

City Manager
Lee Smith

Port Director
Joy Baker

Harbormaster
Lucas Stotts



Nome Port Commission
Jim West, Jr., Chairman
Charlie Lean, Vice Chairman
Derek McLarty
Drew McCann
Shane Smithhisler
Gay Sheffield

**NOME PORT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025 at 5:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL**

102 Division St. ▪ P.O. Box 281 ▪ Nome, Alaska 99762 ▪ Phone (907) 443-6663 ▪ Fax (907) 443-5345

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [A.](#) 25-06-12 PC Regular Meeting Minutes

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS

- [A.](#) 25.08.09 - 2025 Temp Models Offshore Nome AK
- [B.](#) 25.08.09 - City Press Release - Commandant Lunday Visit to Nome
- [C.](#) 25.08.15 - USACE Press Release - USACE awards construction contract for portion of PON Mod
- [D.](#) 25.08.18 - CON News Release - USACE awards ADDP Phase 1A

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

HARBOR MASTER REPORT

- [A.](#) FY25 -4th QTR HM Report

PORT DIRECTOR REPORT / PROJECTS UPDATE

- [A.](#) 25.08.18 - Port Director & Projects Report

FACILITY OPERATIONS PRESENTATION

- A. Facility Tour WX Depending

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

- A. 25.09.18 Regular PC Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

City Manager
Lee Smith

**Project Manager/Acting
Port Director**
Joy Baker

Harbormaster
Lucas Stotts



Nome Port Commission
Jim West, Jr., Chairman
Charlie Lean, Vice Chairman
Derek McLarty
Shane Smithhisler
Gay Sheffield
Drew McCann

NOME PORT COMMISSION
WORK SESSION 5:30PM & REGULAR MEETING 6:30PM AGENDA
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

102 Division St. ■ P.O. Box 281 . Nome, Alaska 99762 . Phone (907) 443-6663 . Fax (907) 443-5345

WORK SESSION 5:30pm

A. Review/Discuss PND – PON Strategic Development Plan Update – Final Draft

ROLL CALL At 6:05 PM

Members Present: Lean; West; McCann; McLarty

Members Absent: Sheffield, Smithhisler

Also Present: Joy Baker – Project Manager/Port Director; Lucas Stotts - Harbormaster

In the Audience: Nome Nugget -Diana Haecker; KNOM- Wali Rana; Troy Walker

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A Motion to approved agenda was made by McLarty and seconded by Lean .

At the roll call:

Aye: Lean; West; McCann; McLarty

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 29, 2025 Nome Port Commission Meeting Minutes,

A motion to approve the meeting minutes made by Lean and seconded by McLarty .

At the roll call:

Aye: West; McCann; McLarty; Lean

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS None

COMMUNICATIONS**A. 25.06.09 PON Public Cruise Schedule**

- a. HM Stotts stated the Westerdaam will be in next week. McLarty asked how many people is estimated. HM Stotts stated it's estimated to be around 1800 passengers.
- b. Seabourn Venture has a schedule change, with an additional day, leading to a two-day visit rather than the one-day previously planned.
- c. C West asked if the Westerdaam is included in the Berry Festival

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Lean stated that there was an Oil Spill Drill. He was the acting incident commander, and it was very Coast Guard centric, with DEC oil spill personnel present. Managing with computer programs and utilizing remote teams – incident command center can be ran remotely which can add to the depth of the City, as a good way to expand Nome's depth. Weather affected the drone on the second day, and the first day was faced with internet challenges. It was good to have an exercise with people who are usually our worst critics with real world challenges. Virtual incident command center was interesting.

McLarty stated he ran into some DEC people wandering around. No further updates.

HARBORMASTER REPORT

Bowhead is in town, storing items, stockpiling rock for Shishmaref and will be preparing for the Barrow rock project.

Alaska Marine Excavation assisted in picking the anchor chains.

The Guardian will be launching tomorrow.

C McCann asked how soon do the commercial vessels, mining vessels, communicate anticipated arrivals/schedules.

