



## FEDERAL PERMITS REQUIRED FOR YOUR MINING ACTIVITIES

### U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCIES

Please be advised that all mining operations using or producing any significant amount of water are subject to the EPA Clean Water Act, and will require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to discharge any water into a stream, river, or other natural body of water. Your mining operation should be planned so that you will have zero discharge of water back into the stream (creek, lake, etc.), if it is at all possible. Streams must be diverted around the mining operation in a stream by-pass and most miners attempt to achieve zero discharge by setting up a 100% recycle system. Zero discharge means no water is released back into the stream either through a pipe, an overflow, by pumping, or by visible seepage through a dam or tailings filter. Underground flow or seepage through a dam or berm, **will be considered a discharge** if the water quality in the stream is affected as it flows past your mining operation. If groundwater from your cut and surface run-off force you to have a discharge from your settling ponds, reasonable efforts must be made to divert the water around the operation to minimize your discharge ... **and under no circumstances can you be adding make-up water if you are having a discharge.**

**The EPA may consider the discharge of water onto “wetlands” to be a “discharge into the waters of the United States”. Anyone considering the use of a “tundra-filter” should contact the EPA for clarification of the EPA’s policy on this practice, and request a wetlands jurisdictional determination by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

Please be aware that the NPDES Permits have specific monitoring and reporting requirements which must be performed...**or you will be in violation of the terms of your permit.** Please contact the EPA if you need assistance in determining your background sample location. If you have a discharge without a permit or your discharge exceeds the effluent limitations of your permit, you are risking a potential fine of tens of thousands of dollars per day. The EPA is now requiring suction dredge operations to obtain a NPDES Permit. Suction dredges with an intake nozzle size greater than 4 to 10 inches can be covered under the new “General Permit”. The EPA should be contacted to determine if your mining operation will require this permit. **EPA MAY BE ISSUING PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE GENERAL PERMIT. THESE MAY AFFECT BOTH SUCTION DREDGE AND MECHANIZED OPERATIONS.** Contact EPA Region 10, Attn: Jeanette Carriveau, 1200 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101 (1-800-424-4372 Extension 1214).

### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**Any mining activity using mechanized equipment that takes place on what is classified as “wetlands” by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.** “Wetlands” includes all saturated soils; and this includes most permafrost soils. If your operation will impact wetlands, or if you are not sure of the classification of your ground, you should apply for a U.S. Army Corps Permit or request a “jurisdictional determination. Any new access constructed across “wetlands” (even within your claim block) may require a “404” Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Operation of suction dredges with an intake nozzle size of 4 to 10 inches can now be authorized by the Corps under their new General Permit 88-02N. For placer mining activities within the State of Alaska, please contact the Corps to obtain a copy of the new General Permit. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 6898, Anchorage, AK 99506; Attn: Permit Review Section, (1-800-478-2712 from within Alaska or 907-753-2712 from outside Alaska).

FEDERAL PERMITS REQUIRED  
FOR YOUR MINING ACTIVITIES (continued)

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)**

If you are planning to camp on federal land in conjunction with suction dredge activity on a state navigable river, you will need to submit an application for a Land Use Permit for long term camping to the appropriate BLM office. There is a \$100.00 annual rental fee for each site, and these camps are subject to bonding to ensure the fulfillment of the terms and conditions of the land use authorization. For the Fortymile River Wild and Scenic River Corridor, and the Seventymile River, please contact: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Steese/White Mountains District, Tok Field Office, P.O. Box 309, Tok, Alaska 99780 (1-907-883-5121).