

## PRE-BID MEETING Q & A

RFP No.: 24-03  
RFP Title: Alaska Fiberoptic Project  
Lower Kuskokwim River Segment  
Design and Build – In-River Network and HDD River Bores

Date: August 28, 2024  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Location: Anchorage, Alaska via Microsoft Teams

1. The grant dollars that are funding the project, are there are stipulations for BABA or Buy America, and if so, has Alaska Communications done any research on availability or possibility of a waiver for the marine cable requested?

Please see Appendix A for federal clauses made a part of RFP 24-03. There are certain Buy America requirements associated with this project. Please refer to current federal requirements applicable to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. For convenience here is a link to the updated list of countries whose procurement complies with the "Buy American" requirements:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2024-05-23/pdf/2024-11339.pdf>

It has come to our attention that the procurement of some materials may be eligible for a waiver.

2. Why in the river? Is it tied to the funding or permitting for the project?

Preliminary engineering indicates the quickest path (permitting), and most stable route is via the river due to the terrain surrounding the river. The river appears to be the most protected location where we can feed into all the villages and can avoid the most challenges with permitting.

The grant/project was approved based upon the installation of the cable in the river. We will inquire with the granting agency if a deviation from this plan is acceptable.

3. How is Alaska Communications going to deal with drilling mud in the river?  
(Follow up question to clarify)

Traditional drilling methods have been approved on other segments with the same type of design. We are unaware of pushback from any regulatory agencies but if it does occur, the contractor will need to address. The contractor will be responsible for dealing with any challenges that come with the drill mud, but we have not seen it in other sections of the river.

4. Is the job permitted and approved to be put in the river? If so, can we get the language of permit?

The overall EA is not complete yet. We are required to submit the engineering plan as part of the EA so that is a part of the design-build process for this project.

Please see the attached Permit Matrix which lists all Federal and State permits that Owl Ridge will secure for the project. Any local construction permits will be the responsibility of the contractor.

5. Are there any seasonal requirements as far as salmon runs?

There is a smelt species that does migrate through the area. Our environmental engineers have identified a window (of about 10 days) when we would expect work in and around the river to halt. The salmon do not spawn in this part of the river, so we do not anticipate salmon specifically being a challenge, however, we expect our contractor to have the lowest/lightest impact on what occurs within the communities on the river during construction season. Regulatory requirement to avoid the salmon – do not be in the river when the openings occur at the point when the openings are permitted.

6. As a design build is ACS interested in alternative options to the river deployment?

Yes. We will consider any educated engineered solution.

7. Does any portion of this project require a signatory contractor?

Please see Section 1.2 of the RFP.

8. What is the desired fiber size for the river portion?

Preliminary engineering calls out a 48-strand fiber.

9. Are all subs required to be listed during the bid phase?

Please see RFP 24-03, Section 2.2.3.

10. Will experience be weighted on specific portions of the RFP over others or a conglomerate?

Please see RFP 24-03, Sections 2.2 and 3.2.

# PERMIT MATRIX

Provided by Owl Ridge, dated 5/31/24

ACS Lower Kuskokwim Fiber Plan of Work - Regulatory Matrix

Regulatory Agency Category	Agency with Regulatory Primacy	Agency Division	Authorization, Permit, or Consultation Needed
Federal	National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)	Regulatory and Environmental	Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with NEPA
	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Consultation
			Marine Mammal Protection Act
	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Regulatory Program and Permits	Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit Anticipated to be completed with nationwide permit (NWP) 57 and a detailed Pre-construction Notification
		Regulatory Program and Permits	Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10 Permit
	US BLM	BLM	SF299 Right-of-Way
	US Fish and Wildlife	National Wildlife Refuge	National wildlife refuge system consultation - no permit needed but USFWS will have the opportunity to comment during the NEPA process and may have concerns or objections
		Habitat Section	Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	Licensing	Request authority to construct, land, and operate a fiber optic system connecting points within Alaska	
	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	Building Permits/Authorizations	Placement of communications infrastructure on airport property.
State	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)	Water	Clean Water Act, Section 401 consultation/certification
		Water	Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) authorization and permit
		Water	APDES - Water discharge permit
		Solid Waste	Drilling waste monofil

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*[continued on the following page]*

