

ARCO seeks to expand dock area

ARCO Alaska is seeking permits to start construction projects for a new drill site at Prudhoe Bay and to expand the Prudhoe West Dock facility.

Permit applications were filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently.

ARCO is seeking permission to place about 254,000 cubic yards of gravel in wet tundra to build Drill Site 19 which would consist of two drill pads, interconnected with five roads. The west pad would measure about 235 feet by 1,430 feet with a 100 by 300 foot attached camp. The east pad would measure 235 feet by 1,550 feet with a similar camp.

A 1,250 foot road would connect the pads at the north and a 1,500 foot road at the south would connect them at the south.

Permission also is being sought for three 150 by 150 foot flare pits to be attached to the corners of the pads.

About 31.5 acres of wet tundra would be destroyed by the project.

Permission also is being sought to expand the West Dock Facility staging area and to construct a five-vehicle turnout area on the North Dock Road.

The vehicle turnout area is being sought to ease the traffic flow problems on the

North Dock Road. The staging area expansion is being sought to allow easier handling of equipment in the area.

About 49 acres of tundra will be destroyed if all three permits are granted and 486,000 cubic yards of gravel will be placed in the area to build the projects.

Environmental Impact Statements are not required for the work and the application states that the projects will not harm cultural or historical resources.

Comments on the application should be made to the Corps of Engineers no later than April 12.