

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

NORTHERN REGION, PRECONSTRUCTION

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August 19, 2005

Re: Selawik Boardwalk and Landfill Road
Project STP-0002(162)/62168
Agency Scoping

To Whom It May Concern:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), in cooperation with the Alaska Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing road and boardwalk improvements in the community of Selawik. The project consists of a new landfill road, and reconstructed or new boardwalks in the town. Construction is planned for 2006.

Selawik is located on the Selawik River, approximately 10 miles upstream from its mouth at Selawik Lake. The community is about 90 air miles east of Kotzebue and 670 miles northwest of Anchorage, at approximately 66.60° North Latitude and 160.01° West Longitude. (Sec. 20, T014N, R006W, Kateel River Meridian; USGS Selawik C-3 Quad.) Selawik is located in the Kotzebue Recording District (Figure 1).

Existing Conditions

Selawik is located on a broad tundra floodplain, with two forks of the Selawik River flowing through the town. The community is not accessible overland other than by snowmachines during winter. The landfill adjacent to town is an unpermitted landfill, and a new, permitted landfill is being constructed.

Due to the fill required and the lack of appropriate surface material available locally, a road network is not feasible in the community. Therefore, a network of raised boardwalks serve as the primary means of transportation within town. These boardwalks serve pedestrian, bicycle, and 4-wheel all-terrain vehicle and snowmachine traffic.

Purpose and Need

The following issues will be addressed in this project:

Many of the boardwalks in Selawik are degraded and in need of repair or replacement. In some cases, there are no existing boardwalks to homes. The existing conditions of the boardwalks present safety hazards in some areas.

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Creation of a new, permitted landfill further out from the village requires an access road to reach the new landfill. In addition, the landfill road will require road access to the barge landing in order to transport fill material to the construction site.

Proposed Action

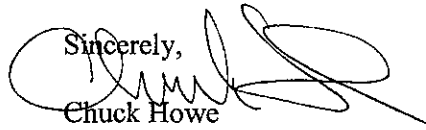
The proposed action consists of the following:

- Construct or renovate approximately 6,000 – 7,000 linear feet of boardwalk throughout the village, based on the priority areas determined during public scoping.
- Construct a new 5,850-foot landfill road, approximately 12 feet wide, using imported fill material and a gravel surface layer.
- Fill material for this project is expected to come primarily from the existing material site adjacent to the 'Spud Farm', 13 miles north of the village of Selawik.

At present ADOT&PF does not anticipate any significant environmental impacts or unusual circumstances associated with the proposed project (see Appendix A). A project website has been set up at www.dowl.com/projects/adotpfairport/index.htm

To ensure that all factors are considered in the environmental document, your comments are requested by **September 20, 2005**. In addition to identifying any concerns and/or issues your organization might have with the proposed project, the links on the project website identify agency specific information that is requested. Please click on the organization that you represent. This will take you to a list of questions specific to your purview and a link that allows you to provide comments directly to our environmental consultant, via email.

If you have any questions regarding the environmental effects of the project, or have written comments, please contact our environmental consultant, Kristen Hansen, at DOWL Engineers, by telephone at (907) 562-2000, or by e-mail to khansen@dowl.com. Letters can be mailed to Ms. Hansen at 4040 B Street, Anchorage AK, 99503.

Sincerely,

Chuck Howe
Environmental Coordinator

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Enclosures: Appendix A
Figure 1: Project Location
Figure 2: Proposed Landfill Road Options
Figure 3: Proposed Boardwalk Improvements
Figure 4: Material Site and Probable Haul Routes

cc: Ed DeCleva, Northern Region Liaison, FHWA, Juneau
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Bill Townsend, P.E., Engineering Manager, DOT&PF, Nome