-5294

Appendix B

Section 106 Coordination



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Alaska Division

January 25, 2012

P.O. Box 21648
Juneau, AK 99802-1648
(907) 586-7418
(907) 586-7420
www.fhwa.dot.gov/akdiv

In Reply Refer To:
BR-0714(23)/60262

Ms. Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to replace the Ruby Creek Bridge near MP 235 of the Richardson Highway approximately 28 miles south of Delta Junction, Alaska. The project is located within T14S, R10E, Sections 30 & 31; T15S, R10E Sections 6 & 7; Fairbanks Meridian, and USGS Quad Map Mount Hayes C4. The bridge coordinates are Latitude 63°37'49.49"N, Longitude - 145°53'21.62"W (WGS 84). See Figure 1 for a project location map.

For purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are initiating this consultation with you to assist us in identifying historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project.

Project Description

The project consists of the following work items:

1. Construct a new bridge on or near to the existing bridge alignment.
2. Address hydraulic issues such as raising the bridge grade, lengthening its span, constructing spill-thru abutments, and modifying dikes.
3. Realign the highway approaches as needed to accommodate the new bridge.
4. Replace highway approach culverts as needed.
5. Relocate existing utilities as needed.

Temporary construction work may include temporary bypass roads, stream diversions, temporary fills to isolate work areas from surrounding waters, a temporary work bridge or causeway to facilitate bridge construction, and/or temporary erosion control measures.

Three existing material sites near the project are potential sites for contractor use (Figures 2-4). Expansion of two of the sites is proposed (Figures 3 & 4).

Study Area

The Section 106 Study Area described encompasses areas of potential direct and indirect visual effects from the project listed below:

1. Road Corridor - (Figures 5-7). A 300 foot wide corridor centered on the Richardson Highway centerline and extending 3000 feet north and south of the Ruby Creek Bridge. This Section 106 study area boundary accommodates work items 1-5 listed under the project description above as well as the potential temporary construction work described.
2. Upstream - (Figure 6). An approximately 700 foot by 1000 foot area upstream of the bridge surrounding potential dike modification work and adjacent residential parcels.
3. Downstream - (Figure 6). An approximately 450 foot square work area downstream of the bridge surrounding material stockpiles proposed to be removed for project use.
4. Material Sites - (Figures 2-4). Areas surrounding three material sites that may be utilized for this project. This includes material sites MS71-0-005-2 (36 acres), MS 71-0-004-2 (17 acres), and MS 71-0-022-2 (26 acres).

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be defined after further design details are known and comments are received from the consulting parties.

Identification Efforts

Information identified to date includes the following. Searches of the on-line Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) database have found six previously recorded sites in the project vicinity. These sites are the Richardson Highway MP 132.5-269.3 (XMH-1429), Ruby Creek Bridge (XMH-1268), Yardang Flint Station (XMH-252), Old Trail Segment (XMH-872), Unnamed Archaeological Site (XMH-229), and Donnelly's Roadhouse (XMH-225). The first five listed fall within the study area. The site locations are shown on Figures 2-7.

Under the Alaska Historic Roads Programmatic Agreement Interim Guidance which is currently under development by FHWA, DOT&PF, and State Historic Preservation Office, a core group of Alaska roads has been identified which would be treated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The project segment of the Richardson Highway has been included on the list of roads treated as eligible.

A previous cultural resources survey was conducted by Northern Land Use Research (NLUR) on portions of the Donnelly Creek Material Site (MS71-0-005-2) in May of 2002. NLUR concluded that no significant cultural resources were noted or discovered within the surveyed area. A copy of the survey results will be provided later with FHWA's findings letter.

ASRC Energy Services will conduct a cultural resources survey of the study area not previously surveyed. This will include an archaeological survey and a determination of eligibility for the Ruby Creek Bridge, constructed in 1952. A copy of the cultural resources survey report, scheduled for completion in August 2012, will be provided with the findings letter.

Consultation Efforts

Consultation letters are being mailed to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Doyon Limited, Mendas Cha-ag Native Corporation, Healy Lake Trade Village Corporation, Healy Lake Traditional Council, Deltana Community Corporation, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

If you have questions or comments related to this proposed project, I can be reached at the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7427, or by e-mail at peter.forsling@dot.gov. However, I encourage you to include DOT&PF Regional Environmental Manager so that your comments and concerns may be immediately directed to project development. The point of contact is:

Bruce Campbell - Regional Environmental Manager
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
(907) 451-2238
bruce.campbell@alaska.gov

We request your input on our proposal so that we can incorporate your concerns into project development. Your timely response will greatly assist our compliance efforts and the preparation of any required environmental documentation. For that purpose, we request that you respond within thirty days of your receipt of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Forsling', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

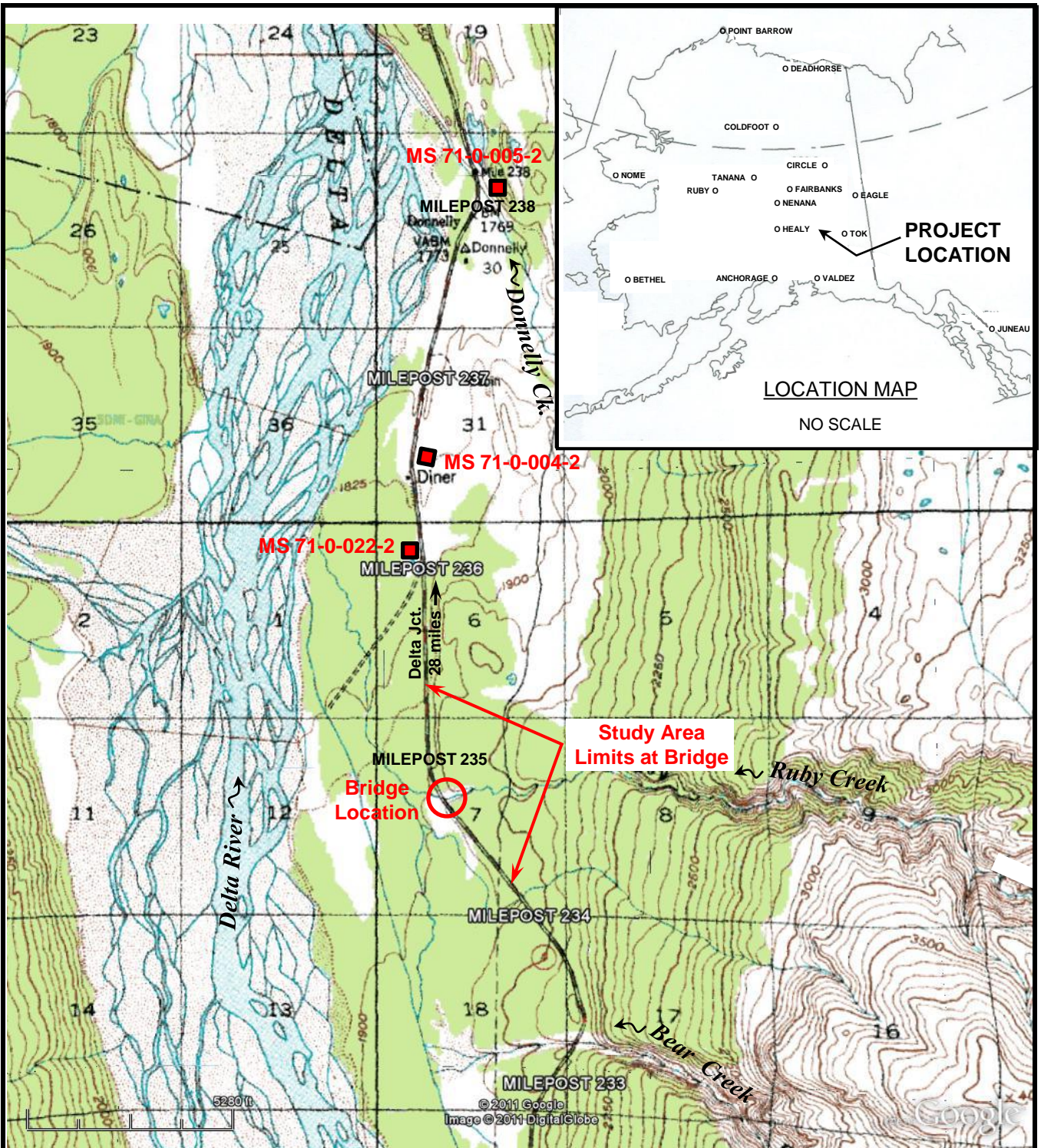
Peter Forsling
Northern Region/Structural Engineer

Enclosures:

Figure 1 - Location Map
Figures 2-7 - Section 106 Study Area Maps

Electronic cc w/ enclosures:

Sarah Schacher, P.E., DOT&PF, Northern Region Project Manager
Bruce Campbell, DOT&PF, Northern Region Environmental Manager
Kathy Price, DOT&PF, Statewide Cultural Resources Specialist



■ Material Sites

Location and Vicinity Map

T14S, R10E; Section 30 & 31
 T15S, R10E; Sections 6 & 7
 USGS Mount Hayes C4
 Fairbanks Meridian

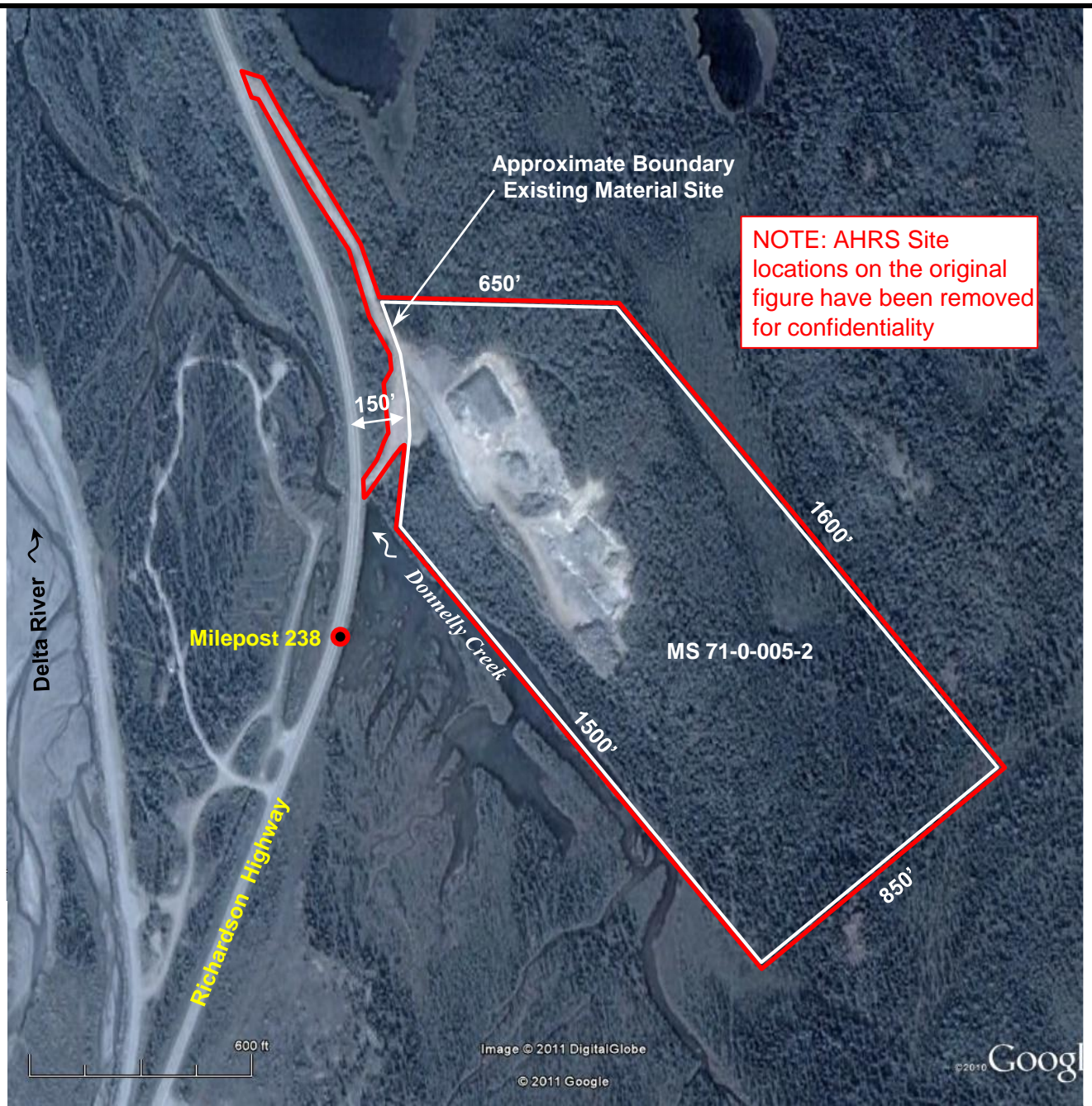
STATE OF ALASKA
 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
 Northern Region

