



NOTICE OF REVIEW

APDES Preliminary Draft Permit

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

NOTICE OF REVIEW OF AN
ALASKA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (APDES)
PRELIMINARY DRAFT PERMIT
TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEC has prepared an APDES preliminary draft permit for Hecla Greens Creek Mine. The Preliminary Draft Permit and associated documents are available to the applicant for a 10-day review. Following the close of the 10-day applicant review period, DEC will prepare a draft permit and fact sheet for a formal 30-day public review period. Public comments will be accepted during the formal 30-day review period. You can access the documents on DEC's Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program webpage at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>

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Preliminary Draft Permit Review:
Start: February 1, 2013
End: February 14, 2013

Permit No.: 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.

Administrative Record:

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

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If you would like 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>

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 review, please contact Deborah Pock at (907) 269-0291 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 10 days of publication of this notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.