



Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**
Honolulu District

Public Notice No.
POH-2005-267

Date:
July 18, 2005

Reply to: Respond by:
Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Galloway) **August 17, 2005**
U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu
Building 230
Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440

POH-2005-267

APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT FOR ROUTE 20 SHORELINE PROTECTION, OFU ISLAND, AMERICAN SAMOA

1. **APPLICANT:** Department of Public Works, American Samoa Government, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
2. **AGENT:** None
3. **APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)
4. **LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY:** The project site is located at the south end of Ofu Village and extends approximately 400 feet toward the Ofu-Olosega Airport, Ofu Island, American Samoa (Figure 1).
5. **PROJECT PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of the proposed project is to repair and provide shoreline protection for an approximately 400 foot reach of the Route 20 Ofu-Olosega Road, in order to stop further erosion and prevent damage to the road such as occurred recently during Hurricane Heta. The activity for which Department of the Army authorization is required would involve construction of a shoreline rock revetment. The applicant has indicated that the slope of the mountain inland of the project reach is almost vertical; hence, moving the roadway inland is not considered to be a practicable alternative.

The planned shoreline revetment would be approximately 400 feet in length, consisting of two segments separated by the outlet of Tufu Stream (Figure 2). Revetment construction would follow the design shown in the applicant's typical section (Figures 3). Placement of toe stones would involve preparatory excavation of approximately 643 cubic yards (CY) of material from an area of approximately 435 square yards (SY) (0.09 acre) lying seaward of the MHW line. Revetment construction would also involve the discharge of fill material consisting of armor

rock and underlayer stones (1570 CY), bulk-graded granular fill (23 CY), and geotextile filter fabric (890 SY). The applicant indicates that the sources of the fill would include selected excavated material and material from a quarry. The total area of waters of the U.S filled would be approximately 800 SY (0.17 acre).

6. IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES IF AUTHORIZED:

Construction activities have the potential to cause a temporary increase in turbidity in nearshore waters, but this potential impact can be minimized by use of best management practices during construction to mitigate effects on the aquatic environment. The marine biological community of the project site would be disrupted by construction activities, but the intertidal and subtidal portions of the completed revetment would be quickly occupied by marine organisms. Project construction would cause some transient, localized increases in dust and noise.

The project is not expected to have any significant long-term adverse impacts. Because such revetment projects are normally proposed where erosion or storm damage to existing critical infrastructure is recurring, the number of such projects is naturally limited and cumulative effects are not considered to be significant.

7. IMPACT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES:

The latest on-line version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the NRHP constitutes the extent of our cultural resource investigations at this time. This notice has been sent to the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO). Any comments ASHPO may have concerning presently unknown archaeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

8. IMPACT ON ENDANGERED SPECIES:

Federally protected green and hawksbill sea turtles are known to be present in waters around the island of Tutuila. However, the project reach consists of basalt boulders associated with the existing coastal road, fronted by calcareous sand with scattered coral rubble, and is not known to be used by turtles for nesting. Based on the location and nature of the proposed work, the project is not likely to adversely affect any species listed as threatened or endangered, or their designated critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act.

This notice has been sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Any comments they have on endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat, will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

9. IMPACT ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:

The project is not expected to adversely affect any Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) identified

pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Management Act (MSFCMA). This notice has been sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to coordination requirements of the MSFCMA. Any conservation recommendations they make concerning EFH will be considered before a final decision is made on the permit.

10. OTHER GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS:

The project received Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the American Samoa (AS) Environmental Protection Agency on July 7, 2005 and Coastal Management Program Federal Consistency Certification issued by the AS Department of Commerce on April 28, 2005.

11. EVALUATION FACTORS:

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof: among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

12. COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES:

Interested parties may submit in writing any comments that they have on the proposed permit. Comments should be forwarded so as to reach this District no later than the response date indicated on the first page of this notice. Mailed comments should cite this notice and should be sent to: Regulatory Branch (CEPOH-EC-R/P. Galloway); U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu; Building 230; Fort Shafter, Hawaii 96858-5440. Alternatively, comments may be submitted via e-mail to CEPOH-EC-R@usace.army.mil or may be faxed to the following number: (808) 438-4060. If needed, further information may be obtained from Peter Galloway via telephone at (808) 438-8416. This notice is also available at the Honolulu District web site (www.poh.usace.army.mil).

13. REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this permit application. Requests for public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Attachments:

Figure 1. Location map

Figure 2. Site plan

Figure 3. Typical section

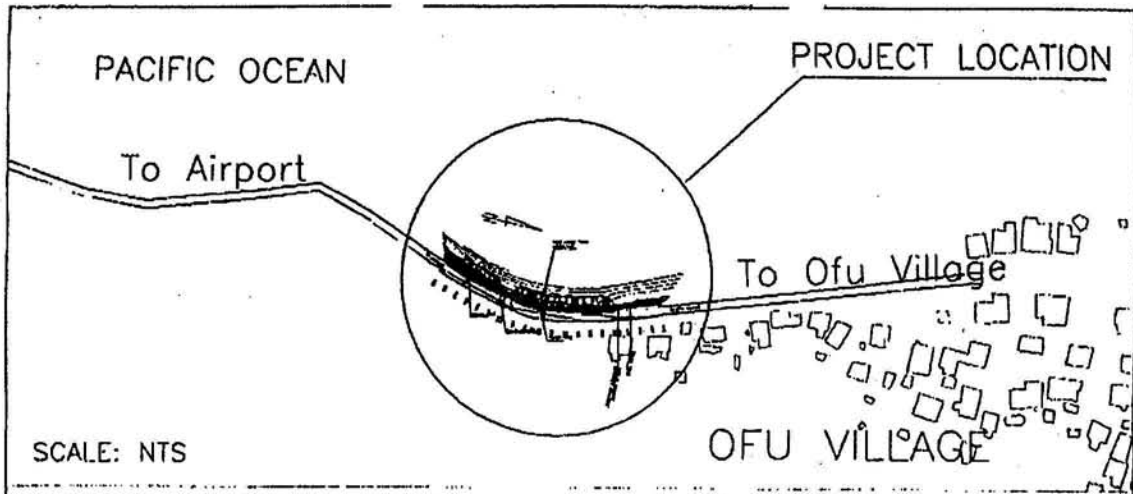
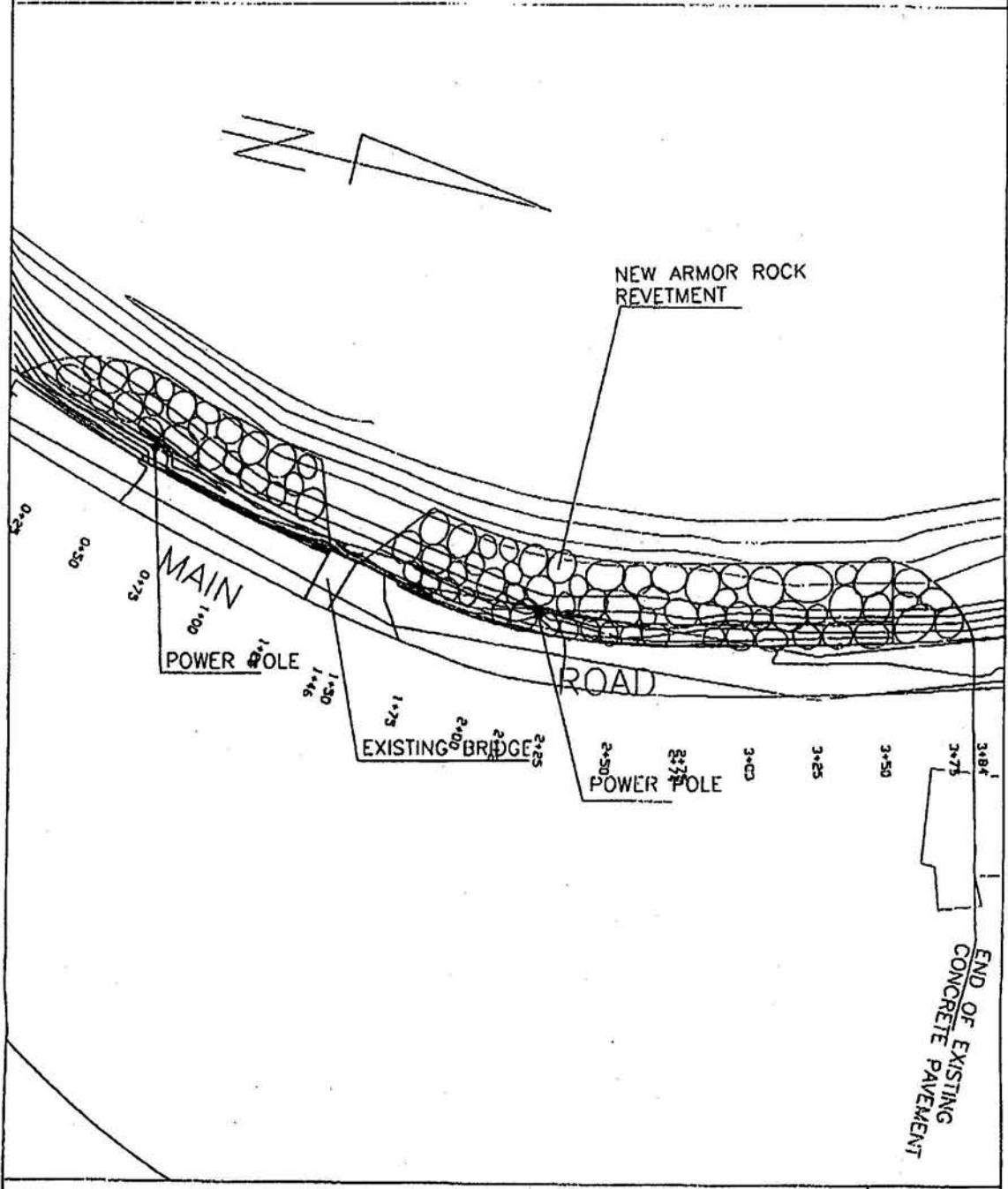