Richardson Highway MP 235
 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594
 BR-0714(23)/60262

Donnelly, Alaska

DATE: 11/16/11

Figure 1



- Section 106 Study Area
- AHRS Cultural Site

N
 1 inch ~ 400 feet

Section 106 Study Area
Material Site MS 71-0-005-2
Donnelly Creek

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 11/16/11	Figure 2



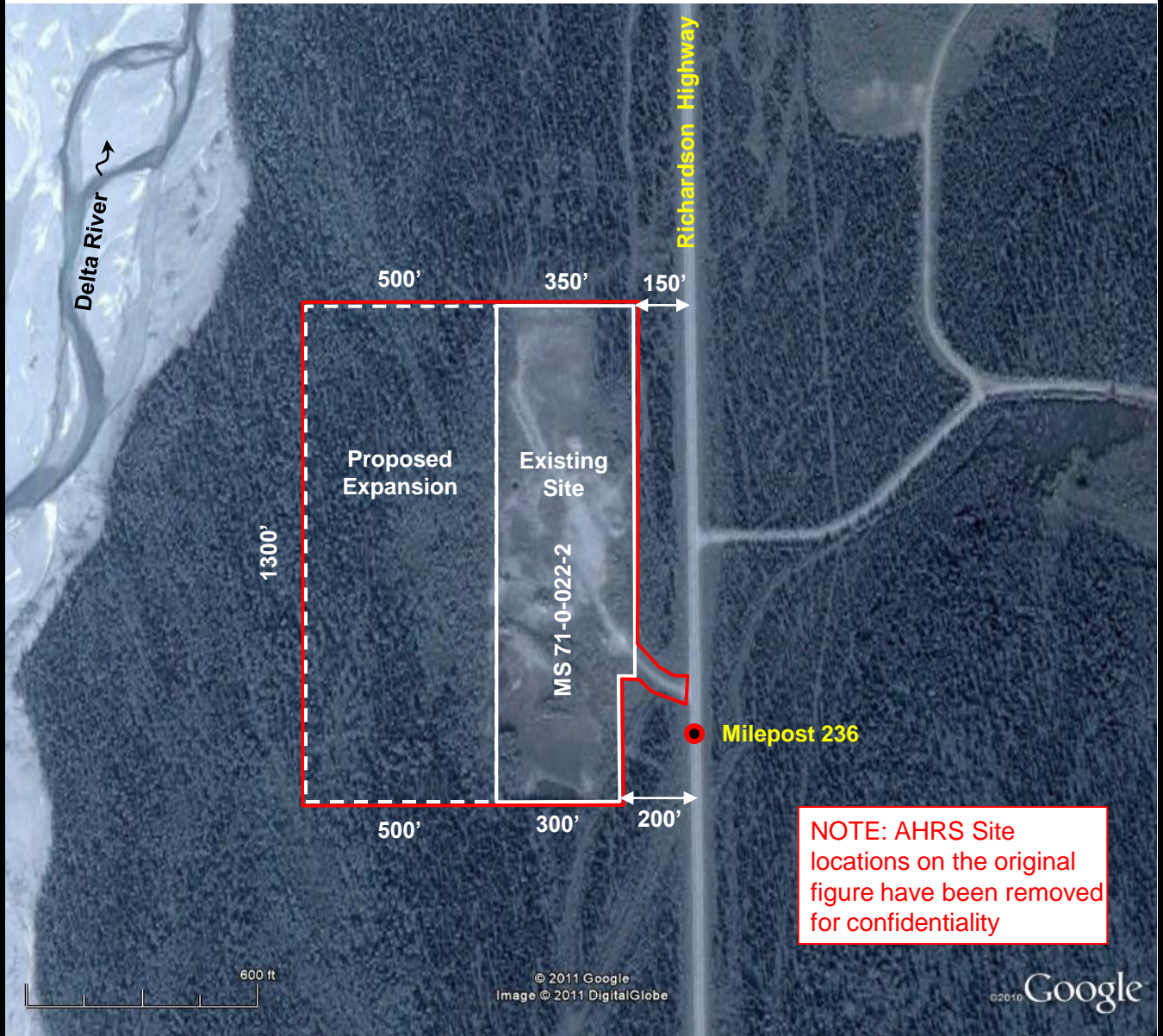
NOTE: AHRS Site locations on the original figure have been removed for confidentiality

- Section 106 Study Area
- ↗ AHRS Cultural Site

↑ N
 1 inch ~ 400 feet

**Section 106 Study Area
Material Site MS 71-0-004-2**

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 11/16/11	Figure 3



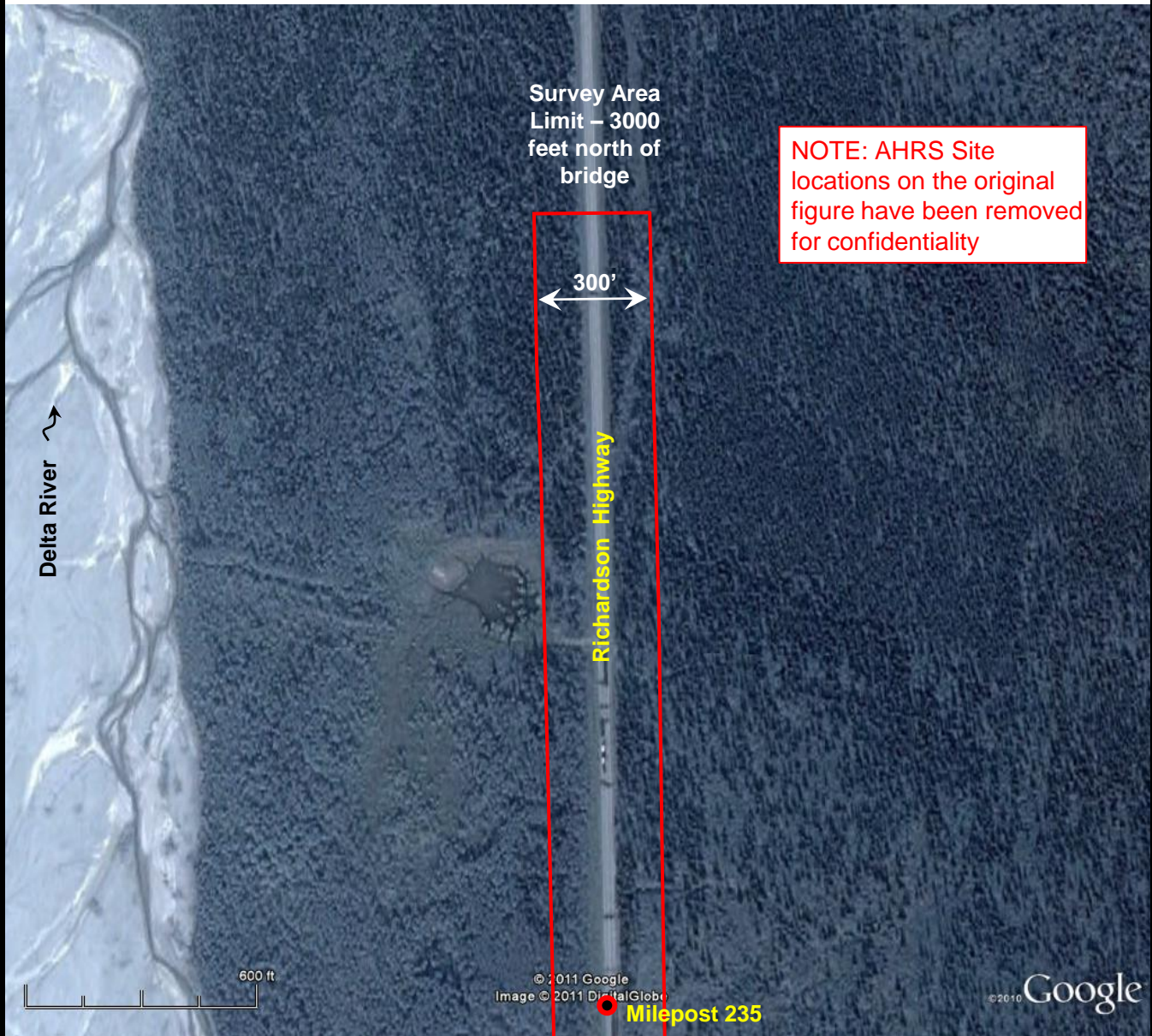
— Section 106 Study Area

→ AHR Cultural Site

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

**Section 106 Study Area
Material Site MS 71-0-022-2**

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 11/16/11	Figure 4

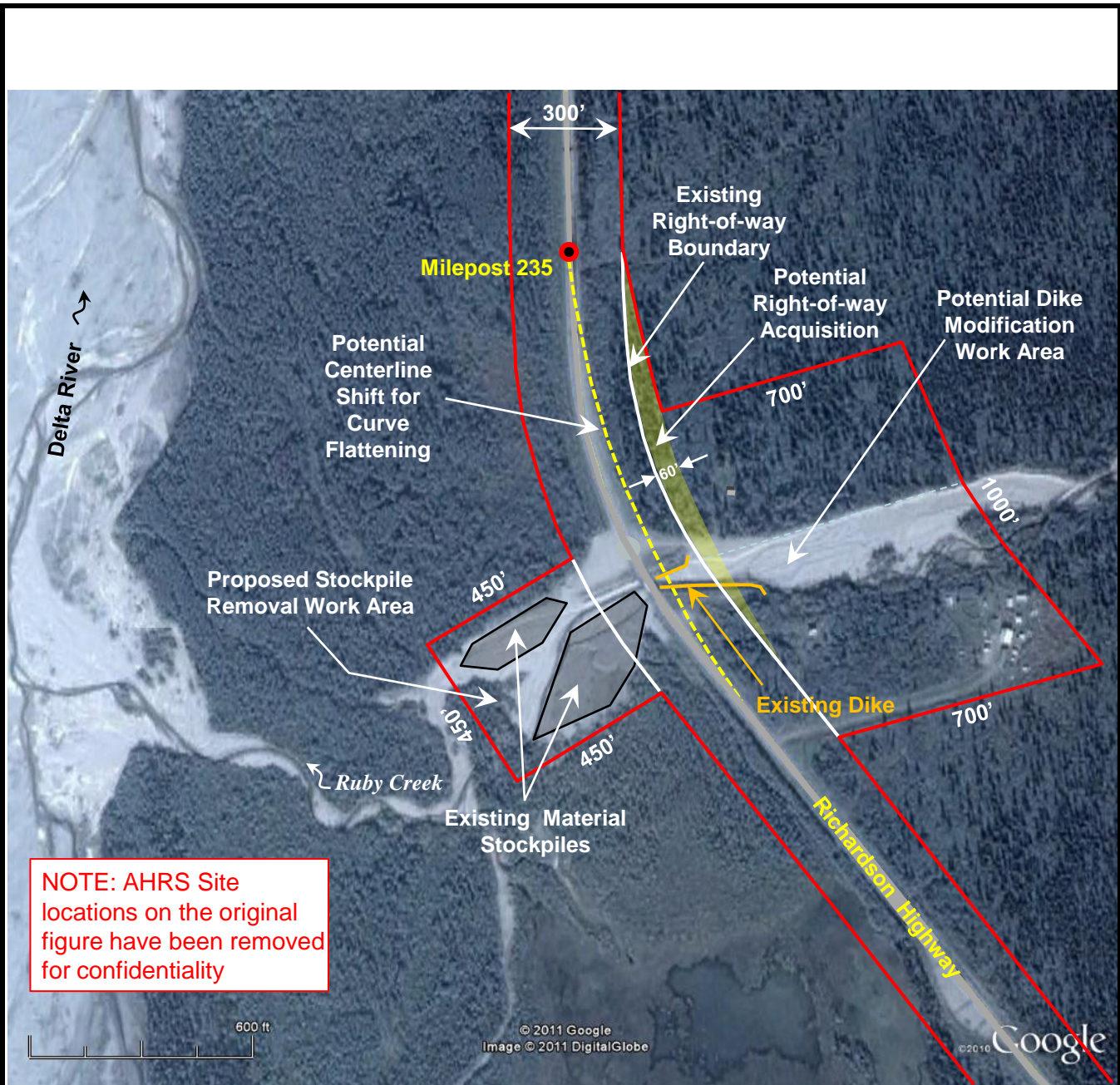


- Section 106 Study Area
- ↗ AHRS Cultural Site

↑ N
 1 inch ~ 400 feet

Section 106 Study Area North of Ruby Creek Bridge

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 11/16/11	Figure 5



NOTE: AHRS Site locations on the original figure have been removed for confidentiality

