



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 6898  
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>April 1, 2024</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>April 30, 2024</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2024-00116</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Sulfur Creek</b>

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Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the project manager's email as listed below or to [regpagemaster@usace.army.mil](mailto:regpagemaster@usace.army.mil). All comments should include the public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Tyler Marye at (907) 753-5778, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at [Tyler.J.Marye@usace.army.mil](mailto:Tyler.J.Marye@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

**APPLICANT:** Les Yesnik, Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations, 2525 C. Steet, Suite 310, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 20, T. 31 N., R. 18 W., Kateel River Meridian; Latitude 68.0791° N., Longitude 162.8264° W.; at the Red Dog Mine, Alaska.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to construct new drill roads and pads for exploration drilling on the north side of the Aqqaluk Pit, the construction of the Ring Roads would be for safety features and to be a secondary egress for mine workers, and the diversion ditch and bypass would reduce mine contact water and protect water quality in Sulfur Creek.

**PROPOSED WORK:** The applicant proposes to discharge 29,557 cubic yards of fill into 5.97 acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands in order to construct exploratory drill roads, drill

pads, and extend the diversion of Sulfur Creek. Additionally, the applicant is pursuing after-the-fact authorization for 5,640 cubic yards of fill that was discharged into 3.72 acres of palustrine wetlands in order to construct communication roads and expansion of the Aqqaluk pit, for a total of 35,197 cubic yards of fill into 9.69 acres of waters of the U.S. The after-the-fact work was completed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-4), dated February 29, 2024. All the proposed work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 5-11), dated February 29, 2024.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The Aqqaluk Pit was originally authorized in March 2010 under Department of the Army authorization POA-1984-00012-M45 and a time extension was granted November 2014, under POA-1984-00012-M46. According to the applicant, after M46 expired in November 2019; mining operations continued, impacting the 3.72 acres of palustrine wetlands.

The applicant has received Temporary Water Use Authorization (TWUA F2022-050) from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Water Resources Section.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: According to the applicant the proposed project avoids impacts to wetlands to the greatest extent practicable. Where possible, uplands and previously disturbed wetland areas are prioritized for location of the proposed features. The selected road routes are designed specifically to avoid wetlands as much as possible, while still achieving the project objectives. The West Wing Road design/location is specifically included because of its location in uplands, completely avoiding wetland impacts for this portion of the project. Exploration drill roads and pads are only planned for areas that will require multiple drill holes for geologic interpretation and analysis. Multiple angled drill holes are planned from each pad, avoiding the construction of additional roads and pads in wetlands. Over 35 separate pads with separate access roads were reduced to 16 shared pads limiting road and pad disturbance. Singular drill holes are planned in upland areas that do not require USACE authorization. Singular drill pads do not require larger angle drill rigs. These upland sites can be accessed by helicopter without the use of gravel fill roads and drill pads avoiding impacts to wetlands. Likewise, the applicant states that the additional Sulfur Creek diversion drainage ditches were designed as two-segments to limit wetlands disturbance of a single diversion addition. The lower Sulfur Creek Bypass segment was situated entirely in uplands providing a complete corridor in conjunction with the upper Sulfur Creek Diversion Extension to divert waters from contacting the existing mine footprint.

b. Minimization: According to the applicant wetland impacts are minimized by the design of the proposed activities. A narrower road design is used for roads placed in wetlands (the Drill Road and Ring Road) as compared to those roads located in uplands (West Ring Road). The road width minimizes disturbance while maintaining safe access with sufficient safety berms required by MSHA near an active mine site. An initial construction and safety pull-out area in the first 1000 ft of the drill road design is specifically situated in an uplands area to

minimize road width in wetlands. Likewise, the applicant states the design of the overall drilling program has been developed to minimize impacts to wetlands, including (a) limiting the number of drill pads, (b) locating specific boring (drill) sites outside of wetlands when feasible, and (c) grouping the borings to drill multiple holes from a single pad when geologic targets require boring locations in wetlands. Additionally, the exploration drill program would utilize the drill pads and roads for equipment turnaround areas and for staging of materials and equipment during drilling; this further limits the area of disturbance by incorporating multifunctionality into the drill pads and roads. The phasing of the construction of the drill roads and pads would enable the application of efficiencies gained through the early phases of the program to further limit the sizes (and subsequent fill requirements) of the later (2025) roads and pads. The roads constructed in 2024 will be extended and used in 2025. Additionally, phasing delays the impacts to those wetlands included in the later phases. Geotextile fabric would be used under the drill roads and pads to protect the underlying soils and permafrost. Road depth has been established as a minimum of three feet to provide permafrost integrity. Culverts will be placed every 300–400 ft to provide hydrologic connectivity, limiting ponding on the upslope side of the road.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant states that through the previous permit modification M45, Teck paid an in-lieu fee to the Conservation Fund at a ratio of 2:1 for the loss of 119 acres of wetlands. Of these 119 acres, mine operations impacted only 38 percent (44.92 acres) through excavation or filling by the M46 permit expiration in 2019; 74.08 acres remained undisturbed. The proposed exploration roads and drill pads are adjacent to the undeveloped, but previously permitted areas. Further compensatory mitigation is not proposed due to the fact the exploration roads and drills pads would be in areas that were previously reviewed, permitted, and compensated for.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are potential cultural resources within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the direct footprint of fill that was discharged and the proposed fill to be discharged. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(4) the Corps has sent letters to local Tribes seeking to gather information on the identification of any historic properties. The Corps is currently gathering information regarding the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and have yet to make a determination of effect. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

There is no mapped EFH within or near the project area. Therefore, we have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Corps, Alaska District, on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This public notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be

relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures

162.8445°W

162.8334°W

162.8223°W

162.8112°W

68.0805°N  
68.0777°N  
68.075°N  
68.0722°N  
68.0694°N  
68.0666°N

68.0805°N  
68.0777°N  
68.075°N  
68.0722°N  
68.0694°N  
68.0666°N

North Aqqaluk Pit Expansion

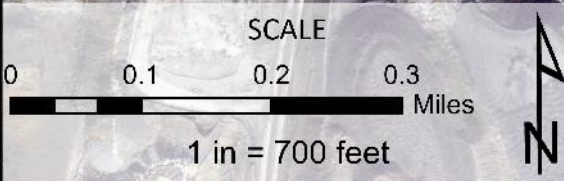
North Communications Road

*Aqqaluk Pit*

South Communications Road

*Main Pit*

Red Dog Mine



**LEGEND**

- Boundary of Expired POA-1984-12-M46 Permit
- Aqqaluk 2008 AJD Wetlands
- Work Completed in Wetlands after Permit Expiration

Background is satellite imagery dated August 2023.

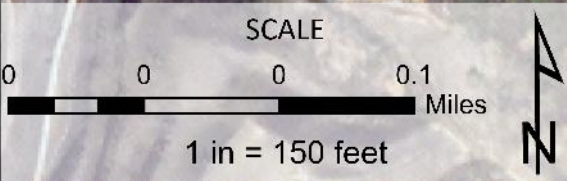
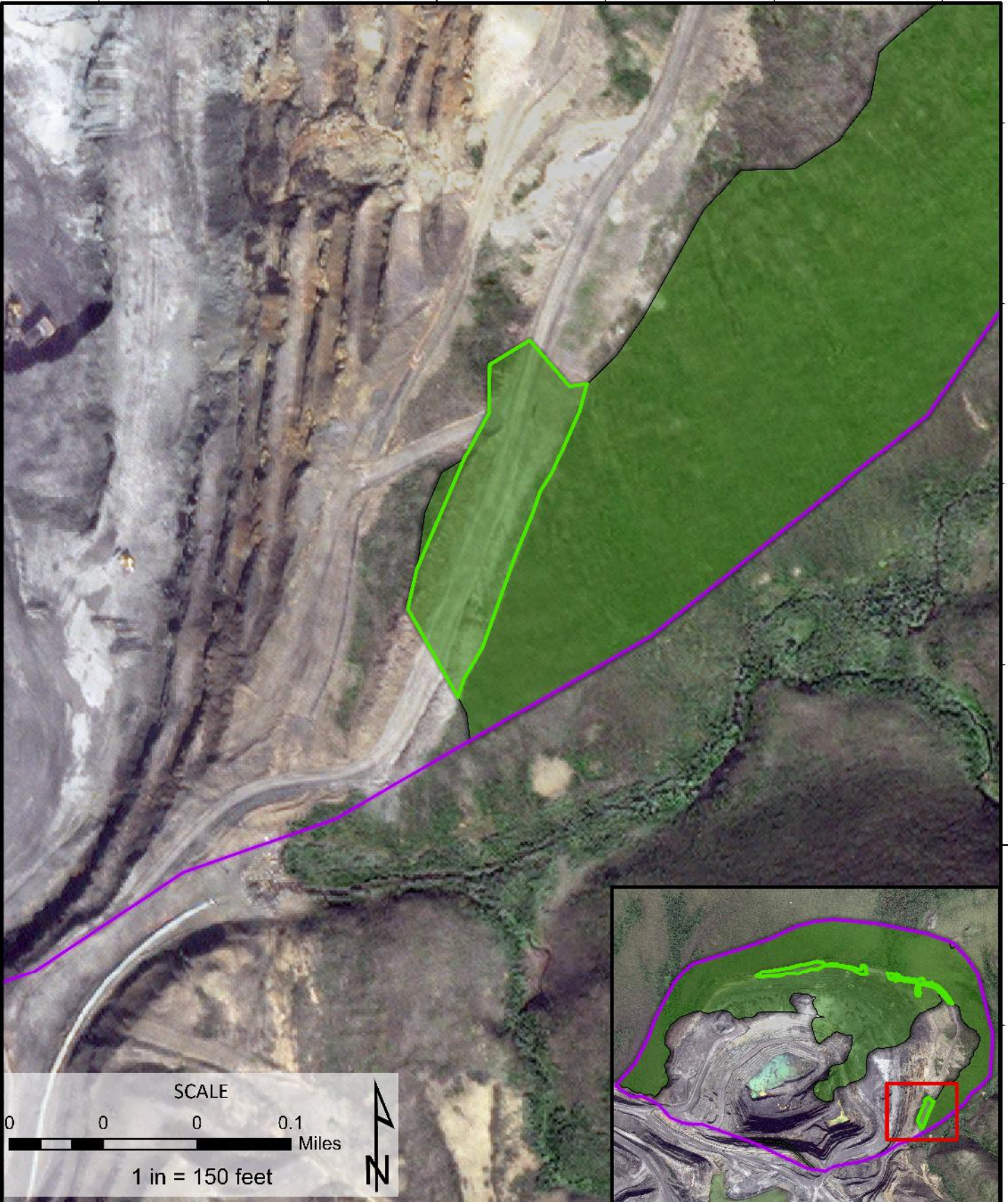
# Teck

**Map Title:** WORK COMPLETED OVERVIEW  
**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations  
**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47  
**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration Sections: 16,17,20,21 Township: 31N Range: 18W Meridian: KR  
**Lat:** 68.0764°N **Long:** 162.8240°W  
**Sheet 1 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024




162.8167°W

68.0733°N

68.0733°N



**LEGEND**

-  Boundary of Expired POA-1984-12-M46 Permit
-  South Communications Road (0.78 Wetland Acres)
-  Aqqaluk 2008 AJD Wetlands

Background is satellite imagery dated August 2023.

