



16590
April 04, 2012

EI - 18873

Mr. Brian A. Lindamood, PE
Director, Capital Projects
Alaska Railroad Corporation
P.O.Box 107500
Anchorage, AK 99510-7500

Subject: ARRC Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project, Bridge over the Little Susitna River

Dear Mr. Lindamood,

Your proposed construction of a bridge across the Little Susitna River, a navigable waterway of the United States, requires an individual bridge permit from the Coast Guard. Early on during the pre-permit stages of your project we reviewed and determined that your project does not meet the criteria of our Advanced Approved authorization. Two major reasons led to this decision. Navigational use of this waterway exceeds that identified in 33 CFR 115.70. In addition, this project is a major federal action as stated in Figure 2-1, 32(f) of the Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures and Policy for Considering Environmental Impacts, COMDTINST M16475.1 (series). Advanced Approval is a categorical exclusion (CE), thus can not be applied to your EIS project.

It is our understanding that this proposal is an integral part of plan to extend the ARRC mainline from Houston, Alaska southward to the existing Port MacKenzie deepwater facility. Early on we identified this project as having a high priority and are actively processing your application.

If you have any questions please contact me at (907) 463-2268.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James N. Helfinstine", written over a horizontal line.

J. N. HELFINSTINE
Chief, Bridge Section,
Division of Prevention &
Waterways Management Branch
U. S. Coast Guard
By direction of the Commander

cc: ADM Robert J. Papp, JR Commandant USCG
VADM Manson K. Brown, USCG

RADM Thomas P. Ostebo, USCG
Col. Reinhard W. Koeniq (USACE)
Ellen Lyons (USACE)
David Navecky (STB)
Randy Ruaro (State of Alaska)
Commissioner Marc Luiken (AKDOT&PF)
Jeff J. Bruno (State of Alaska)
Chris Aadnesen (ARRC)
Tom Brooks (ARRC)
Barbra Hotchkin (ARRC)
Clark Hopp (ARRC)
Paul McClarnen (HDR)