

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water

TO: Tom Irwin, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

DATE: March 30, 2004

THRU: Bob Loeffler, Director
Division of Mining, Land & Water

THRU: Kerwin Krause
Mining Section

TELEPHONE NO: 269-8595

THRU: Bruce Phelps, Acting Chief
Resource Assessment & Development Section

FROM: Pandora Willingham
Natural Resource Specialist

SUBJECT: Commissioner's Finding
Mineral Closing Orders

The Division of Mining, Land and Water requests approval of the attached mineral closing orders to close approximately 19,300 acres of subsurface estate within the Snake River and Appel II staking areas. The areas will be offered for staking under the Remote Recreational Cabin Sites program. Legislative approval is not required for this action under AS 38.05.300 because the mineral closing orders are for a land disposal.

The staking areas will be closed to mineral entry and location in accordance with AS 38.05.185 for a land disposal. The staking areas need to be closed to avoid potential conflicts with surface and subsurface use of the land. Mining activity would be incompatible with the past, current and proposed surface uses for land disposals in these areas. To allow mineral location could create serious conflicts between surface and potential subsurface users.

The land does not contain any known mineral deposits and has not been selected for mineral values. There are no state mining claims within the project boundaries.

Public notice under AS 38.05.945 was completed on February 20, 2004. No objections or adverse comments were received during the response period regarding the mineral closing order from the public or agencies that were notified of the proposed action.

The Division of Mining, Land and Water recommends approval of this mineral closure. Attached for your reference is a copy of the Final Finding and Decision for the 2004 offering.