



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Environmental
Conservation

Division of Water
Engineering Support and Plan Review

dec.alaska.gov
septic.alaska.gov

January 23, 2024

Plan Tracking No.: PA-29073

sprice@highgoldmining.com

**RE: Johnson Tract Mining Camp
Three 1530 Gallon Septic Tanks and Four 1110 ft² Soil Absorption Beds
Design Flow – 3500 gpd
Conditional Final Approval to Operate**

Mr. Price:

On 10/23/2023, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC or Department) received a submittal requesting approval to operate for the above-referenced project that was submitted on your behalf by Maria Sanders, P.E. with RECON LLC. This project received conditional construction approval on June 29, 2022. The submitted information was reviewed in accordance with the Wastewater Disposal Regulations 18 AAC 72 and conditional **final approval to operate is granted.**

Project Description

The approved project involved installing three 1530 gallon infiltrator tanks, four 1110 ft² drain fields and associated piping. The system serves a maximum of 100 seasonal employees from approximately July through October and has a design flow of 3500 gallons per day. Wastewater flows from the mess hall and kitchen to a fitting designed to split the flow to two septic tanks plumbed in parallel. The effluent from the tanks recombines and flows to the third tank for final settling before flowing by gravity through a distribution box to the four drain fields. The drain field's laterals contain 5 rows of Infiltrator chambers that run the length of each field.

Due to site constraints, the system does not have the minimum cover required for frost protection and the system may not function during cold periods.

Water is supplied by an onsite public water well.

Final Approval to Operate

The Department grants **final approval to operate** for this project subject to the following conditions:

1. An effluent sample must be taken from the third septic tank during the month of August and tested for nitrate and nitrite. The results of the sample must be submitted to the Department.

Disclaimers

Approval of submitted plans is not approval of omissions or oversights by this office or noncompliance with any applicable regulation. Modifications to the system that affect discharge location, capacity, flow, operation, compliance, major system components, or the connection of additional buildings requires ADEC approval prior to

implementation. The Department's operational approval does not guarantee correctness or the functionality of the design, or waive the owner's responsibility for continued compliance with state regulations.

This approval is contingent upon your receipt of any other state, federal, or local authorizations which are required for your project. This approval does not imply the granting of additional authorizations nor obligate any state, federal, or local regulatory body to grant required authorizations.

Informal Reviews and Adjudicatory Hearings

A person authorized under a provision of 18 AAC 15 may request an informal review of a contested decision by the Division Director in accordance with 18 AAC 15.185 and/or an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 18 AAC 15.195 – 18 AAC 15.340. See DEC's "Appeal a DEC Decision" web page <https://dec.alaska.gov/commish/review-guidance/> for access to the required forms and guidance on the appeal process. Please provide a courtesy copy of the adjudicatory hearing request in an electronic format to the parties required to be served under 18 AAC 15.200. Requests must be submitted no later than the deadline specified in 18 AAC 15.

If you have questions please contact me at (907) 262-3405 or by e-mail at david.wilfong@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

David Wilfong

cc: Maria Sanders