# Teck

**Map Title:** WORK COMPLETED: SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS ROAD

**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations

**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47

**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration

**Sections:** 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W **Meridian:** KR

**Lat:** 68.0764°N **Long:** 162.8240°W

**Sheet 2 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024

162.8167°W

162.8112°W

68.0799°N

68.0799°N

68.0766°N

68.0766°N



**LEGEND**

-  Boundary of Expired POA-1984-12-M46 Permit
-  North Communications Road (1.02 Wetland Acres)
-  Aqqaluk 2008 AJD Wetlands

Background is satellite imagery dated August 2023.

# Teck

**Map Title:** WORK COMPLETED: NORTH COMMUNICATIONS ROAD

**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations

**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47

**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration

**Sections:** 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W **Meridian:** KR

**Lat:** 68.0764°N **Long:** 162.8240°W

**Sheet 3 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024



162.8278°W

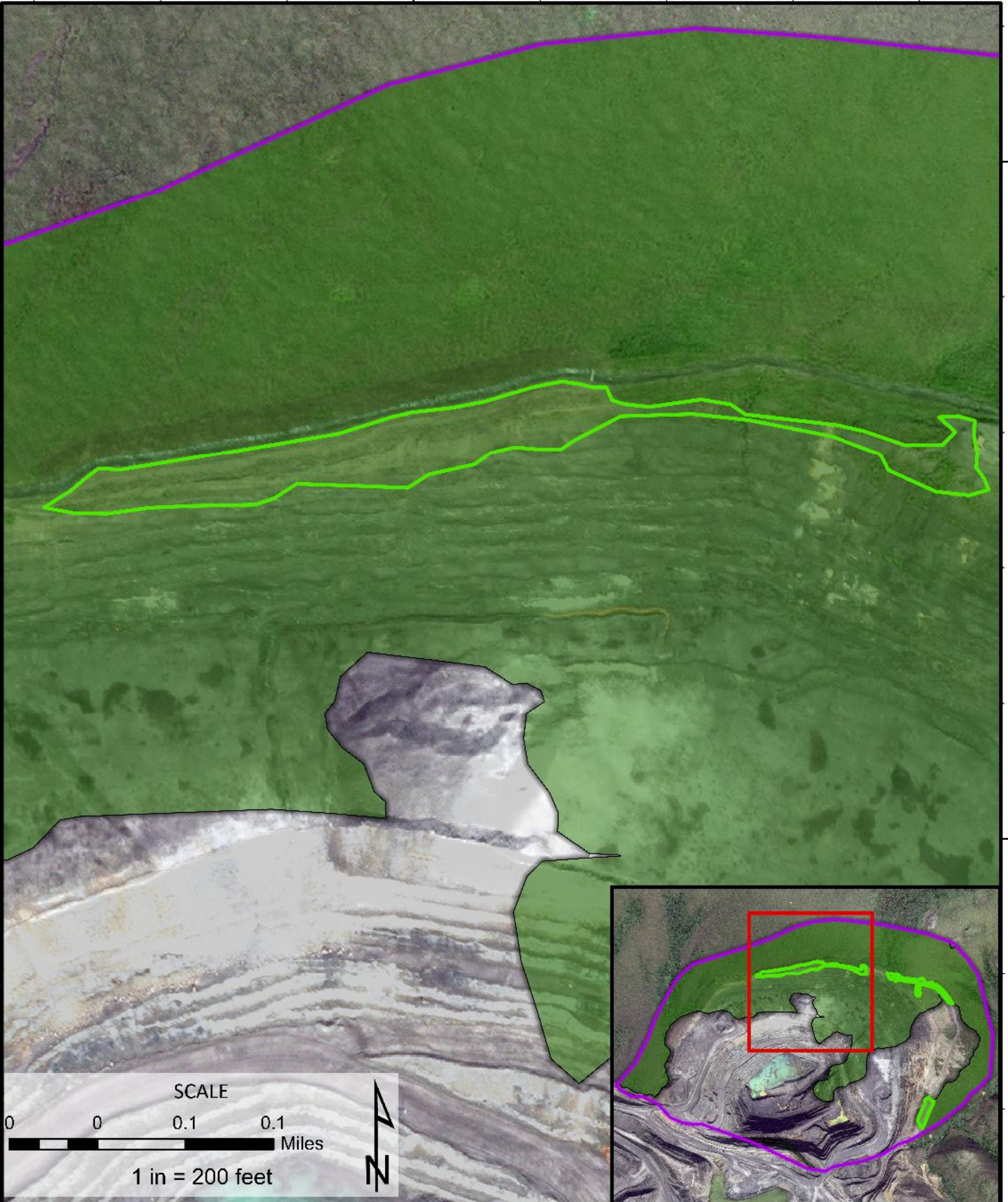
162.8223°W

68.0805°N




68.0805°N

68.0777°N

68.0777°N



**LEGEND**

-  Boundary of Expired POA-1984-12-M46 Permit
-  North Aqqaluk Pit Expansion (1.92 Wetland Acres)
-  Aqqaluk 2008 AJD Wetlands

Background is satellite imagery dated August 2023.

