

**NIBLACK  
CONSTRUCTION/EXPLORATION PROJECT**

**APPLICATION  
FOR  
DEPARTMENT OF ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMIT  
FILED IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
NATIONWIDE PERMIT POA-2006-511-D**

**January, 2007**

**Prepared for:  
Niblack Mining Corporation**

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NIBLACK MINING CORPORATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report is prepared and submitted by RTR Resource Management, Inc on behalf of Niblack Mining Corporation (NMC) as technical support to ENG Form 4345, Application for United States (U.S.) Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) 404 Permit to authorize activities in, or affecting, navigable waters of the U.S. and the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with construction and operation of a marine terminal for the Niblack Exploration Project (Project). This 404 Permit is specific to the placement of fill associated with the construction of a mooring facility and a barge and landing craft ramp in the intertidal zone; no other fill activities to waters of the U.S. are required or proposed for this project.

The Project is in the preliminary exploration phase and requires the construction of an underground access tunnel to further evaluate the potential of an economic mineral resource within the project boundaries. The development of the proposed marine terminal is critical to the logistical support and safety required to advance the exploration effort. The Project is located approximately 30 miles southwest of Ketchikan, in Southeast Alaska (Sheet 1). The Project lands are under the full control of NMC.

Sheets 1 through 5, pertaining to the permit application, are provided in Appendix A. Sheets 2, 3 and 4 show the general facilities arrangement and proposed areas of disturbance for the floating barge mancamp and barge landing facility. Sheet 2 shows the proposed locations for all exploration activities including wetlands areas, land application areas, temporary and permanent construction rock storage sites, roads, and water treatment facilities. No wetlands or waters of the U.S. would be impacted as a result of the surface facilities. About 1.03 total acres of intertidal area would be affected by the barge landing area and floating mancamp (Figure 3). Only 0.14 acres would be impacted by dredge or fill activities. This is for the actual barge landing area. Sheets 3 through 5 are plans and sections of the proposed marine terminal facilities.

A copy of the permit application form can be found in Appendix B.

### 1.1 Applicant:

Niblack Mining Corporation  
Paddy Nicol, President  
Suite 615 – 800 West Pender St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V63 2V6

### 1.2 Project Description

The NMC Property is in the initial stages of construction and underground exploration. The main focus of the program is the evaluation of the down-dip extension of a poly-metallic resource by continued diamond drilling from underground drill platforms. The underground drill

platforms will be accessed from 5,000 total feet of new underground workings that are being planned from a single adit entry level. The drift will be driven at about the 390 ft. elevation.

All surface disturbances including roads, characterization rock storage areas, portal, and ancillary facilities, will be confined to patented ground outside of delineated jurisdictional ground as defined in a recent study (Appendix C). The work camp will be located off-shore in a floating barge facility.

### 1.3 General Location

The NMC property is located on Prince of Wales Island in south-eastern Alaska (Sheet 1). The claims lie to the south of Niblack Anchorage, a protected bay in Moira Sound (Sheet 2). The camp sits at the head of the Anchorage above a small tidal flat. The property is currently accessed by floatplane, boat, barge and helicopter.

The terrain is mountainous and rugged with steep to moderate slopes. Elevations range from sea level to peaks of 2600 feet and greater. Lookout Mountain (elevation 2300 ft.) where the proposed underground drift will be constructed, is the primary exploration target and must be evaluated via underground access.

Slopes are covered with temperate rain forest vegetation. Most of the planned surface facilities will be screened from the bay by this dense forest cover. The forest gives way to sparse vegetation only at the highest elevations, generally above 1800 feet. Temperatures are moderate and rainfall is high. The annual average precipitation is approximately 190 inches. Winter brings mixed snow and rain with January temperatures near the freezing point.

### 1.4 Site Maps

Sheet 1 shows the general location of the overall project in Southeast Alaska. The project is located about 30 miles southwest of Ketchikan, Alaska. The property is comprised of 17 patented (Fee) claims, 101 lode claims, and two State of Alaska Tideland claims. All planned activities are located on Fee land.

Sheet 2 presents a general facilities site map of the planned facility showing the following features:

- Proposed exploration development drift (nominal 14.5 ft. wide and 13 ft. in height)
- Two development rock stockpile area locations (potentially acid-generating; non acid-generating sites)
- Main access road (already constructed)
- Administration/operating area
- Topsoil stockpile locations (proposed)
- Laydown and storage areas (proposed)
- Explosives magazine (proposed)
- Fuel storage and maintenance areas (proposed)

- Engineered storm water management facilities (proposed)
- Locations and names of receiving water

In total, about 11.5 acres of patented land would be disturbed for all existing and proposed facilities. About 8 acres would be new disturbance. The largest single disturbance acreage is the existing road, which comprises 3.5 acres. The total area for the two development rock storage sites is about 4 acres. These sites are not located in wetlands or waters of the U.S. The overall project is described in detail in the document: *Niblack Underground Construction and Exploration Plan of Operations, NMC, January, 2007*. The potential acid-generating development rock stockpile site is temporary, as this material would be located back underground at final closure.

### 1.5 Site Facilities and Construction Activities

The main focus of this initial underground construction and exploration program is to develop drilling platforms from the drift. These platforms are closer to the main areas of continued mineralization at depth. These zones are situated at depths greater than can be reliably accessed from surface drilling. In addition, the underground workings will progress through the mineralized zone during the development program, thereby allowing a more detailed geological evaluation of the system, and will allow NMC to collect a 500 ton “representative” bulk sample for metallurgical testing. The development of these underground drill platforms requires the following facilities.

#### **Underground Adit**

The proposed underground workings will be collared at the 390 foot elevation on the North Slope of Lookout Mountain. This site is located above the existing camp facilities at the head of Niblack Anchorage. A road has been constructed to connect the collar location of the adit with the camp and tidewater, as shown on Sheet 2. Appropriate and necessary environmental permitting preceded this construction activity including a ACOE Nationwide Permit (POA-2006 -511-D) and ADNR Land Use Permit (LAS #25727).

Underground water management and storm water controls by NMC for underground activities will be combined and involve a sequence of BMPs and water treatment scenarios at the site which include:

- Excavation water requiring management or discharge will be minimized to the extent feasible by grouting, plugging, and separation (clean vs. dirty water).
- Excavation water requiring management will be treated at the construction project via settling sumps (underground), addition of flocculants in the pond, and skimmers as necessary to remove sediments and any hydrocarbons in the water.

- Excavation water will also be put to beneficial use to the maximum extent feasible primarily as make up water for fire protection, road watering, etc., or recycled to the drilling process for construction excavation.
- A portion of the excess construction-related water requiring management will be directed to the permitted land dispersion system for application by “drip emitters” (Sheet 2).
- Excavation dewatering water that cannot be put to beneficial use, recycled, and will be routed into the storm water pond management system, then land applied for optimum infiltration/dispersion.

In order to provide safe and efficient access as the underground development proceeds, remuck stations will be constructed at 500 ft. intervals. Forced air fans will also be installed for ventilation, in order to meet the Mine Safety and Health Act (MSHA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health and environmental standards.

### **Development Rock Stockpiles**

Two development rock stockpiles will be constructed with waste rock removed from the access tunnel. Development rock characterized as potentially acid generating (PAG) will be segregated and temporary stored at the location shown as “ARD Waste Disposal Area” (Sheet 3). This is a rock quarry site, which is contained from a drainage standpoint and ideal for temporary storage. The area will involve a limestone foundation base and HDPE liner. It will also be covered. Up to 500 tons of “ore” (commercial) material will be shipped off-site for the purpose of metallurgical testing. At final closure, this material (about 15,000 yds<sup>3</sup>) will be stored back underground.

Non-acid generating material (NAG), about 46,600 yds<sup>3</sup>, will be stockpiled in the facility labeled ‘Non-Acid Generating Waste Disposal Area’. Storm water runoff from these two facilities will be collected and routed either to BMPs, such as dispersion terraces and silt fences constructed down-gradient and then into the heavily forested area, or to the storm water detention pond for treatment prior to release. No fill to jurisdictional wetlands or discharges to waters of the U.S. are planned.

### **Access Road**

An access road for the site has been constructed. Silt fences, dispersion terraces, and infiltration excavations have been installed to manage water quality through the winter season. The alignment for the temporary road to the old camp, portal and staging area is also shown in Sheet 2. The road is at a gradient of up to 8% with a 16 foot wide running surface. Total estimated length of the road is 5000 feet. Where appropriate, culverts were installed at minor drainage locations, and Camp Creek was crossed by a single span bridge as shown. Aside from the small staging area near the shore, the road will be located back from the beach in heavily forested areas. Minimal visual evidence of the road is apparent from Niblack Anchorage. An interim BMP program has already been installed at the site, as previously described.

The following construction techniques were, and are currently being employed:

- All roads are constructed on properly surveyed alignment and grades.
- All road cross culverts were installed at the time of road construction.
- Equipment use in natural drainage channels was and will be held to an absolute minimum.
- Highly erosive soils are avoided, where practicable.
- Straw bale dams with bale spills, were placed parallel to fill slopes to provide a sediment barrier from road construction activities. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, who is experienced with highway and logging road construction on Prince of Wales Island, recommended straw bale dams be installed instead of the more typical slash wind rows. These installations have been found to be more effective for the significant rain events typical of the area. NMC is following their direction where wind rows do not accomplish water management objectives.
- Cut-and-fill slopes have been stabilized by reducing their angle to a 2H:IV, where practicable.
- Permanent erosion control measures have been constructed to last the life of the project, where practicable. Erosion control measures include straw bale dams with bale spills, shot rock ditch blocks, and drainage ditches that divert flow into areas of undisturbed forest floor. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has also recommended certain control measures as effective for containing sediment. The agency's input was incorporated in the plan.
- A 50 ft. setback or buffer will be maintained from all perennial streams (except at crossings).
- Stormwater flows and drainage will be diverted or dispersed (dispersion terraces/silt fencing) so as to maintain instream flows for anadromous fish.
- The road surface was covered with up to 12 inches of shot rock to reduce erosional features.

No fill or dredging occurred in jurisdiction wetlands as part of the road construction project.

### **Floating Camp and Mooring Facilities**

NMC will use a fully permitted 24-man floating camp for housing personal. The camp will include an ADEC-approved wastewater treatment system and drinking water plant. The barge

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camp will be secured to the dock facility with shore access provide by a hinged walkway. NMC is currently applying for all required permits not already in place.

The mooring facility will consist of an elevated walkway secured to two sets of pilings. The mooring facility will be designed to facilitate minimal disturbance of areas below high tide levels. To protect eelgrass habitat in the lower intertidal areas, siting will involve avoidance of this habitat to the extent possible. Also, propulsion systems will not be used on landing craft, tugs, self-propelled barges or other water craft using the barge landing site when tidal stage is less than half (7.6 ft. mean lower low water). A cross-section of the proposed facility is provided in Sheet 5

Minor supply needs and emergency requirements will be provided by regular floatplane, boat and/or helicopter. Deliveries will be made to the mancamp on an as needed basis.

### **Barge and Landing Craft Ramp**

This barge and landing craft ramp is required to support the exploration activities at the Niblack Project. The barge and landing craft ramp will consist of a 10-foot high bulkhead constructed from cement blocks at the toe of the facility, which will then be backfilled with quarried rock to a 5% grade back to the access road. The structure will be approximately 24 feet wide and have an overall length of approximately 60 feet. This facility will be constructed between the 0 elevation contour and the 17 foot contour, just above the mean high water mark of 14.5 feet for this area. It is estimated that approximately 500 yards of fill in the intertidal zone will be required to construct the facility. The location of the proposed ramp is shown on Sheet 3. A cross-section of the proposed facility is shown on Sheet 4.

The mooring facility and this ramp are the focus of this 404 permit modification application. No other fill activities will occur in waters of the U.S.

### **Portal Platform – Ancillary Facilities**

The portal excavation platform will be completed to provide for the entrance to the underground, and also a level working area of sufficient size to allow for equipment repair and other uses such as shop/lunchroom, diesel generating facilities, ventilation equipment and a lay down area for supplies will also be constructed at the portal. The generator will power underground equipment, ventilation fans and auxiliary lighting. This facility is not located in delineated wetlands.

### **Fuel Storage**

A fuel storage facility will be installed as shown on Sheet 3. Estimated daily fuel consumption for the underground work is 1,000 gallons of diesel per day. Based on a 14-day delivery schedule and a 7-day safety margin, on-site storage of 21,000 gallons will be required. An additional 1,000 gallons (maximum) of gasoline will be stored on site for service vehicles. NMC has prepared a Spill Contingency Plan for the site. This includes provisions for fuel containment, emergency response, minimum equipment, and regular emergency response

training for all employees. The plan is posted on-site, and the response program is part of all new-hire and regular management training. This facility is not located in delineated wetlands.

### **Magazine Locations**

A potential location for a powder magazine located near the portal. Subject to further investigation, an alternate site may be proposed. Any such site will be located at a safe distance from the camp location. Storage sites would meet all Mine Safety Health Act (MSHA) requirements. This facility is not located in delineated wetlands.

