

# Hecla Greens Creek Mine

## Reclamation Plan Approval

No. J20202682RPA



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of Mining, Land and Water

February 20, 2020

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (ADNR), in accordance with and subject to Alaska Statutes 27.19 (Reclamation) and the Alaska Administrative Code, Title 11 (Natural Resources) Chapter 97 (Mining Reclamation), approves the Reclamation Plan for the Hecla Greens Creek Mine submitted by:

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company  
PO Box 32199  
Juneau, Alaska 99083-2199

Throughout this document, the Reclamation Plan is considered to consist of:

- *Hecla Greens Creek General Plan of Operations - Appendix 14: Reclamation and Closure Plan November 2019, and the associated Appendix B: Basis of Cost Estimate Greens Creek Mine.*

Reference to this plan throughout this document is a reference to the Reclamation Plan. Likewise, any and all stipulations associated with the approval of any supporting documents are considered to be a requirement of the Reclamation Plan Approval.

The Reclamation Plan applies to privately owned land and land managed by the United States Forest Service. Throughout this document, reference to Cost Estimate is considered to be a reference to the Standardized Reclamation Cost Estimator (SRCE) Version 1.4.1 prepared for the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company and dated November 2019. Throughout this document, the bond refers to the financial instrument submitted by Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company that is acceptable to the State of Alaska in the amount of ninety-two million, one-hundred seventy-six thousand, five-hundred thirty-nine U.S. dollars (\$92,176,539 USD).

This approval applies to any and all of the above documents. Likewise, any stipulations listed in this approval are to be considered a requirement of the Reclamation Plan Approval.

Throughout this document, unless otherwise specifically indicated, reference to the Forest Service is considered to be reference to the Department of Agriculture – United States Forest Service, Tongass National Forest Minerals Group. Throughout this document, reference to the State, Department, ADNR, DNR, DMLW or Division are considered a reference to the State of Alaska – Department of Natural Resources – Division of Mining, Land, and Water. Reference to the agencies is considered to be a reference to ADNR and/or the Forest Service. Throughout this document, reference to Hecla, HGCMC or Permittee is considered to be a reference to the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company.

Effective dates of this plan approval is subject to the submission of a bond or bonds in a form acceptable by ADNR and no sooner than the date of signing (February 20, 2020 ) for a period of 5 years (ending on February 20, 2025), unless sooner revoked; however, Hecla's obligations under the terms and conditions of this plan approval shall continue, unless

sooner terminated in accordance with the provisions of this plan approval, until completion of all requirements under and pursuant to the Reclamation Plan.

This plan approval does not constitute certification of any property right or land status claimed by the applicant.

Alaska Statute AS 27.19.030(b) and Alaska Administrative Code 11 AAC 97.310(b)(6) & (7) allows the owner of private land to reclaim the land to "an alternate post-mining land use".

The Reclamation Plan was found to be complete and is approved with the following conditions:

## General Stipulations

**Financial Assurance.** This Reclamation Plan Approval does not take effect until the Permittee submits a bond(s) in a form and substance approved by ADNR and the Forest Service. The bond(s) can be released or decreased as allowed per 11 AAC 97.435. Modifications to this Reclamation Plan may, at ADNR's discretion, require bond(s) review and update until disturbed areas have been reclaimed and a written approval provided by the ADNR Authorized Officer and the Forest Service and other applicable terms of this Reclamation Plan Approval are met. The total financial assurance amount of \$92,176,539 has been approved for the Hecla Greens Creek Mine. This amount has been adjusted annually to account for inflation based on the Anchorage CPI. Documentation that the total financial assurance has been acquired must be received by ADNR no later than 60 days after this approval is signed, unless otherwise approved in advance by the Authorized Officer.

**Terms of this Plan Approval.** The Terms and Conditions contained within the:

- *Hecla Greens Creek General Plan of Operations - Appendix 14: Reclamation and Closure Plan November 2019, and the associated Appendix B: Basis of Cost Estimate Greens Creek Mine.*

are hereby included as stipulations of this plan approval. If there is a difference between the Reclamation Plan as submitted and the terms contained within this plan approval, the terms contained within this plan approval take precedence. Changes to the documents incorporated herein must be approved by ADNR if they affect this plan approval. If ADNR approves the changes, they become terms of this Reclamation Plan Approval.