# Teck

**Map Title:** WORK COMPLETED: NORTH AQQALUK PIT EXPANSION

**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations

**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47

**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration

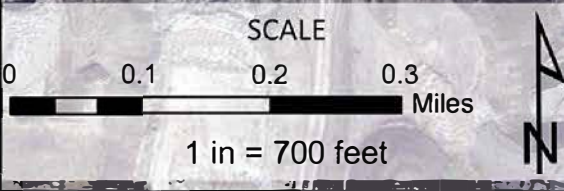
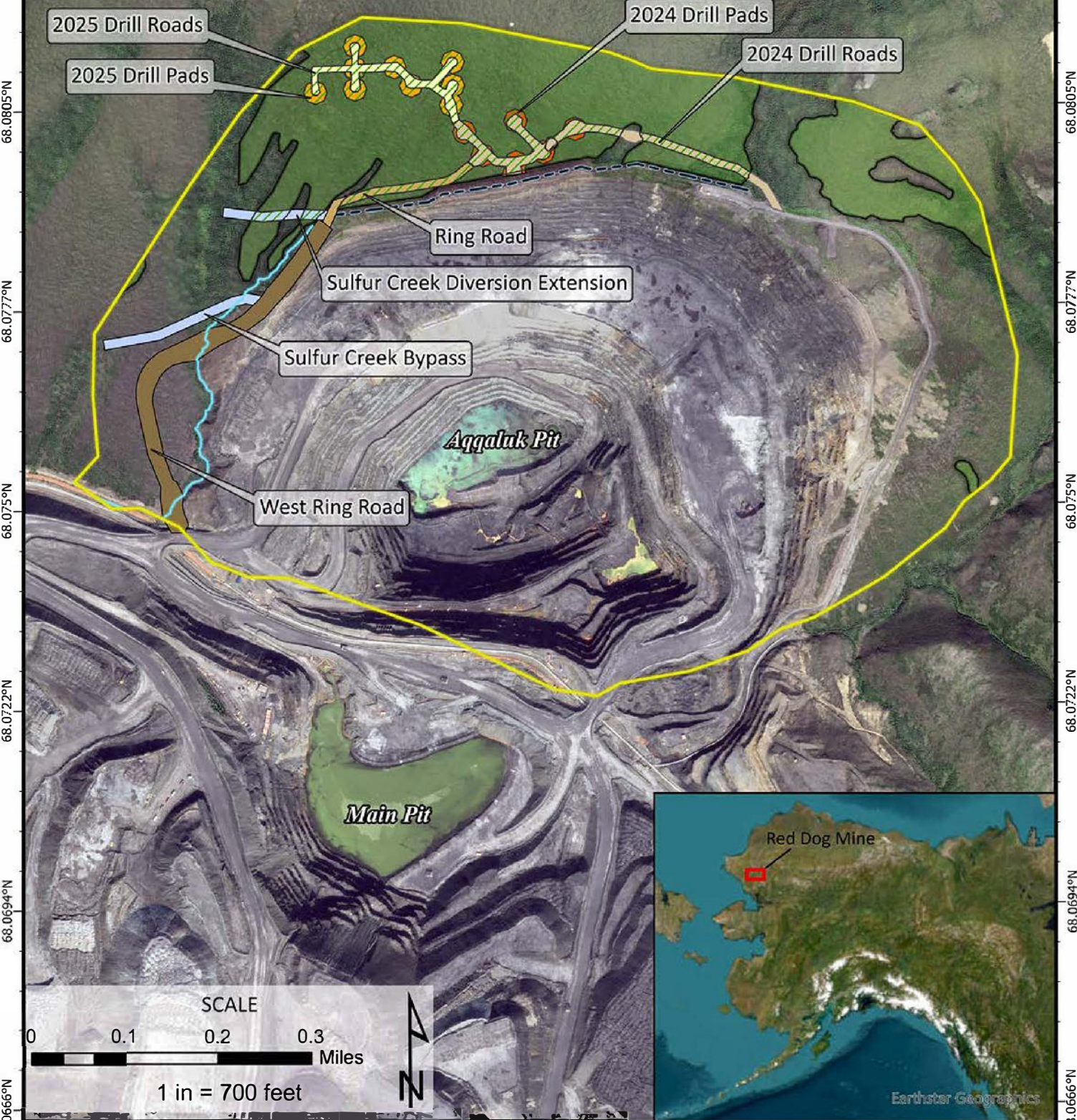
**Sections:** 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W **Meridian:** KR

**Lat:** 68.0764°N **Long:** 162.8240°W

**Sheet 4 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024

162.8445°W 162.8334°W 162.8223°W 162.8112°W

Impacts to Waters of the United States									
	2024 Drill Pads	2024 Drill Roads	2025 Drill Pads	2025 Drill Roads	Ring Road	West Ring Road	Diversion Extension	Sulfur Creek Bypass	Total
Wetland (Acres)	0.45	2.01	1.24	1.33	0.64	-	0.30	-	5.97
Water (Feet)	-	-	-	-	-	340	-	70	410



**LEGEND**

- 2024 PJD Mapping Boundary
- Aqqaluk 2024 PJD Wetlands
- Streams
- Proposed Impacts in Wetlands
- Existing Diversion Ditch

Background is satellite imagery dated August 2023.