HM Stotts stated communication is consistent with the larger vessels, with some being two-weeks notice, if not less. Cruise ships typically schedule 6 months or more in advance. Schedules are tracked out two weeks in the office. Notifications vary. C McCann asked if there will be increased control on schedules as the traffic increases. HM Stotts stated with the expansion, there will be increase in availability for anticipated traffic.

PD Baker stated there is a 24 notice, however there is an awareness in the benefit of advanced notifications of arrival.

C West asked what will be done to clean up abandoned items such as the Dugong. HM Stotts stated strategies are in place to address the issue.

C McLarty asked about specific vessels that are in the way on the lower pad. HM Stotts responded that they are in the process of working with those folks to relocate or launch those vessels.

HM Stotts stated the importance of not allowing walking traffic on the Causeway. The Harbor Office will be one of the rally points, with the Old St. Joe's being the second rally point.

C McLarty asked about TWIC verification for Causeway traffic. McLarty asked about a plan to address any issues regarding incidents related to shuttling causeway pedestrians traffic. HM Stotts responded that security workers or tenant companies that operate under our security plan have TWICS and can visually escort up to 5 people each when security measures are in effect.

C West asked what the plan is with the AML lot reorganization for the offices/equipment on the east side of the road. HM Stotts stated AML is in the process of utilizing extra space to further organize their items. Within the next couple weeks AML will have their offices and all equipment moved into their existing lease location.

PROJECT MANAGER – ACTING PORT DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Port Projects Status Report – 25-06-06

The Cape Nome Jetty repair project is fully underway. Dredging operations to remove rock have started, and contractor is placing B rock on the tip. The pre-con survey and construction template have been submitted and approved, with quantities calculated, that are reasonably closed to those in the bid package. Project is moving along pretty quickly, and the contractor is fairly confident they will complete the project well before substantial completion scheduled for October 2025.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

A. PON Strategic Development Plan Update – after further review and discussion :

A motion was made by Lean and seconded by McLarty, to approve the Final Draft of the Port of Nome Strategic Development Plan Update, pending incorporation of edits as discussed during the earlier work session.

At the roll call:

Aye: West; McCann; McLarty; Lean

Nay:

The motion **CARRIED**.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

McCann thanked McLarty for his comments regarding public safety in the area of the Causeway.

McLarty has a question in regard to structures for getting people out of the weather. HM Stotts stated looking at a 15' x 10' tent with sidewalls and heavy duty rubber mats to lay down the ramps and make crossing the gravel surface easier for passengers. In the past, two bus shelters were used as school was not in session.

West stated he is glad to be moving right along with the strategic development plan, with it being a work in progress, we have come a long way.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by McLarty for adjournment at 6:42PM and seconded by Lean.

APPROVED and SIGNED THIS 17th DAY OF JULY, 2025

**JIM WEST JR.
CHAIRMAN**

LUCAS STOTTS

HARBORMASTER

From: Gay Sheffield <ggsheffield@alaska.edu>
Sent: Saturday, August 9, 2025 11:22 PM
To: Thomas Vaden <nomelepccchair@live.com>
Subject: Re: July Temp models

