

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Seventeenth Coast Guard District

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16590
April 04, 2012

El-18872

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

Subject: ARRC Northern Rail Extension Project, Bridges over the Tanana River

Dear Mr. Lindamood,

As stated in our Public Notice (17-02-11) dated July 14, 2011, your proposed location and plans for construction of a multi-modal crossing comprised of (5) bridges consisting of a fixed bi-modal bridge, 2 rail bridges and 2 road bridges across a navigable waterway of the United States requires individual bridge permits 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 Phase I of the multi-phased Northern Rail Extension project slated to extend the ARRC mainline tracks 80 miles southwestward from Fairbanks to Delta Junction, Alaska. Early on we identified this project as having a high priority and are actively processing your applications.

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)
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