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WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERHOR

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF ALASKA

DIVISION OF LANDS

323 E. 4TH AVENUE ANCHORAGE 29501

November 5, 1974

Re: Procedures for Vacation of Section Line Easements

H. W. Johansen Interior District Engineer 2301 Peger Road Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Gentlemen:

Please be advised by this correspondence that the procedure as set forth in the attached letter of September 30, 1974 is applicable as regards procedures for vacation of section line easements.

The Boroughs have been informed of the policy and any and all plats submitted to this office for review will be submitted in compliance with the attached letter of correspondence.

Very truly yours,

F. J. Keenan Director

Claud M. Hoffman

By: Claud M. Hoffman Chief Cadastral Engineer

cc: ADL District Offices

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WILLIAM A. EGAN, GOVERNOR



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

/ 323 E. 4TH AVENUE ANCHORAGE 99501

-September 50, 197/

## TO ALL BOROUGHS WITHIN THE STATE OF ALASKA

DIVISION OF LANDS

SUBJECT: Vacation of section Line Essenger

Gentlemen:

The present policy of the Division of Lands is to have the Director, Division of Lands, recommend to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, vacation of section lines <u>only when</u> it has been proven to the satisfaction of the Division that ingress and egress to State lands have not been curtailed. Then and only then will the Director, Division of Lands recommend the plat approval. Furthermore, the Director, Division of Lands, will not sign plats recommending such action, unless the District Highway Engineer's Office has reviewed and approved such action and recommended to the Commissioner of Highways for his signature, vacation of a section line easement. Furthermore the Division's policy is to recommend approval of such action only if the applicable Borough is in agreement when such easements are located within the confines of an organized borough.

This-office takes the position that the easement was created for highway purposes within Title 19 Alaska Statute; with our interest being the preservation and/or assurance of adequate access to State lands administered by the Division of Lands of Where the majority of land title is vested.

In reference to a meeting held between Dept. of Highways, Division of Lands, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough dated August 30, 1974, concerning Vacation of Section Line Easements, the following guidelines were established.

When a section line easement falls within a borough or city, the municipality shall be responsible for notification to the general <u>public and state agencies</u> of the request for vacation. Any and all partiment information justifying way the section line easement should be vacated should be submitted to the Pent. If gamave and the bryision of lands with the request for vacation before any will be accomplished, (ie) as follows:

a. The proposed section line easement vacation plat shall show on a standard ADL sheet size the entire section and section line or lines involved with all record data shown thereon in the way of reference to portions of any section line easement already vacated and indicate any legal documents, borough or city resolutions, creating the vacation and date. The plat shall show survey data in accordance to ADL survey and plat requirements and bear a surveyor's seal.

b. The road systems adjoining the section ine easement being vacated shall be shown.

c. In areas where the section line easement is being vacated within a subdivision due to excessive topographic features, a contour map shall be included substantiating the unusable section line easement and show alternate dedicated routes to insure ingress and egress to State lands. The contour map shall be accomplished by a person or firm qualified to execute such a project.

Very truly yours,

F.J. Keenan Director

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By Claud M. Hoffman Chief Cadastral Engineer

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Supplement to: VACATION OF SECTION LINE FASEMENTS Dated 9-30-74

Procedures for Handling Section Line Vacation Plats:

- 1. No plat shall be accepted by the Director of the Division of Lands unless the plat is signed, sealed and/or notorized by:
  - a. owner
  - b. applicable borough
  - c. surveyor
- 2. The original plat with original signatures shall be accompanied with three black line prints also with original signatures.

- 3. The plat shall be labeled Section Line Vacation Plat and shown in large letters on the bottom center of the plat. Also the plat shall have a State title block in the lower right hand corner and labeled Section Line Vacation Plat. The section line easement to be vacated or portions there-of shall be clearly indicated on the plat. A reproducible shall be made and kept in the hold drawer until the Plat of Vacation is finalized, and at that time destroyed.
- 4. The Division of Lands shall submit the plat and copies to the applicable state offices for approval signatures. The surveyor or his client, if so desired, may hand pack the originals and copies for Official State signatures but must be returned to the Division of Lands for recordation.
- 5. After the original and copies are duly signed and returned to the Engineering Section this office shall then assign a file number and index it into our card file system. At that time three prints with the original signatures shall be submitted for recording in the applicable State Recorders Office, with one print being returned to this office with the recording information. Engineering shall transfer the recording information on to the original mylar, and submit the returned print from the recorders office through the Records Unit for notation on status plats and then return to the surveyor.
- 6. The Department of Highways' current policy is to discourage vacation of any section line reservation. Instead, we would recommend that the subdivider utilize the section line right-of-way as part of the public access and utility development over, across, and through the subdivided area. Also, Highways will only consider vacation of the section line reservation when both sides of the section line either State, Territorial, or Federal Reservation is to be vacated, and will not consider only the one-half portion of the section line vacation.