- Section 106 Study Area
- ↗ AHRS Cultural Site

↑ N
 1 inch ~ 400 feet

Section 106 Study Area Ruby Creek Bridge Crossing

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 11/16/11	Figure 6



- Section 106 Study Area
- AHR Cultural Site

↑ N
 1 inch ~ 400 feet

Section 106 Study Area South of Ruby Creek Bridge

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 11/16/11	Figure 7

February 6, 2012

Peter Forsling
Structural Engineer
State of Alaska
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Northern Region Preconstruction

Dear Mr. Forsling,

Tanana Chiefs Conference management has asked me to comment on a recent NHPA, Section 106 consultation letter you sent our company on behalf of AK DOT&PF. The project is Replacement of the Ruby Creek Bridge, near MP of the Richardson Highway, Project No. BR-0714(23)/60262. Please note that my remarks represent my opinion as a TCC technical advisor, but are not official company policy as determined by our Executive Board.

I have reviewed the information you supplied in your letter dated January 25, 2012. No Native allotments or townsite lots administered by TCC are in the areas of potential effect. However, the presence of two prehistoric sites within the project footprints raises considerable concern. Such sites embody a part the unwritten heritage of Native Alaskans extending back in time at least 14,500 years.

The Yardang Flint Station (XMH-252) is known to contain radiocarbon dated cultural materials, volcanic ash and prehistoric forest beds in the context of a 5 m thick deposit of eolian sediments. This suggests a site of potentially very high research value. Existing field data from the site has featured in academic publications from 1982 up to 2008. Yet, to the best of my knowledge, qualified academic archaeologists have never evaluated the site's full research potential. I strongly urge DOT&PF to involve such researchers at the earliest possible stage in project planning. Further, DOT&PF should require its cultural resources contractor, ASRC Energy Services to perform a detailed study of the site, using personnel qualified under the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation*, and with input from the research community.

Material source MS71-0-005-2 also contains a potentially significant prehistoric site, XMH-229. Based on information gleaned from the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey database, this site has produced prehistoric artifacts from a favorable geologic context. It too should be studied in detail, according to the standards recommended for the Yardang Flint Station.

Ideally, the Ruby Creek Bridge Replacement project can be designed to leave both sites undisturbed. If this is not feasible, I urge AK DOT&PF to implement mitigation measures in the form of intensive survey, followed by data recovery through excavation if indicated by site significance.

Finally, I have supplied the following contacts for academic archaeologists for use by AK DOT&PF and ASRC:

- Dr. Charles E. Holmes**, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska, Anchorage, AK 99501
afceh@uaa.alaska.edu
- Dr. Ben A. Potter**, Department of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775
ben.potter@uaf.edu
- Dr. Owen K. Mason**, Geoarch Alaska, P.O. Box Anchorage, AK 91509-1554
geoarch@ptialaska.net

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Please continue to include us in future consultations regarding this undertaking.

Sincerely,

Tom Gillispie
Staff Archaeologist
Tanana Chiefs conference
122 1st Avenue, Ste 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907.452.8251, ext 3415



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Alaska Division

July 09, 2013

P.O. Box 21648
Juneau, AK 99802-1648
(907) 586-7418
(907) 586-7420
www.fhwa.dot.gov/akdiv

In Reply Refer To:
BR-0714(023)/60262

Ms. Judith Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to replace the Ruby Creek Bridge near MP 235 of the Richardson Highway approximately 28 miles south of Delta Junction, Alaska. The project is located within T14S, R10E, Sections 30 & 31; and T15S, R10E Sections 6 & 7; Fairbanks Meridian; United States Geological Survey Quad Map Mount Hayes C4. The bridge coordinates are Latitude 63°37'49.49"N, Longitude - 145°53'21.62"W (WGS 84). (See Figure 1) for a project location map.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the FHWA finds no adverse effect on historic properties by the proposed project. This submission provides documentation in support of this finding, as required at 36 CFR 800.11(e).

Background

Section 106 initiation letters were sent out to consulting parties for this project on January 25, 2012. Two notable project changes have occurred since then. A second alternative location for the replacement bridge has been developed 1500 feet upstream of the existing bridge. This is in addition to the original alternative bridge replacement location approximately 50 feet upstream. Also, the proposed expansion of Material Site 71-0-004-2 has increased to the north. The project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) has been expanded accordingly as highlighted in red on (Figures 2-7).

Project Description

The project consists of the following potential work items:

1. a new upstream bridge at one of two alternative locations,
2. hydraulic improvements to include a bridge grade raise, bridge span lengthening, spill-thru abutments, channel work, and dike modifications,
3. highway approach road realignment,
4. new and replacement culverts,

5. a new residential driveway,
6. construction staging areas,
7. old bridge and roadway removal (up to 100 feet each side of existing bridge),
8. material stockpile removal, and
9. utility relocation.

Temporary construction work may include temporary bypass roads, stream diversions, temporary fills to isolate work areas from surrounding waters, a temporary work bridge or causeway to facilitate bridge work, and/or temporary erosion control measures.

Three existing material sites near the project are potential sites for contractor use (Figures 2-4). Expansion of two of the sites is proposed (Figures 3 & 4).

Area of Potential Effect

The APE is depicted on (Figures 2-7) and is described below. The APE accommodates potential work items under the project description above. The APE encompasses potential direct effects and indirect visual effects of the proposed work.

1. Material Sites – (Figures 2-4). The boundaries of three material sites that may be utilized for this project. This includes material sites MS71-0-005-2 (36 acres), MS 71-0-004-2 (17 acres), and MS 71-0-022-2 (26 acres).
2. Existing Road Corridor - (Figures 4-7). An approximately 300-foot wide corridor centered on the Richardson Highway centerline and extending 3000' feet north and south of the Ruby Creek Bridge.
3. Upstream – (Figure 6). An approximately 1000-foot wide by 1800-foot long area upstream of the bridge that includes work areas for channel and dike modifications, construction staging, a new residential driveway, the Alternative #2 bridge location and potential visual impact areas.
4. Downstream – (Figure 6). An approximately 450-foot square work area downstream of the bridge surrounding material stockpiles proposed to be removed for project use.
5. Potential New Road Corridor – (Figures 4-7). An approximately 400-foot wide by 8500-foot long corridor to accommodate a new alignment for the Alternative #2 bridge location.

Identification Efforts

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS)

Searches of the on-line AHRS database have identified six previously recorded sites in the project vicinity. These sites are the Richardson Highway MP 132.5-269.3 (XMH-1429), Ruby Creek Bridge (XMH-1268), Yardang Flint Station (XMH-252), Old Trail Segment (XMH-872), Unnamed Archaeological Site (XMH-229), and Donnelly's Roadhouse (XMH-225). The first five sites listed fall within the APE. The site locations are shown on (Figures 2-7).

Treated-as-Eligible Road (XMH-1429)

Under the Alaska Historic Roads Programmatic Agreement Interim Guidance, a group of Alaska roads have been identified which are being treated as eligible for the National Register of Historic

Places (NRHP). The project is within a segment of the Richardson Highway MP 132.491-269.312 (XMH-1429) that has been included on the list of roads treated as eligible for the National Register.

Cultural Resources Surveys

The DOT&PF contracted ASRC Energy Services (AES) to conduct a cultural resources investigation of the project's APE with the exception of the two visual impact areas shown on (Figure 6). AES performed an archaeological pedestrian survey of the APE and no new cultural resources were identified. AES subcontracted Territory Resource Consulting (THRC) to complete the historic structure survey of the Ruby Creek Bridge. Results of both investigations can be found in the cultural resources survey report titled *Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594, BR0A1-2(3)/60262 Cultural Resource Report Donnelly, Alaska, November 2012* (attached). AES's fieldwork was completed from June 18 through June 20, 2012, and from September 11 through September 14, 2012. The THRC fieldwork was completed in May of 2012. As a result, AES found Ruby Creek Bridge (XMH-1268) to be the only site in the APE to be potentially eligible for the National Register. Two previously recorded archaeological sites XMH-252 and XMH-229 were not able to be relocated likely due to heavy disturbance from gravel extraction and erosion. A short disturbed segment of old trail was located but could not be confirmed to be XMH-872 and is not considered potentially eligible as described on page 21 of the enclosed AES report.

Two residential parcels were incorporated into the APE for potential visual impacts (Figure 6). DOT&PF contacted the landowners and researched deed records to confirm the ages of the buildings associated with three residences on the two parcels. Below is a table of information for each residence. No structures were found to be 45 years of age or older.

Owners	Parcel #	Earliest Building Construction Year	Deed Record Year
Gerard Garland and Marion Kinter	USS 6615	2003	9/21/2000
Jerry Shurtz	USS 6615	1988	6/29/1988
Ed Sheehan	USS 5054	2006	9/22/1995

Determination of Eligibility

Ruby Creek Bridge (XMH-1268)

Territory Heritage Resources Consulting completed a determination of eligibility (DOE) for the Ruby Creek Bridge (XMH-1268), constructed in 1952. The DOE is located in Appendix A of AES's attached cultural resources report. In the report THRC describes the bridge as significant for its direct association with an important historical phase of the Alaska Road Commission Cold War-era state-wide and Richardson Highway road development in 1949-1955, and for its design as a specific subtype (Subtype A) of standardized single span steel stringer bridges built in Alaska in 1950-1963. THRC concluded that the bridge retains all seven aspects of integrity. As a result, THRC recommends the bridge to be eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C. See pages 25-27 of the enclosed report.

The DOT&PF considered the THRC recommendation, but disagrees with their DOE of the Ruby Creek Bridge (XMH-1268). The primary source utilized by THRC for establishing the character defining features of the standardized Subtype A, single span, steel stringer bridge notes the following. "Only the earliest bridge built with each abutment subtype that retains the character defining elements of the subtype is potentially eligible under Criterion C" (Buzzell 2005). The

earliest Subtype A single span steel stringer bridge is the One Mile Creek Bridge (XMH-1238) built in 1950. The Ruby Creek Bridge was built in 1952. Without being the earliest built of the Subtype A, XMH-1268 lacks distinction as a variation of a common bridge type that was used heavily at the national and state level during the 1950s and 1960s. The Ruby Creek Bridge is not an individually unique structure at the national or state level and is not a masterpiece. Therefore, the structure is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C. The broad association with Cold War road system development alone is not enough to raise its eligibility under Criterion A at the national, state or local level. The DOT&PF recommends that XMH-1268 is not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A, B, C or D. The FHWA agrees with DOT&PF's recommendation, and has determined that XMH-1268 is not eligible for the NRHP.

Finding of Effect

Effect to Richardson Highway (XMC-1429)

Since the project is being constructed on a TE List Road for the Alaska Road PA, FHWA and the DOT&PF have applied the Interim Guidance to the Section 106 consultation on this project. Some of the project actions exceed the parameters of the activities list in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4, triggering further consultation to determine the project effects on the Richardson Highway. The DOT&PF consulted with your office on May 22, 2013, and provided the following information on the two potential alternatives to realign the roadway approaches to accommodate a new bridge location.

Alternative #1 (Figures 5-7) would minimally realign 1600 feet of the roadway approximately 60 feet upstream of the existing bridge, would raise the road grade by 10 feet, and would widen the roadway top width from 32 to 36 feet. The new roadway prism would be larger and would overlap the entire existing road prism. Visual changes regarding the roadway alignment and setting would be minimally perceptible. The roadway dimensions would be visually larger, but over a short segment and not outside the typical range of dimensions for the treated-as-eligible roadway.