**ACS Lower Kuskokwim Fiber Plan of Work - Regulatory Matrix**

Regulatory Agency Category	Agency with Regulatory Primacy	Agency Division	Authorization, Permit, or Consultation Needed
	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)	Habitat Section	Title 16 Fish habitat permits with Mud Management Plan
		Wildlife Conservation	Public safety permit
State (contd.)	Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR)	Mining, Land and Water	Early entry authorization to easements
		Mining Land and Water	Temporary water use authorization (TWUA)
		Mining Land and Water	Public easement
		Office of History and Archaeology	Section 106 consultation
	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF)	Statewide Design & Engineering Services	Easement utility permit
		Statewide Design & Engineering Services	Letter of non-objection
Local	Local community or borough	City or Borough	Lease or easements, or other land use agreement
Private	Private landowner	NA	Easements or other land use agreement
	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Native Lands	Regional Corporation (e.g., Doyon, Calista)	Easements or other land use agreement
		Village Corporation	
	Native Lands - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Administered	Native Allotments	Easements or other land use agreement

USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
ADOT&PF	AK Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
ADNR	AK Department of Natural Resources
ADEC	AK Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	AK Department of Fish and Game
ROW	Right-of way

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## CONTACT LIST

### ACS - Calista Broadband Village, Tribe, School and City Contacts

#### Potential Property Staging

Village Corporations (surface owners)	Corporation Name	Contact	Position	Phone	Email Address	Note
Upper Kalskag	The Kuskokwim Corporation	Megan Leary		907-243-2944	megan.leary@kuskokwim.com	
Lower Kalskag	The Kuskokwim Corporation	Megan Leary		907-243-2944	megan.leary@kuskokwim.com	
Tuluksak	Tulkisarmute Incorporated	Joseph Demantle	Manager	907.695.6458	<a href="mailto:tulkisarmuteinc@yahoo.com">tulkisarmuteinc@yahoo.com</a>	
Akiak	Kokarmiut Corporation	Amelia Nicolai	Manager	907.765.7919	<a href="mailto:kokarmiutcorporation@yahoo.com">kokarmiutcorporation@yahoo.com</a>	
Akiachak	Akiachak Limited	Jason George	Manager	907.825.4328	<a href="mailto:akiachakltd@hotmail.com">akiachakltd@hotmail.com</a>	
Kwethluk	Kwethluk Incorporated	Paul "George" Guy	President	907.757.6613	<a href="mailto:g.guy_kwtinc@yahoo.com">g.guy_kwtinc@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:kwtcorp@yahoo.com">kwtcorp@yahoo.com</a>	
Napakiak	Napakiak Corporation	Lloyd Black	President	907.589.2227	<a href="mailto:lloyd_b@gci.net">lloyd_b@gci.net</a> ; <a href="mailto:tinablack77@outlook.com">tinablack77@outlook.com</a>	

#### Municipalities - Alaska Municipal League (akml.org)

City Contacts	Name (if any)	Contact	Position	Phone	Email Address	Notes
Upper Kalskag		Loreen Steeves	Mayor	907-471-2220	<a href="mailto:cityofkalskag@yahoo.com">cityofkalskag@yahoo.com</a>	
Lower Kalskag		George Sam	Mayor	907-471-2228	<a href="mailto:cclerk56@yahoo.com">cclerk56@yahoo.com</a>	
Tuluksak	No city government					
Akiak		David Gillila, Sr.	Mayor	907-765-7411	<a href="mailto:coa.ivan@yahoo.com">coa.ivan@yahoo.com</a>	
Akiachak	No city government					
Kwethluk		Eunice Shaefer	Vice Mayor	907-757-6022	<a href="mailto:cityclerk@cityofkwethluk.com">cityclerk@cityofkwethluk.com</a>	
Napakiak		Joann Slats	Mayor	907-589-2610	<a href="mailto:cityofnapakiak@hotmail.com">cityofnapakiak@hotmail.com</a>	

