

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION MINING, LAND, AND WATER**

**MINERAL ORDER NO. 1179**

  X   **Closing Lands to Mineral Location**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Opening Lands to Mineral Location**

- I. Name of Mineral Order: Nome Nearshore Tide and Submerged Lands Lease Area
- II. Reason for Mineral Order: See attached Commissioner's Finding.
- III. Authority: AS 38.05.185 and AS 38.05.300(a).
- IV. Location and Legal Description: This mineral closure will extend approximately 16.5 miles along the Nome coastline, from the east section line of section 3, T12S, R33W KRM to the west section line of section 18, T11S, R35W KRM. The closure will also extend from mean high tide for 1/2 mile or 2,640 feet seaward. See the attached map for reference.
- V. Mineral Closing: This mineral order is subject to valid existing rights and is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.05.185 and AS 38.05.300 to the Department of Natural Resources. In accordance with AS 38.05.185(a), I find that the best interests of the State of Alaska and its residents are served by closure of the land described in this order to mineral location under the mining laws of the State of Alaska. The above-described lands are hereby closed to location under the locatable mineral and mining laws of the State of Alaska.

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_

Brent Goodrum, Director  
Division of Mining, Land & Water

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark D. Myers, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION MINING, LAND AND WATER**

**ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING  
MINERAL ORDER 1179**

**NOME NEARSHORE TIDE AND SUBMERGED LANDS LEASE SALE AREA**

The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to close to mineral location approximately 5,015 acres of state tide and submerged land located along the shoreline near the City of Nome, Alaska. The proposed mineral order will begin at the line of mean high tide and extend seaward or offshore for a distance of ½ mile or 2,640 feet. The proposed area is depicted on the attached map. The purpose of the mineral order is to close lands to mineral location so that they will continue to be available for competitive mineral leasing in future lease sales.

The Nome Nearshore Tide and Submerged Lands Lease Sale Area has been closed to mineral location since the adoption of Mineral Order 1093 in August 2009. Mineral Order 1093 will expire in January 2016 for the lease sale areas. The primary purpose for MO 1093 was to close the area to mineral location in order to provide the state with the opportunity to offer the land in a competitive lease sale. The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining Land and Water held a successful lease sale for the mineral rights for offshore Nome, Alaska in 2011. All of the lease parcels that were offered received bids, but leases on a few of these tracts have not yet been issued. There were also existing leases within the sale area. Some of the longstanding and recent leases are due to expire unless renewed. The leases not issued from the 2011 mining lease sale and any expiration of existing leases on the tide and submerged lands will leave large areas near the beach open to upland mineral location should this order not be adopted.

Under AS 38.05.275(a) and 11 AAC 86.135(c) a mining location on the uplands can extend into the tide and submerged lands as long as two mining location corners are at or above mean high tide. The maximum distance such mining locations could extend seaward is 1/2 mile, in the case of a quarter section MTRSC location. Closing the offshore for 1/2 mile seaward from mean high tide will eliminate the possibility of mineral locations within that half mile zone which will allow the department to continue to manage the mineral estate within Nome Nearshore Tide and Submerged Lands Lease Sale Area only for competitive mineral leasing under AS 38.05.250. Acreage not leased will remain closed so that it may be offered in future lease sales.

For the above reasons, it has been determined to be in the best interest of the state to continue the practice of closing the approximately 5,015 acres of land managed as the Nome Nearshore Tide and Submerged Lands Lease Sale Area to mineral location.

Concur: \_\_\_\_\_

Brent Goodrum, Director  
Division of Mining, Land & Water

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark D. Myers, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date