



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

HABITAT SECTION
Matanuska-Susitna Area Office

1801 South Margaret Drive, Suite 6
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6736
Main: 907.861.3200
Fax: 907.861.3232

FISH HABITAT PERMIT FH22-IV-0180

ISSUED: June 3, 2022
EXPIRES: December 31, 2022

Riley Bronga
Alaska Railroad Corporation
P.O. Box 107500
Anchorage, AK 99510

RE: Bridge Span & Pier Replacement

Knik River (Water Body No. 247-50-10200)
Section 11, T 16 N, R 1 E, SM
Location: 61.4951 N, -149.2393 W

Dear Mr. Bronga:

Pursuant to the Anadromous Fish Act at AS 16.05.871(b), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Section has reviewed your proposal to replace an existing bridge pier and replace the north bridge approach span at Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) Milepost #147.4.

Project Description

According to your application materials you plan to remove the existing concrete pier to the mud-line elevation and replace it with an array of eight 24-inch diameter steel piles, four piles on either side of the existing pier driven below the ordinary high water (OHW) mark. Affixed to the top of each group of four piles will be a precast concrete sub cap. The northern abutment will also be modified to accept a new 26-foot steel ballast deck approach span, matching what is now installed on the south end. To support the 123-foot long bridge during reconstruction of the pier two additional 24-inch steel piles will be placed below the OHW mark. Piles will be driven with a vibratory hammer then impact hammer to final depth. Pile driving is anticipated to occur between September 1 and November 30, 2022. To minimize disturbance to fish you propose that the in-water work will take place only between the hours of 7am and 7pm. Following construction of the replacement pier, the existing concrete pier and temporary piles will be pulled and removed. Should pulling the temporary piles not work, they will be cut to 1-foot below grade. Pier and pile removal is anticipated to occur between November 1 and December 31, 2022.

No vehicular access will occur within the bed or banks of the water body. Work will be conducted from the existing bridge, track, embankment and adjacent uplands. Your permit application and all materials, maps, and drawings are hereby adopted by reference into this permit.

Anadromous Fish Act

The Knik River (Water Body No. 247-50-10200) has been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fishes pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). The water body provides habitat for Chinook, coho, chum and sockeye salmon.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), your project is approved subject to the project description and permit terms, and the following stipulations.

1. The project's in-water work is permitted between September 1 – December 31, 2022.
2. Sediment and erosion control measures will be installed to prevent the introduction of sediments into the Knik River.
3. Pile driving shall occur only during daylight hours with a 12-hour rest period between pile driving sessions.
4. Alteration of the creek bed and banks, and operation of vehicles on vegetated banks or in a manner or location that induces erosion or sedimentation of the water body shall be limited to that which is necessary to complete your project as described above.
5. Any inadvertent bank disturbance will be stabilized using standard techniques as soon as possible.
6. No fuel shall be stored, no vehicles shall be fueled or serviced, and vehicles leaking fuel, hydraulic fluids, or other pollutants shall not be operated below the ordinary high water line of the Knik River.

You must maintain the integrity of the structure in accordance with the terms of this permit so that free fish passage is assured. You must restore any obstruction to the free fish passage to the satisfaction of ADF&G.

Permit Terms

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.05.871 and must be retained on site during project activities. Please be advised that this determination applies only to Habitat Section regulated activities; other agencies also may have jurisdiction under their respective authorities. This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to secure other permits; state, federal, or local. You are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

You are responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who perform work to accomplish the approved project. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved plan, you shall notify the Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment before beginning the activity. Any action that increases the project's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any provision contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved plan. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for a permit amendment is a Habitat Section

responsibility. Therefore, we recommend you consult the Habitat Section before considering any deviation from the approved plan.

You shall give an authorized representative of the state free and unobstructed access to the permit site, at safe and reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting or monitoring compliance with any provision of this permit. You shall furnish whatever assistance and information the authorized representative reasonably requires for monitoring and inspection purposes.

In addition to the penalties provided by law, this permit may be terminated or revoked for failure to comply with its provisions or failure to comply with applicable statutes and regulations. You shall mitigate any adverse effect upon fish or wildlife, their habitats, or any restriction or interference with public use that the commissioner determines was a direct result of your failure to comply with this permit or any applicable law.

You shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the department, its agents, and its employees from any and all claims, actions, or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from permitted activities or your performance under this permit. However, this provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the department's negligence.

You may appeal this permit decision relating to AS 16.05.871 in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330-630.

Please direct questions about this permit to Habitat Biologist George Hoden at (907) 861-3203 or george.hoden@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



By: Sarah Myers
Matanuska-Susitna Area Manager
Habitat Section
(907) 861-3200

-gdh

cc:	A. Ott, Habitat	S. Ivey, SF	R. Benkert, Habitat	Permits, SF
	D. Dahl, AWT	R. Lysdahl, AWT	S. Myers, Habitat	P. Whitesell, POC
	J. Holt, ARRC	C. Larson, DNR	T. Boothby, MSB	