



PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF AN ALASKA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (APDES) INDIVIDUAL PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

A Fact Sheet and associated documents are available for review. For inquiries or to request copies of documents contact:

DEC Contact: Tim Pilon
610 University Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 451-2136
tim.pilon@alaska.gov

Draft Permit Public Notice Period: Start: **February 27, 2013**
End: **April 12, 2013**

Public Hearing Information: **April 1, 2013, 6 to 8 pm**
Centennial Hall, Hammond Room

Permit Number: AK0043206

Applicant: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company
Greens Creek Mine
18 Miles Southwest of Juneau, AK
P.O. Box 32199
Juneau, AK 99803

Proposed Project and Location:

The Greens Creek Mine is a lead, zinc, silver, and gold mine and mill located on the northwest portion of Admiralty Island approximately 18 miles southwest of Juneau, Alaska. The mine and mill are owned and operated by the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company (HGCMC). The facility has been in operation since 1989 with a period of temporary shutdown between April 1993 and 1996. At an average production rate of 2,200 to 2,400 tons of ore per day, HGCMC predicts an additional 10 years mine life.

The mine facilities encompass approximately 273 acres in the Admiralty National Monument.

The Admiralty Island National Monument is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The mine facilities are located in the Greens Creek, Zinc Creek, Cannery Creek and Tributary Creek drainages. These creeks flow into Hawk Inlet. Major site facilities include the underground mine, waste rock storage areas, mill, tailings storage facility, and port facilities (Hawk Inlet terminal), and roads connecting these components.

The proposed permit allows HGCMC to discharge treated wastewater into the Hawk Inlet through outfall 002 and limits the maximum flow from outfall 002 to 4.6 million gallons per day. The specific sources of wastewater contributing to outfall 002 include the underground mine; process water from the mill; sanitary wastes; and storm water, seepage, and runoff from waste rock and tailings storage areas.

The proposed permit authorizes a rectangular mixing zone in Hawk Inlet for outfall 002. The mixing zone is a rectangular box shape extending from the inlet floor to the water surface. It has a maximum width of 165 feet centered along the 160 feet long diffuser, and it extends 40 feet perpendicular to either side of the diffuser for a total length of 80 feet.

Tentative Determination:

DEC has tentatively determined to reissue a discharge permit to the above listed applicant.

Public Comments:

Written comments on the APDES draft permit must be submitted within 45 days of the issuance of this public notice. Please direct written comments and requests to the attention of Tim Pilon at the address or email identified above. All comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the commenter and a concise statement of comment on the permit conditions and the relevant facts upon which the comment is based. Comments of either support or concern that are directed at specific, cited permit requirements are appreciated. Mailed comments and requests must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

DEC will consider all comments when making the final decision, and will respond to received comments in a Response to Comments document issued when DEC issues a final permit. The Response to Comments will be made available to the public.

Any interested person may submit a written request for a public hearing if no hearing has already been scheduled. A request for a public hearing shall state the nature of the issues to be raised, as well as the requester's name, address and telephone number. DEC will hold a public hearing whenever DEC finds, on the basis of requests, a significant degree of public interest in a draft permit. DEC may also hold a public hearing if a hearing might clarify one or more issues involved in a permit decision or for other good reason in DEC's discretion.

DEC will transmit the final permit, fact sheet, and Response to Comments to anyone who provided comments during the public review period or requested to be notified of DEC final decision.

**DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS:
April 12, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. ADT**

Administrative Record:

The APDES draft permit, fact sheet, permit application, and associated documents are available for public review at the DEC offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. Please contact the office of your choice to arrange for hard copies of the documents to be available for your review.

555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-6285

610 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-451-2100

410 Willoughby Avenue, Ste. 303
Juneau, AK 99811
907-465-5300

If you would like further information or to see any additional supporting technical documents, contact Tim Pilon.

The documents are also accessible from the DEC website at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>

To receive email notifications about the APDES Program, including when permits are available to review, follow the link below to join the APDES email list.

http://dec.alaska.gov/water/npdes/npdes_email_list.htm

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact Deborah Pock at (907) 269-0291 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 30 days of publication of this notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.