Alternative #2 (Figures 4-7) would realign 1.3 miles of the roadway a maximum distance of 1500 feet upstream of the existing bridge and would widen the roadway top width from 32 to 36 feet. Considering the full context of the treated-as-eligible highway, the effect of Alternative #2 to the highway would be characterized as minimal for the following reasons:

- 1) Alternative #2 would realign less than 1% of the 138 mile highway segment.
- 2) The Alternative #2 realignment would not change the overall nature of the road's use.
- 3) Alternative #2 would not adversely affect the overall historic wilderness setting that is characteristic of the Richardson Highway throughout its treated-as-eligible segment. Instead, Alternative #2 would provide a setting more consistent with this historic setting. Alternative #2 would shield from view man-made disturbance features in the vicinity of the existing bridge that do not contribute to the road's historic character but have compromised the historic setting of the Richardson Highway over time. These features include disturbed and un-vegetated stream banks, large gravel stockpiles, a constricted hourglass stream channel configuration, and channeling dikes. The new bridge would utilize a new upstream location and bridge design less susceptible to the reoccurrence of these setting-compromising features.

- 4) Alternative #2 would retain the existing roadway in place to be used for local residential access with the exception of approximately 100 feet on both banks of the bridge that would be removed along with the existing bridge in order to shape the stream channel and banks to match the adjacent stream cross section.

Based on the assessment above, the DOT&PF has concluded that the project, using either realignment alternative, would result in no adverse effect to the Richardson Highway (XMC-1429). The FHWA agrees with the Interim Guidance consultation and finds that there is a no adverse effect on the Richardson Highway by this project.

Project Effect Determination

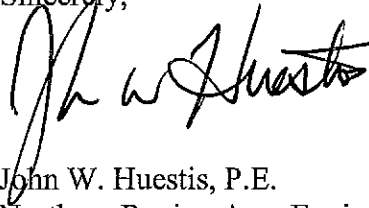
The DOT&PF recommends that the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic properties. This recommendation is based on the evidence that the proposed project has low potential to impact subsurface archaeological resources. In addition, the proposed project activities will result in a no adverse effect on the treated as eligible Richardson Highway. FHWA agrees with DOT&PF's recommendation, and finds the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

Consultation Efforts

Consultation letters were mailed out on January 25, 2012, to the SHPO, Doyon Limited, Mendas Cha-ag Native Corporation, Healy Lake Trade Village Corporation, Healy Lake Traditional Council, Deltana Community Corporation, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC). As a result of consultation efforts, one reply was received from TCC requesting detailed study of two previously recorded archaeological sites XMH-252 and XMH 299. As noted earlier, recent archaeological survey efforts by AES were unable to locate the sites that have been previously located in areas susceptible to heavy disturbance from gravel extraction and stream erosion. No other places of traditional religious or cultural importance or historic properties were identified by consulting parties in response to consultation letters.

Please direct your concurrence or comments to me at the address above, by telephone at (907) 586-7464, or by e-mail at john.huestis@dot.gov

Sincerely,



John W. Huestis, P.E.
Northern Region Area Engineer

Enclosures:

Figure 1 – Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2 to 7 – APE Figures

Office of History and Archaeology Coversheet

Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594, BR0A1-2(3)/60262 Cultural Resource Report Donnelly, Alaska, November 2012.

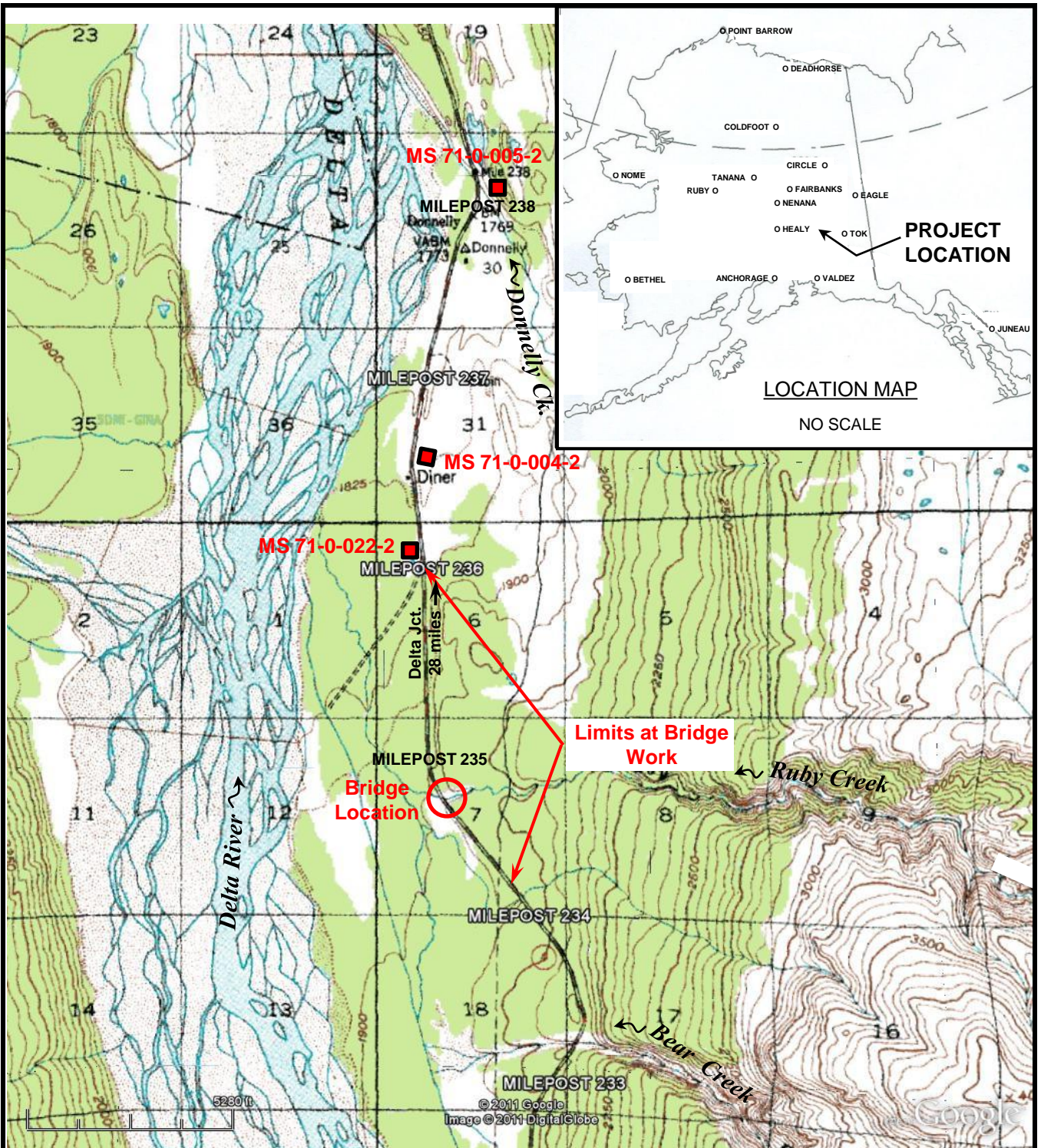
Electronic cc w/o enclosures:

Sarah Schacher, P.E., DOT&PF, Northern Region Project Manager

Brett Nelson, DOT&PF, Northern Region Environmental Manager

Jacob Woodcock, DOT&PF, Northern Region Cultural Resource Specialist

Kathy Price, DOT&PF, Statewide Cultural Resources Specialist



■ Material Sites

Location and Vicinity Map

T14S, R10E; Section 30 & 31
 T15S, R10E; Sections 6 & 7
 USGS Mount Hayes C4
 Fairbanks Meridian

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/10/13	Figure 1



NOTE: AHRs Site locations on the original figure have been removed for confidentiality

- Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- - - Existing MS Boundaries
- · · · · Proposed MS Expansion
- AHRs Sites

↑ N
 1 inch ~ 400 feet

**Material Site MS 71-0-005-2
Donnelly Creek
APE**

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/10/13	Figure 2



NOTE: AHRs Site locations on the original figure have been removed for confidentiality

- Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- Existing MS Boundaries
- Proposed MS Expansion
- ↗ AHRs Site
- APE Areas Added since Initiation

↑
1 inch ~ 400 feet

Material Site - MS 71-0-004-2 APE

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/10/13	Figure 3



**Material Site MS 71-0-022-2
APE**



1 inch ~ 400 feet

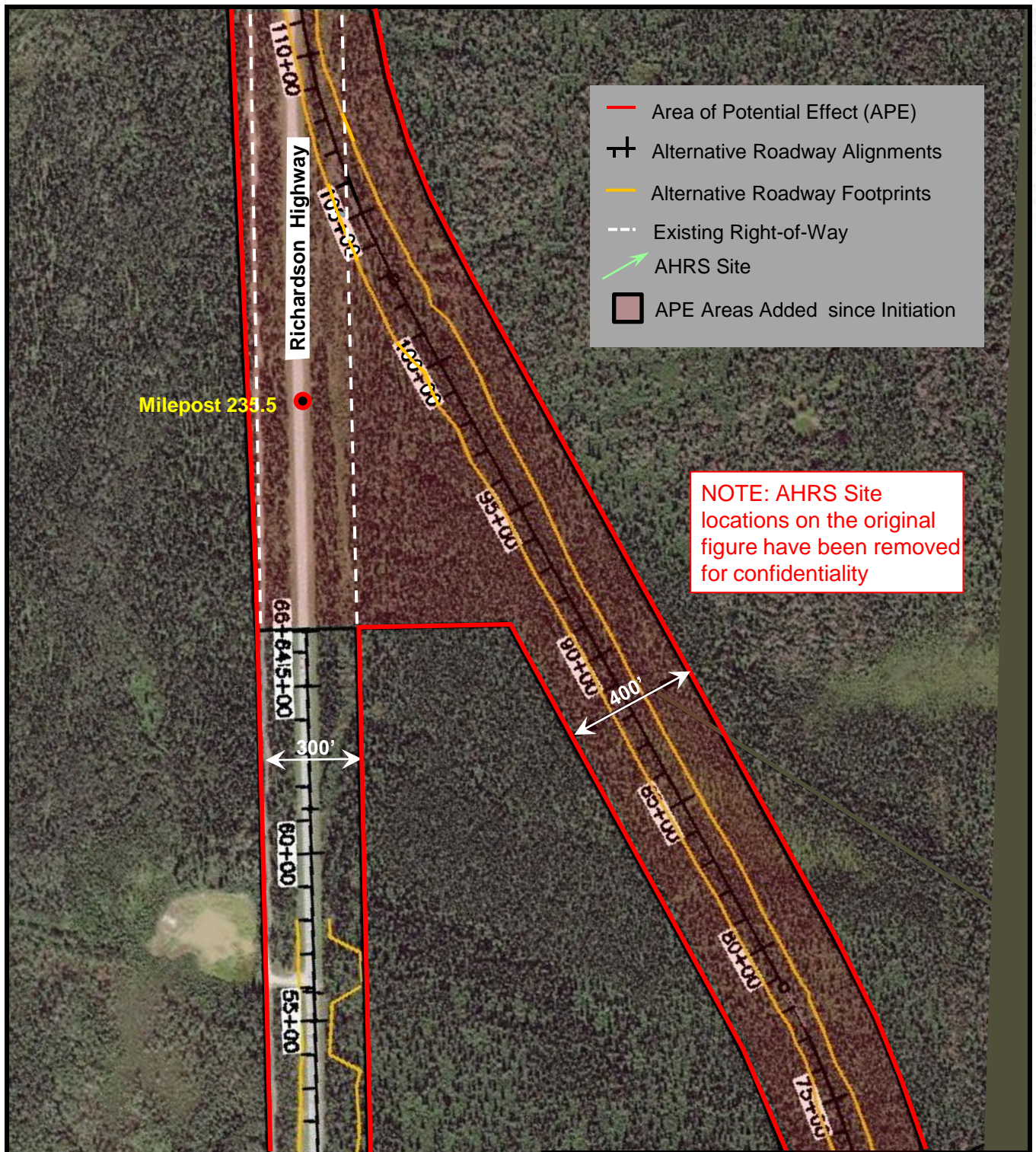
STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Northern Region