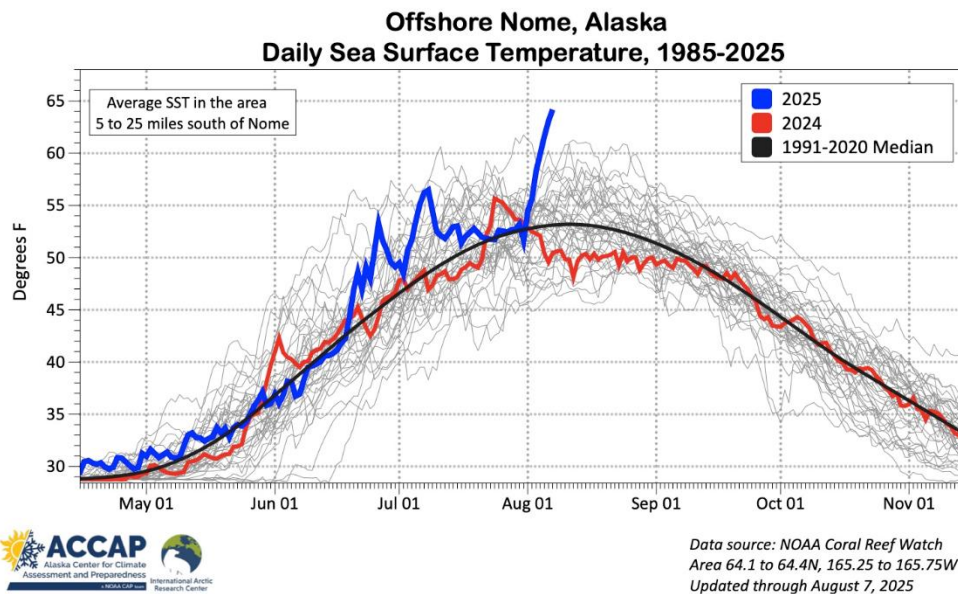
Hi Tom -

Thank you! Working as a team, me, Nome Eskimo Community, Chuck Menadelook (Kawerak, Subsistence), and NSHC-OEH are weekly sampling seawater, NSHC-OEH are using the NWC lab to ID the algae.

Below is the latest ocean temps provided by Rick Thoman (UAF-ACCAP) - honestly shocking. Several of us were at west beach on Friday 8-Aug and the water temp was measured at 16.0C / 60.8F.

We are communicating with several research vessels some of which have algae detection equipment - though its not their primary mission unfortunately. There is also local weekly sampling near Nome as well as several regional communities. It's a start but so much more is needed.

I did speak with Dr. Petersen (NSHC) recently about the warming water and potential for increased risk of a HAB event. I do not have his email but if you do, please send along this latest water temperature graph from Rick Thoman - I pretty sure he will be interested! Thank you Tom, -Gay





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2025

CITY OF NOME HOSTS ACTING COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD

Nome, Alaska – As national security and geopolitics demand greater United States presence in the Arctic, Nome is on the forefront of shaping the region's future as one of Alaska's most strategically important communities. The Port of Nome, the Nation's first deep draft port is poised to serve as an economic pillar for the region, advancing and supporting scientific research, national security, fisheries, maritime safety and Arctic tourism.

On Saturday, the Mayor of Nome John Handeland, Port Director Joy Baker, and City Manager Lee Smith, along with elected leaders of Nome hosted the Acting Commandant of the Coast Guard Kevin Lunday, Rear Admiral Bob Little, Commander of the USCG Alaska District, along with Representatives Mike Ezell (R-MS) and Jimmy Patronis (R-FL). Rep Ezell serves as Chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the authorizing committee of the United States Coast Guard.

"As Chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, it was an honor to join the Mayor of Nome, the Port Director, and the City Manager to see firsthand the Port of Nome's vital role in Arctic operations. This port is critical to our national security, commerce, and the Coast Guard's mission in the region, and I'm committed to supporting the infrastructure and partnerships needed to keep it strong" said Chairman Mike Ezell.

"We are honored to welcome Acting Commandant Lunday, and Representatives Ezell and Patronis to Nome. The City of Nome stands ready to protect the Nation's interest in the Arctic. I want to thank Senator Dan Sullivan, Senator Murkowski, and Representative Nick Begich for securing these important leadership visits to advance our Nation's Arctic deep draft port" said Mayor John Handeland.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District is actively reviewing proposals to construct Phase 1A of the Port of Nome Modification Project, known as the Arctic Deep Draft Port at Nome. This portion of the project will construct a 1,200-ft Causeway extension with a 600-ft dock, initiating development of this critical maritime infrastructure project in the U.S Arctic.

The Port of Nome will serve as the export site for the Graphite One mine, located on the north side of the Kigluwait Mountains. The Department of Defense awarded Graphite One a \$37.5 million grant to develop the graphite mine site under the Defense Production Act. On March 20, 2025, President Trump enacted an Executive Order, "Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production" to develop the domestic critical minerals supply chain.