**Map Title:** PROPOSED PROJECT OVERVIEW  
**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations  
**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47  
**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration Sections: 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W **Meridian:** KR  
**Lat:** 68.0770°N **Long:** 162.8277°W  
**Sheet 5 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024

162.8445°W

162.8389°W

162.8334°W

68.0799°N

68.0799°N

68.0766°N

68.0766°N

2025 Drill Roads

2025 Drill Pads

Sulfur Creek Diversion Extension

2024 Drill Pads

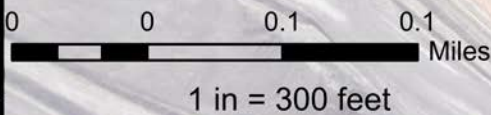
2024 Drill Roads

Ring Road




Sulfur Creek Bypass

West Ring Road

SCALE



**LEGEND**

-  2024 PJD Mapping Boundary
-  Streams
-  Existing Diversion Ditch
-  Aqqaluk 2024 PJD Wetlands
-  Proposed Impacts in Wetlands

Background is satellite imagery dated August 2023.

# Teck

**Map Title:** PROPOSED PROJECT: WEST AQQALUK

**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations

**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47

**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk

**Sections:** 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W

**Lat:** 68.0770°N **Long:** 162.8277°W

**Sheet 6 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024

162.8334°W

162.8278°W

162.8223°W

68.0833°N

68.0833°N

68.0805°N

68.0805°N

68.0777°N

68.0777°N

2025 Drill Pads

2025 Drill Roads

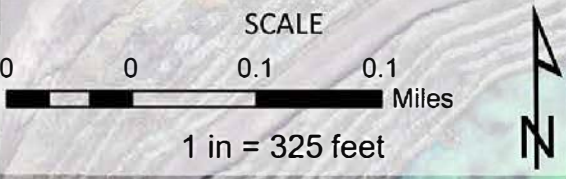
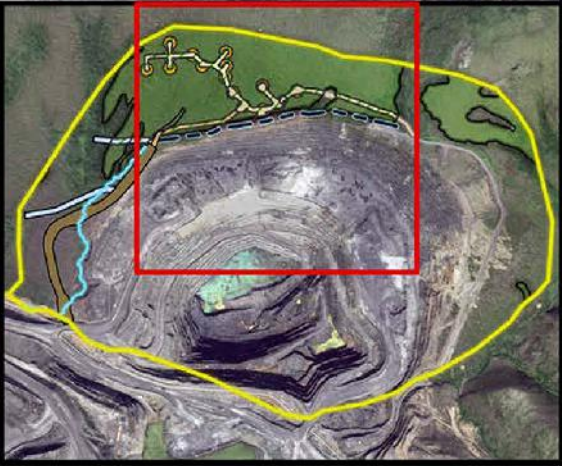
2024 Drill Pads