Richardson Highway MP 235
Ruby Creek Bridge #0594
BR-0714(23)/60262

Donnelly, Alaska

DATE: 6/10/13

Figure 4



- Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- + Alternative Roadway Alignments
- Alternative Roadway Footprints
- - - Existing Right-of-Way
- ↗ AHRIS Site
- APE Areas Added since Initiation

NOTE: AHRIS Site locations on the original figure have been removed for confidentiality

**North of Ruby Creek Bridge
APE**



1 inch ~ 400 feet

<p>STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region</p>	
<p>Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262</p>	
<p>Donnelly, Alaska</p>	
<p>DATE: 6/10/13</p>	<p>Figure 5</p>

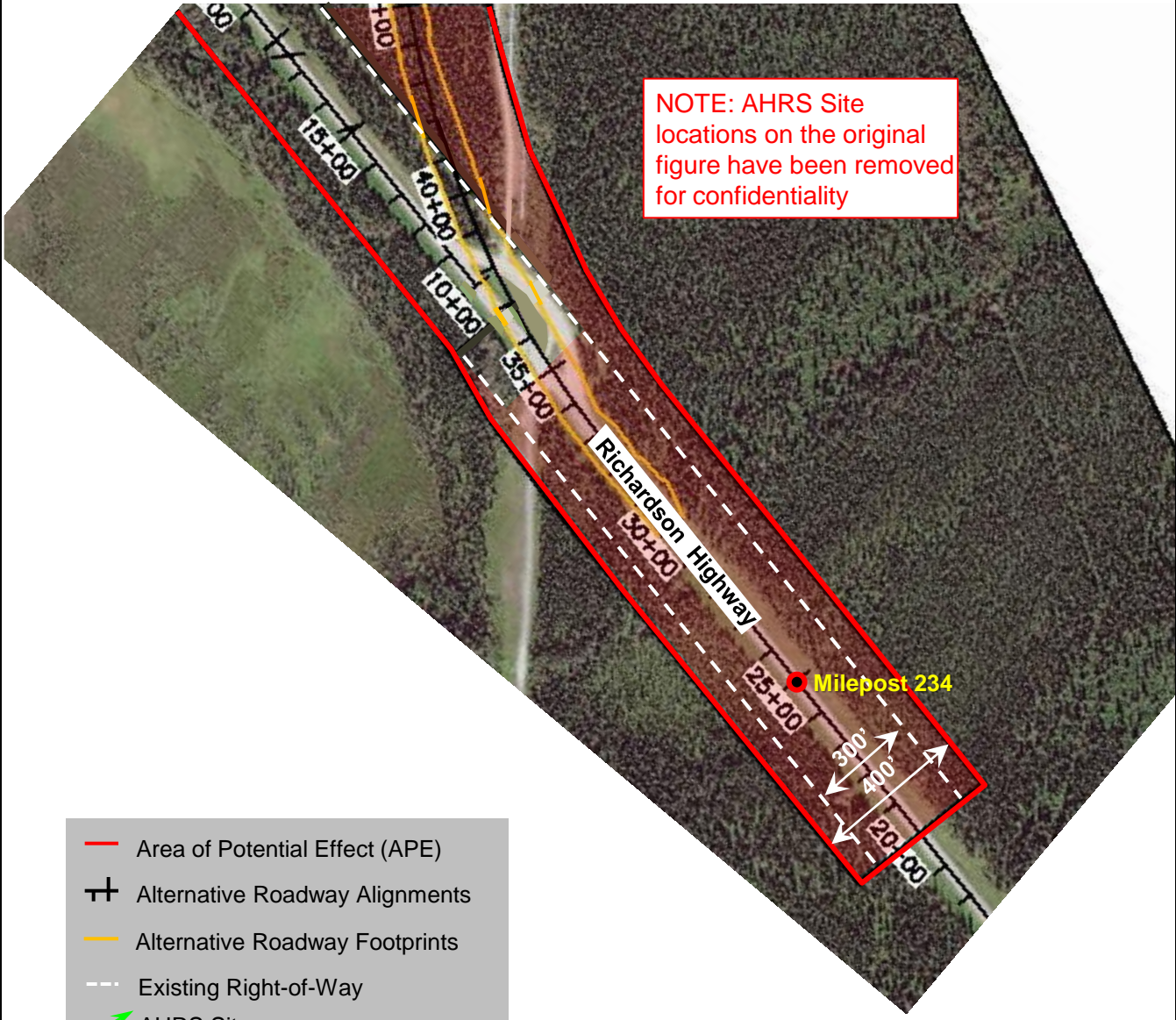


Ruby Creek Bridge Crossing APE

↑ N 1 inch ~ 400 feet

- Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- ⊕ Alternative Roadway Alignments
- Alternative Roadway Footprints
- Existing Right-of-Way
- Potential Visual Impact Only Boundary (Residential Parcels)
- AHRs Sites
- APE Areas Added since Initiation

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/10/13	Figure 6



NOTE: AHRs Site locations on the original figure have been removed for confidentiality

- Area of Potential Effect (APE)
- + Alternative Roadway Alignments
- Alternative Roadway Footprints
- Existing Right-of-Way
- AHRs Site
- APE Areas Added since Initiation



1 inch ~ 400 feet

South of Ruby Creek Bridge APE

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/10/13	Figure 7

Effinger, Robert A (DOT)

From: john.huestis@dot.gov
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2013 12:14 PM
To: Nelson, Brett D (DOT)
Cc: Woodcock, Jacob W (DOT); Effinger, Robert A (DOT)
Subject: FW: BR-0714(023)/60262
Attachments: image001.gif

FYI – Comments from our 106 Findings letter.



John W. Huestis, P.E.
Northern Region Area Engineer
FHWA - Alaska Division
Office (907) 586-7464
Fax (907) 586-7420

From: Robert Fifer [mailto:robertrayfifer@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 20, 2013 3:03 PM
To: Huestis, John (FHWA)
Subject: BR-0714(023)/60262

Responding to your communication on July 9, 2013:

After reviewing your document on the above project number, and speaking to an archaeologist regarding the project.

We have determined that there is no known cultural impact to Healy Lake Tribe. We hope you have a successful project.

If I can be of further assistance please contact me via email.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review.



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History and Archaeology

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
Web: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>
Phone: 907.269.8721
Fax: 907.269.8908

July 26, 2013

File No.: 3130-1R FHWA
3330-6N XMH-1268

John W. Huestis, P.E.
Northern Region Area Engineer
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
P.O. Box 21648
Juneau, AK 99802-1648

Subject: Replacement of Ruby Creek Bridge Near MP 235 of the Richardson Highway

Dear Mr. Huestis:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence (dated July 9, 2013) on July 12, 2013.

We concur with your determination that XMH-1268 is **not eligible** for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). We greatly appreciate the summary provided regarding the roadway realignment activities along the Richardson Highway (XMC-1429), a Treated-as-Eligible (TE) Road under the Alaska Historic Roads Programmatic Agreement Interim Guidance. Following our review of the documentation provided, we concur that a finding of **no adverse effect** is appropriate for the proposed undertaking.

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 comment letter 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.

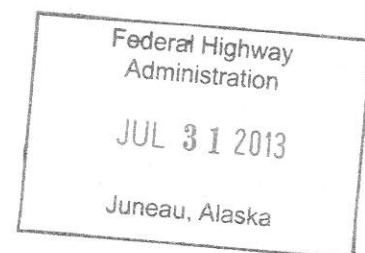
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Shina duVall at 269-8720 or shina.duvall@alaska.gov if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith E. Bittner".

Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

JEB:sad



Appendix C

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coordination



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Avenue, Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
February 14, 2014



Bob Effinger - Environmental Impact Analyst
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Re: Richardson Highway MP 235 – Ruby
Creek Bridge #0594; BR-0714(23)60262

Dear Mr. Effinger:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reviewed the scoping request for ADOT&PF's proposed bridge replacement on Ruby Creek at MP 235 of the Richardson Highway. Work will involve activities such as lengthening the bridge span, constructing spill-through abutments, channel adjustments, dike modification, temporary stream diversions, and a temporary bridge. Materials will be extracted from three existing sites, with planned expansion of two sites.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no threatened or endangered species in the project area, thus the Service does not expect project-related activities to adversely impact listed species. This letter constitutes informal consultation under the Endangered Species Act. Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation regarding this project is not necessary at this time.

Eagles: The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act protects eagles from take, as well as from disturbance to their nests, roosts, and foraging sites. The Service maintains an eagle-nest database that provides an indication of past nest activity. This database currently has no records for eagle nests in the proposed project area; however, these data cannot guarantee future nesting activity. Ultimately, it is the applicant's responsibility to prevent disturbance to eagles, therefore should an active Bald or Golden Eagle nest be observed within the project area at any time please contact our office immediately.

Migratory Birds: The Service recommends consideration be given to migratory birds when planning for land clearing activities. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the willful killing or harassment of migratory birds. Migratory bird nests, eggs or nestlings could be destroyed if work is conducted in nesting habitats during the spring and summer breeding season, which is generally May 1 to July 15 for Interior Alaska. To protect nesting migratory birds and to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Service recommends that initial clearing of vegetation or grubbing of stumps, stockpiling or placing fill for this project be completed before May 1 or after July 15 to render the area unsuitable for breeding birds prior to their spring

arrival. This would minimize the likelihood for impacts to nesting birds and facilitate project work during the summer. Recommended time periods for avoiding land clearing may be found at: http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fieldoffice/anchorage/pdf/vegetation_clearing.pdf.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat: To minimize impacts to aquatic and riparian habitats, crossings should consist of a bridge or culvert that spans the floodplain, providing for long-term channel stability, retention of existing spawning habitats, maintenance of food (benthic invertebrate) production, and minimizing risk of crossing failure.

The current narrow bridge span (30 feet) inhibits the natural processes of the creek drainage and we are pleased ADOT&PF is proposing to increase the span of the new bridge to an estimated 120-140 feet. Increasing the bridge span to match the active braided channel and removing the artificial embankments (dikes) would further restore the natural floodplain, improve fish and riparian habitat, and improve ice passage.

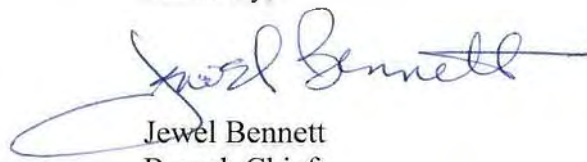
The Service recommends that vegetated buffers be maintained along open water bodies to protect aquatic habitat from sedimentation that may occur during construction activities. We recommend that 100-foot wide buffers (ADF&G et al. 2002) be maintained along Donnelly Creek where it lies within the boundary of material site MS 71-0-005-2 (Figure 2) and along the tributary stream near material site MS 71-0-004-2 (Figure 3).

Material Sites: The Service recommends reclamation plans that restore fish and wildlife habitat be developed for all material sites. Reclamation plans should: identify the habitats impacted by a material site; establish reclamation goals and performance measures; and assure reclamation activities are conducted. The Service would be interested in working with ADOT&PF to develop material source reclamation plans that minimize the long-term impact to fish and wildlife habitat.

Invasive Species: Construction work on streams can provide a pathway for spreading invasive plant species throughout otherwise inaccessible regions of Interior Alaska. The Service recommends ADOT&PF implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent introduction of invasive plant species including: washing equipment prior to entering a jobsite to remove dirt and debris that might harbor invasive seeds, using weed-free fill, disposing of spoil and vegetation contaminated with invasive species appropriately, and revegetating with local native plant species.