Using a 30-day re-supply cycle, the maximum amount of explosives in the magazine at any one time is estimated at:

- 7,000 pounds of water gel explosives
- 700 pounds of stick powder
- 500 pounds of nonel
- 1,000 feet of detonating cord

### **Equipment**

An underground water and Explosives Management Plan has been prepared for the project. This program addresses the use of ANFO, water gels, and emulsions to maintain existing water quality conditions at the site. It is included in a separate document: *Niblack Lookout Unit Consolidated Construction/Exploration Project Temporary Excavation Dewatering General Permit (2004DB0101) Application Waste Water Management Permit Application, RTR, January, 2007*. Surface equipment available onsite includes: two back-hoes, a 3 cubic yard front end loader, a single boom tracked mounted drill, a heavy duty pickup, and two 4-wheeled ATVs. Two diesel generators, one at the portal and a second at the mancamp, will also be located at the site. A third backup generator will also be available at the minesite.

## 2.0 PROJECT PURPOSE

The COE regulates activities in the nation's waters, including the protection and utilization of the water resources. The COE 404 Permit is authorized by the following laws:

- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), which prohibits the obstruction or alteration of navigable water of the U.S. without a permit.
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which restricts discharges into aquatic areas where less environmentally damaging, practicable alternatives exist.
- Section 301 of the Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. without a permit.
- Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1413) which authorized the COE to issue permits for the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of dumping it into ocean waters.

The only component of the NMC Project that requires review and permitting under the COE 404 permit process is the proposed development of the marine terminal facility which includes mooring dolphins and a barge and landing craft ramp. This requires approximately 500 yards of fill in the intertidal zone.

The facility is needed for safe personnel access. This proposed marine barge landing facility and dock is also needed to ensure the safe and reliable off-loading of industrial equipment required to develop the underground workings which are needed to advance the delineation of the mineral resource which exists within the Niblack property boundaries.

The project does not require any dredging. Fill volumes associated with the ramp are estimated at approximately 500 yards of material. Plans and sections of the proposed marine facilities are illustrated in Sheets 1 through 5 (Appendix A).

### 3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Niblack property is located on Prince of Wales Island in south-eastern Alaska. The claims lie to the south of Niblack Anchorage, a protected bay off Moira Sound. The camp sits at the head of the anchorage above a small tidal flat. The property is accessed by float plane, boat or helicopter.

The terrain is mountainous and rugged, with steep to moderate slopes. Elevations range from sea level to peaks of 2600 feet and greater. Lookout Mountain, where the proposed adit will be built, has an elevation of 2300 feet. The slopes are covered with temperate rain forest. Most of the surface facilities will be screened from the bay by this dense forest cover. The forest gives way to sparse vegetation only at the highest elevations, generally 1800 feet and above. Temperatures are moderate and rainfall is high, with annual average precipitation of approximately 174 inches. Winter brings mixed snow, rain and sunshine, with January temperatures hovering around the freezing point.

Specific vegetation, soils and hydrologic characteristics of the Project site are presented in *Niblack Project - Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination*, March 2006, (Appendix C), prepared by HDR Alaska, Inc. This includes a wetlands delineation, which shows wetlands in the main project area.

The property is underlain by a bimodal sequence of volcanic flows and volcanoclastic rocks that have undergone regional greenschist facies metamorphism. The sequence has undergone three episodes of folding. Hydrothermal alteration has been documented visually and chemically, as has gossan development. Stratabound massive sulphide mineralization is found dominantly within the felsic rocks. Gossanous gold-rich material is present in spatial association with the massive sulphide.

Gold-rich VMS mineralization is currently known to be present in four areas of the Niblack property: Dama, Lookout, Lindsay/88 and Niblack Mine. Massive pyritic VMS mineralization has also been found at other areas on surface. Sulphides are in steeply dipping lenses at Dama, Lookout and the Mine. Plunge direction is variable and may be shallow to 45°. Lens dimensions are best understood at Lookout, where maximum strike length is 1600 feet and dip extent is 800 feet, open down plunge and down dip.

Monitoring of baseline surface water quality at the Niblack Project was initiated in the fall of 1996. Six monitoring stations were identified at key drainage locations around the project area. Water quality samples were obtained from each site in October, 1996; September, 1997; April, 2005; and February, 2006. Additional baseline sampling and analyses were conducted in 2006.

Based on guidelines from the *Alaska Water Quality Criteria Manual for Toxic and Other Deleterious Organic and Inorganic Substances (2003)*, in October, 1996 naturally-occurring total and dissolved cadmium, total copper, and total and dissolved zinc were elevated at station WQ4. Total and dissolved lead concentrations were also elevated at station WQ6. Total and

dissolved zinc concentrations were elevated at station WQ2. In September, 1997 baseline total and dissolved copper concentrations exceeded Alaska water quality criteria at station WQ2 and total zinc concentrations were elevated at station WQ1. These data represent pre-project environmental baseline conditions.

NMC has advised ADEC in writing regarding naturally occurring metals concentrations that exceed applicable state water quality standards at the site (see *Niblack Lookout Unit Consolidated Construction/Exploration Project Temporary Excavation Dewatering General Permit (2004DB0101) Application/Waste Water Management Permit Application, RTR, January, 2007*). This information will be considered as part of the ongoing regulatory program underway to address this issue. It is NMC's understanding that adjustments to the current water quality standards are being considered in order to account for high naturally occurring water quality conditions and exceedences.

Trend monitoring had continued at the site through 2006 to establish high, average and low flow conditions for Camp Creek and Waterfall Creek. At the conclusion of the 2006 program, NMC has provided the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) with a summary report of monitoring results to date. This report is presented in the excavation dewatering general permit application: *Water Quality Baseline and Monitoring Plan, Knight Piesold Consulting, January, 2007*. The 2006 program results will be re-assessed at the conclusion of the season in order to consider future exploration and potential mining programs and monitoring needs.

#### **4.0 NATURE OF ACTIVITY AND REASON FOR DISCHARGE**

This application is specific to the proposed fill associated with the potential marine terminal for the Niblack Underground Construction Exploration Project. The marine terminal is required to support ongoing construction and exploration activities at the Niblack site by allowing the safe and reliable transfer of industrial equipment and supplies. Sheets included in this application, which provide a description of each of the Project components as it relates to the COE 404 permit, including the dimensions of the proposed structures. No excavations are proposed.

##### **4.1 Barge and Landing Craft Ramp**

The barge and landing craft ramp are required to off-load equipment and supplies to support the ongoing Niblack exploration project. In particular, these facilities are necessary for the development of underground workings to further delineate the ore body. This requires machinery and supplies that are unable to be safely delivered to the site in its current configuration.

##### **4.2 Mooring Facility**

A mooring facility is planned to provide safe moorage and access to a floating mancamp which will be used to support the exploration activities. The fill associated with this mooring facility is limited to the pilings that will be driven into the intertidal zone.

## 5.0 TYPES OF MATERIAL DISCHARGED AND AMOUNT

This section provides a description of the type(s) and amount of material being discharged. The fill material is non-acid generating, clean fill rock generated onsite at the rock quarry (Sheet 2, ultimate PAG storage site). Acid/base accounting analyses demonstrate that this material is not acid-generating showing a NP/MPA ratio of 15.84. The same material was used to cap the main access road. The proposed facility locations are based on the preliminary engineering designs for the Project, and the locations and configurations may be modified slightly at the time of construction. The footprint areas for total disturbance and volumes for cut and fill activities, if changed at all, are expected to be reduced from the estimated values.

### 5.1 Barge and Landing Craft Ramp

Fill material for the proposed ramp will consist of manufactured cement blocks and borrow material generated from the development of associated facilities located on the adjacent patented uplands. This involves about 0.14 acres. The total fill required to construct the barge and landing craft ramp is estimated at 500 cubic yards. The Dimensions and preliminary designs are shown on the Sheets located in Appendix A.

### 5.2 Mooring Dock

Fill associated with the mooring dock is limited to the 7 galvanized steel pilings as shown on Sheet 5. An estimate of 30 yards of fill is required to establish the pilings as a mooring facility.

## **6.0 SURFACE AREAS OF WETLANDS OR OTHER WATERS FILLED**

The construction of the marine facility is expected to involve 0.14 acres of fill in the intertidal zone. These facilities are shown on Sheets 3, 4, and 5.

## **7.0 CURRENT DISTURBANCE**

The current exploration activities have disturbed approximately 4.47 total acres of patented land outside of the jurisdictional areas as delineated in the attached study included as Appendix C. A majority of this disturbance is associated with road construction.

## **8.0 WETLANDS IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

This section contains a discussion of mitigation measures used to minimize and/or compensate for impacts to the intertidal zone. Mitigation measures will involve avoidance and minimization of adverse impacts by employing Best Management Practices (BMPs) from construction through closure, surface water management, and reclamation practices, including concurrent reclamation and re-creation of wetlands in the sedimentation ponds and borrow sites, as is practicable.

The proposed efforts and measures to minimize and reduce the impacts to the inter-tidal zone are described in this section.

### **8.1 General Construction BMPs**

BMPs controlling erosion include diversion of runoff; minimizing the size of disturbed areas; limiting the time of exposure; sediment control devices; and establishing permanent vegetative cover. The goal is to prevent erosion where possible and to retain most of the sediment on site where erosion cannot be prevented.

No creosote or ammonia cal copper zinc arsenate treated wood products would be used in constructing the dock facilities. No in-water work (pile-driving or filling) would be conducted between March 1 and June 30 to protect migrating juvenile salmon and potentially herring spawning.

Other BMPs include requiring all construction equipment to be fueled on shore except for fueling barges, and having oil spill response equipment at the site to contain any oil spills. This would include: absorbent materials, containment booms and personnel protective equipment. Runoff from the laydown and fuel storage areas (Sheet 2) would be filtered using silt fences, hay bales and/or sediment traps. The laydown area would be surfaced with clean crushed gravel to increase infiltration, and runoff will be diverted to vegetates areas wherever feasible.

### **8.2 Surface Water Runoff, Erosion and Sedimentation Control**

All surface water runoff from disturbed portions of the site will be managed with BMPs. Runoff from all disturbed areas of the site, and discharges from temporary BMPs until the disturbance is stabilized, will undergo treatment for the settling of entrained sediment prior to release into the natural receiving waters.

### **8.3 Final Reclamation and Post-Closure**

The reclamation goals include the re-establishment of habitat to mimic pre-mining conditions by development of a diversity of wildlife habitat types, such as open water, uplands and wetlands.

#### **8.3.1 Facility Shutdown, Reclamation and Wetland Development**

This section summarizes facility shutdown, reclamation, and wetland development detailed in the Plan of Operations Reclamation Plan (NMC, 2007).

### **8.3.1.1 Facility Shutdown and Decommissioning Activities**

Facility shutdown and decommissioning ultimately involves removing all components from service that are not needed to complete reclamation and post-reclamation. These activities are considered operational and removal will be accomplished prior to reclamation. The temporary PAG storage site will be relocated back underground at the cessation of the construction and test exploration program.

### **8.3.1.2 Facility Shutdown and Decommissioning Activities**

The reclamation process requires several tasks designed to fulfill the reclamation objectives of protecting human health, water resources, soil stability, vegetation, wildlife and recreation. These reclamation tasks include: 1) demolition; 2) portal closure; 3) channel stabilization; 4) fill placement and grading; 5) excavations; 6) ripping; 7) growth media placement; 8) growth media grading; 9) scarification; 10) seeding, mulching, and fertilizing; and 11) monitoring.

Project operations will, to some degree, alter the landscape and topography of the site. NMC will reclaim the site to the extent necessary to provide wildlife habitat use and minimize visual impacts. After implementing the reclamation tasks, most facilities will be returned to a configuration similar to the surrounding topography. The borrow areas and sedimentation ponds will resemble the surrounding topography with a portion converted to open water ponds and wetlands based on contouring, hydrology, and wetland species invasion. Open water will enhance wildlife habitat by creating a diversified system with alternate forms of vegetative cover. The full reclamation program is described in the document: *Plan of Operations for the Niblack Lookout Unit Underground Construction and Exploration Project, NMC, 2007*

Once the seedbed is prepared, the focus of revegetation is to mimic the pre-mining cover by establishing grasses for stabilization that allow for successional plant communities of forbs, alder, and muskeg/spruce. Grass seed mixes are proposed for the drier upland areas and wetland areas. Drier upland areas will include the mine area complex and development rock stockpiles, while much of the remaining area soils will normally be saturated resulting in wetlands.

### **8.3.1.3 Recontouring, Regrading and Revegetation**

At the end of post-closure/reclamation activities, most of the project area will be restored to mimic the pre-mining vegetative cover and returned to its pre-mining use as a wildlife habitat, recreational use and a subsistence hunting and trapping area.

## **9.0 NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS**

The proposed marine facility is to be constructed within the inter-tidal zone on lands administered by ADNR. About 0.14 acres is involved. The adjacent property above the high tide contour is privately owned and under the full control of NMC. The ADNR contact person is:

Mr. Brady Scott  
The State of Alaska  
Department of Natural Resources  
400 Willoughby Avenue  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 465-2533

**10.0 LIST OF APPROVALS RECEIVED FROM OTHER AGENCIES**

Current operating permits for the Niblack construction/exploration project are shown in the following table. Certain applications for operating permits are also currently in progress.

