



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
Mining Section
Northern Office

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12/12/2014

Subject: Update on Offshore Activities in the Nome Region

Operators,

During 2015, 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 will only be accepted by DNR from the lease tract or mining claim owner(s). The plan of operations will encompass all proposed mining activities for each individual operator working within the boundaries of lease tracts and tide and submerged land mining claims. This will reduce the number of APMAs submitted each year and reduce the amount of paperwork required by DNR from operators. It should also simplify the administrative process for DNR and reduce the number of applications reviewed by other agencies.

DNR permits issued during 2014 to offshore owners and operators will expire on December 31, 2014. The owners of lease tracts and tideland mining claims may submit to DNR an APMA for a plan of operations approval that includes the requirements 1 – 14, as applicable, of subsection 'b' of 11 AAC 86.800. Owners will manage and be accountable for all of the mining activities that occur on their leases or tideland mining claims under a single DNR approved plan of operations.

Operators need to ensure that owners have the proper information needed to complete the lease or claim owner's APMA. 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,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Kerin".

Jack Kerin
Geologist