Conclusion: We appreciate this opportunity for early comment. Should you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact Charleen Veach at 907-456-0276 or by email at charleen_veach@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



Jewel Bennett
Branch Chief
Conservation Planning Assistance
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office

ecc: William Morris, ADF&G-Habitat, Fairbanks

References:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Alaska Department of Natural Resources. 2002. General recommendations for riparian management zones in Interior Alaska. Technical assistance provided by US Army Corps of Engineers. Unpublished guidelines dated September 2002. 6 pp. + figures.
(guidelines) http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fieldoffice/fairbanks/pdf/2_rmz_buffer.pdf
(overview) http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fieldoffice/fairbanks/pdf/4_rmz_overview.pdf

Appendix D

Public Involvement


AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF ALASKA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Before me, the undersigned, a notary public, this day personally appeared, Angela Tucker who, being first sworn according to law, says that she is employed by TriDelta, Inc., publisher of the Delta Wind, a newspaper of general circulation published in Delta Junction in said Fourth Judicial District and State of Alaska, and that the advertisement of which the annexed is a true copy, was published in said newspaper on the following day(s):

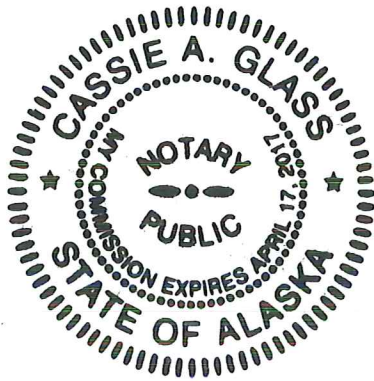
Invoice # 5259 on 2/20/14 (Environmental)
AK. Dept. of Transportation + Public facilities

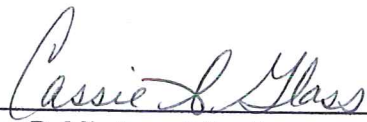
And that the rate charged is not in excess of the rate charged private individuals, with the usual discounts.



Angela Tucker

Subscribed and sworn before me this 21st day of February, 2014





Notary Public in and for the
State of Alaska
My commission expires: 04/17/2017

Notice of Intent

Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594

**Project No.: 0714(023)/60262
February 20, 2014**

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in cooperation with the Alaska Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration, is proposing the Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 project. The project would replace the bridge near its existing location.

The existing bridge is located at a location on the creek where significant amounts of gravel are deposited in the creek channel. The desposited gravel causes highwater, scour, and continuing maintenance problems. The purpose of the project is to improve bridge's hydraulic capacity, reduce maintenance costs, provide for bridge integrity, and improve bridge safety.

The Department requests information and comments on resources in the project area that may be affected including historic properties, archaeological sites, wetlands, and floodplains. The project is anticipated to impact less than one acre of wetlands. The following executive orders apply.

Executive Order 11990, Notice of Wetland Involvement
Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice
Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment
Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management
Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species

For further information regarding the project, or if you would like to submit comments, please contact:

Sarah Schacher, P.E., Engineering Manager
at (907) 451-5361 or send email to sarah.schacher@alaska.gov

You may also fax your comments to (907) 451-5126. To coorespond by text telephone (TDD), call (907) 451-2363. Comments may be submitted until **March 6, 2014**.

Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594

Notice of Intent

Richardson Highway MP 235
 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594
 Project No.: 0714(023)/60262
 February 20, 2014

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, in cooperation with the Alaska Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration, is proposing the Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 project. The project would replace the bridge near its existing location.

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Sarah Schacher, P.E., Engineering Manager

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You may also fax your comments to (907) 451-5126. To coorespond by text telephone (TDD), call (907) 451-2363. Comments may be submitted until **March 6, 2014**.

Attachments, History, Details

Attachments

None

Revision History

Created 2/14/2014 3:54:05 PM by skstephens

Details

Department:	Transportation and Public Facilities
Category:	Public Notices
Sub-Category:	
Location(s):	Delta Junction
Project/Regulation #:	60262
Publish Date:	2/20/2014
Archive Date:	3/7/2014

Events/Deadlines:

Appendix E

Scoping Coordination



State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Statewide Design
& Engineering Services

**AGENCY SCOPING
REQUEST FOR EARLY COORDINATION**

Project Name: **Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594**
Project Number (state/federal): **BR-0714(23)/60262**
Comments Due Date: **7/25/2012**
Anticipated Level of Documentation: **Categorical Exclusion**

Dear Commenter:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is requesting your comments on a proposed project in preparation for completing the project's environmental documentation. To ensure that all factors are considered in the development of the environmental document we request your comments on the project proposal, project-area resources, and any project-related permits or clearances to be obtained from your agency. Please provide your written comments by **July 25, 2012**.

To ensure that your comments are addressed in the project's documentation, please refer to the project by the above name or number, and send or e-mail your comments to:

Bruce Campbell - Northern Region Environmental Manager
Attention: Bob Effinger - Environmental Impact Analyst
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Email: bob.effinger@alaska.gov Phone: 907-451-5294

A paper copy of this document can be requested from the above address.


for Bruce Campbell/Regional Environmental Manager 6/25/12
Date

- Attachment:
- Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity Map**
 - Figure 2: Aerial Photo Map – Material Site 71-0-005-2**
 - Figure 3: Aerial Photo Map – Material Site 71-0-004-2**
 - Figure 4: Aerial Photo Map – Material Site 71-0-022-2**
 - Figure 5: Aerial Photo Map – North of Bridge**
 - Figure 6: Aerial Photo Map – Bridge Crossing**
 - Figure 7: Aerial Photo Map – South of Bridge**

I. Project Description, Alternatives, Location

Location

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to replace the Ruby Creek Bridge near MP 235 of the Richardson Highway approximately 28 miles south of Delta Junction, Alaska. The project is located within T14S, R10E, Sections 30 & 31; and T15S, R10E Sections 6 & 7; Fairbanks Meridian; USGS Quad Map Mount Hayes C4. The bridge coordinates are Latitude 63°37'49.49"N, Longitude -145°53'21.62"W (WGS 84). See Figure 1 for a project location map.

Description

The project consists of the following work items: 1) construct a new bridge on or near to the existing bridge alignment, 2) address hydraulic issues such as raising the bridge grade, lengthening its span, constructing spill-thru abutments, adjusting the channel, and modifying dikes. 3) realign the highway approaches as needed to accommodate the new bridge, 4) modify driveway access points and approach culverts as needed for grade raise/realignment, 5) relocate existing utilities as needed, and 6) remove stockpiles of debris adjacent to the bridge from previous bridge maintenance.

Temporary construction work may include a temporary bypass bridge and road, stream diversions, temporary fills to isolate work areas from surrounding waters, a temporary work bridge or causeway to facilitate bridge construction, and/or temporary erosion control measures.

Three existing material sites near the project are potential sites for contractor use (Figures 2-4). Expansion of two of the sites is proposed (Figures 3 & 4).

Resource Setting

The existing bridge spanning Ruby Creek is 30 feet long by 24 feet wide and constructed in the early 1950's. The majority of stream flow under the bridge occurs during the spring and during heavy rainfall events. Very little flow occurs otherwise. The stream bottom immediately upstream and downstream of the bridge is a broad un-vegetated gravel bed approximately 150 feet wide. As the stream approaches the bridge its channel bottom constricts to 30 feet wide directed by 100 to 300-foot long earthen dikes on all sides. Lands surrounding the stream are primarily forested uplands. The river is considered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to be fish-bearing. Potential material site MS71-0-022-2 consists of mixed spruce and deciduous forested upland along the Delta River bank ranging from 300 to 700 feet from the river flats. Potential material site MS71-0-004-2 consists of a 4-acre excavated pond surrounded by mixed spruce and deciduous forested upland. Potential material site MS71-0-005-2 consists of a partially-mined forested upland ridge top overlooking the Delta River and Donnelly Creek valleys.

II. Purpose and Need of Project

The existing Ruby Creek Bridge is located where topography flattens and the stream loses velocity. As a result a significant amount of gravel is deposited in the stream channel at the bridge location. This deposited gravel causes high water, scour, and continuing maintenance problems. The purpose of the project is to improve bridge hydraulic capacity, reduce maintenance efforts and associated costs, provide for bridge integrity, and improve bridge safety.

III. Environmental Consequences

A. Right-of-Way (ROW) Impacts:

1. ROW required:
 - a. Property required from a state or federal agency.

(1) State Park? Name: **None**

(2) State Refuge or Critical Habitat Area? Name: None

(3) Federal Park? Name: None

b. Property required from local government entity.

Type Property: **There is potential for temporary easements and/or permanent right-of-way acquisition from DNR and BLM lands upstream and downstream of the Ruby Creek Bridge for a slightly alignment shift, possible detour bridge, potential upstream dike modification work, and long-term maintenance activities. There is an anticipated need to renew material site agreements with DNR including some site expansions.**

c. Business or residential property required.

(1) Residential: (indicate number) 3 (2) Business: (indicate number) None
Potential right-of-way acquisition is anticipated from adjacent residential properties to slightly shift the roadway centerline to accommodate the new bridge.

d. Property required from a Tribe or ANSCA corporation.

Name: None

2. Describe:

The project highway alignment is centered within a 300-foot wide right-of-way corridor. The need for additional permanent right-of-way is anticipated to slightly shift the roadway centerline to accommodate the new bridge and to provide space for future maintenance activities. Potential right-of-way acquisition is shown in Figure 6.

B. Socio-Economic Impacts:

1. Project could affect community cohesion, neighborhoods, or other community facilities. No
2. Project could affect economic development, such as established area businesses. **The project could result in minor short-term traffic delays during construction. These delays are not expected to be substantial enough to have an adverse effect on businesses-related travel.**
3. Project could affect travel patterns and accessibility. **During construction short term traffic delays could occur. In the long term the project would extend the service life of the highway thereby maintain existing travel patterns and accessibility.**
4. Project could disproportionately affect minorities or disadvantaged persons (E.O. 12898) No

C. Impacts to Historic Properties:

1. National Register listed eligible/potentially eligible historic properties in project area/area of potential effect (APE). **No previously listed Nation Register sites are on record in the project area. A review of the Alaska Heritage Resources Database found five previously recorded sites in the project preliminary area of potential effect. One site, the Richardson Highway itself, is being treated as eligible based on an agreement with SHPO. The results of a cultural resources survey scheduled for the 2012 field season would determine whether any of the other four previously recorded sites or any newly discovered sites are potentially eligible for the National Register.**
2. Places of traditional religious or cultural importance to Tribes are present in the project area.
None known.
3. Historic Properties survey may be required to identify if sites are present.
A cultural resources survey is scheduled for the 2012 field season as described in question C.1. above.

4. Possible adverse effect on historic properties. **The results of a cultural resources survey, further design information, and consultation with SHPO would determine what historic properties are present in the project area and whether these would be adversely affected.**

D. Fish & Wildlife Impacts:

1. Project could affect anadromous or resident fishes. **Ruby Creek is considered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to be fish-bearing water. No anadromous waters have been identified in the project area.**
2. Problem fish pass culverts within the project area. **No problem fish pass culverts have been identified in the project area.**
3. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) present in the project area. **No essential fish habitat has been identified in the project area.**
4. Wildlife Resources:
 - a. Project in area of high wildlife/vehicle accidents. **No**
 - b. Project could bisect migration corridors. **No**
 - c. Project could segment habitat. **No**
 - d. Species of concern to ADF&G in the project area **None known**
5. Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act: Eagle nesting tree(s) in the project area. **A review of the USFWS Alaska Bald Eagle Nest Atlas found no recorded bald eagle nesting sites within or near the project area.**
6. Describe: **See notes above.**

E. Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Impacts:

1. Listed T&E species present. **No**
2. T&E species migrate through the project area. **None known**
3. Proposed species present in project area. **No**
4. Candidate species present in the project area. **None known**
5. Critical habitat in the project area. **No**
6. Describe:

No federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species or critical habitat are found to occur in the project vicinity.

F. Waters of the U.S and Water Bodies:

1. Project affects Waters of the U.S. (as defined by USACE), Section 404/10/103. **Yes, the project would affect Ruby Creek and potentially wetlands in the project area.**
2. Project affects Navigable Waters of the U.S. (as defined by USACE), Sec. 10. **No**
3. Project affects a Cataloged Anadromous Fish Stream (i.e., 41.14.870). **No.**

4. Proposed river or stream involvement:

a. Temporary

Riprap Culvert Work Cofferdam Fill Relocation Diversion

b. Permanent

Riprap Culvert Embankment Fill Relocation Diversion

5. Describe:

Permanent: Replacement of the bridge, replacement of approach culverts, modification to bridge approaches, extraction of material from material site(s), and removal of material stockpiles surrounding the bridge.

Potential Temporary: The nature of all temporary work in the stream is dependent on contractor operations. This work may temporary bypass roads, stream diversions, temporary fills to isolate work areas from surrounding waters, a temporary work bridge or causeway to facilitate bridge construction, and/or temporary erosion control measures.