<b>Niblack Lookout Unit Current Permit Status</b>	
<b>PERMIT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. ADNR Tideland Permit (Temporary Mancamp)	1. Pending, Temporary Permit Application submitted in June 2006, new application to be filed for new barge/camp site.
2. ACOE Approved Jurisdictional Wetlands Determination	2. In-hand, dated 3/31/2006, valid for 5 years from issuance
3. ADEC Industrial Solid Waste Permit	3. for storage of underground excavation waste requiring special handling, Application submitted January, 2007
4. ACOE Authorization Under Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 14, Linear Transportation Projects	4. In hand, File No. POA-2006-511-D, dated 6/13/2006, valid until the NWP is modified, reissued or revoked
5. ADEC Storm water Permit	5. Notification SWPPP filed October, 2006
6. ADEC General Permit for Marine Disposal of Secondary Treated Domestic Wastewater from Housing and Kitchen Facilities Built on Shore or Floating Barges	6. In-hand, Permit #0240DB004-1132 received by mancamp owner (8/4/2006)
7. ADNR Plan of Operations/Reclamation Plan for Lookout Unit Exploration (including bonding)	7. In review by LMPT (ADNR/ADEC) filed June 26, 2006
8. EPA Spill Prevention Counter Measure Control Plan for Exploration Project	8. Plan developed; copies clearly posted onsite; plan to be sent to EPA and ADEC prior to initiating 2007 work
9. ADNR Temporary Water Use Authorization	9. In hand, TWUP #J2005-06, dated 6/17/2005 for up to 750 gallons per day from an unnamed stream for domestic use in the camp facility
10. ADNR Temporary Water Use Authorization	10. In hand, TWUP#J2005-07, dated 6/24/2005, effective 7/15/2005 for up to 11,500 gallons per day from an unnamed stream for exploration drilling use
11. ADEC Air Quality Permit for Power Generation	11. To be submitted to ADEC
12. ACMP Checklist for Exploration Construction Activities (Appendix D)	12. Submitted January 2007 (attached)
13. ADNR State Historic Preservation Office	13. Concurrence that no historic properties will be affected, (6/16/2006), valid unless other historic sites are discovered during ground altering activities
14. ADNR Fish Habitat Permit	14. In hand, FH-06-VII-0014 for the bridge over Camp Creek (6/13/2006), expires at the end of the life of project
15. ACMP Environmental Risk Questionnaire	15. See Appendix E of this document.
16. Temporary Excavation Dewatering Permit (Consolidated)	16. Separate document submitted to ADEC January 2007

## 11.0 REFERENCES

1. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Alaska Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Guide. January 14, 2005.
2. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. 18 AAC 70, Water Quality Standards, 2003.
3. HDR Alaska, Inc. Niblack Property Prince of Wales Island, Alaska Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination. March 2006.
4. Knight Piesold. Water Quality Monitoring and Baseline Plan Report for Niblack Project, Alaska. January, 2007.
5. Niblack Mining Corp., Niblack Project – Revised Underground Construction Exploration Plan of Operations. January, 2007.
6. RTR Resource Management. Temporary Construction Excavation Dewatering General Permit (2004 D130101) Application. January, 2007.
7. U.S. E.P.A., List of Drinking Water Contaminants and MCL's, National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations, 2005.
8. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, General Permit for Discharges from Large and Small Construction Activities, as modified January 21, 2005.

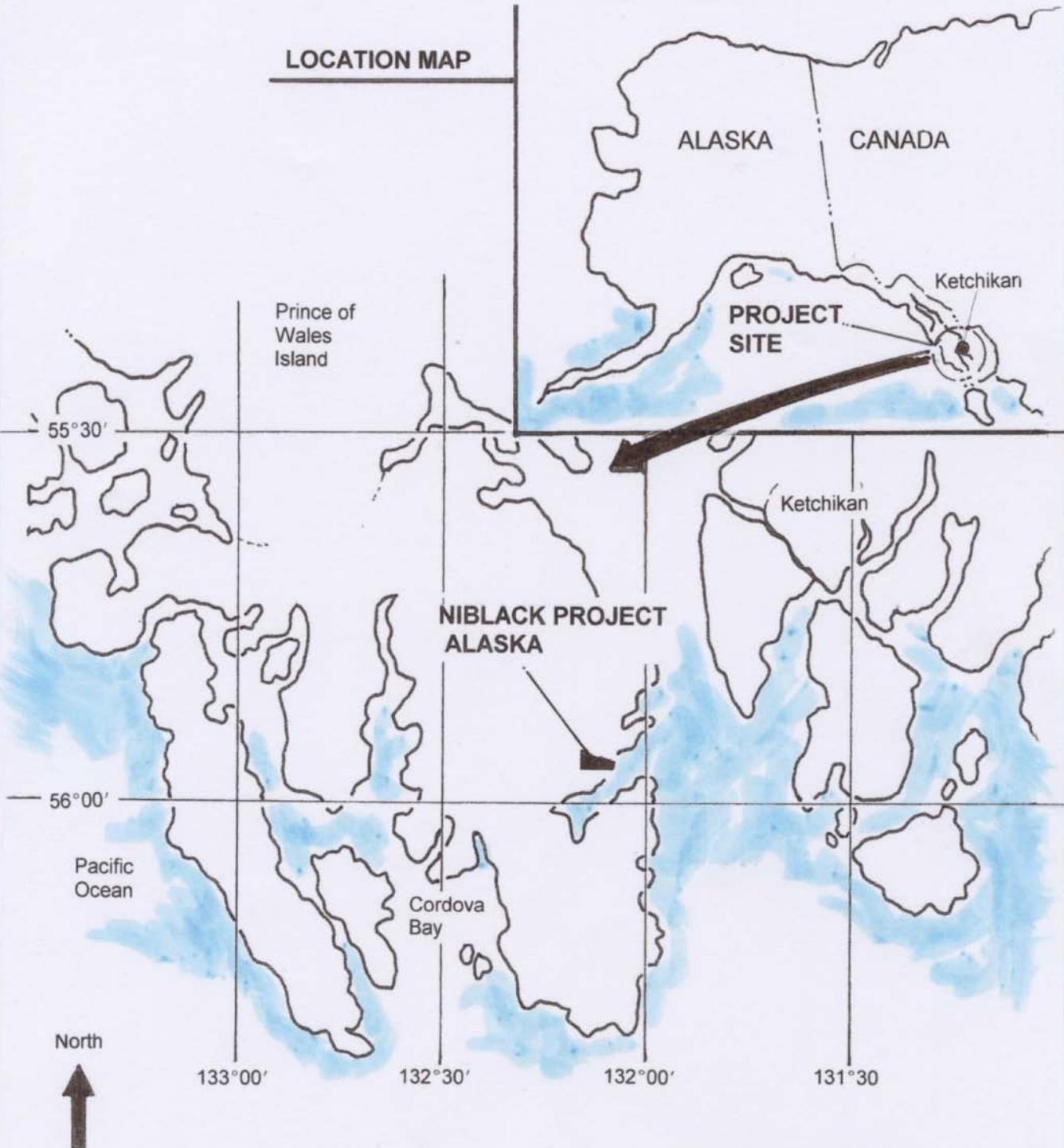
**SEE SEPARATE APPENDICES**

Appendix A	Niblack Drawing Sheets
	Sheet 1 Site Location Map
	Sheet 2 Niblack Facilities Arrangement
	Sheet 3 Niblack Marine Terminal
	Sheet 4 Niblack Cross Section Barge Landing Facility
	Sheet 5 Niblack Cross section Camp Barge Facility Marine Terminal
Appendix B	Copy of 404 Permit Application Form
Appendix C	Niblack Project – Wetlands Delineation
Appendix D	Tideland Lease Development Plan
Appendix E	ACMP Coastal Zone Questionnaire
Appendix F	Environmental Risk Questionnaire

## **Appendix A**

### **Niblack Drawing Sheets**

**LOCATION MAP**



**NIBLACK MINING CORP**

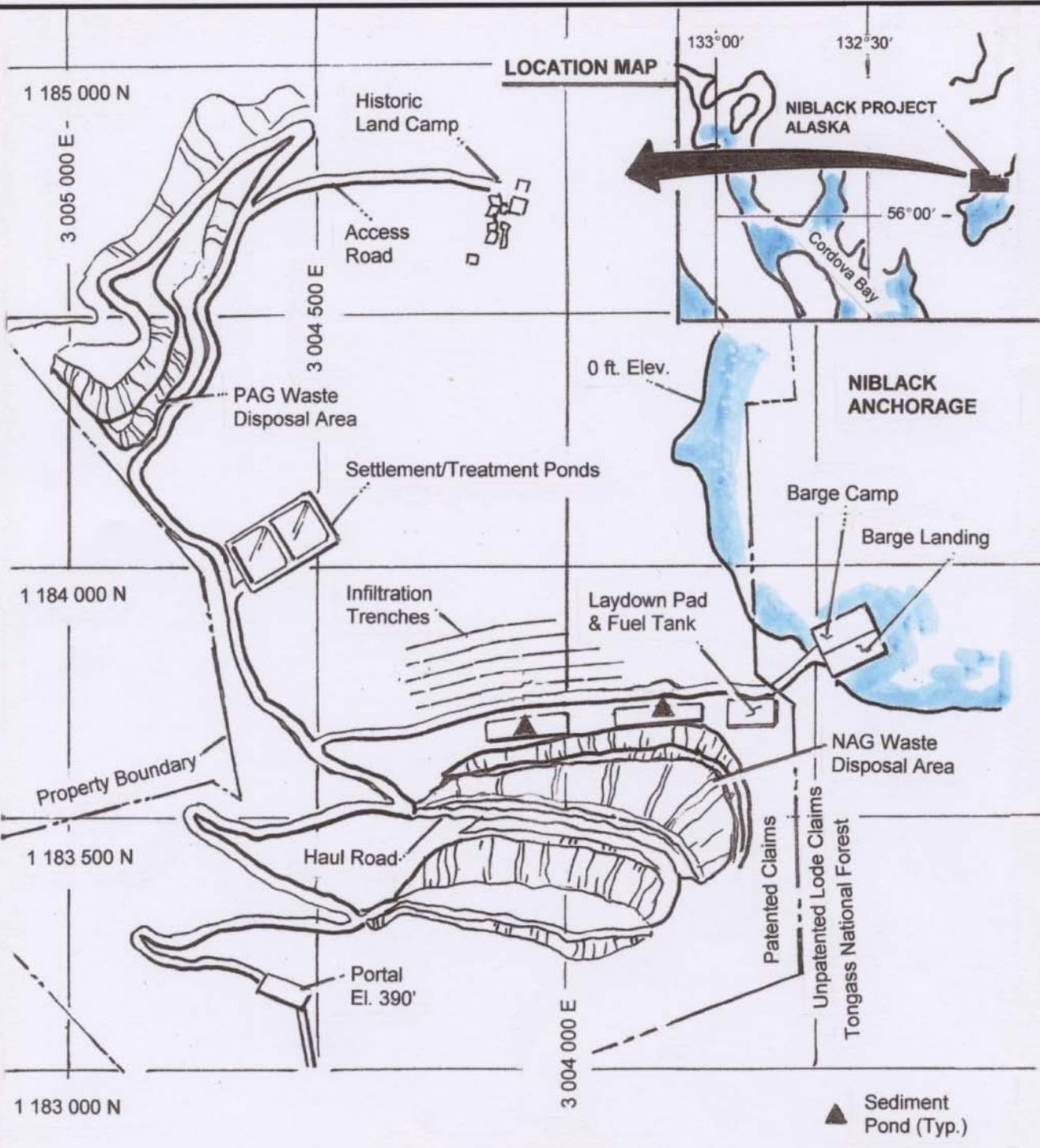
**PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROGRAM**

**NIBLACK PROPERTY PROJECT LOCATION**

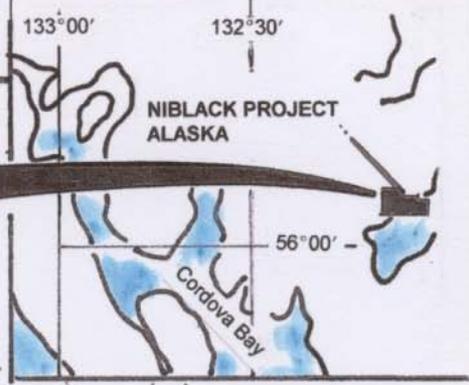
LOCATION T78S R88E MERIDIAN: COPPER RIVER