2024 Drill Roads

Ring Road

West Ring Road

Sulfur Creek Diversion Extension



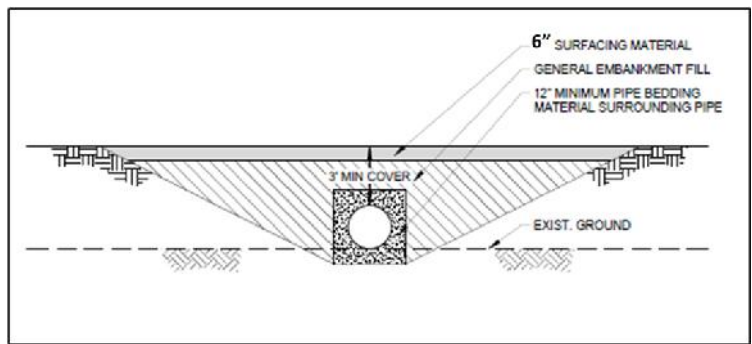
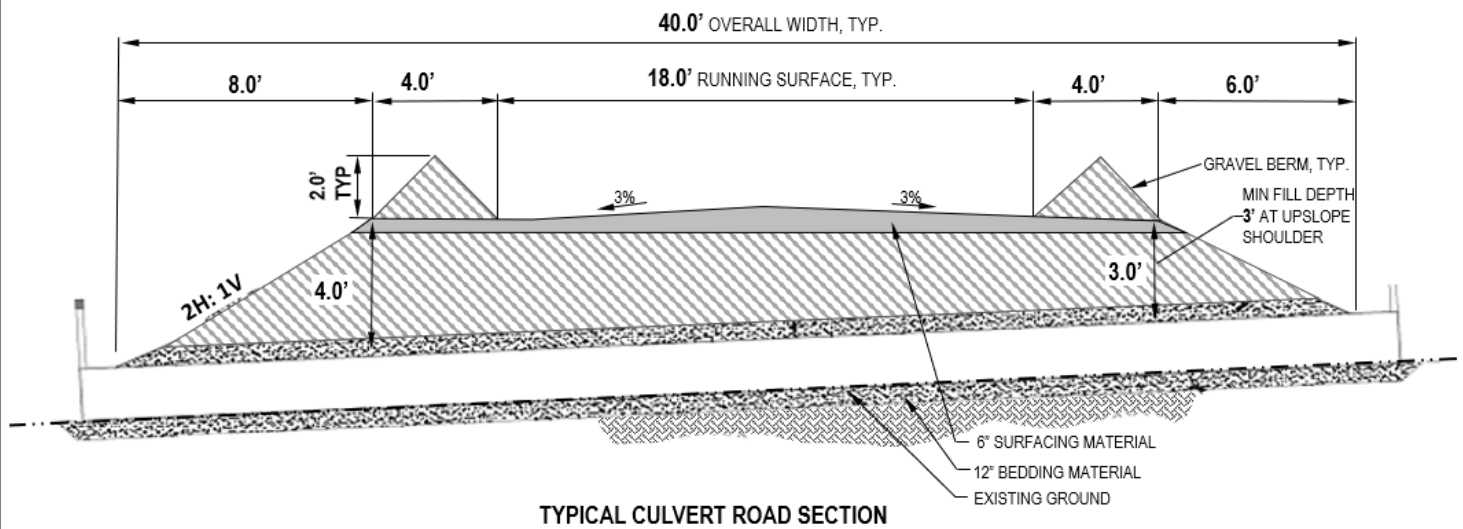
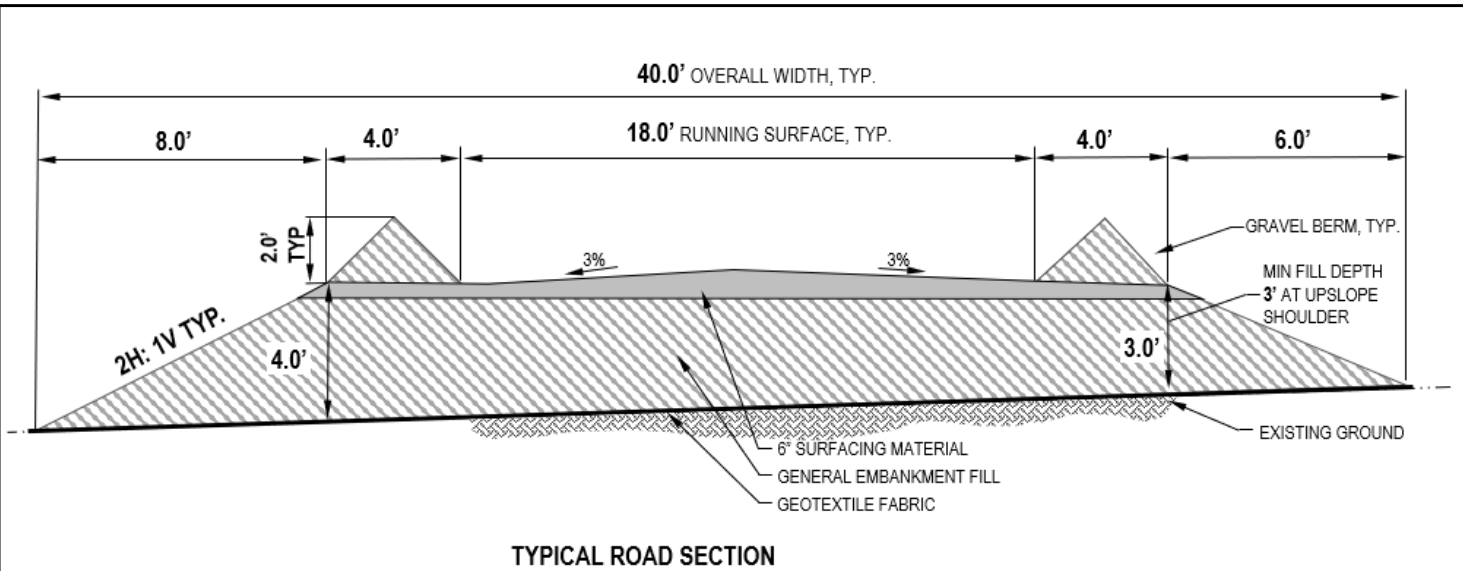
**LEGEND**

- 2024 PJD Mapping Boundary
- Streams
- Existing Diversion Ditch
- Aqqaluk 2024 PJD Wetlands
- Proposed Impacts in Wetlands

Background is satellite imagery dated August 2023.



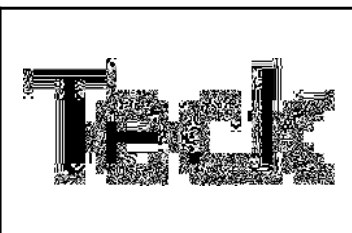
**Map Title:** PROPOSED PROJECT: NORTH AQQALUK  
**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations  
**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47  
**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration  
**Sections:** 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W **Meridian:** KR  
**Lat:** 68.0770°N **Long:** 162.8277°W  
**Sheet 7 of 11**     **Date:** 2/29/2024



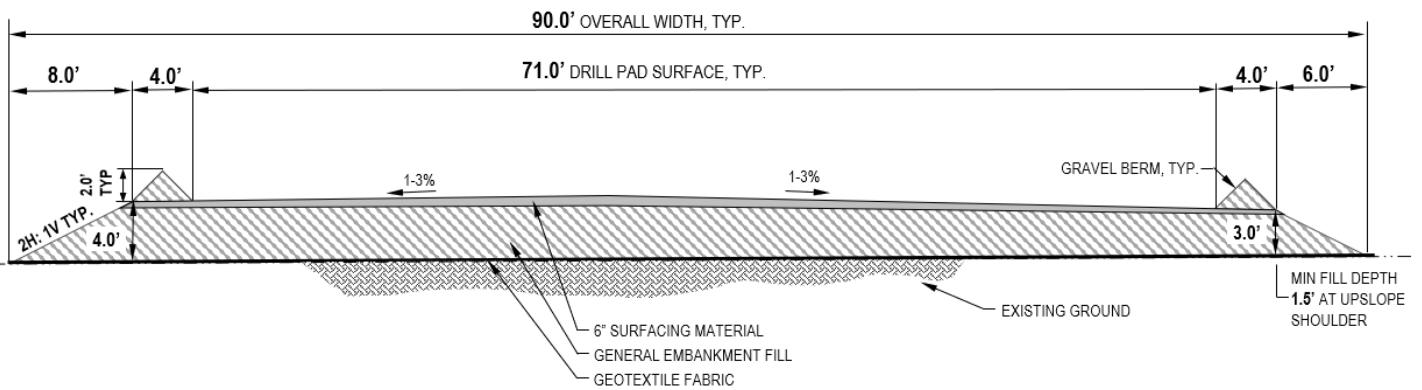
**NOTES:**

1. SURFACING MATERIAL TO BE 2" MINUS MATERIAL WITH 0-6% PASSING THE NO. 200 SIEVE (SIMILAR TO ADOT&PF SUBBASE, GRADING B.)
2. GENERAL EMBANKMENT FILL TO BE 12" MINUS PIT RUN MATERIAL WITH 0-10% PASSING THE NO. 200 SIEVE (SIMILAR TO ADOT&PF SELECTED MATERIAL, TYPE B.)
3. GEOTEXTILE FABRIC TO BE CLASS 1 SEPARATION GEOTEXTILE, AS DEFINED IN AASHTO M 288. IN AREAS, WHERE CLEAN GRAVELS ARE PRESENT, THE GEOTEXTILE CAN BE OMITTED.

SCALE: AS DEPICTED



**Title:** PROPOSED PROJECT: DRILL ACCESS ROADS AND RING ROAD  
**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations  
**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47  
**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration  
**Sections:** 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W **Meridian:** KR  
**Lat:** 68.0770°N **Long:** 162.8277°W  
**Sheet 8 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024



### NOTES:

1. SURFACING MATERIAL TO BE 2" MINUS MATERIAL WITH 0-6% PASSING THE NO. 200 SIEVE (SIMILAR TO ADOT&PF SUBBASE, GRADING B.)
2. GENERAL EMBANKMENT FILL TO BE 12" MINUS PIT RUN MATERIAL WITH 0-10% PASSING THE NO. 200 SIEVE (SIMILAR TO ADOT&PF SELECTED MATERIAL, TYPE B.)
3. GEOTEXTILE FABRIC TO BE CLASS 1 SEPARATION GEOTEXTILE, AS DEFINED IN AASHTO M 288. IN AREAS, WHERE CLEAN GRAVELS ARE PRESENT, THE GEOTEXTILE CAN BE OMITTED.

SCALE: AS DEPICTED



**Title:** PROPOSED PROJECT: DRILL PADS

**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations

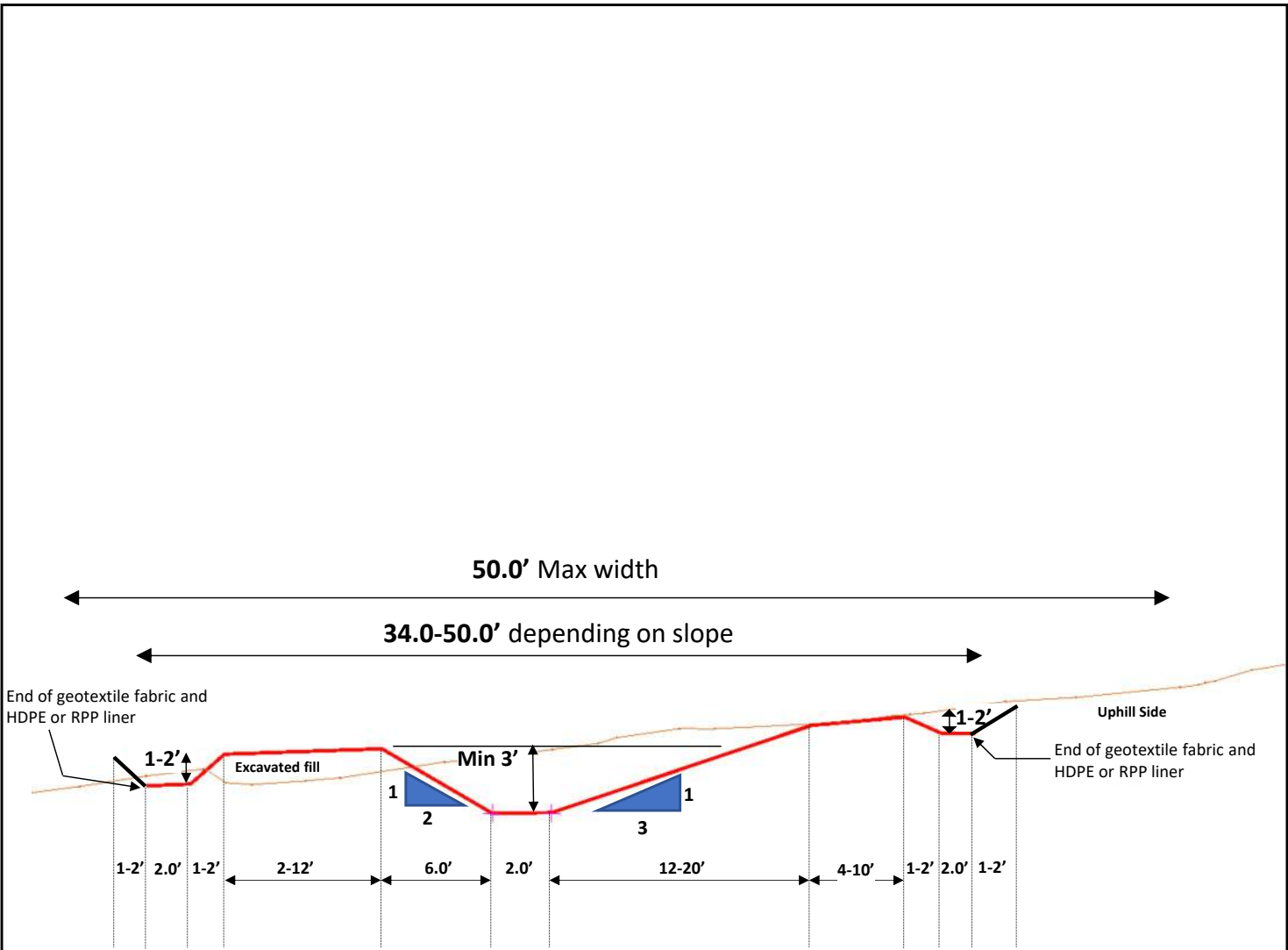
**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47

