

Point Hope, Alaska  
July 17, 2014

To whom it may concern,

Team members for the Point Hope Runway Realignment Project did not encounter any cultural resources as a result of the wetlands delineation study during our stay in Point Hope from July 14 to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Daniel DeBord

USKH (stantec)

Gregory Hillman

USKH (stantec)

Alan DeBor

Alaska Office of History  
and Archaeology

Paul Kuyner

Alaska Department of Transportation  
and Public Facilities

I, Alfred Steve Demittak, certify that the DOT&PF team did not encounter any cultural resources as a result of the wetlands delineation work. I also certify I instructed the team on the cultural and history of the Point Hope people and advised them on how to treat cultural resources <sup>with respect</sup> if they are inadvertently found.

Alfred Steve Demittak

Local Observer appointed Date  
by the Native Village of Point Hope

7/17/14

**From:** [Berkner, Jason R POA](#)  
**To:** [Daniel De Bord](#)  
**Cc:** [Sara Lindberg](#); [Kacy Hillman](#); [Johnston, Christopher F \(DOT\)](#); [nicholas.brehm@alaska.gov](mailto:nicholas.brehm@alaska.gov); [Karczmarczyk, Paul F \(DOT\)](#); [Berkner, Jason R POA](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Point Hope Airport Wetlands Delineation: Request to Deviate from Standard Protocol (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 02, 2014 9:47:30 AM

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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Hello Daniel,

Thank you for the question. You are proposing to limit the number of soil test pits by extrapolating your hydric/non-hydric soil determinations across the site based their association with observed vegetative and hydrologic indicators, and landscape position. The purpose is to minimize the potential to impact to cultural resources where they are known to occur in an exceptional abundance.

This approach is acceptable to the Corps. Please be sure to reference this correspondence in the delineation report, and feel free to retain this email for your records.

I completed an extensive search of our records for any wetland delineations completed in this area. Unfortunately, we don't have record of any delineations.

Please don't hesitate to contact me again if I can be of any assistance. Good luck on the delineation.

Thanks,

Jason Berkner  
Project Manager  
Regulatory Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 6898, 2204 3rd St.  
JBER, Alaska 99506

phone: (907)-753-5778

-----Original Message-----

From: Daniel De Bord [<mailto:ddebord@uskh.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 01, 2014 9:25 AM  
To: Berkner, Jason R POA  
Cc: Sara Lindberg; Kacy Hillman; Johnston, Christopher F (DOT); [nicholas.brehm@alaska.gov](mailto:nicholas.brehm@alaska.gov); Karczmarczyk, Paul F (DOT)  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Point Hope Airport Wetlands Delineation: Request to Deviate from Standard Protocol

Dear Jason,

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has contracted USKH Inc. (USKH) to conduct a wetlands delineation in Point Hope, Alaska. The 177-acre study area encompasses land within the Point Hope Airport property boundary and some adjacent land (as defined in the attached map).

Available information from DOT&PF is insufficient for determining the wetland and upland boundaries, thus requiring us to conduct a routine on-site wetlands delineation. However, the Point Hope peninsula is known to be an area rich in cultural resources as it been occupied by the Inupiat Eskimos for the last 2,500 years. Previous documented finds include close to 300 human remains, funeral objects, and ancient houses. Besides the mapped resources, it is local knowledge that there are undocumented and unmapped resources in the study area.

In order to limit the potential impact on cultural resources by digging soil test pits, which is standard protocol for gathering soil information on a routine wetland delineation, USKH is requesting an approval from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to deviate from standard protocol by greatly minimizing the number of soil test pits that we would dig. The exact number of soil test pits that would be required in a routine delineation and the number of soil pits that we would reduce this by is not ascertainable in advance and will be determined in the field. Some soil samples will be gathered using a soil probe or we may rely only on vegetation and hydrology data gathered if the test area appears to be the same habitat as another where soils data was collected. We will make every effort to gather some soil data, but this will be limited to minimize the potential to impact cultural resources. Given the sensitive nature of the known cultural resources in the area, we request that the USACE agree with the proposed modified sampling approach.

Those who will conduct the wetlands delineation will be myself, Daniel De Bord and Kacy Hillman, who is a certified professional wetlands scientist. I hold a certificate from the USACE for completing their Wetlands Identification and Delineation Training. In addition, Paul Karczmarczyk, DOT&PF Environmental Impact Analyst, and Alan Depew, Alaska Office of History and Archaeology Archaeologist, will accompany us. Alan will serve as the archaeological monitor.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel De Bord

P.S. Please provide any wetlands delineations of this area in your project file, if you have them. Thanks.

Daniel De Bord  
Environmental Analyst  
Environmental and Water Resources Division

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paper = trees

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Caveats: NONE