

Attachment D

Corps of Engineers Anchorage Wetlands Policy

This is to reaffirm an existing policy by which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Corps) implements its responsibilities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, in relation to Anchorage wetlands.

Individual permits for the placement of dredged and/or fill material into wetlands designated "A" will generally not be issued. The only exceptions will be to permit those activities, which would enhance, restore, or preserve the natural character of the wetlands, or projects with substantive public benefit, as determined by the District Engineer. Such a determination will be made by the District Engineer only after all of the 404(b)(1) criteria have been satisfied. Further, the goal for "A" wetlands is no overall loss of value and function. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, as determined by the District Engineer, any compensation for loss of values and functions should be in the same watershed.

Individual permits for the placement of dredged and/or fill material into "B" wetlands will generally not be issued unless the applicant clearly demonstrates the following:

- a) The qualitative and quantitative wetland values (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, surface water retention and recharge, nutrient exchange, aesthetics, recreation, etc.) that would be impacted by the proposed activity.
- b) The qualitative and quantitative wetland values that would remain if the project were to be implemented.
- c) The onsite (within the same ecosystem, e.g., discrete wetland area) mitigation measures proposed to lessen, compensate, or restore the wetland values that would be adversely impacted.

Furthermore, this information will be used by the Corps to determine whether the proposed activity would result in no overall loss to wetland values and functions, if the project were to be implemented. This policy applies to all aspects of "B" wetlands in the AWMP Revision (1996) whether they are characterized as fringe, core, etc. If the application is received, which clearly reflects this information, and the proposal is found to be not contrary to the public interest [including compliance with the 404 (b)(1) Guidelines], individual permits will be issued.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to review 40 CFR, Part 230.75, Subpart H, Actions to Minimize Adverse Effects, of the 404(b)(1) Guidelines, and Chapter 6 of the AWMP Revision, as projects are being designed.

The Corps encourages prospective applicants to participate in pre-application coordination with the Alaska District, Regulatory Branch, and other interested agencies and organizations, prior to submitting an application. Questions and requests for such coordination may be addressed by calling (907) 753-2712.

The Corps continues to support the intent of the AWMP Revision.