**Authorized Officer.** The Authorized Officer for ADNR is the Director of the Division of Mining, Land, and Water or his designee. The Authorized Officer is designated as the Mining Section Chief within the Division of Mining, Land, and Water, currently Steve Buckley. The Authorized Officer may be contacted at 550 West 7<sup>th</sup>

Avenue, Suite 900D, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2577, Attention: Steve Buckley, telephone (907) 269-8621, and fax (907) 269-8930 or at [stephen.buckley@alaska.gov](mailto:stephen.buckley@alaska.gov). The Permittee will be notified of changes to the Authorized Officer as needed.

**Reporting.** An annual report will be due by March 3<sup>rd</sup> and shall summarize activities (surface disturbance, reclamation, mining, and milling) conducted during the previous calendar year and include any monitoring data if applicable. The annual report shall also address the adequacy of the financial responsibility, including, but not limited to, significant changes in reclamation activity costs, concurrent reclamation, expansion or other changes to the operation of the facility.

The annual report shall include a set of maps illustrating the current development of all facilities within the project area as described in the Reclamation Plan. The maps shall show cleared and grubbed areas, growth medium stockpiles, roads, waste rock dump development, material site development, and facility construction. Maps shall be appropriately scaled with labeled topography necessary to review the development of individual facilities expected to last 90 days or longer.

Submit electronic copies to ADNR - Jim Vohden at [jim.vohden@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.vohden@alaska.gov) and Brent Martellaro at [brent.martellaro@alaska.gov](mailto:brent.martellaro@alaska.gov); Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) – Kate Kanouse at [kate.kanouse@alaska.gov](mailto:kate.kanouse@alaska.gov); Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) - Tim Pilon at [tim.pilon@alaska.gov](mailto:tim.pilon@alaska.gov) and David Khan at [david.khan@alaska.gov](mailto:david.khan@alaska.gov). Amendments to this distribution list will be provided to the Permittee as needed.

**Environmental Audit.** Unless waived by the Department a periodic third-party environmental audit shall be conducted during the final year of the permit term or sooner if final closure starts during the permit term. If an audit is required, the field inspection portion of the audit shall be conducted during the snow free season the year before permit expiration. The audit will include all aspects of this Reclamation Plan Approval. The environmental audit is intended to verify the Permittee's compliance with applicable laws and regulations associated with this approval. The third-party contractor should be mutually agreed on by the State and the Permittee, but in the event that agreement cannot be reached, the State retains the final contractor selection decision. Costs for the third-party contractor shall be borne by the Permittee. The environmental audit shall include an evaluation of the adequacy of the approved financial assurance.

**Temporary Closure.** The Permittee shall notify the Authorized Officer in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the cessation of operations of any planned Temporary Closure expected to last 90 days or longer. The Permittee shall notify the Authorized Officer of any unanticipated Temporary Closure expected to last 90 days or more within 10 days of the first day of the Temporary Closure. The notice shall state the nature and reason for the Temporary Closure, the anticipated duration of the Temporary Closure, what actions will be taken to maintain compliance with project permits and plan approvals, and any event which would reasonably be anticipated to result in the resumption of activities or the permanent cessation of activities. Operations must resume

for not less than ninety (90) consecutive days in order to terminate the running of the Temporary Closure. If a Temporary Closure extends beyond three (3) years, the Department may deem mining operations to be permanently abandoned or ceased, and whereupon final reclamation must commence unless otherwise agreed by the Department.

The Permittee shall ensure that the project area and facilities are maintained in a safe condition during a Temporary Closure. The Permittee shall not allow the project area or facilities to be degraded/eroded or facilities to fall into a state of disrepair during or as a result of the Temporary Closure. Action shall be taken to prevent or mitigate any impacts to ground or surface waters from project facilities. All activities required under this reclamation plan approval shall be performed under any Temporary Closure.

**Abandonment or Cessation of Operations.** Not later than thirty (30) days after the permanent cessation or abandonment of mining and milling operations, the Permittee shall notify the Authorized Officer of the cessation of mining operations.

Within ninety (90) days of the decision to permanently cease operations, an updated final Reclamation Plan and cost estimate must be submitted to ADNR for approval. The updated plan must address current conditions at the site.

Permanent reclamation of individual facilities must be implemented and completed in accordance with the conditions of this Reclamation Plan Approval.

Permanent reclamation of a facility will be complete when the following criteria are met:

- All terms and conditions of the current Reclamation Plan Approval have been met;
- The performance standards under Alaska Administrative Code, Title 11 (Natural Resources) and Chapter 97 (Mining Reclamation) Article 2 (Reclamation Performance Standards) have been achieved.