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release:
August 15, 2025
Release No. 25-004

Contact:
John Budnik, 907-753-2615
John.P.Budnik@usace.army.mil

USACE awards construction contract for portion of Port of Nome Modification Project

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON – Today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District awarded a construction contract for the first portion of the Port of Nome Modification Project in Nome, Alaska.

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. of Vancouver, Washington, will construct Phase 1A of the Port of Nome Modification project. Funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, formerly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this construction contract award is valued at about \$399.4 million.

“A robust and efficient transportation hub at Nome is foundational to the long-term viability of surrounding communities in the region,” said Col. Jeffrey Palazzini, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District. “We are committed to assisting the City of Nome by providing a reliable solution that improves the port’s navigation efficiency.”

Phase 1A is the first of four phases of the required construction to build the Port of Nome project. The first phase of the project will construct a 1,200-foot causeway extension with about 600 feet of dock face. Following this portion of the project, the Phase 2 dredging of the deep and outer basins up to minus 40 feet is next scheduled for construction. The City of Nome is the non-federal sponsor for this project.

The entirety of the harbor expansion project aims to provide larger vessels with improved access to Nome’s existing harbor and creating a new deep-water basin at a depth of minus 40 feet. Dredging is required to deepen and maintain both basins and associated navigation channels. Currently, ship transportation is limited by existing depths in the outer basin of minus 22 feet. This depth is inadequate to safely accommodate vessels of drafts greater than about 18 feet.

The new port project will serve research and public safety purposes as well as an important pivot point for the nation’s military presence above the Arctic Circle. The Port of Nome is a regional hub located on the Seward Peninsula and adjacent to Norton Sound, which is centrally located along the western coast of Alaska. Nome has no access to major road systems and is approximately 545 miles northwest of Anchorage.

USACE’s history in Nome dates to the construction of the original harbor in 1917.

###

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ALASKA DISTRICT

P.O. Box 6898, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99506-0898

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil> ♦ <http://www.facebook.com/AlaskaCorps>
<http://www.flickr.com/AlaskaCorps> ♦ <http://www.youtube.com/AlaskaCorps>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2025

Army Corps of Engineers awards contract for Port of Nome Modification Project

Nome, Alaska –The Army Corps of Engineers awarded Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. a \$399.4 million construction contract to extend the Port of Nome 1,200 feet, known as Phase 1A of the Port of Nome Modification Project. The Port of Nome is poised to become the nation's first Arctic deep-draft port, as national security and Arctic geopolitics demand investment in the region. The Port of Nome is an economic pillar, advancing and supporting scientific research, national security, fisheries, maritime safety, and tourism in the United States Arctic.

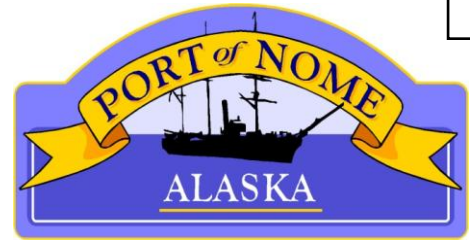
"It has been a very long process, decades, literally. There were many skeptics who said, "It will never happen." At long last, the project is starting. My predecessor, Mayor Richard Beneville, is dancing on the streets of heaven," said Mayor John Handeland. "We appreciate the relentlessness and support of the Alaska Congressional Delegation and the Alaska State Legislature –including the late Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, the late Representative Don Young, Representative Mary Pelota, Representative Nick Begich, Governor Dunleavy, Governor Walker and Governor Parnell. This is a victory for Alaska and our nation."

The Port of Nome will serve as the export site for the Graphite One mine, located on the north side of the Kigluwait Mountains. The Department of Defense awarded Graphite One a \$37.5 million grant to develop the graphite mine site under the Defense Production Act. On March 20, 2025, President Trump enacted an Executive Order, "Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production" to develop the domestic critical minerals supply."