Sheet 1

Scale noted



**LOCATION MAP**

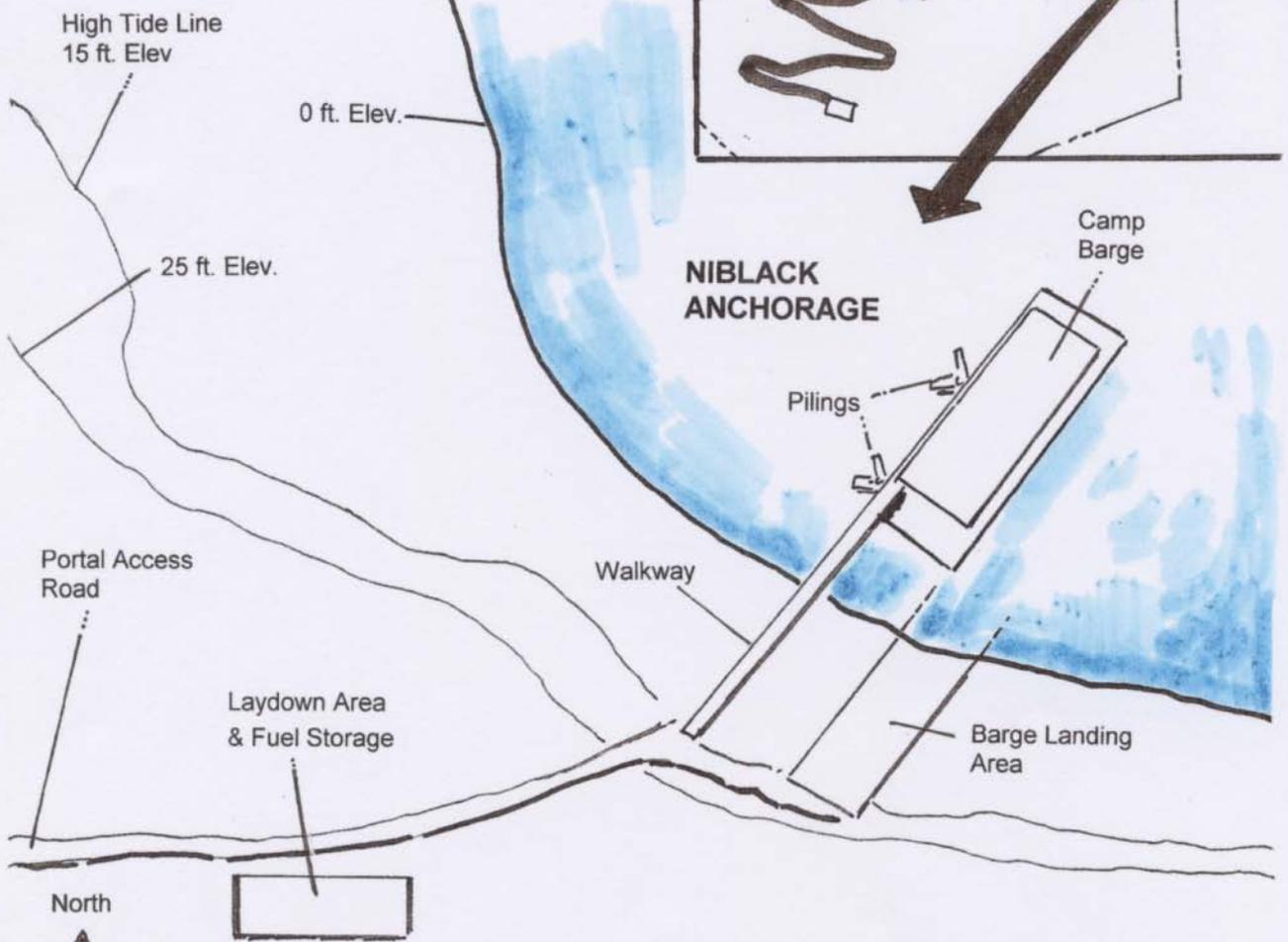
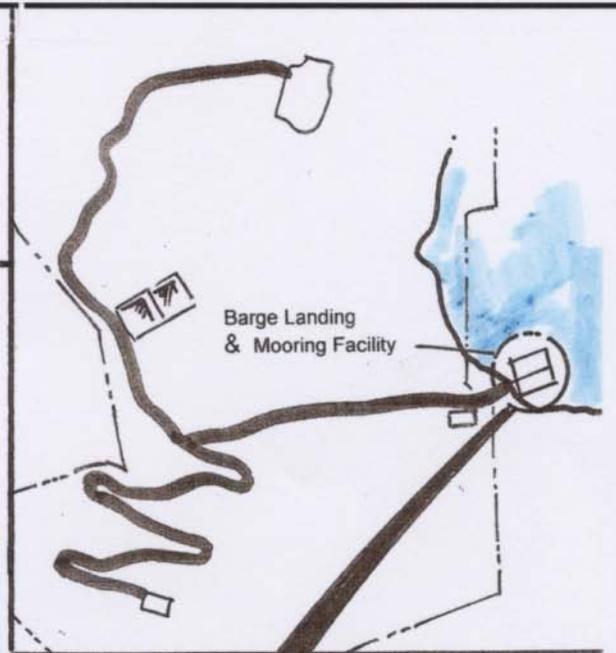


Scale Shown in  
Field of Drawing

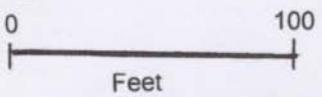
<b>NIBLACK MINING CORP</b>	
<b>PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROGRAM</b>	
<b>NIBLACK FACILITIES ARRANGEMENT</b>	
LOCATION T78S R88E MERIDIAN: COPPER RIVER	Sheet 2

▲ Sediment  
Pond (Typ.)

# LOCATION MAP



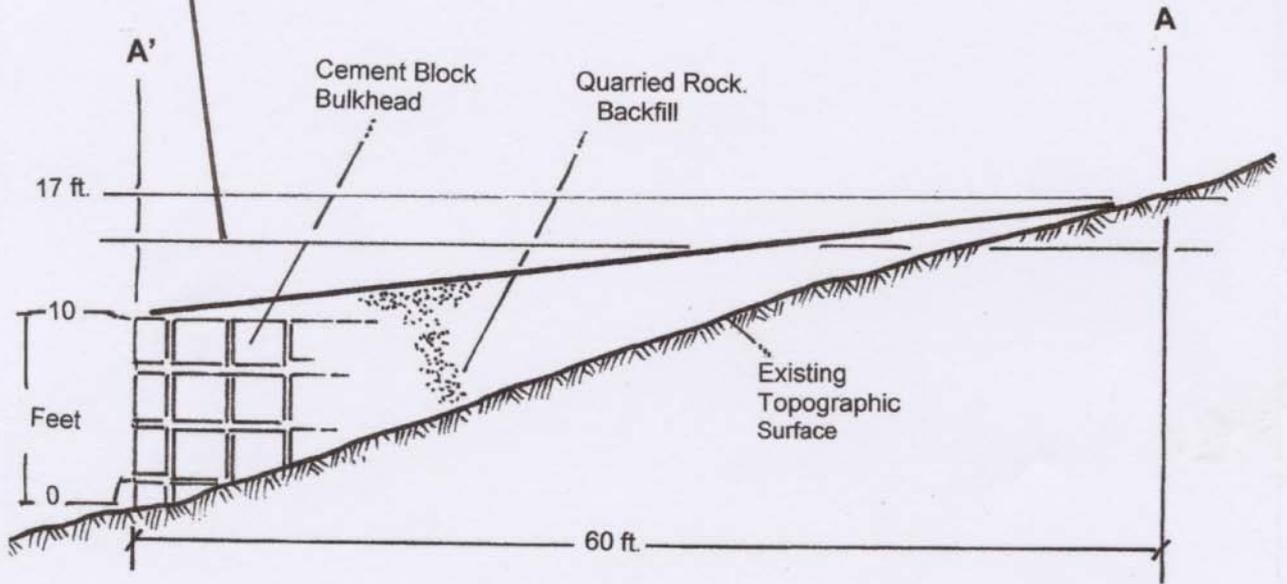
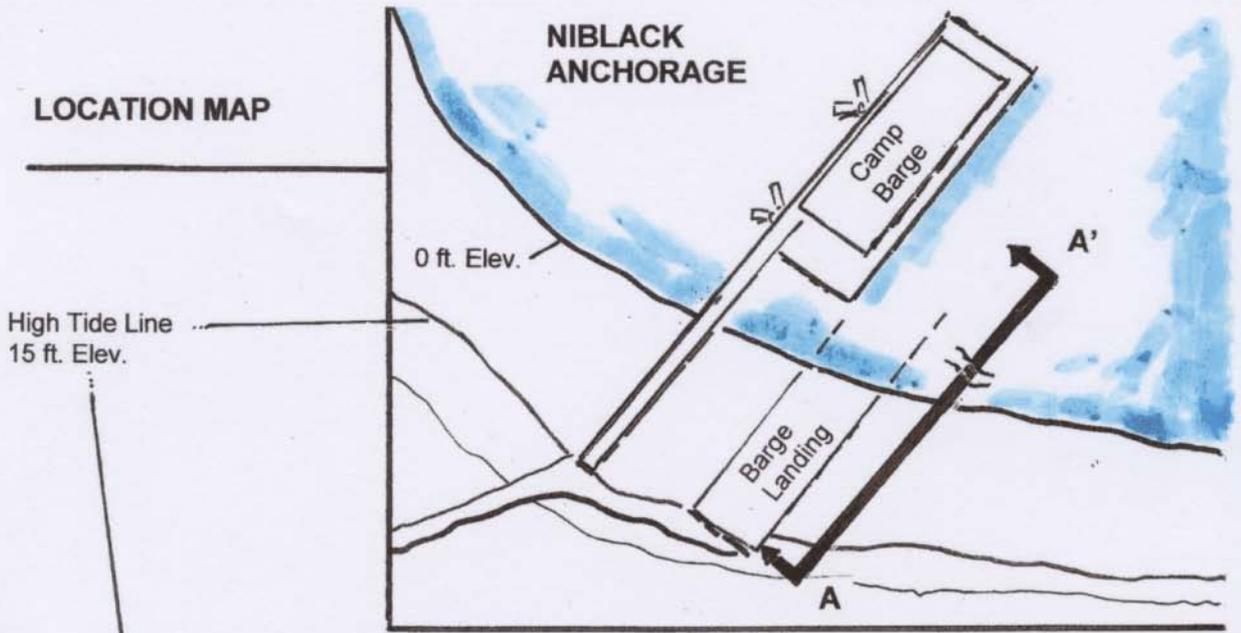
North



Scale noted

<b>NIBLACK MINING CORP</b>	
<b>PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROGRAM</b>	
<b>NIBLACK MARINE TERMINAL</b>	
LOCATION T78S R88E MERIDIAN: COPPER RIVER	Sheet 3

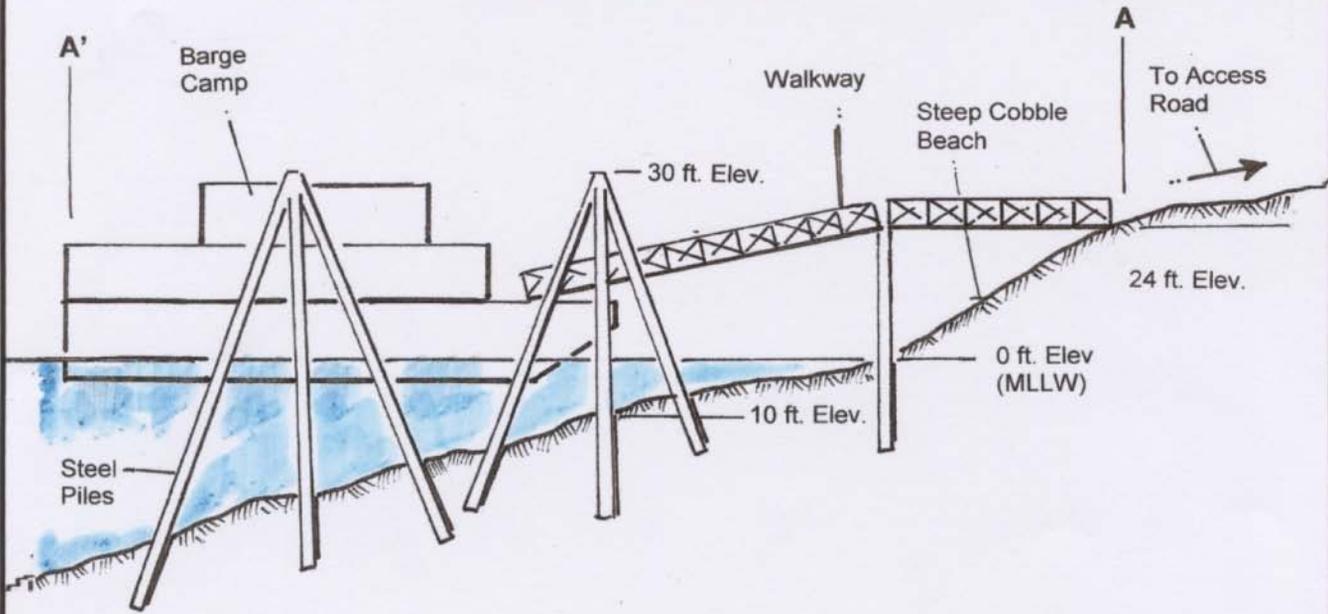
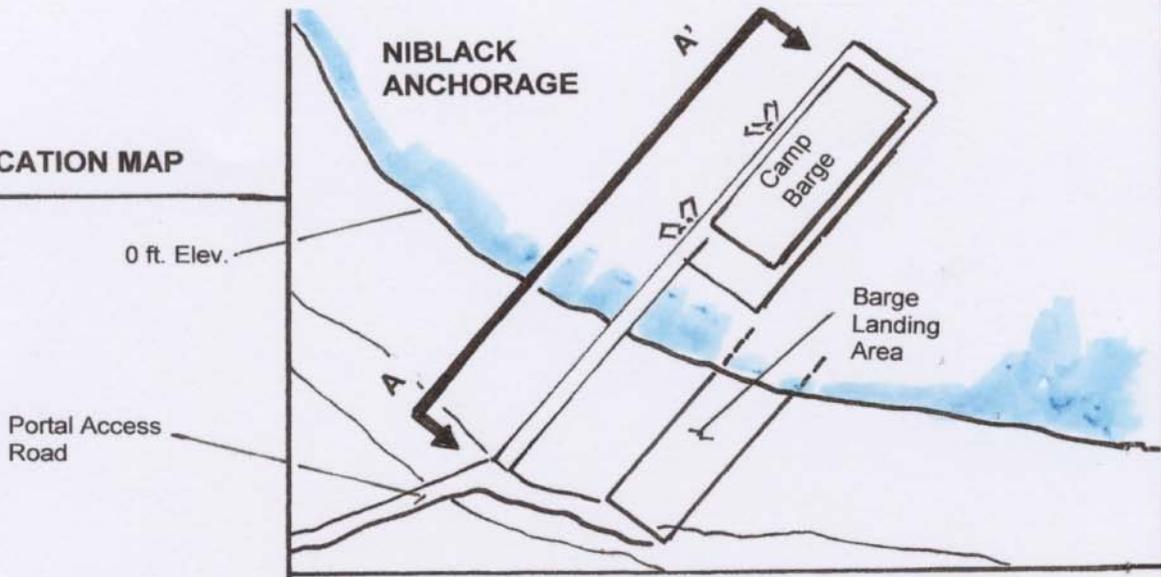
**LOCATION MAP**



Scale noted

<b>NIBLACK MINING CORP</b>	
<b>PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROGRAM</b>	
<b>NIBLACK CROSS SECTION BARGE LANDING FACILITY</b>	
LOCATION T78S R88E MERIDIAN: COPPER RIVER	Sheet 4

**LOCATION MAP**



25 ft.