G. Wetlands Impacts:

1. Project involves wetlands as defined by USACE. **Yes**
2. Wetlands delineated in accordance with DOT&PF/FHWA/USACE Agreement. **Yes**
3. Acres: **The estimated project impact on wetlands is <= 1 acre.**
4. Fill: **Fill quantity unknown at this time.**
5. Dredge: **Dredging is not proposed.**
6. USACE authorization required: **Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit**

Describe: **Some wetlands within the project work area are located in the northwest quadrant of the bridge. Pockets of forested wetland may occur at some material site locations. Wetland impacts, if any, are expected to be minimal.**

H. Hazardous Waste:

1. Known or potentially contaminated sites along the corridor. **No**
2. ROW required from, or extensive excavation adjacent to, a known hazardous waste site. **No**
3. The existing and/or proposed ROW is contaminated. **None known**
4. Potential for encountering hazardous waste during construction is high. **No**

5. Describe:

A review of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) contaminated site databases was completed on June 12, 2012. No sites were found to be within the the project area. Review of Environmental Protection Agency resource sites revealed no sites of concern for encountering hazardous materials within the project area.

J. Air Quality Impacts (NEPA and Conformity):

1. NEPA (all projects):

- a. The project is located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area (i.e. CO or PM-10). **No**
If yes, indicate CO or PM-10
- b. The project is of the type exempt from an air quality analysis per 40 CFR 93.126 (Table 2 and Exempt Projects). **Not Applicable**

2. Conformity (projects in nonattainment areas only): **Not Applicable**

- a. The project is identified in the approved STIP.
- b. The project is in the most current air quality conformity (i.e., TIP).
- c. Have there been any changes in the project design concept and scope, as described in the STIP and TIP conformity analysis?

3. Describe:

The project is not located in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance area.

K. Floodplains Impacts (23 CFR Part 650, Subpart A):

Project encroaches onto a 100-year floodplain.

The project is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Ruby Creek. This not located within a FEMA-mapped regulatory floodplain.

1. Project involves a regulatory floodway. **No**
2. Project is located within an area protected by local flood hazard ordinances. **No**
3. Flood hazard permit is required from local government. **No**

Describe:

The project is not located within a regulatory 100-year floodplain.

L. Noise Impact (23 CFR Part 772):

1. There are noise-sensitive receivers/land uses adjacent to the proposed project? **Yes**
2. The project is located on new location, would result in substantial changes in vertical or horizontal alignment, or would increase the number of through lanes? **Not anticipated.**

M. Water Quality Impact:

1. Project could involve a public or private drinking source. **No**
2. Project could result in a discharge of storm water to Waters of the U.S. **No (runoff only)**
3. Project could affect a designated impaired water body. **No**
 - a. List name(s) and location(s): **Not Applicable.**

4. Is there a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) NPDES permit or will runoff be mixed with discharges from an NPDES permitted industrial facility? **No**
5. If extensive dewatering (>250,000 gallons) is anticipated, is the area to be dewatered within 1 mile of a contaminated site? **Not Applicable**

4. **Describe:**

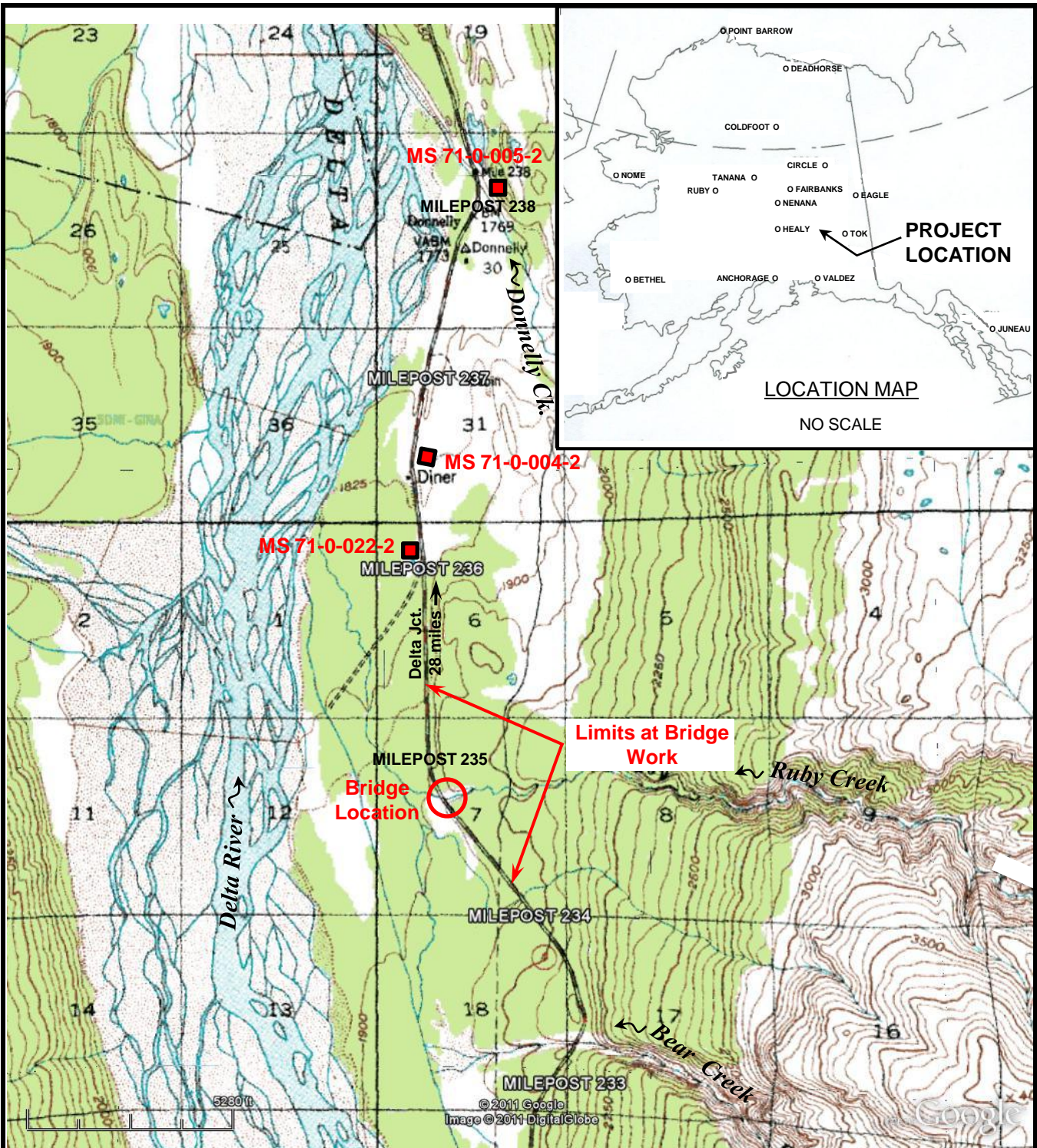
It is anticipated that some storm water runoff will leave the site and enter waters of the U.S. by way of this storm water, some sediment may be transported to down gradient waters during construction of the proposed project. Off-site sedimentation is expected to be minimal and best management practices will be implemented for the purpose of meeting state and federal water quality standards. A project-specific erosion and sediment control plan will be developed prior to construction initiation. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed and implemented by the construction contractor. The SWPPP will comply with the Alaska Pollution Discharge Elimination System (APDES) General Permit for Construction Activities.

N. Section 4(f)/6(f):

1. There would be a “use” of land from 4(f) properties. **No**
2. Section 6(f) properties affected by the proposed action. **No**
3. List agency(s) with jurisdiction: **Not Applicable**
4. Describe: **The project would not involve the use of a Section 4(f) or 6(f) property.**

O. Permits and Authorizations

1. USACE, Section 404/10/103: **Yes**
2. USCG, Section 9: **No**
3. ADFG, Fish Habitat Permit: **Yes**
4. Flood Hazard: **No**
5. ADEC 401: **Yes**
6. ADEC Storm Non-domestic Storm Water Disposal Plan Approval: **Yes**
7. APDES: **Compliance with ADEC’s APDES General Permit for Construction Activities**
8. ADNRR, OPMP (ACMP Consistency): **No**
9. ADEC Dewatering: **Possible**
10. ADF&G Special Area: **No**
11. Other. *If “yes,” list.*

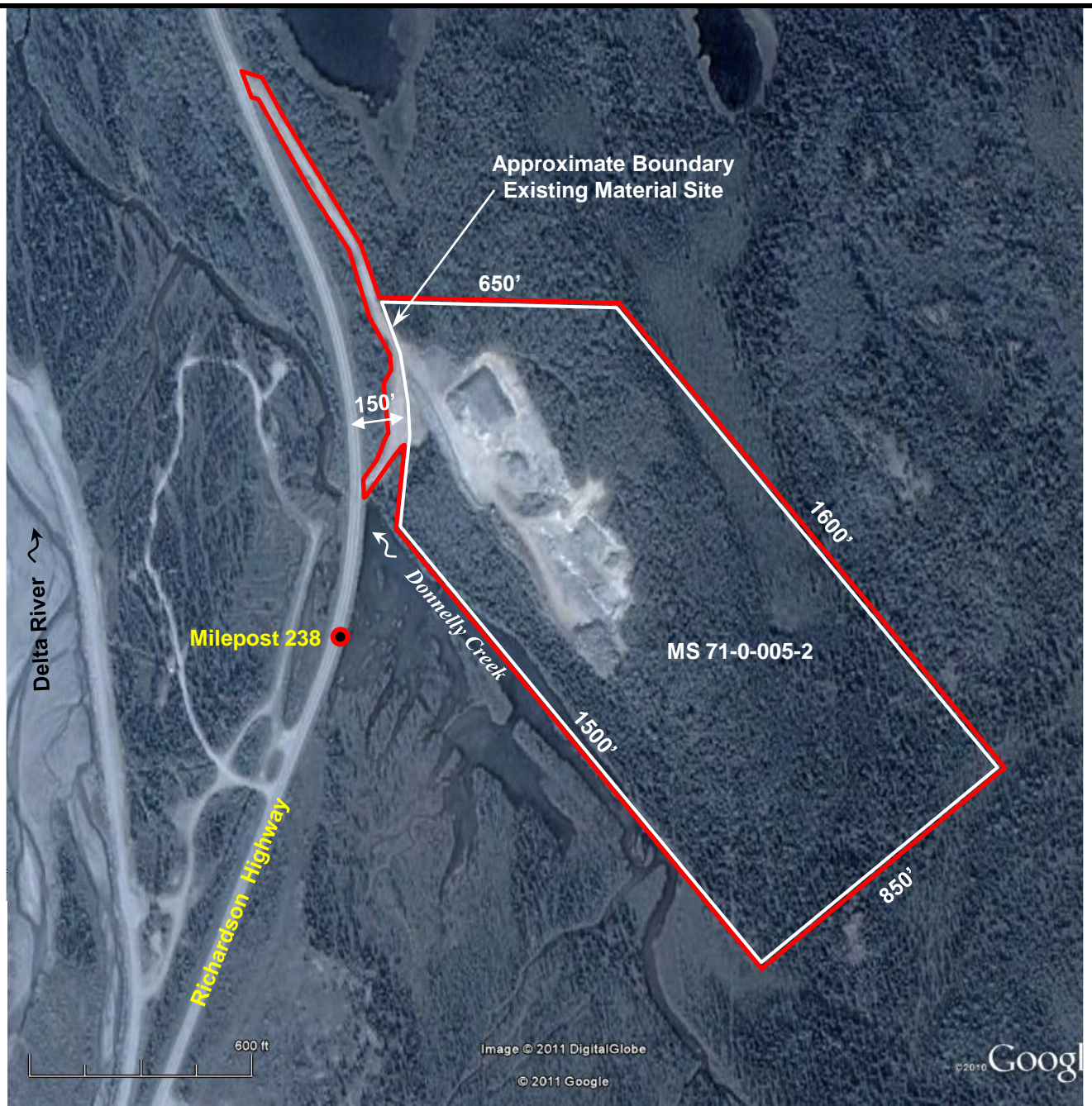


■ Material Sites

Location and Vicinity Map

T14S, R10E; Section 30 & 31
 T15S, R10E; Sections 6 & 7
 USGS Mount Hayes C4
 Fairbanks Meridian