The Port of Nome serves as a transshipment and maritime hub for the Bering Strait region and serves over 60 communities across western and northern Alaska. Services at the port include community resupply of fuel, vehicles, and equipment; commercial and subsistence fisheries; subsistence hunters; regional construction; environmental/oil spill response; search and rescue; scientific research; and tourism.

"In-water construction is expected to start in the summer of 2026, with completion projected for 2029, although we are hoping the contractor can beat that timeline to some degree," said Joy Baker, Port Director. "Phase 2, will dredge the new and existing basins and is anticipated to bid in 2026, with work starting in 2027 and running concurrently with Phase 1A construction. We are ready to embark on this great adventure with our project partners, the USACE Alaska District, and Kiewit Infrastructure West, the awarded contractor."

Media Contact: Megan Onders, Public Information Officer, City of Nome 907-304-3111



Memo

To: Lee Smith – City Manager
From: Lucas Stotts – Harbormaster
CC: Nome Port Commission
Date: July 8, 2025
Re: 4th Quarter Report F25

Office/Accounting:

Port staff continue to work on collection efforts for customers that have returned for the ice-free season, as well as those no longer using the facility. This follow up activity occurs in and around daily operations with customers in the normal course of business.

Staff have been busy planning, budgeting and dealing with compliance issues along with reconciling items in the field with account records. Updates to stats are underway with fiscal year closing to incorporate into fiscal planning and health.

Caitlin LeClair is in the Port Office for the summer season assisting with accounting and office management as well as helping with the Finance department with various tasks. Alex Thomson has returned and continues to perform well with the City in the summer full-time position of Deputy Harbormaster. Nellie Iyapana was hired in the seasonal position of Dock Watch assisting with field operations and security duties.

Operations:

The Port of Nome summer shipping season typically begins in the last weeks of May and we are in full-swing by the first week of July. The winter seasonal ice traditionally breaks up offshore and in the Outer Harbor in the last two weeks of May, and in the Small Boat Harbor the last week of May.

Cargo Operations started very busy at both the Causeway and Small Boat Harbor facilities, with Alaska Marine Lines using the majority of the port uplands space for cargo ops. Nome serves as the regional hub for the shipment of cargo, gravel and equipment throughout the region. Brice Marine has large rock haul projects in Shishmaref and Barrow which are underway, with vessels utilizing the facility several times each week. That traffic will continue to increase as the Barrow project becomes fully online and continue until freeze up. This is a multi-year project and Brice has signed a contract with the Port of Nome for storage land. We also have various other smaller rock/gravel projects the PON is supporting this summer season.

DOA	DOD	SHIP NAME	MAX PAX #	BERTH
06.19.25		WESTERDAM	1849	Anchor
07.08.25		ROALD AMUNDSON	530	Middle + WG
08.09.25		ROALD AMUNDSON	530	Middle + WG
08.17.25		HANSEATIC INSPIRATION	230	Anchor
08.26.25		NG RESOLUTION	142	City + Middle
08.27.25	08.28.25	SEABOURN VENTURE	450	Anchor
09.06.25		HANSEATIC SPIRIT	230	Anchor
09.09.25		FRIDTJOF NANSEN	530	Middle + WG
09.16.25		SILVER ENDEAVOUR	150	Anchor
09.23.25		SYLIVA EARLE	200	Middle + WG
09.25.25		LE COMMANDANT CHARCOT	270	Anchor

(2025 Cruise Ship Schedule)

11 total cruise port calls are schedule for Nome in the 2025 season. The first cruise the WESTERDAM broke our record for most passengers off one vessel with 1710 guests being lightered to shore to enjoy Nome in a single day. 7 of the cruise stops will be a full-turn, or have passengers both being loaded and unloaded from the vessel and flying in/out of Nome with luggage. We have not yet received word on how many of the trips include local city tours, gold panning, etc. We continue to see the trend of cruises holding more passengers and being larger in length.



