

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL
OF RECENTLY NOTICED PROPOSED CHANGES IN
IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGARDING MINING

The Department of Natural Resources is withdrawing from further consideration of proposed changes to the regulations published on May 3, 2018 and related to mining (11 AAC 86) including mining locations, affidavits of annual labor, penalties and eligibility to cure an abandonment and other changes. If the Department proposes regulations on mining in the future, those proposed regulations will be published and subject to public comment.

When DNR noticed the proposed changes to the regulations on May 3, 2018, it noted in a Dear Alaskan letter accompanying the regulations that its goal was to have revisions to these regulations in effect by the end of the current mining year, September 1, 2018. This was necessary to minimize potential for errors on affidavits of annual labor required for the current labor year, due by November 30, 2018.

DNR received a total of ten comments on the proposed regulations, including one from the Alaska State Senate Resources Committee. While some of the comments supported the department's efforts to simplify department regulations dealing with requirements for reporting Annual Labor requirements under AS 38.05.210 and mining rights in general, other commenters, including the Alaska State Senate Resources Committee, urged DNR to forego this effort to revise mining regulations under the current law in favor of a possible future legislative effort to address issues.

DNR understands and appreciates the opinions and concerns expressed in the comments. DNR has decided to withdraw its proposed regulations regarding 11 AAC 86 to pursue potential legislative changes regarding the same issues instead.

Date: July 18, 2018



Andrew T. Mack
Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources