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TITLE: PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALASKAN AIRPORTS

ABSTRACT

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALASKAN AIRPORTS

There are 294 State controlled airports within Alaska. These facilities are spread throughout the state and the problems that have arisen during construction are as diverse as the geomorphic and climatic conditions that are present. Each physiographic division carries its own set of rules that must be followed when undertaking a construction project.

Principal factors affecting construction are soils, climate and access. "Red Light" soil conditions that often lead to construction difficulties are silts, insitu moisture content, organic content, permafrost and grain size distribution. Climatic factors that most often lead to construction difficulties are rain, wind and low temperatures. Access for construction equipment is often limited to barging or air transport as the majority of the airports are located off the road system.

Adequate geotechnical investigations and a close working relationship with Design and Construction personnel are required to provide a cost effective facility that must frequently be built under adverse field conditions.