(Nome Harbor 06.19.25 WESTERDAM Cruise offshore with Tenders lightering)

Maintenance:

Work in progress or completed:

- Apply coatings and repair Floating Docks for Small Boat Harbor
- Installed High Mast Light units on West Gold and City Docks in the spring.
- Launched Floating Docks and installed for the season.
- Completed repair work to the fuel cargo lines under the Causeway bridge.
- Coordinate with port customers to relocate items from the Garco area and container rows to a new storage location in preparation for the PON expansion project scheduled for 2026.
- Install tide gauge boards to give staff and users a visual indicator to the current water levels in the facility.
- Continue to weld and service Bull rail on Causeway docks and then paint yellow coating.
- Investigate costs and scope for the Thornbush Pad and continue to fill undeveloped portions.
- New Floating Docks for small craft in Small Boat Harbor through grant application.
- New used oil collection tank for Small Boat Harbor.
- Replace remaining ring buoy lines with line bags to provide further reach and protection from UV rays.
- Perform annual maintenance on port vehicles and install new radios and hand lighting units.
- Spring facility annual cleanup.
- Remove Floating Dock side boards and decking and replace with new wood and skid plates.
- Move remaining containers to new container row location on the North section of the TBS pad.
- Surface grading and washout repair from heavy commercial equipment traffic and fall erosion due to storms.

Vehicle Status:

2010 Guardian SAR/Workboat (Good)
 2010 Guardian Trailer (Good)
 2012 GMC Sierra Crew Cab 4X4 (Good)
 2014 FORD F250 4X4 (Good)
 2014 FORD Explorer (Good)
 2020 TuffBoat Work Skiff (Good)
 2020 TuffBoat Work Skiff Trailer (Good)
 2023 F-350 Super Duty Flatbed (New)



Memo

To: Lee Smith – CityManager
 From: Joy L. Baker – Project Manager/Port Director *JLB*
 CC: Mayor Handeland & Common Council; Port Commission; Planning Commission
 Date: 8/18/2025
 Re: Port Director/Project Manager Report – Aug 2025

Administration:

Congestion at staging and laydown areas have been constant this season with the movement of a large amount of project equipment, gravel, rock and various materials brought not only into Nome, but transshipped throughout the region. The dock schedules are modified each day to accommodate vessel schedule changes resulting from weather, mechanical failures, rock availability and evolving construction schedules. Aug and Sep contain the majority of the cruise ship and research vessel traffic for 2025, adding to the dock congestion at this mid-way operating point. As the facility continues to get busier, the imperative for the additional dock space built by the port expansion becomes very clear.

As most have heard, the USCG Commandant, Admiral Kevin Lunday, and a 20-person entourage, were in Nome for 2 hours on 9 Aug 2025 to tour the port facility and meet with local leaders. Although brief, both the tour and discussion were very productive, generating dialogue in support of the expansion of the port facility, and how the project will be beneficial to the USCG Arctic fleet. (see attached City press release for more details and a list of the primary attendees.)

Causeway:

Arctic Deep Draft Port – Port of Nome Modifications (Construction Bid Award):

As most have heard, the Corps of Engineers (USACE) Alaska District awarded Phase 1A of the Port of Nome Modifications project to Kiewit Infrastructure West, per the attached press release. This is a milestone achievement for the project, and represents a key marker in realizing construction of the concerted effort put forth to expand the port facility.

Execution of the construction contract will take several weeks, followed by submittals and RFI's to City and USACE designers. Updates will be provided as the project progresses and a biweekly meeting schedule is established.

Local Service Facilities (LSF) Inspection Integration:

Contract services with the City LSF designers will continue for responding to submittals and RFI's, along with the necessary onsite inspection during sheet pile construction in summer 2026.

U.S. DOT Maritime Administration (MARAD) – Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Pre-Award:

Discussions continue with program staff on the remaining pre-award requirements for this grant. This will then allow the \$11.25M grant agreement to be executed, along with a separate funding agreement for the \$1.025M that Rep Peltola successfully placed into the FY2025 USDOT budget to supplement the PIDP award to Nome.

