



# Memo

To: Glenn Steckman – City Manager  
From: Joy L. Baker – Port Director *JLB*  
CC: Mayor Handeland & Common Council; Port Commission  
Date: September 8, 2023  
Re: Monthly PD Report/Capital Projects Update – Sep 2023

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**Administrative:**

Cargo, fuel, gravel barges have been competing heavily with ship traffic the last month or so, with 5 more cruise ships due in September. The last of the fuel deliveries are currently underway this weekend (prior to 11 Sept meeting), keeping port staff busy at the dock headers, following the Norwegian cruise ship on Friday, that required posting of port security per MTSA regulations. Unfortunately, the office is having to close when all field personnel are engaged outside of the office due to lack of staff. We are hopeful the shared office position with Public Works can be filled soon, so training for the 2024 season can begin.

**Causeway:**

Arctic Deep Draft Port – Nome Modifications Pre-Construction Engineering & Design (PED):

The NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) office has issued the approved Incidental Hazard Authorization (IHA) permit for the 1<sup>st</sup> year (2024) of the port expansion project. The file was published on 7 Sept 2023 on the federal register, and can be found at [this link](#) or by accessing [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov) and entering 2023-19187 in the search bar at the top right of the main page. All comments received during the public process are included in the file, along with the responses provided to NMFS by the USACE and City.

The Corps and City designers are working through minor housekeeping details to finalize the drawing and specifications package. Once complete, both teams will sign and stamp all project materials for transmission to the contracting office for incorporation into the solicitation package, scheduled for release on 1 Nov 2023.

Prior to soliciting the project for construction, the City and USACE must execute the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA). On 11 Sept 2023 the City Council will consider a resolution authorizing execution of the PPA and certifications required by the USACE to proceed with Phase 1 construction.

On 11 Sept 2023, the City Council will also consider a resolution to award an Option to Lease to Bering Strait Native Corporation (BSNC) for land to be used for a man camp facility, as required of the City as the non-federal sponsor of the project. Award of the Option does not yet constitute confirmed use of the property, as the contractor will make the decision as to whether to use the site or not, which is when the 4-year lease will either be executed by the City or not.

*The Corps intends to schedule another meeting in Nome on the project, but the actual schedule has not yet been determined. Once info is available, the City will share with Nome media and an ad will be placed in the newspaper.*

Local Service Facilities (LSF) Design Integration:

Same as 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph under the ADDP section above, the LSF design is proceeding ahead, as part of the main USACE design and specs package, which will continue from this point on throughout construction.

Causeway Bridge Repairs and Sediment Removal:

The Corps has issued an RFQ to Bristol Engineering for conducting repairs needed at the bridge, with a response due by 21 Sept 2023. The project is anticipated to be awarded in Oct/Nov 2023, with field work done in the 2024 season.

Arctic Port Reception Facility – Solid Waste Disposal (Incinerator):

*New funding opportunities are being evaluated for this project.*

**Harbor:**

Inner Harbor CAP 107 Study (Deepen/Widen the Inner Basin):

*The City continues to make monthly inquiries on the status of this project, with District reporting they are awaiting direction from Corps HQ on how to proceed. The delays on this issue have also been submitted to Alaska Delegation staff members for action.*

**Port Industrial Pad:**

West Nome Tank Farm (WNTF) - Property Conveyance:

The USAF continues evaluating ADEC's comments and stipulations on the quit claim deed and environmental covenants, which require execution to convey the USAF property to the City. ADEC's position on these documents are in line with the City's needs and intended use of the property.

Thornbush Laydown Site Development (TBS):

*Dredge spoils from the port expansion and inner harbor project have been given clearance by two ADEC programs (Solid Waste and Contaminated Sites), to be disposed of in the undeveloped 9-acre portion of this property. The spoils will require dewatering before serving as a hardened base layer to the specified fill and surfacing to complete development of the 18-acre parcel.*

Public Works continues to fill depressions on the TBS pad in an effort to maximize the usable surface before winter. This repair/prep will allow relocations of containers, dredges and equipment for construction setup in 2024.

Port Rd. Improvements (ADOT Project cost-shared with City/Port):

*This state STIP project has been postponed to 2026/27 to avoid road construction conflicting with the heavier truck traffic during the port expansion. There is ongoing discussion regarding maintenance work in 2023.*

**FEMA DR4672 Merbok Recover Projects:**

Inner Harbor Dredging – South Wall and East Ramp:

Based on the City's procurement effort to obtain dredging services to sediment in the inner harbor, the state disaster team (ADHSEM) continues coordinating with FEMA to authorize a scope of work and sufficient funding to award the work. Considering the summer operating season is nearly complete, it is becoming more likely this work will be pushed to spring.

Cape Nome Jetty Repair:

Efforts to secure disaster funds to repair the jetty continue with ADHSEM and FEMA, to return the structure to pre-storm condition. On 11 Sept 2023, the City Council will consider a resolution to amend a task order with Bristol Engineering for a repair design and cost estimate to be performed by subcontract. This work will allow FEMA to authorize sufficient funds for the repair of the jetty.

*Italics reflects no change in project information from previous report*