Scale noted

<b>NIBLACK MINING CORP</b>	
<b>PROPOSED EXPLORATION PROGRAM</b>	
<b>NIBLACK CROSS SECTION CAMP BARGE FACILITY MARINE TERMINAL</b>	
LOCATION T78S R88E MERIDIAN: COPPER RIVER	Sheet 5

**Appendix B**

**Copy of 404 Permit Application Form**

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, although the majority of applications should require 5 hours or less. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service Directorate of Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0710-0003), Washington, DC 20503. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. Please DO NOT RETURN your form to either of those addresses. Completed applications must be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided, the permit application cannot be processed nor can a permit be issued.

One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned.

(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)

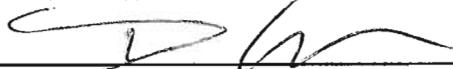
1. APPLICATION NO.	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETED
--------------------	----------------------	------------------	-------------------------------

(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)

5. APPLICANT'S NAME Niblack Mining Corporation	8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE (an agent is not required) RTR Resource Management, Inc.
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS Suite 615-800 West Pender Street Vancouver, B.C. Canada V63 2V6	9. AGENT'S ADDRESS 1109 West Main Street; Suite 480 Boise, Idaho 83702
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NUMBERS WITH AREA CODE a. Residence b. Business 604-484-5045	10. AGENT'S PHONE NUMBERS WITH AREA CODE a. Residence b. Business 208-343-8727

STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize Rick Richins (RTR-Resource Management) to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this permit application.

  
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

February 17, 2007  
DATE

NAME, LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE (see instructions) Niblack Exploration Project	
13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN (if applicable) Niblack Anchorage	14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS (if applicable)
15. LOCATION OF PROJECT 30 mi. SW of Ketchikan COUNTY	Alaska STATE
16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN (see instructions) Prince of Wales Island, Moira Sound	
17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE See Sheet 1 attached.	

18. Nature of Activity (Description of project, include all features)

See Section 4.0 of attached Application.

19. Project Purpose (Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)

See Section 2.0 of attached Application.

**USE BLOCKS 20-22 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED**

20. Reason(s) for Discharge

See Section 4.0 of attached Application.

21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards

See Section 5.0 of attached Application.

22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled (see instructions)

See Section 6.0 of attached Application.

23. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  IF YES, DESCRIBE THE COMPLETED WORK

See Section 7.0 of attached Application.

24. Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Waterbody (if more than can be entered here, please attach a supplemental list).

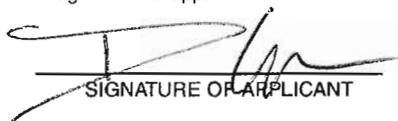
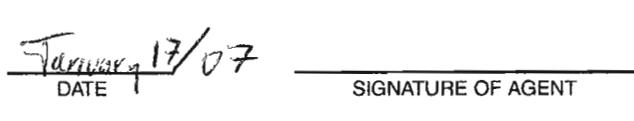
See Attached 9.0 of attached Application.

25. List of Other Certifications or Approvals/Denials Received from other Federal, State, or Local Agencies for Work Described in This Application

AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED
		See Section 10 of attached Application.			

\*Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building and flood plain permits

26. Application is hereby made for a permit or permits to authorize the work described in this application. I certify that the information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT      DATE January 17/07      SIGNATURE OF AGENT      DATE

The application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) or it may be signed by a duly authorized agent if the statement in block 11 has been filled out and signed.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

Instructions for Preparing a  
**Department of the Army Permit Application**

---

**Blocks 1 through 4.** To be completed by Corps of Engineers.

**Block 5. Applicant's Name.** Enter the name of the responsible party or parties. If the responsible party is an agency, company, corporation, or other organization, indicate the responsible officer and title. If more than one party is associated with the application, please attach a sheet with the necessary information marked Block 5.

**Block 6. Address of Applicant.** Please provide the full address of the party or parties responsible for the application. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 6.

**Block 7. Applicant Telephone Number(s).** Please provide the number where you can usually be reached during normal business hours.

**Blocks 8 through 11.** To be completed, if you choose to have an agent.

**Block 8. Authorized Agent's Name and Title.** Indicate name of individual or agency, designated by you, to represent you in this process. An agent can be an attorney, builder, contractor, engineer, or any other person or organization. Note: An agent is not required.

**Blocks 9 and 10. Agent's Address and Telephone Number.** Please provide the complete mailing address of the agent, along with the telephone number where he / she can be reached during normal business hours.

**Block 11. Statement of Authorization.** To be completed by applicant, if an agent is to be employed.

**Block 12. Proposed Project Name or Title.** Please provide name identifying the proposed project, *e.g.*, Landmark Plaza, Burned Hills Subdivision, or Edsall Commercial Center.

**Block 13. Name of Waterbody.** Please provide the name of any stream, lake, marsh, or other waterway to be directly impacted by the activity. If it is a minor (no name) stream, identify the waterbody the minor stream enters.

**Block 14. Proposed Project Street Address.** If the proposed project is located at a site having a street address (not a box number), please enter it here.

**Block 15. Location of Proposed Project.** Enter the county and state where the proposed project is located. If more space is required, please attach a sheet with the necessary information marked Block 15.

**Block 16. Other Location Descriptions.** If available, provide the Section, Township, and Range of the site and / or the latitude and longitude. You may also provide description of the proposed project location, such as lot numbers, tract numbers, or you may choose to locate the proposed project site from a known point (such as the right descending bank of Smith Creek, one mile downstream from the Highway 14 bridge). If a large river or stream, include the river mile of the proposed project site if known.

**Block 17. Directions to the Site.** Provide directions to the site from a known location or landmark. Include highway and street numbers as well as names. Also provide distances from known locations and any other information that would assist in locating the site.

**Block 18. Nature of Activity.** Describe the overall activity or project. Give appropriate dimensions of structures such as wingwalls, dikes (identify the materials to be used in construction, as well as the methods by which the work is to be done), or excavations (length, width, and height). Indicate whether discharge of dredged or fill material is involved. Also, identify any structure to be constructed on a fill, piles, or float-supported platforms.

The written descriptions and illustrations are an important part of the application. Please describe, in detail, what you wish to do. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 18.

**Block 19. Proposed Project Purpose.** Describe the purpose and need for the proposed project. What will it be used for and why? Also include a brief description of any related activities to be developed as the result of the proposed project. Give the approximate dates you plan to both begin and complete all work.

**Block 20. Reasons for Discharge.** If the activity involves the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into a wetland or other waterbody, including the temporary placement of material, explain the specific purpose of the placement of the material (such as erosion control).

**Block 21. Types of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards.** Describe the material to be discharged and amount of each material to be discharged within Corps jurisdiction. Please be sure this description will agree with your illustrations. Discharge material includes: rock, sand, clay, concrete, etc.

**Block 22. Surface Areas of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled.** Describe the area to be filled at each location. Specifically identify the surface areas, or part thereof, to be filled. Also include the means by which the discharge is to be done (backhoe, dragline, etc.). If dredged material is to be discharged on an upland site, identify the site and the steps to be taken (if necessary) to prevent runoff from the dredged material back into a waterbody. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 22.

**Block 23. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete?** Provide any background on any part of the proposed project already completed. Describe the area already developed, structures completed, any dredged or fill material already discharged, the type of material, volume in cubic yards, acres filled, if a wetland or other waterbody (in acres or square feet). If the work was done under an existing Corps permit, identify the authorization, if possible.

**Block 24. Names and Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Project Site.** List complete names and full mailing addresses of the adjacent property owners (public and private) lessees, etc., whose property adjoins the waterbody or aquatic site where the work is being proposed so that they may be notified of the proposed activity (usually by public notice). If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 24.

**Information regarding adjacent landowners is usually available through the office of the tax assessor in the county or counties where the project is to be developed.**

**Block 25. Information about Approvals or Denials by Other Agencies.** You may need the approval of other federal, state, or local agencies for your project. Identify any applications you have submitted and the status, if any (approved or denied) of each application. You need not have obtained all other permits before applying for a Corps permit.

**Block 26. Signature of Applicant or Agent.** The application must be signed by the owner or other authorized party (agent). This signature shall be an affirmation that the party applying for the permit possesses the requisite property rights to undertake the activity applied for (including compliance with special conditions, mitigation, etc.).

## DRAWINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

### General Information.

Three types of illustrations are needed to properly depict the work to be undertaken. These illustrations or drawings are identified as a Vicinity Map, a Plan View or a Typical Cross-Section Map. Identify each illustration with a figure or attachment number.

Please submit one original, or good quality copy, of all drawings on 8½ x11 inch plain white paper (tracing paper or film may be substituted). Use the fewest number of sheets necessary for your drawings or illustrations.

Each illustration should identify the project, the applicant, and the type of illustration (vicinity map, plan view, or cross-section). **While illustrations need not be professional (many small, private project illustrations are prepared by hand), they should be clear, accurate, and contain all necessary information.**

## **Appendix C**

### **Niblack Project – Wetlands Delineation**

# **Niblack Property Prince of Wales Island, Alaska**

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## ***Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination***

**March 2006**

Prepared for:



Niblack Mining Corp.  
615-800 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC  
Canada V6C 2V6

Prepared by:



HDR Alaska, Inc.  
2525 C Street, Suite 305  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

## 1.0 Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to identify and describe wetlands and other waters within an approximately 83.4-acre area on Prince of Wales Island in southeast Alaska (Figure 1). The area is within a patented mining claim owned by the Niblack Mining Corporation.

This report describes locations within the project area that are subject to the jurisdiction of the USACOE under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or under authority of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. By federal law (Clean Water Act) and associated policy, it is necessary to avoid project impacts to wetlands wherever practicable, minimize impact where impact is not avoidable, and in some cases compensate for the impact. The focus of this document is on delineation of wetlands. Wetlands, waters of the U.S., and uplands (non-wetlands), as referenced in this report, are defined as:

**Wetlands.** “Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions” (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 328.3(b)). Wetlands are a subset of “waters of the U.S.” Note that the “wetlands” definition does not include unvegetated areas such as streams and ponds.

**Waters of the U.S.** Waters of the U.S. include other waterbodies regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including lakes, ponds, and streams, in addition to wetlands. The ponds mapped in the project area are “waters of the U.S.” but not “wetlands”.

**Uplands.** Non-water and non-wetland areas are called uplands.

As described in the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetlands delineation manual, wetlands must possess the following three characteristics:

1. *Hydrophytic Vegetation:* Vegetation community dominated by plant species that are typically adapted for life in saturated soils.
2. *Wetland Hydrology:* Inundation or saturation of the soil during the growing season.
3. *Hydric Soils:* Soils that are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions.

### 1.1 Project Location and Environment

The project area is located near the head of Niblack Anchorage, a small inlet on the southeastern shore of Prince of Wales Island (Figure 1). Most of the project area is undeveloped and forested (see image at right). A small mining camp with several outbuildings exists near the coast. Specific legal and geographic descriptions for the property required for Preliminary Jurisdictional Determinations are included in Table 1.



**Table 1. Project Area Information**

<p><b>1. APPLICANT:</b> Niblack Mining Corp.</p> <p><b>2. WATERWAY:</b> Niblack Anchorage</p> <p><b>3. LOCATION:</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Narrative: The project area is near the head of Niblack Anchorage on Prince of Wales Island, approximately 26 miles southwest of Ketchikan.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">B. Legal Description: Sections: 33 and 34    Township: 78S    Range: 88E    Meridian: Copper River Latitude/Longitude (WGS84 Datum): N55.0667159 / W132.1461172</p> <p><b>4. SOURCE(S):</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>USGS Maps:</b> Craig A-1</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>NWI Maps:</b> Craig A-1</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Soil Maps:</b> None</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Corps Wetland Maps:</b> None</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Aerial Photographs:</b> Digital black and white ortho-photography from US Forest Service.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>Other:</b> Reconnaissance-level field survey with wetland data forms, written site observations, and photographs from HDR Alaska, Inc. site visit dated February 15-16, 2006.</p>
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## 2.0 Methods

Two steps were used to evaluate and produce an inventory of wetlands and waterbodies in the project area. These two steps include:

### 2.1 Field Investigation

A two-day site visit was completed during February 15-16, 2006 to identify any wetlands and other waters potentially under the jurisdiction of the USACOE. The field visit occurred outside of the USACOE designated “growing season” (USACOE-SPN-2003-05). Temperature and precipitation data for the three month period prior to the field investigation (November 14, 2005 through February 16, 2006) was reviewed to determine the degree in which any recent climatic events (i.e., severe cold, dry conditions) may have influenced field hydrology and vegetation indicators. USACOE guidance on Alaska’s growing season references the end of the growing season to generally follow several continuous days below 28°F. Over the three month period preceding the field visit, the maximum daily temperature was below 28 degrees a single day (27 degrees on December 2<sup>nd</sup>) and the minimum daily temperature was below 28 degrees for 22 out of the 94 days. Approximately 53 inches of precipitation fell during the three month period (Graph 1). Climate data at the Ketchikan International Airport was obtained from the National Weather Service.