Figure 1

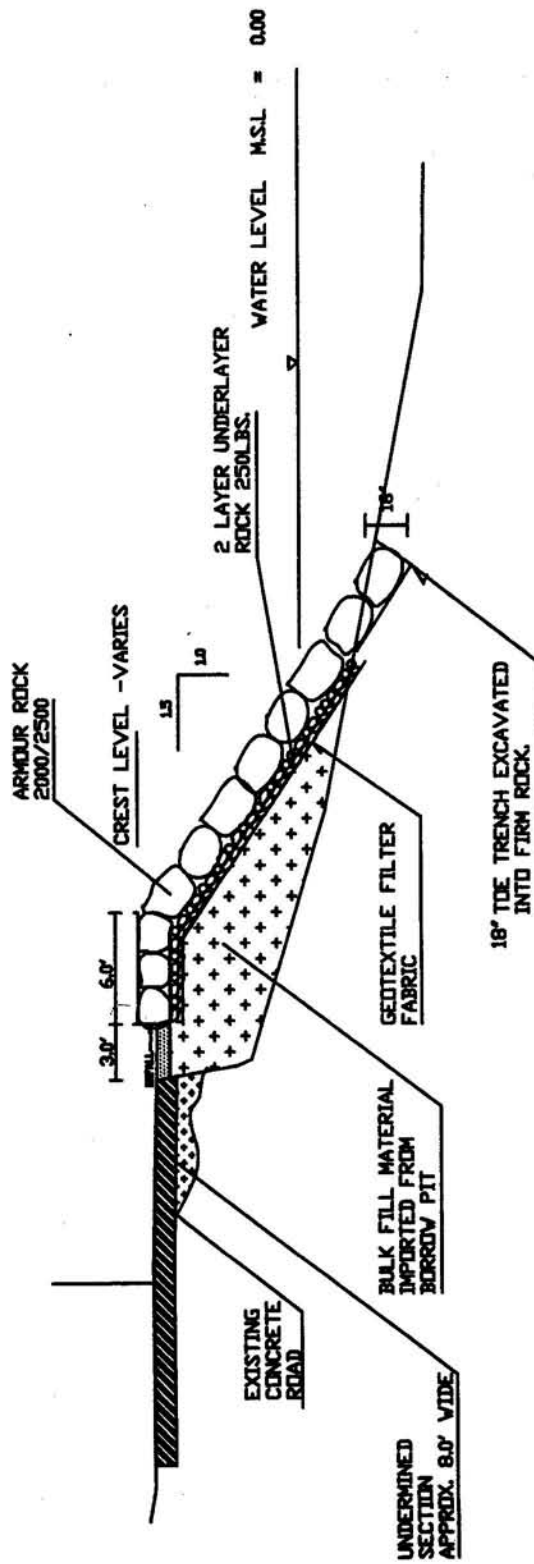


SITE PLAN FOR PROPOSED ROCK REVETMENT & ROAD REPAIR WORK FOR OFU ISLAND, MANUA, AMERICAN SAMOA.

VILLAGE: OFU
COUNTY: MANUA

Figure 2

TYPICAL SECTION FOR HARD REEF ROCK FOUNDATION.



NOT TO SCALE.

Figure 3