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

The Alaska District continues to recommend a General Investigation (GI) Study. We continue working with the project team on next steps, including the estimated local cost-share and proposed schedule (as well as remedies through the CODEL). Information has been submitted directly to USACE Headquarters regarding the failure to adequately address the concerns of this project in a timely manner, before the feasibility budget was fully expended, and 3-year timeline was exhausted.

Snake River Moorage Facility:

Coordination with USDOT BUILD staff continues for the pre-award process for this grant award. Multiple submittals are necessary to meet compliance required for signing the grant agreement. (Pre-award requirements for this project are similar to those tied to the USDOT MARAD/PIDP award.)

Port Industrial Pad:West Nome Tank Farm (WNTF) - Property Conveyance:

Although the conveyance package was signed by the Mayor in May 2025 and returned for federal/state signature, the USAF again made further changes which now require the documents to be resigned by the City. We have recently received the final documents, and as the changes reflect only one Alaska Statute citation and formatting edits, have been determined as nothing substantive. The documents will be resigned by the City and returned to the USAF and ADEC for final execution.

On a separate note, a contractor for the USAF (AF) was in town on 9 July 2025, and did a site visit with NJUS, Public Works and Port staff regarding boring locations for the ongoing sampling the AF is required to perform. The large quantity of locations was reduced to ensure they did not conflict with buried utility infrastructure. Also, the proposed boring sites for City-owned lots 2 and 3 were put on temporary hold, until the AF can share the long-term plan for these sites as there is potential conflict with shore-side development associated with the Snake River Moorage Project. A meeting is planned for the week of 21 July 2025 to discuss in more detail. (Update: revised site boring plans are forthcoming from the USAF contractor.)

Thornbush Laydown Site Development (TBS):

A Rough-Order-of-Magnitude (ROM) cost estimate is still being investigated, including alternatives to perform incremental work as material available and funds allow. Funding opportunities continue to be evaluated in an effort to complete development of the remaining acreage in a cost-effective manner. The pad remains in a constant evolving state, as individual user and contractor storage needs are considered and efforts made to maximize the usable surface.

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

This state STIP project has been postponed to approximately 2030 to avoid conflicting with the heavier truck traffic during the port expansion, and to facilitate a more productive repair following the project.

FEMA DR4672 Merbok Recover Projects:Cape Nome Jetty Repair:

Substantial Completion of this project was achieved on 20 July 2025, with final close-out submittals by 4 Aug, and as-built drawings submitted on 8 Aug. A site-visit inspection was done on 21 July 2025, by PND's onsite inspector, with work identified as being built per project design and specifications, and deemed 100% complete. The contractor was able to beat the estimated project schedule by 60 days, and was fully demobed from Nome by

Seawall Repairs:

Storm repairs to the east end of the Nome Seawall have been budgeted by FEMA, and will be bid out to local contractors to perform the work. A bid package is being developed using the SOW prepared by FEMA inspectors, and verified by City Engineers. Advertising is expected in Feb/Mar 2026, with work completed by 31 July 2026.

Causeway Road/3 Docks Repairs:

Additional road/dock repairs are anticipated to be performed before freeze-up to replace lost material along the road and all 3 Causeway docks. This will meet the scope of work identified from storm damage, reduce future loss, and improve both the subsurface and surfacing in the busiest traffic areas on the Causeway.

Causeway Utilities (under bridge) Repairs:

Nearly all of the storm repairs to the under-side of the bridge have been completed, by the various responsible entities, with the exception of NJUS. Although a portion of their utility line work has been done, several materials are still on backorder with suppliers. As the scaffolding was removed by the USACE contractor, this final portion of the work will be done during winter, when ice provides a more suitable and stable platform for access.

Italics reflects information with no change from last report. Additional information available on request.



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release:
August 15, 2025
Release No. 25-004

Contact:
John Budnik, 907-753-2615
John.P.Budnik@usace.army.mil

USACE awards construction contract for portion of Port of Nome Modification Project

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON – Today, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District awarded a construction contract for the first portion of the Port of Nome Modification Project in Nome, Alaska.