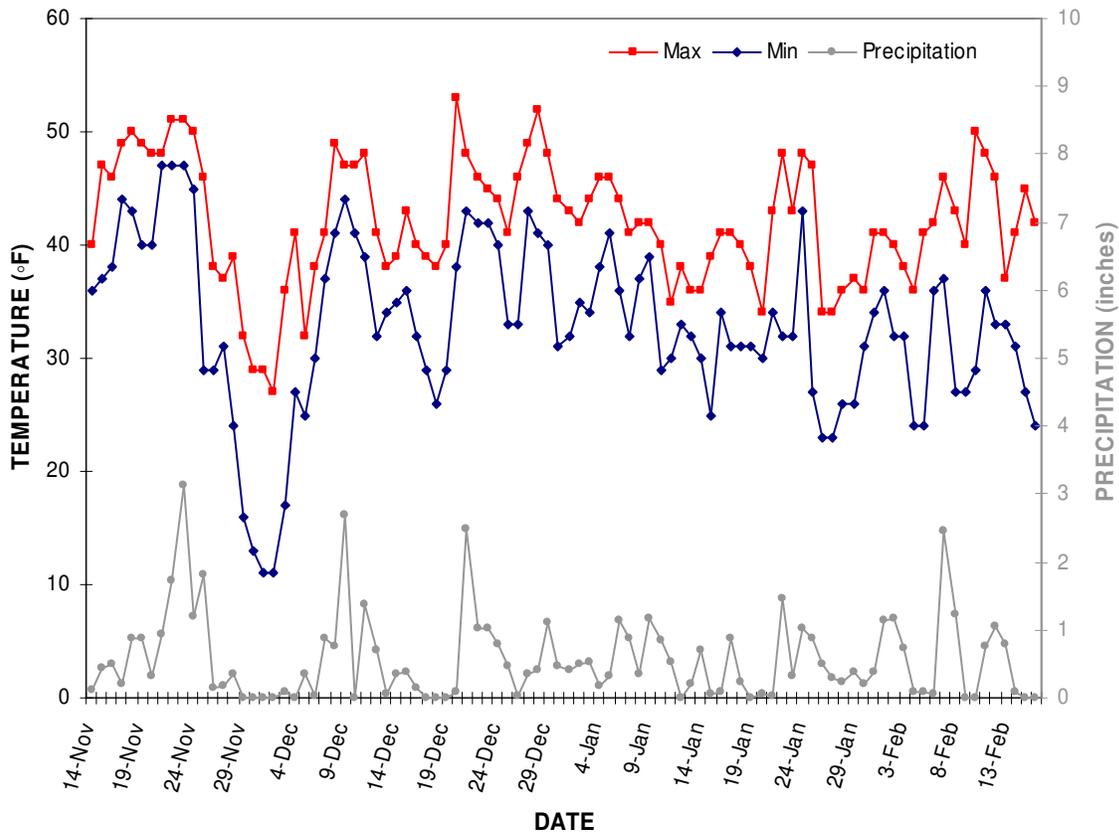
During the field visit, no snow was present anywhere within the project area. Snow pack was above 1,000-ft. elevation. Areas of open water lacked ice and saturated soils investigated had no evidence of seasonal frost. No problems were encountered in identifying and quantifying cover estimates for non-evergreen herbaceous plants and deciduous shrubs, as many, some dead or lacking leaf-cover, still persisted.

Specific data collected included detailed information on soil conditions, hydrology, and plant community composition. Locations were studied, to the degree possible during winter conditions, using the U.S. Corps of Engineers 1987 wetland delineation manual’s three-parameter method of determining an area’s wetland status (USACOE, 1987). Standard Corps of Engineers data sheets were completed at these sites and are included in Appendix A. Each location visited during the field visit was logged into a handheld global positioning system (GPS) unit. Representative photographs and observational data were collected in

conjunction with wetland delineation data form plots. Photographs taken at each of the data collection locations are included in Appendix A.

While in the field, wetland/upland boundaries were determined by completing paired data plots. This process involves completing standard wetland data forms near observable transition zones between wetter and drier areas. A data form is completed in the wet area to verify its wetland status and then a second plot is completed, usually upslope, in the drier area to verify its status. The wetland/upland boundary between the two data plots is then logged into the handheld GPS. Wetland/upland boundaries were walked by wetland scientists in the field and locations logged into the handheld GPS.

**Graph 1. Climate Data for Ketchikan International Airport**



## 2.2 Mapping

Initially, scientists analyzed aerial photography, topography, and NWI wetland mapping in a Geographic Information System [GIS] database. GPS locations of field visited sites and wetland/upland boundaries were overlaid on aerial photography and notes and photographs completed at each site were reviewed to identify any wetlands or waterbodies present within the project area. The process of delineating wetlands from aerial photography included using the following methods:

Vegetation clues: On aerial photography, scientists looked for saturation-adapted vegetation communities, indicative canopy structure and height, and presence of hydrophytic plant species. A common example is dwarf spruce trees, which are indicative of a limitation to growth such as excessively wet soils.

Evidence of soil saturation: Visible evidence of wetland hydrology was sought, including surface water and darker areas of photos indicating surface saturation. A site's proximity to streams, open water habitat, and marshes can be indicative of shallow subsurface water.

Topography: Evidence of topographic high points, sloped surfaces that would allow soils to drain, and dry drainages were used to support classifying those areas as upland. Topographic depressions, toes of slopes, and flat topography served as indicators of potentially poor soil drainage.

Existing mapping: Wetland mapping from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's National Wetland Inventory Mapping program is available for the project area (USFWS 2006). This mapping is generally an effective tool for large-scale planning and analysis of wetlands but not suitable for smaller site-specific projects such as needed for this study. National Wetland Inventory mapping is primarily based on aerial photographic interpretation with limited ground truthing, and therefore wetland boundaries tend to be oversimplified with many smaller wetland complexes not included in the mapping. According to available National Wetland Inventory Mapping for USGS quadrangle Craig A-1, forested wetlands occur in the project area (Figure 2).

### **3.0 Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination**

No detailed vegetation or soil mapping is available for the project area. Information presented below is summarized from data collected at 15 wetland data form locations over the two-day field investigation (Appendix A). Locations of each data collection location are displayed on Figure 3.

#### **Vegetation**

Approximately 57.9 acres of the project area is either forested or previously forested but since developed by past mining activities. Developed areas include the mine camp and several small trails extending from the camp. These developed areas are generally unvegetated. Approximately 25.5 acres of the mapped project area is within Niblack Anchorage. This area includes subtidal waters (21.1 acres), unvegetated intertidal beach (4.4 acres), and vegetated intertidal beach (1.1 acres). The vegetated intertidal beach is located immediately downslope of the mine camp. Dominant plant species in this area include a mix of coastal sedges (*Carex* sp.), grasses (*Elymus* sp.), and rushes (*Juncus* sp.).

Needleleaf forest covers most the project area. The forest community is generally dominated by a thick overstory of western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) with a sparse understory comprised of red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*), skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), foamflower (*Tiarella trifoliata*), and fewflower sedge (*Carex pauciflora*). Hydrophytic plant communities occur at 13 out of the 15 wetland data form sites (Table 2).

**Table 2. Vegetation at Wetland Data Form Sites**

Data Form ID	Dominant Plant Species (by stratum)												
	Tree Stratum			Shrub Stratum				Herbaceous Stratum					
	Western hemlock <i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Western red cedar <i>Thuja plicata</i>	Sitka spruce <i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Red huckleberry <i>Vaccinium parvifolium</i>	Devils club <i>Oplopanax horridus</i>	Red elderberry <i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Salal <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Deer fern <i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Bunchberry <i>Cornus canadensis</i>	Sword fern <i>Polystichum munitum</i>	Skunk cabbage <i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	Foamflower <i>Tiarella trifoliata</i>	Fewflower sedge <i>Carex pauciflora</i>
FAC	FAC	FACU	NI	FACU	FACU	NI	FAC	FACU	NI	OBL	FAC	OBL	
S-3	X	X	X	X				X	X				
S-7	X			X	X	X		X	X	X			
S-10	X		X			X		X		X			
S-11	X	X					X	X					
S-12	X	X				X	X	X			X		
S-18	X	X	X	X				X					
S-19	X	X		X				X			X		
S-27	X	X		X		X					X		
S-31	X	X		X		X		X					
S-34	X	X		X				X				X	
S-35	X	X		X				X					
S-39	X	X	X			X						X	
S-41	X	X	X					X		X			
S-43	X	X					X	X			X		
S-44	X	X					X				X		X

**Hydrology:**

The project area is situated along the bottom and lower slopes of a small, steep-sided watershed that drains directly into Niblack Anchorage. Two perennial streams generally referred to as Camp Creek and Waterfall Creek, flow through the project area immediately south of the existing mine camp. Many small intermittent drainages, swales, and rivulets flow through the project area and eventually feed into Camp or Waterfall Creeks or directly into Niblack Anchorage.

At wetland data form locations, 14 out of the 15 sites had wetland hydrology (Table 3). Commonly seen indicators included saturated soil, surface water, drainage channels, and sediment deposits.

**Table 3. Hydrology at Wetland Data Form Sites**

Data Form ID	Saturated in Upper 12 Inches	Water Marks	Sediment Deposits	Drainage Patterns in Wetlands	Water-Stained Leaves	Notes
S-3	X			X		saturated at 0 inches, seasonally inundated depressions present
S-7	X			X		saturated at 3 inches, inundated depressions present
S-10	X			X		saturated at 6 inches, small ephemeral drainage features present
S-11	X		X	X		saturated at 3 inches, inundated depressions present
S-12	X					saturated at 0 inches, flowing drainages present
S-18	X					saturated at 0 inches
S-19	X		X	X	X	saturated at 0 inches, low inundated depressions present, likely

Data Form ID	Saturated in Upper 12 Inches	Water Marks	Sediment Deposits	Drainage Patterns in Wetlands	Water- Stained Leaves	Notes
						groundwater discharge sites
S-27	X		X	X	X	saturated at 0 inches, drainage swale with surface water
S-31	X		X	X		saturated at 5 inches, inundated depressions present
S-34	X		X	X		saturated at 0 inches, inundated depressions present
S-35						None
S-39	X		X	X	X	saturated at 5 inches, flowing drainages present
S-41	X					saturated at 4 inches
S-43	X		X	X	X	saturated at 6 inches, inundated depressions present
S-44	X	X	X	X	X	saturated at 0 inches, inundated depressions present

**Soils**

Both hydric and non-hydric soil conditions were observed in soil pits examined during the field visit. Hydric soils were encountered at 8 of the 15 wetland data form sites (Table 4). Indicators of hydric soil included histosols, histic epipedons, and sulfidic odor.

Non-hydric soils had a shallow to moderately deep (3 to 7 inches deep) organic horizon at the ground surface overlaying mineral soils. Specific characteristics of the sampled mineral soils, including color and texture are included on the wetland data forms (Appendix A).

**Table 4. Soils at Wetland Data Form Sites**

Data Form ID	Hydric Soils Present	Hydric Soil Indicators Observed
S-3	Yes	Histosol
S-7	No	None
S-10	No	None
S-11	No	None
S-12	Yes	Histic epipedon, sulfidic odor
S-18	No	None
S-19	Yes	Histic epipedon, sulfidic odor
S-27	Yes	Histic epipedon, sulfidic odor
S-31	No	None
S-34	Yes	Histosol, Sulfidic odor
S-35	No	None
S-39	Yes	Histic epipedon, sulfidic odor
S-41	No	None
S-43	Yes	Sulfidic odor
S-44	Yes	Histosol, Sulfidic odor

### 3.1 Conclusion

Determinations were based on evidence observed outside of the growing season. Additional field indicators supporting classifying an area as wetland or non-wetland may be present during the growing season.

Wetland locations are based upon the dominance of hydrophytic vegetation, hydrologic indicators, and hydric soil indicators. Based on the findings above, it has been determined that areas displayed as wetlands on Figure 3 meet the USACOE criteria for being classified as wetland. Approximately 8.9 percent (7.4 acres) of the mapped 83.4 acres were determined to meet the USACOE requirements for being classified as wetlands (Table 5). Project area wetlands are classified as saturated needleleaf forest wetlands (PFO4B) and saturated needleleaf forest/broadleaf scrub-shrub mix wetlands (PFO4/SS1B). These areas would be subject to jurisdiction under Section 404.

Approximately 30.6 percent (25.5 acres) of the mapped area occurs below high tide line in Niblack Anchorage. These estuarine areas are classified as subtidal (E1UBL), unvegetated intertidal (E2US1N), and vegetated intertidal (E2EM1P). Estuarine areas would be subject to jurisdiction under both Section 404 and Section 10.

The remainder of the mapped project area, approximately 60.5 percent (50.5 acres) of the mapped area lack one or more of the required three parameters to support classifying an area as wetland (Table 5). These areas would not be subject to jurisdiction under Section 404.

Other jurisdictional waters in the project area include perennial streams (Camp and Waterfall Creeks), and numerous smaller unnamed intermittent streams. Approximate locations of project area streams are shown on Figure 3.