**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration

**Sections:** 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W **Meridian:** KR


**Lat:** 68.0770°N **Long:** 162.8277°W

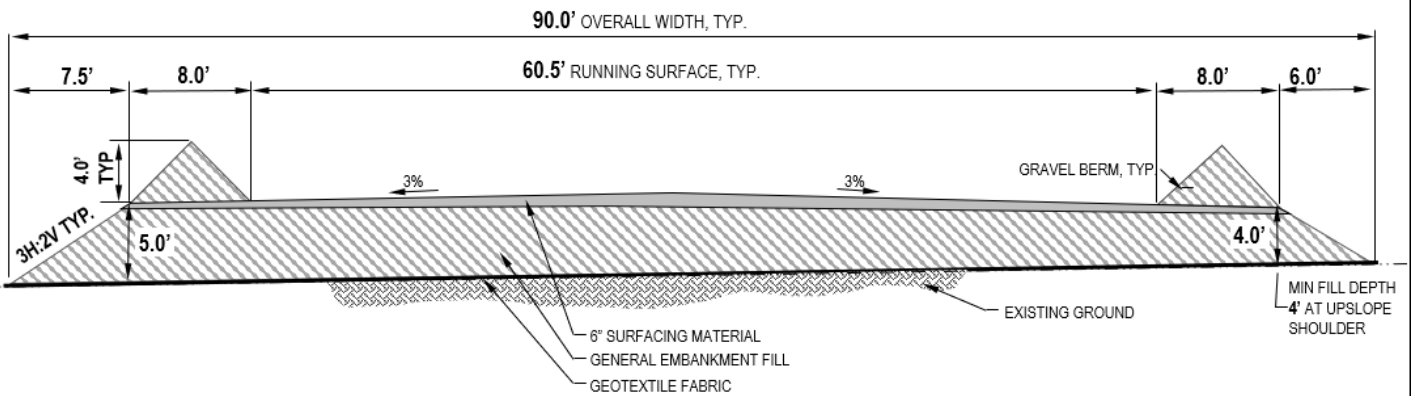
**Sheet 9 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024



**NOTES:**

1. BROWN LINE IS Q3 2023 PHOTOGRAMMETRY SURFACE. "CURRENT SURFACE"
2. USE OF UPHILL EROSION/SILT CONTROL BERMS/FENCING BMPS.
3. ANCHOR TRENCHES 1:1 OR STEEPER SLOPES
4. 30+MIL HDPE OR RPP LINER OVER GEOTEXTILE FABRIC ON RECONTOURED PROFILE

SCALE: AS DEPICTED		<p><b>Title:</b> PROPOSED PROJECT: SULFUR CREEK DIVERSION STRUCTURES</p> <p><b>Applicant:</b> Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations</p> <p><b>File No.:</b> POA-1984-12-M47</p> <p><b>Proposed Activity:</b> Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration</p> <p><b>Sections:</b> 16,17,20,21 <b>Township:</b> 31N <b>Range:</b> 18W <b>Meridian:</b> KR</p> <p><b>Lat:</b> 68.0770°N <b>Long:</b> 162.8277°W</p> <p><b>Sheet 10 of 11</b>    <b>Date:</b> 2/29/2024</p>
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### NOTES:

1. SURFACING MATERIAL TO BE 2" MINUS MATERIAL WITH 0-6% PASSING THE NO. 200 SIEVE (SIMILAR TO ADOT&PF SUBBASE, GRADING B.)
2. GENERAL EMBANKMENT FILL TO BE 12" MINUS PIT RUN MATERIAL WITH 0-10% PASSING THE NO. 200 SIEVE (SIMILAR TO ADOT&PF SELECTED MATERIAL, TYPE B.)
3. EXCAVATED MATERIAL SHOULD BE REUSED IF IT CONFORMS TO THE ABOVE MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS.

SCALE: AS DEPICTED



**Title:** PROPOSED PROJECT: WEST RING ROAD

**Applicant:** Teck Alaska Incorporated, Red Dog Operations

**File No.:** POA-1984-12-M47

**Proposed Activity:** Continued Operation of Aqqaluk Pit and Exploration

**Sections:** 16,17,20,21 **Township:** 31N **Range:** 18W **Meridian:** KR

**Lat:** 68.0770°N **Long:** 162.8277°W

**Sheet 11 of 11** **Date:** 2/29/2024