**Erosion Standard.** Erosion features which form in areas that have been recontoured and covered with topsoil must be stabilized if they affect the long-term stability of the reclaimed area or may result in additional erosion or sedimentation. Actions to stabilize erosion features shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes disturbance to adjacent areas. Subsequent inspections shall be completed to verify that rills and gullies do not persist. If chronic or long-term erosion features are identified, the cause of the reoccurring erosion shall be identified and remediated.

**Inspection and Entry.** The Permittee shall allow authorized representatives of ADNR to enter into and upon the area and facilities covered under this plan approval at all reasonable times without notice for the purpose of inspecting the area and activities covered under this plan approval. Said inspections shall be subject to such safety and security procedures as the Permittee may from time to time adopt.

At any time upon ADNR's written request, the Permittee shall promptly make any and all records, documents, or other information required to be kept or maintained by law, regulation, ordinance, or this reclamation plan approval available to ADNR for inspection and copying as reasonably required by ADNR to determine the Permittee is in compliance with local, state, and federal laws applicable to the operations authorized under this plan approval.

**Violations.** This authorization is revocable immediately upon violation of any of its terms, conditions, stipulations, nonpayment of fees, or upon failure to comply with any other applicable laws, statutes and regulations (federal and state).

**Assignment.** This plan approval may be transferred or assigned with prior written approval from ADNR. ADNR will only disapprove a transfer with good cause and will evaluate whether the proposed assignee (1) is qualified to acquire all permits and authorizations necessary to conduct operations under the plan; (2) is on notice of default or subject to an enforcement action by any state agency on any lease, reclamation bond, or other permit within the state. Any assignee must commit in writing to be bound by this plan approval to the same extent as the Permittee, and must provide to ADNR all proofs of insurance, bonds, or undertakings required by this plan approval. Transfer of this plan approval may, at ADNR's discretion, require bond review and update.

**Other Authorizations.** The issuance of this authorization does not alleviate the necessity of the Permittee to obtain authorizations required by other agencies for this activity. The issuance of this authorizations does **not** constitute the issuance of a Plan of Operations Approval.

**Change of Address.** Any change of address must be submitted in writing to the Authorized Officer.

**Modifications.** Any request for modification of the Reclamation Plan and any other affected permits or authorizations must be made by written application to ADNR. Amendments to these plans may, at the discretion of ADNR, require bond review and update.

**Statutes and Regulations.** This plan approval is subject to all applicable state and federal statutes, including state, federal, and any local statutes and ordinances in effect on the effective date of this plan approval, new statutes, regulations, and ordinances enacted or promulgated after said effective date, and changes to existing statutes and regulations made after the effective date, to the extent constitutionally permissible.

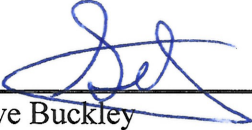
**Severability.** If any clause or provision herein contained shall be adjudicated to be invalid, it shall not affect the validity or effect of any other clause or provision of this plan approval, nor constitute any cause of action in favor of either the Permittee or ADNR as against the other.

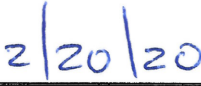
**Save Harmless.** The recipient of this Reclamation Plan Approval shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the ADNR, its agents and its employees from any and all claims, actions or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from approved activities or the Permittee's performance under this Reclamation Plan Approval.

## Project Specific Stipulations

**Permit Renewal.** At least one hundred and twenty (120) days before the expiration of this plan approval, the Permittee must submit to the department an updated reclamation plan and cost estimate for approval.

**Commencement of approved activities will be considered an acceptance by the Permittee of these stipulations.**

Approved:   
Steve Buckley  
Mining Section Chief  
Division of Mining, Land & Water  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources

  
Date

### Appeal Right and Procedure

A person affected by this decision may appeal it, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within 20 calendar days after the date of "issuance" of this decision, as defined in 11 AAC 02.040(c) and (d) and may be mailed or delivered to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to [dnr.appeals@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.appeals@alaska.gov). Under 11 AAC 02.030, appeals and requests for reconsideration filed under 11 AAC 02 must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(1)(F), which has been set at \$200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160 (a) and (b).

This decision takes effect immediately. If no appeal is filed by the appeal deadline, this decision becomes a final administrative order and decision of the department on the 31st calendar day after issuance. An eligible person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.