**Table 5. Mapped Area Summary**

Type	NWI Mapping Code	Approximate area (acres)
Saturated needleleaf forest wetland	PFO4B	5.7
Saturated needleleaf forest/broadleaf scrub-shrub wetland	PFO4/SS1B	1.7
Estuarine – emergent intertidal areas	E2EM1P	1.0
Estuarine – unvegetated intertidal areas	E2US1N	4.4
Estuarine – subtidal waters	E1UBL	20.1
Upland (non-wetland)	U	50.5
<b>Total Mapped Area</b>		<b>83.4</b>
<b>Total Freshwater Wetland</b>		<b>7.4 acres (8.9%)</b>
<b>Total Estuarine</b>		<b>25.5 acres (30.6%)</b>
<b>Total Upland (non-wetland)</b>		<b>50.5 acres (60.5%)</b>

**DETERMINATION MADE BY:**

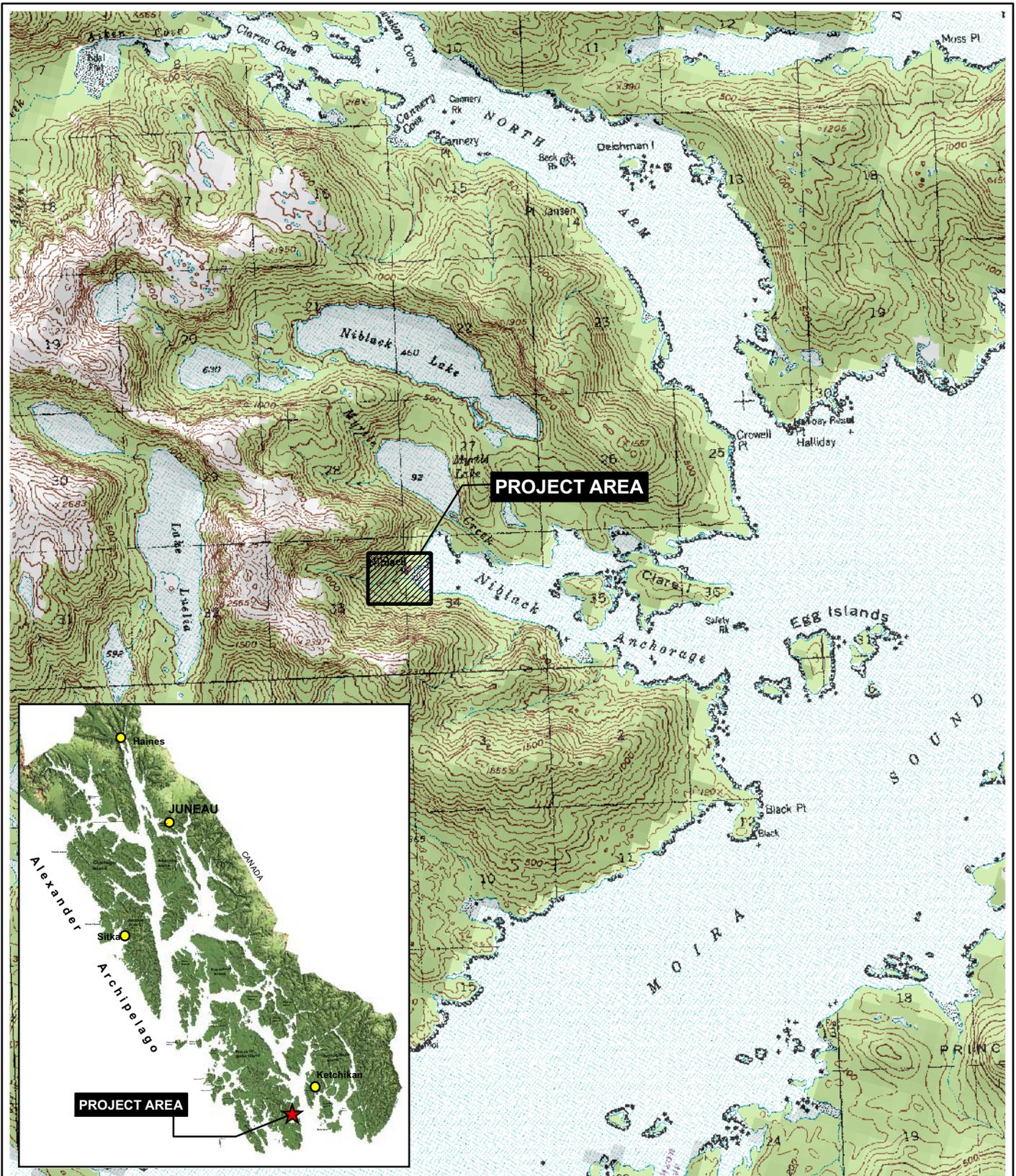
Jeff Schively  
Biologist  
HDR Alaska, Inc.  
Date: February 2006

**Attachments**

- Figure 1: Vicinity Map
- Figure 2: USFWS Wetland Mapping
- Figure 3: Wetlands

**REFERENCES CITED**

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2003. Special Public Notice 03-05 – SPN 2003-05 - Wetland Delineations Growing Season. Available online at:  
[http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/SPN\\_Scanned/SPN-2003-05.pdf](http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/SPN_Scanned/SPN-2003-05.pdf).
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Laboratory (USACOEEL). 1987. Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual. Vicksburg, MS.
- U.S. Federal Register. November 13, 1986 Part II. Rules and Regulations, Vol. 51, No. 219. U.S. Department of Defense. Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army. 33 CFR Parts 320-330, Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2006. National Wetland Inventory Mapping for USGS Quadrangle Craig A-1. Available online at:  
<http://enterprise.nwi.fws.gov/shapedata/alaska/>



**MAP NOTES:**

1. USGS Quadrangle - Craig A-1 shown as base image.
2. Mapping produced by HDR Alaska, Inc. for Nibleck Mining Corp.

**LEGEND**

 Project Area

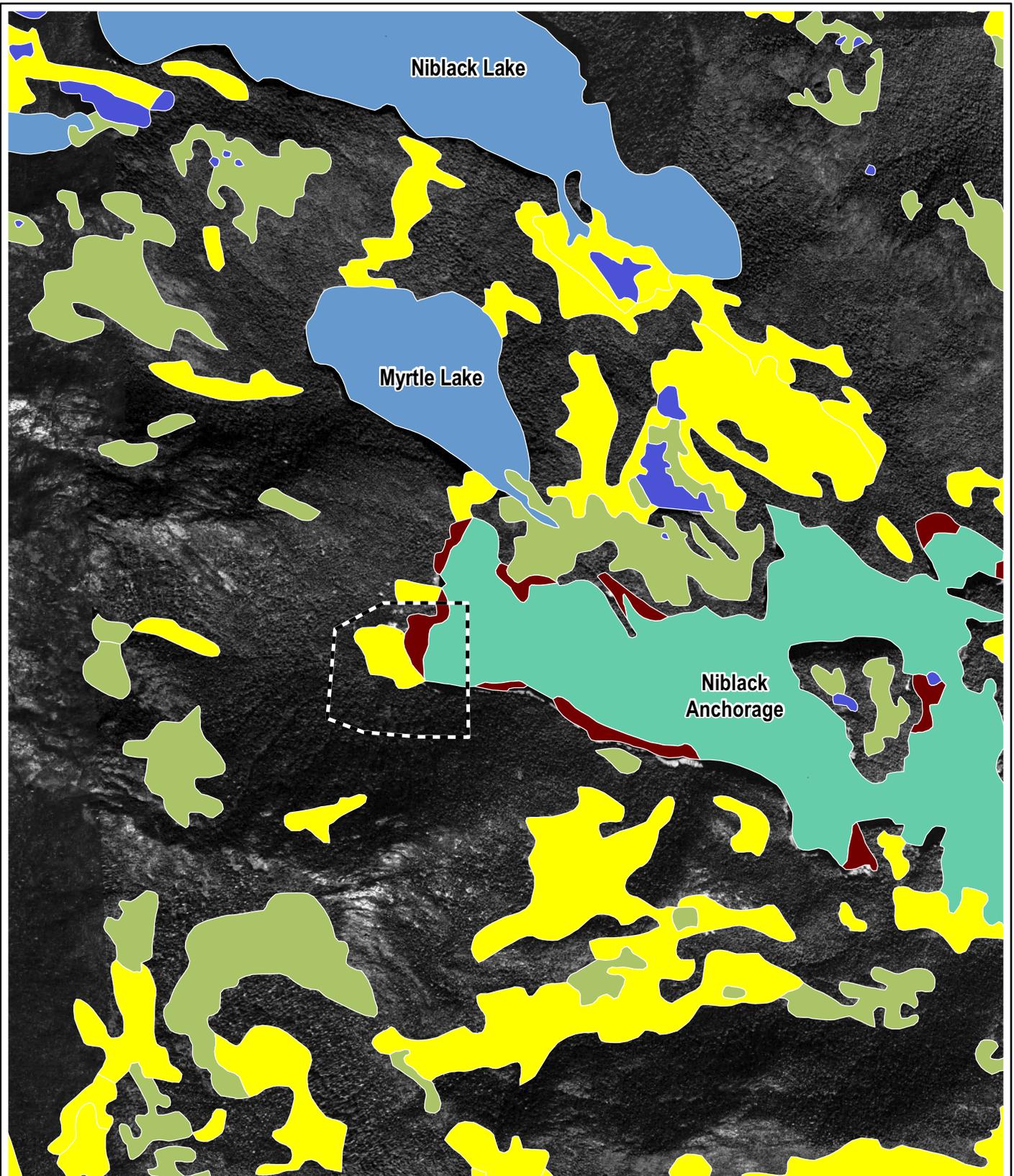
**Scale:** 0 0.5 1 Miles

**LEGEND**

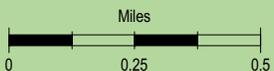
 Project Area

**Vicinity Map**  
**Nibleck Mining Corp.**  
**Nibleck Property**  
**Prince of Wales Island, Alaska**  
*Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination*

**FIGURE 1**



**MAP NOTES:**  
 1. Wetland mapping produced by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under National Wetland Inventory Mapping Program.  
 2. Aerial photograph base from U.S. Forest Service digital orthophoto quadrangles.  
 3. Figure produced by HDR Alaska, Inc. for Niblack Mining Corp.



Project Area

**LEGEND**

**USFWS NWI Mapping**

- Estuarine - subtidal
- Estuarine - intertidal
- Lakes
- Ponds
- Forested wetlands
- Scrub-shrub wetlands

**USFWS Wetland Mapping**

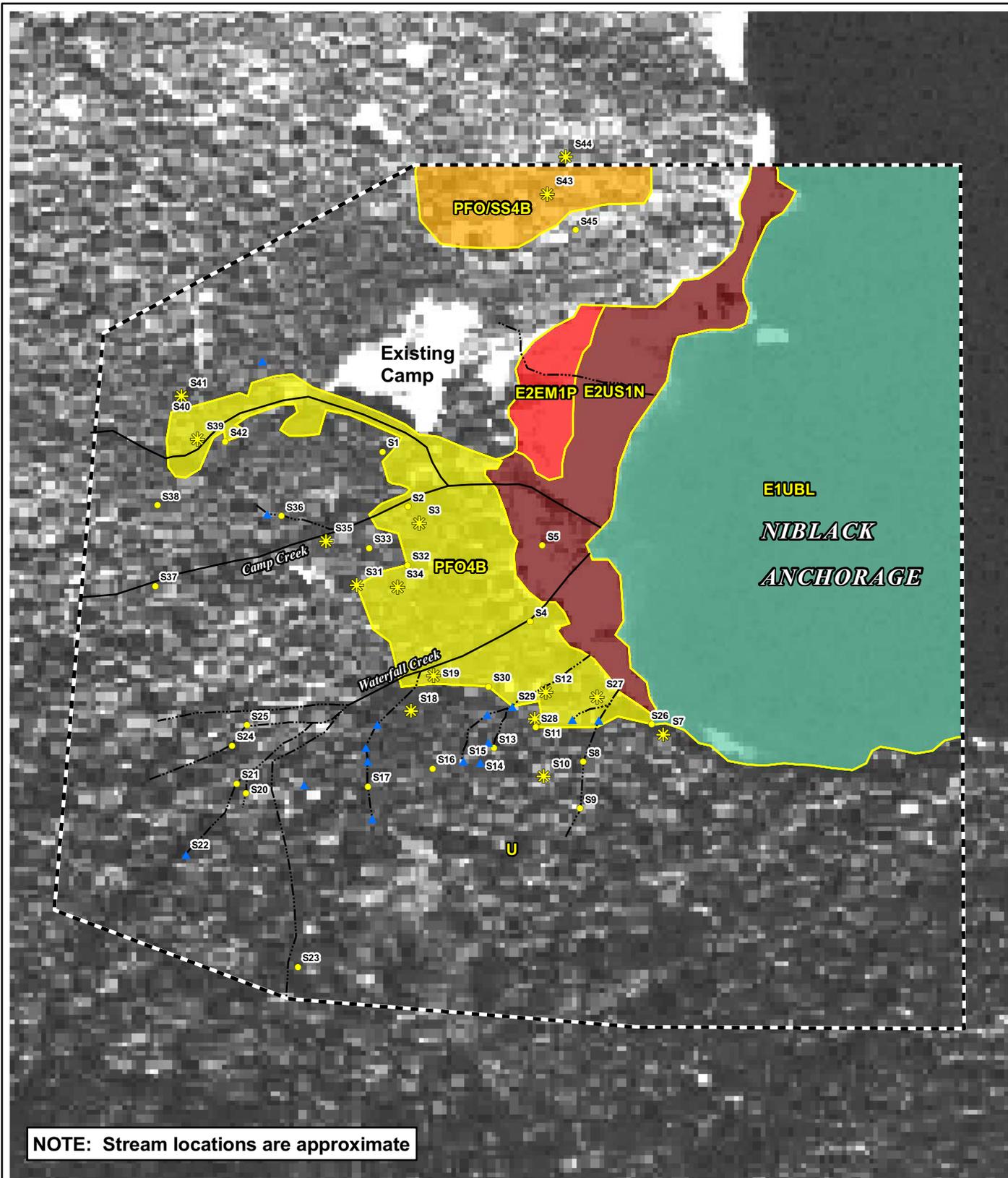
**Niblack Mining Corp.**

**Niblack Property**

**Prince of Wales Island, Alaska**

*Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination*

**FIGURE 2**



**NOTE: Stream locations are approximate**

**MAP NOTES:**

1. Aerial base from USFS Digital Orthophoto Quadrangle archive.
2. Wetland mapping produced by HDR Alaska, Inc.
3. Wetland mapping based on aerial photograph interpretation and February 2006 site reconnaissance survey.