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/25/12	Figure 1



— Potential Project Work Limits

**Material Site MS 71-0-005-2
Donnelly Creek**

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/25/12	Figure 2



— Potential Project Work Limits

Material Site MS 71-0-004-2

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/25/12	Figure 3

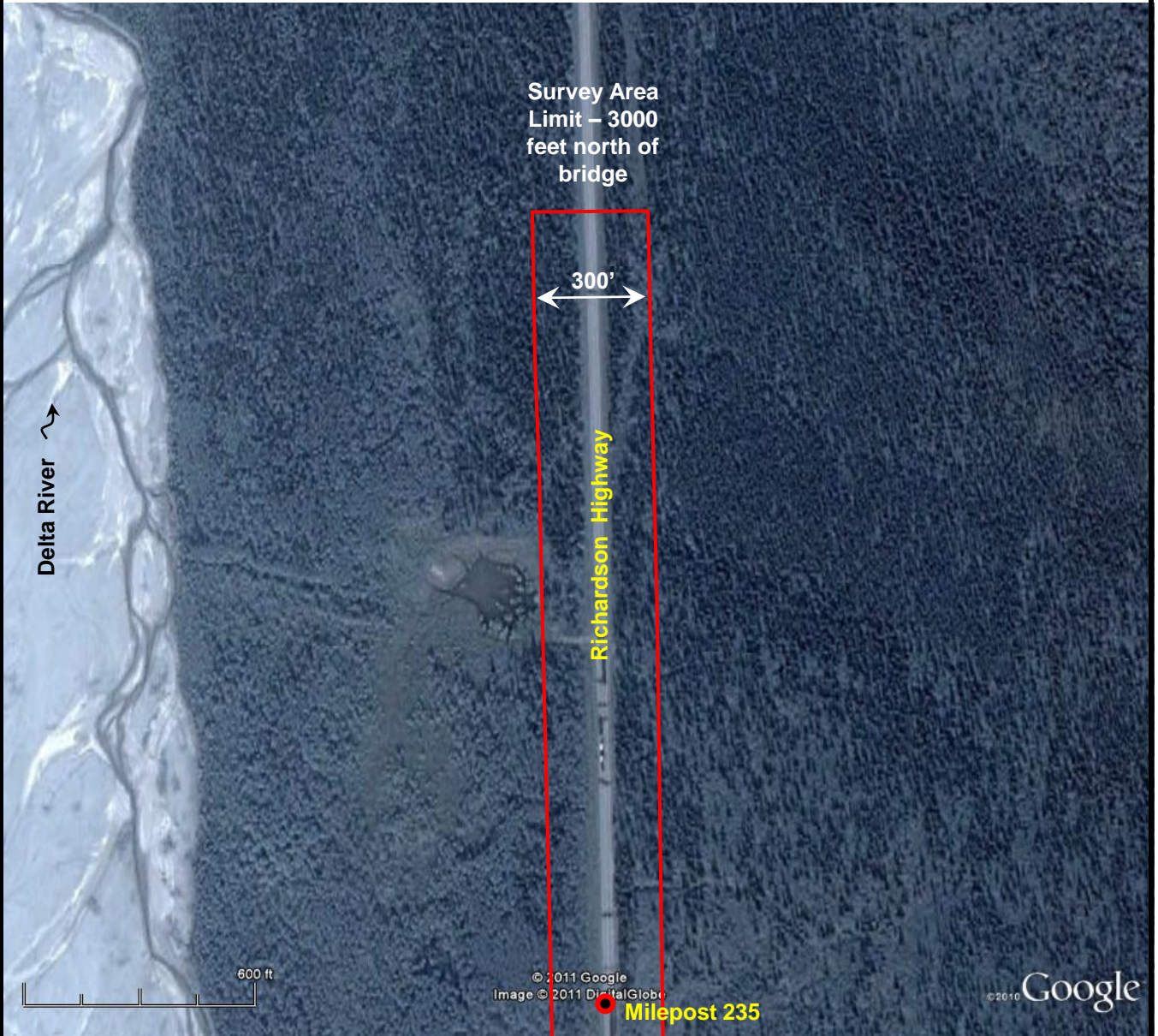


— Potential Project Work Limits

Material Site MS 71-0-022-2

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/25/12	Figure 4



— Potential Project Work Limits

North of Ruby Creek Bridge

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/25/12	Figure 5



— Potential Project Work Limits

Ruby Creek Bridge Crossing

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/25/12	Figure 6



— Potential Project Work Limits

South of Ruby Creek Bridge

↑ N
1 inch ~ 400 feet

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region	
Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594 BR-0714(23)/60262	
Donnelly, Alaska	
DATE: 6/25/12	Figure 7

Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #0594								
Recipient Number	Sent this project	SCOPING LIST 6/25/12			Agency	Address	Phone	e-mail
		First Name	Last Name	Title				
Federal Agencies								
1	x	Jewel	Bennett	Conservation Planning Assistance	U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Ecological Services	101 12th Ave. Box 19 Rm 110 Fairbanks, AK 99701	907-456-0324	jewel_bennett@fws.gov
2	x	Jennifer	Curtis	NEPA Reviewer	EPA Region 10	222 W. 7th Ave. #19 Anchorage, AK 99513	907-271-6324	Curtis.Jennifer@epa.gov
3	x	Jeanne	Hanson	Habitat Conservation Division	NOAA Fisheries/NMFS	222 West Seventh Ave. #19, Anchorage, AK 99513-7588	907-271-3029	HCD_Anchorage@noaa.gov
4	x	Peter	Forsling	Northern Region Liason	FHWA Alaska Division	P. O. Box 21648, Juneau, AK 99802-1648	907-586-7427	Peter.Forsling@fhwa.dot.gov
5	x	Beth	Maclean	Field Manager	BLM Glennallen Field Office	P.O. Box 147, Glenallen, AK 99588	907-822-3217	blm_ak_GFO_GeneralDelivery@blm.gov
6	x	Shelly	Jacobson	Field Manager	BLM Central Yukon Field Office	1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709	907-474-2200	CentralYukon@blm.gov s05iacobso@blm.gov
7	x	Steve	Meyers	South Branch Chief	Regulatory Branch	CEPOA-RD-N, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, P.O. Box 6898, JBER, AK 99506-0898	907-753-2784	Steve.Meyers@poa02.usace.army.mil
State Resource Agencies								
8	x	Judith	Bittner	State Historical Preservation Officer	SHPO	Department of Natural Resources, Office of History and Archaeology, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310,	907-269-8714	judy.bittner@alaska.gov gha_revcomp@alaska.gov
9	x	Michelle	Bonnet	Director	DEC Division of Water	555 Cordova St, Anchorage, AK 99501	907-269-7599	michelle.bonnet@alaska.gov
10	x	Darren	Bruning	Area Biologist	Conservation	Delta Junction	907-895-4484	darren.bruning@alaska.gov
11	x	Jack	Winters	Regional Supervisor	DFG - Habitat Division	1300 College Road, Fairbanks, Ak 99701-1551	907-459-7281	jack_winters@alaska.gov
12	x	Chris	Milles	Regional Manager Northern Region	DNR DLMW	3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699	907-451-2711	chris.milles@alaska.gov
Community								
13	x	Paul	Knopp	President	Deltana Community	P.O. Box 113300 Delta Junction, Aik 99737		Postal Mail
14		Peter	Nagel	Sr Landowner Rel Specialist	Alveska Pipeline	P.O. Box 196660, MS 569, Anchorage, AK, 99519-6660	907-787-8170	naaeloc@alveska-pipeline.com
Native Groups								
15	x	Ken	Johns	President/CEO	Ahtna Incorporated	P.O. Box 649, Glennallen, AK 99588	907-822-3476	ltvone@ahtna.net admin@doyon.com lands@doyon.com schutta@doyon.com
16	x	Aaron M.	Schutt	President/CEO	Doyon Limited	1 Doyon Place, Suite 300, Fairbanks, AK 99701-2941	907-459-2000	
17	x	Fred	Kirsteater	CEO	Healy Lake Village	P.O. Box 60300, Fairbanks, AK 99706		Postal Mail
18	x	Gary	Lee	President	Mendas Cha-ag Native Corpor	457 Cindy Drive, Fairbanks, AK 999701		Postal Mail
19	x	Joann	Polston	First Chief	Tetlin Tribal Council	P.O. Box 74090 Fairbanks, AK 99707		Postal Mail
20	x	Jerry	Issac	President/Chairman	Tanana Chiefs Conference	122 First Avenue, Suite 600, Fairbanks, AK 99701	FB Office - 907-452-825	Jerry.isaac@tananachiefs.org
Alaska DOT								
21	x	John	Bennett	RW Chief	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-5423	johnf.bennett@alaska.gov
22	x	Clark	Milne	Maintenance Engineer	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-5285	clark.milne@alaska.gov
23	x	Ethan	Birkholz	Planning Chief	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-5150	ethan.birkholz@alaska.gov
24	x	Meadow	Bailey	Information Officer	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-2240	meadow.bailey@alaska.gov
25	x	Gail	Gardner	Utilities Engineer	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-5408	gail.gardner@alaska.gov
26	x	Longin	Krol, P.E.	Preconstruction Engineer	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-2276	login.krol@alaska.gov
27	x	Jeff	Currey	Materials	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-2040	jeff.currey@alaska.gov
28	x	Barry	Hooper	PD&E Chief	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-2218	barry.hooper@alaska.gov
29	x	Sarah	Schacher	Engineering Manager	Alaska DOT&PF	2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, AK 99709-5316	451-5361	sarah.schacher@alaska.gov
30	x	Richard	Pratt	Statewide Bridge Design	Alaska DOT&PF	PO Box 112500, MS-2500, Juneau, AK 99811-2500	465-8890	richard.pratt@alaska.gov
Legislature								
31	x	Rep Alan	Dick	State Representative	District 6	State Capitol, Room 104, Juneau, AK 99801	907-465-4527	Representative_Alain_Dick@legis.state.ak.us
32	x	Rep. Eric	Feige	State Representative	District 12	State Capitol, Room 126, Juneau, AK 99801	907-465-4859	Representative_Eric_Feige@legis.state.ak.us
33	x	Sen Albert	Kookesh	State Senator	District C	State Capitol, Room 11, Juneau, AK 99801	907-465-3473	Senator_Albert_Kookesh@legis.state.ak.us
34	x	Sen. John B.	Coghill Jr.	State Senator	District F	State Capitol, Room 504, Juneau, AK 99801	907-465-3258	Senator_John_Coghill@legis.state.ak.us

Appendix F

Coast Guard Permit Coordination

Effinger, Robert A (DOT)

From: Effinger, Robert A (DOT)
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 8:56 AM
To: Effinger, Robert A (DOT)
Subject: FW: 60262 - Determination pursuant to 23 USC 144(h) for Bridge Replacement Project
Attachments: RubyCreekUpstream.jpg; RubyCreekDownstream.jpg

From: Peter.Forsling@dot.gov [mailto:Peter.Forsling@dot.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 3:09 PM
To: Effinger, Robert A (DOT)
Cc: Campbell, Bruce W (DOT); Sielbach, Drew (DOT); Orbistondo, John P (DOT); JHelfinstine@CGAlaska.uscg.mil; David.M.Seris@USCG.MIL
Subject: 60262 - Determination pursuant to 23 USC 144(h) for Bridge Replacement Project

[Bob, bridge is exempt.](#)

[Drew, please update NBI](#)

From: Effinger, Robert A (DOT)
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 3:15 PM
To: 'Peter J. Forsling, FHWA'
Cc: Schacher, Sarah E (DOT)
Subject: Request - Determinations pursuant to 23 USC 114(h) for Bridge Replacement Projects

Pete:

We are requesting your determination related to navigation for the following bridge replacement projects:

Richardson Highway MP 235 Ruby Creek Bridge #594 (60262)

This bridge is located at the bottom of an alluvial fan where the gradient flattens depositing gravel. The stream is not suitable for navigation because it more often runs with too little flow except during flash floods during which the river is swift and navigation would be viewed as unsafe. For this reason it is not utilized for navigation nor is it susceptible for use.

Given this information we request your determination that the waterways at these bridge locations:

are a waters which

- are not used, or
- are not susceptible to use, either in its natural condition, or by reasonable improvement

As a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce, and which are

- Not tidal

Therefore USCG navigability concerns arising from the Gulkana decision appear unlikely to apply.

Upstream and downstream photos are attached.