



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER

Mining Section
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12/12/2014

Subject: Update on Offshore Activities in the Nome Region

Lease Tract Owners,

During 2015, consistent with AS 38.05.250, 11 AAC 86.150 and the terms of your offshore mining lease(s), offshore mining activity in Norton Sound will be authorized pursuant to a plan of operations (11 AAC 86.800) rather than a permit (11 AAC 96.010). The application for the plan of operations approval will still be the Application for Permits to Mine in Alaska (APMA), but DNR will only accept them from the offshore mining lessees. DNR will no longer process APMA's submitted by operators planning to mine within the boundaries of offshore mining lease tracts unless the operator is also the owner of the lease tract(s). The plan of operations will encompass all proposed mining activities within the lease tract(s), including proposed activities of all individual operators mining within the lease tract(s).

The owners of lease tracts need to fill out an APMA for a plan of operation approval that includes the requirements 1 – 14 of subsection 'b' of 11 AAC 86.800. Owners will manage and be accountable for all of the mining activities that occur on their lease(s) under a single approved plan of operations.

By properly filling out the attached 2015 APMA forms for a plan of operation and ensuring that the application and an attached narrative addresses requirements 1 – 14, as applicable, of subsection b of 11 AAC 86.800, owners may receive DNR approval for mining activities on their leases.

11 AAC 86.800. Plan of operations, subsection (b)

(b) The plan must show how the operator proposes to comply with performance standards, stipulations, or conditions applicable to the prospecting permit or lease. The proposed plan of operations must address the areas to be mined, location and design of settling ponds, tailings disposal, overburden storage, permanent or temporary diversions of water, access routes, reclamation plans, and other actions necessary to conduct the operation. The plan must include statements and maps or drawings setting out the following, as applicable:

- (1) the sequence, schedule, and duration of the proposed operations; (Box #8 of APMA)
- (2) size and purpose of the operations; (Box #17 of APMA)
- (3) number of pieces of equipment and people working on the project; (Box #5 & #14 of APMA)

(4) amount of material to be handled, processed, or removed, and how the material will be processed; (Box #17 of APMA)

(5) method of tailings disposal; (Narrative)

(6) area of timber to be cleared, amount to be used, and clearing methods; (Not Applicable)

(7) overland access routes to be used, and whether new roads, landing strips, or other new transportation facilities will be needed; (Box #16 of APMA)

(8) reclamation that will be carried out, including a timetable for each step in the reclamation, an estimate of the cost, and a description of the measures to ensure that all debris is disposed of in a sound manner; (Box #30 of APMA, other methods can be described in narrative)

(9) the actions to be taken to avoid or minimize detrimental effects on fish and wildlife and their habitats; (Narrative)

(10) amount and source of water to be used; (Box #17 and #23 of APMA)

(11) location and size of camp facilities; (Box #20 of APMA for every operator)

(12) any site the operator wants the division to close to public access in order to protect public safety or to prevent unreasonable interference with the rights of the operator; (Not Applicable)

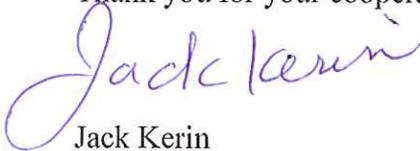
(13) how the operator's plans for compliance with other applicable laws and regulations, including size and location of required facilities or improvements, will affect resources under the jurisdiction of the department; and (Narrative and Box #25 of APMA)

(14) any additional information required by the director to assist in evaluating the proposed plan of operations. (Narrative)

Owners anticipating operators to conduct under ice mining need to submit an APMA as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact DNR Mining Staff at (907)-458-6896 or by email at dnr.fbx.mining@alaska.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation,



Jack Kerin
Geologist