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. of Vancouver, Washington, will construct Phase 1A of the Port of Nome Modification project. Funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, formerly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this construction contract award is valued at about \$399.4 million.

“A robust and efficient transportation hub at Nome is foundational to the long-term viability of surrounding communities in the region,” said Col. Jeffrey Palazzini, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District. “We are committed to assisting the City of Nome by providing a reliable solution that improves the port’s navigation efficiency.”

Phase 1A is the first of four phases of the required construction to build the Port of Nome project. The first phase of the project will construct a 1,200-foot causeway extension with about 600 feet of dock face. Following this portion of the project, the Phase 2 dredging of the deep and outer basins up to minus 40 feet is next scheduled for construction. The City of Nome is the non-federal sponsor for this project.

The entirety of the harbor expansion project aims to provide larger vessels with improved access to Nome’s existing harbor and creating a new deep-water basin at a depth of minus 40 feet. Dredging is required to deepen and maintain both basins and associated navigation channels. Currently, ship transportation is limited by existing depths in the outer basin of minus 22 feet. This depth is inadequate to safely accommodate vessels of drafts greater than about 18 feet.

The new port project will serve research and public safety purposes as well as an important pivot point for the nation’s military presence above the Arctic Circle. The Port of Nome is a regional hub located on the Seward Peninsula and adjacent to Norton Sound, which is centrally located along the western coast of Alaska. Nome has no access to major road systems and is approximately 545 miles northwest of Anchorage.

USACE’s history in Nome dates to the construction of the original harbor in 1917.

###

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ALASKA DISTRICT

P.O. Box 6898, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK 99506-0898

<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil> ♦ <http://www.facebook.com/AlaskaCorps>
<http://www.flickr.com/AlaskaCorps> ♦ <http://www.youtube.com/AlaskaCorps>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2025

CITY OF NOME HOSTS ACTING COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD

Nome, Alaska – As national security and geopolitics demand greater United States presence in the Arctic, Nome is on the forefront of shaping the region's future as one of Alaska's most strategically important communities. The Port of Nome, the Nation's first deep draft port is poised to serve as an economic pillar for the region, advancing and supporting scientific research, national security, fisheries, maritime safety and Arctic tourism.

On Saturday, the Mayor of Nome John Handeland, Port Director Joy Baker, and City Manager Lee Smith, along with elected leaders of Nome hosted the Acting Commandant of the Coast Guard Kevin Lunday, Rear Admiral Bob Little, Commander of the USCG Alaska District, along with Representatives Mike Ezell (R-MS) and Jimmy Patronis (R-FL). Rep Ezell serves as Chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the authorizing committee of the United States Coast Guard.

"As Chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, it was an honor to join the Mayor of Nome, the Port Director, and the City Manager to see firsthand the Port of Nome's vital role in Arctic operations. This port is critical to our national security, commerce, and the Coast Guard's mission in the region, and I'm committed to supporting the infrastructure and partnerships needed to keep it strong" said Chairman Mike Ezell.

"We are honored to welcome Acting Commandant Lunday, and Representatives Ezell and Patronis to Nome. The City of Nome stands ready to protect the Nation's interest in the Arctic. I want to thank Senator Dan Sullivan, Senator Murkowski, and Representative Nick Begich for securing these important leadership visits to advance our Nation's Arctic deep draft port" said Mayor John Handeland.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska District is actively reviewing proposals to construct Phase 1A of the Port of Nome Modification Project, known as the Arctic Deep Draft Port at Nome. This portion of the project will construct a 1,200-ft Causeway extension with a 600-ft dock, initiating development of this critical maritime infrastructure project in the U.S Arctic.

The Port of Nome will serve as the export site for the Graphite One mine, located on the north side of the Kigluwait Mountains. The Department of Defense awarded Graphite One a \$37.5 million grant to develop the graphite mine site under the Defense Production Act. On March 20, 2025, President Trump enacted an Executive Order, "Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production" to develop the domestic critical minerals supply chain.