#### Cultural questions, logistics support, etc.

Tribes	TC Name	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email Address	
Upper Kalskag	Village of Kalskag	Bonnie Persson	(907) 471-2207	(907) 471-2399	<a href="mailto:kalskagtribal@yahoo.com">kalskagtribal@yahoo.com</a>	
Lower Kalskag	Village of Lower Kalskag	Phyllis Evan	(907) 471-2300	(907) 471-2378	<a href="mailto:villageoflowertribal@gmail.com">villageoflowertribal@gmail.com</a>	
Tuluksak	Native Village of Tuluksak	Angela Alexie	(907) 695-6420	(907) 695-6932	<a href="mailto:tuluksak99679@gmail.com">tuluksak99679@gmail.com</a>	
Akiak	Akiak Native Community	Dora Kozevnikoff	(907) 765-7112 -7911	(907) 765-7512	<a href="mailto:Qasapikoz@yahoo.com">Qasapikoz@yahoo.com</a>	
Akiachak	Akiachak Native Community	Edward George	(907) 825-4626	(907) 825-4029	<a href="mailto:anc.tribalcouncils@gmail.com">anc.tribalcouncils@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:tribaladmin@akiachak.org">tribaladmin@akiachak.org</a>	
Kwethluk	Organized Village of Kwethluk	Chariton Epchook	(907) 757-6714	(907) 757-6328	<a href="mailto:ta.kujigluk@gmail.com">ta.kujigluk@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:assistantovk@gmail.com">assistantovk@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:blepchook@outlook.com">blepchook@outlook.com</a>	
Napakiak	Native Village of Napakiak	David Andrew	(907) 589-2135	(907) 589-2136	<a href="mailto:nativevillageof_napakiak@yahoo.com">nativevillageof_napakiak@yahoo.com</a>	

SCHOOLS (potential housing)	School Name	Contact	Phone	Fax	Email Address	Notes
Upper Kalskag	George Morgan Sr. H.S.	Madeline Aguilard	(907) 471-2288		maguilard@kuspuk.org	Please use Madeline Aguilard for both Upper and Lower Kalskag.
Lower Kalskag	Zackar Levi Elementary	Madeline Aguilard	(907) 471-2288		maguilard@kuspuk.org	
Tuluksak	Tuluksak School	Scott Ballard	(907) 825-3603		sballard@vupit.org	Yupit School District
Akiak	Akiak School	Scott Ballard	(907) 825-3603		sballard@vupit.org	
Akiachak	Akiachak School	Scott Ballard	(907) 825-3603		sballard@vupit.org	
Kwethluk	Ket'acik & Aapaliuk Memorial School	Bill Morris	(907) 757-6014		Bill_morris@lksd.org	Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD)
Napakiak	William Miller Memorial School	Nicholas Mills	(907) 589-2420		Nicholas_mills@lksd.org	

POWER/UTILITIES	PROVIDER	Phone
Upper Kalskag	AVEC	907-471-2228
Lower Kalskag	AVEC	907-471-2228
Tuluksak	Tuluksak Traditional	907-695-6828 (IRA)
Akiak	Akiak City Council	907-765-7411
Akiachak	Akiachak Native Community	907-825-4626
Kwethluk	Kwethluk Incorporated	907-757-6613
Napakiak	Napakiak Incinraq	907-589-2227

GRAVEL SOURCES						
Village	Pit Name	Material Type	Surface owner (refer to contacts list)	Reserve - cy	Notes	Current Cost/cy:
Kalskag - Upper	Kalskag-JV	Volcanic	The Kuskokwim Corporation	290,000	Stockpiled with the City. Likely to reach out to the city for rates and or availability	\$4.50
Kalskag - Lower	No active pit					
Akiak	Akiak-A	Silt	Tribe	46,000		\$3.00
Tuluksak	Tuluksak-A	Silt	Tulkisarmuit, Inc.	96,000	Tuluksak has mentioned they're in need of good gravel	\$3.00
	Tuluksak-B	Silt	Tulkisarmuit, Inc.	36,000		\$3.00
Akiachak	Akiachak - A	Sand	Akiachak Limited	39,000		\$3.00
Kwethluk	Kwethluk- B	Sand	Kwethluk Inc.	40,000		\$3.00
Napakiak	Napakiak-A	Silt	Napakiak Corporation	700,000		\$3.00
	Napakiak-B	Silt	Napakiak Corporation	55,000		\$3.00
Platinum	Platinum - D	Sand/Gravel/Borrow	Arviq, Inc.	1,043,000		\$3.30
	Platinum - E	Bedrock	Calista surface and subsurface	5,044,000	Competent and used around region for other projects	\$3.30