**Feet**

0 200 400

**LEGEND**

**Surveyed Area**

**Data Collection Locations**

- Wetland Data Form
- Note/Photo Point
- Drainage feature

**Waterways**

- Perennial stream
- Intermittent stream

**Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.**

- E1UBL** Estuarine - subtidal
- E2US1N** Estuarine - unvegetated intertidal
- E2EM1P** Estuarine - emergent intertidal
- PFO/SS4B** Needleleaf forest/scrub-shrub wetland
- PFO4B** Needleleaf forest wetland

**Wetlands**

**Niblack Mining Corp.**  
**Niblack Property**  
**Prince of Wales Island, Alaska**  
*Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination*

**FIGURE 3**

## **Appendix D**

### **Tideland Lease Development Plan**

*Submitted to:*  
**State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources**  
**Division of Mining, Land, and Water**

**TIDELAND LEASE  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

*for the*

**Niblack Exploration Project**  
**Marine Dock and Barge Landing Facilities**

*Submitted For:*  
**Niblack Mining Corporation**  
**Darwin Green, V.P. Exploration**  
**Suite 615 – 800 West Pender St.**  
**Vancouver, B.C.**  
**Canada, V63 2V6**

*Submitted By:*  
**RTR Resource Management**  
**1109 Main St - Suite 480**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
**83702**  
**(208) 343-8727**

**January, 2007**

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## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A	Niblack Drawing Sheets
	Sheet 1 Site Location Map
	Sheet 2 Niblack Facilities Arrangement
	Sheet 3 Niblack Marine Terminal
	Sheet 4 Niblack Cross Section Barge Landing Facility
	Sheet 5 Niblack Cross section Camp Barge Facility Marine Terminal
Appendix B	Tidelands Application Form
Appendix C	Niblack Wetlands Delineation
Appendix D	ACMP Coastal Zone Questionnaire
Appendix E	Environmental Risk Questionnaire
Appendix F	ACOE Permit Application

## **SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION**

This Development Plan is part of the Tidelands Lease Application for a proposed barge and landing craft ramp and a mooring terminal for the Niblack construction and exploration project located within Niblack Anchorage on Prince of Wales Island. The project is located approximately 24 miles southwest of Ketchikan (Sheet 1).

The Niblack construction and exploration project is currently permitting for future activities associated with the ongoing evaluation of the mineral potential at this property. The proposed marine dock and barge landing facility is required to provide a means of delivering equipment and supplies to the project, primarily to complete an underground tunnel required to further define the mineral resource. The overall project siting arrangement is shown in Sheet 2. Construction activities are being permitted and overseen by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Large Mine Project Team (ADNR-LMPT). The team also involves the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

## **SECTION 2. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS**

The Tidelands Lease Application Form is presented in Appendix B. Niblack Mining Corporation (NMC), a Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada corporation has proposed the construction/exploration project, including those components which require a Tideland Lease Development Plan.

There are presently no marine facilities to allow for docking of barges or landing craft at the Niblack project. It is planned to construct a new marine terminal that will accommodate the 20-foot tide variance and allow heavy equipment to be unloaded safely. A 500 ton bulk mining sample will also be mined and shipped off-site for metallurgical testing. The dock and barge load-out are needed for these activities.

The barge and landing craft ramp will consist of a 10-foot high bulkhead constructed from cement blocks at the toe of the facility, which will then be backfilled with quarried rock to a 5% grade back to the access road. The structure will be approximately 24 feet wide and have an overall length of approximately 60 feet. This facility will be constructed between the 0 elevation contour and the 17 foot contour, just above the mean high water mark of 14.5 feet for this area. It is estimated that approximately 500 yards of fill will be required to construct the facility. The location of the proposed ramp is shown on Sheet 3, and a cross-section of the proposed facility is shown on Sheet 4.

The proposed location of the mooring facility is also shown on Sheet 3, and a cross-section is provided in Sheet 4. The mooring facility consists of an elevated walkway secured to pilings, and two sets of mooring dolphins to accommodate the floating camp or transient barges (Sheet 5). The structures will be constructed of galvanized steel and timbers. The piles will be made of galvanized steel with a galvanized steel pile cap. Pressure-preservative treated timbers will be used for the stringers, cross beams, and the decking. The bullrails, handrails, and rubstrips will also be made of timber. The struts will be made of galvanized steel pipe.

At a mean low low tide (0 foot elevation), approximately 20 feet of mooring dolphin will be exposed above the water level. There is no fill, other than the mooring dolphins, associated with the construction of this facility.

The barge landing ramp and mooring facility will be designed to facilitate minimal disturbance of areas below high tide levels. To protect important eelgrass habitat in the lower intertidal and offshore areas, propulsion systems will not be used on landing craft, tugs, self-propelled barges or other craft using the barge landing site when tidal stage is less than half mean high water (7.6 foot contour).

Minor supply needs and emergency requirements will be provided by floatplane or by boat. These smaller vessels will utilize a floating dock secured to the floating camp to provide safe, unencumbered access.

The marine landing facilities have been designed to minimize the amount of excavation and construction in the intertidal and beach areas. The dock/landing facility construction will create a barge landing fill ramp and a small laydown yard for handling of cargo. Construction of the marine terminal facilities will involve approximately 500 cubic yards of fill within a footprint of approximately 1440 square feet. Essentially all of the fill volume will occur below the mean high water line on lands administered by the ANDR.

### SECTION 3. OPERATIONS

Access to the marine dock/landing area will be via the portal access road. Staging at the marine facility is a necessary function of barging activities. A modest (50 foot by 50 foot) staging and storage area will be located at the marine facilities. The site is not in delineated wetlands. Appendix C, *Niblack Wetlands Delineation* (HDR, Alaska, 2006), is provided for easy reference. This will provide for temporary storage and staging of materials and containers, as well as spill response equipment and sorbent booms.

All of the associated utilities for these new facilities will be provided by the camp barge which will be moored adjacent to this area. No water, sewer, or other utilities are planned to be located at the site. Portable toilets may be provided in the laydown area.

Landing craft will transfer freight and equipment across the gravel ramp. Moorage will be temporary, while loading and unloading occurs. Vehicles will traverse the ramp and approach fill to get to the uplands staging and parking areas.

The camp barge will breast against the mooring dolphins. Barge operators will secure mooring lines to the dolphins. The transfer bridge will be lowered onto the barge. Supplies for the camp will be transferred across the transfer bridge or across a floating dock tied off to the camp barge.

All fuel transfers will be conducted in accordance with the specific requirements of the approved plans for applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Material delivery will be via isotainers (fuel) or other appropriate packaging as required by the Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT). These supplies will be unloaded in a similar manner to other cargo. Fuel isotainers will be temporarily placed at the laydown areas in contained bermed storage areas. Forklifts will be utilized to remove containers from the barges and deliver them to storage areas or onto transfer vehicles for transport to the site working areas. Cargo will be containerized and palletized as required by ADOT and the respective cargo transport service.

#### 3.1 Construction Best Management Practices

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would be followed during the construction phase of the marine dock/landing area facility include those listed below:

- Hydraulic equipment used on barges will use vegetable oil or another biodegradable fluid rather than petroleum based oils.
- Refueling of construction equipment will be conducted on shore in a designated area with containment (liner and berming).

- Fuel transfers will incorporate level sensors, drip pans, and other precautionary measures, as appropriate.
- Oil spill response equipment will be readily available to respond to and contain any oil spills (NMC, Revised Plan of Operations, 2007). Spill response equipment will include absorbent materials, containment booms, and appropriate personal protective equipment. Personnel that are trained in responding to spills will be at the scene during all operations that could result in a spill.
- Spills into coastal waters will be reported to the appropriate agency immediately (ADEC, EPA, Coast Guard). Oil absorbent booms/socks will be placed around the spill sheen to contain it and to absorb as much of the petroleum product as possible.
- Reportable spills on land will be immediately cleaned up and reported to the appropriate agency.
- Upland disposal sites for waste cleanup will have silt curtains placed around the disposal area. Straw bales will be placed in drainage swales at periodic intervals to contain and filter muddy waters.

The following (BMPs) would be incorporated during the construction and operation of the ancillary facilities:

- Runoff from the laydown areas, any topsoil stockpiles, and other ancillary construction sites and/or facilities will be filtered by silt fences, hay bales, or other appropriate methods. Sediment traps would be regularly inspected, cleaned, and maintained.
- The laydown areas and access roads will be surfaced with crushed gravel, to limit erosion.
- Boat or other vehicle maintenance activities would not allowed in the vicinity of the marine dock/landing area.
- Natural vegetation will be left in place along the shoreline wherever possible. Disturbed and exposed soils would be revegetated as soon as practicable. Runoff would be diverted around exposed soils to heavily vegetated areas in the forest.

### 3.2 Operational Best Management Practices

The following operational BMPs were taken from a compilation of recommended BMPs for Alaska Harbors by Neil Ross Consultants and Concepts Unlimited, 1995.

### **Solid Waste**

- Trash containers will be provided on shore at the marine terminal.
- Waste receptacles will be placed on docks and secured, to prevent accidental spillage into the water.

### **Liquid Waste**

- Spill absorbent pads and booms would be readily available in the event of a spill.
- Propylene glycol based antifreeze (orange color) will be used in place of ethylene glycol based antifreeze (green color) wherever possible, because it is less toxic.

### **Petroleum Leaks and Spills**

- An oil Spill Response Plan (SRP) would be developed for the marine docking/landing facility.
- Adequate spill response equipment will be easily accessible and located at a clearly marked site. Phone numbers and directions on reporting spills would also be clearly posted at the same location.
- Used spill response equipment will be properly disposed of.
- Biological cleaners, which consume and digest petroleum pollutants, will be used to ensure complete remediation of spill waste material, wherever appropriate.

### **Bilge Water**

- Prior to discharging bilge water, the discharge will be inspected to ensure that no oil or fuel has been spilled into the bilge. Bilge water would not be discharged if it has a sheen or if it contains solvents, detergents or other additives.
- An oil/water separator will be installed in the bilge and in the bilge water pump discharge line. The separator will be maintained regularly.
- Niblack will recommend that oil-absorbing materials be used in bilge areas of boats that have inboard engines.
- Non-alkaline, biodegradable bilge cleaners will be used at the construction site.

### 3.3 Monitoring

#### **Baseline**

Niblack will collect pre-project environmental baseline marine water quality samples, consistent with the site-wide water quality monitoring plan in the vicinity of the dock/barge ramp landing area. These water quality conditions are summarized in a separate document. *Niblack Water Quality Monitoring and Baseline Plan, Knight Piesold Consulting, January, 2007.* This would include at least one set of chemical parameters and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) from one to three sites, which can be indicative of pre-existing diesel fuel spills.

#### **Operational**

A similar set of samples will be collected and analyzed during the construction period. This will document any impacts related to construction activities and/or fueling.

#### **Reporting and Data Review**

This information will be submitted to the LMPT as part of the annual monitoring report. The *Niblack Water Quality Monitoring Plan (January, 2007)* is presented in a separate document.

### 3.4 Maintenance of the Dock and Barge Landing Facilities

The facilities will be constructed of materials that will require relatively little maintenance. All necessary maintenance will be performed by Niblack personnel or their contractors. Floats and walkways will be cleaned periodically. The galvanized coatings will also be maintained periodically. Cathodic protection systems will be installed and repaired when required. The ramp foundation will be inspected after major storm events, to ensure that the backfill rubble material was not displaced by large waves. Timbers will be inspected once per year. Damaged or rotten timbers will be repaired or replaced as necessary. When treatment is required, tarps and other means will be used as appropriate to prevent any hazardous substances from entering the water.

#### **SECTION 4. CLOSURE/ RECLAMATION PLAN**

All constructed facilities would be removed from the docksite area as part of the closure and reclamation activities. Scrap or demolition materials from the marine facilities will be disposed off-site. The fill in the landing approach would be removed and disposed of at the non-acid generating (NAG) waste rock storage site. The laydown area would be regraded and scarified. Any disturbed areas would then be seeded with approved vegetation.

## **SECTION 5. REFERENCES**

1. Neil Ross Consultants and Concepts Unlimited. 1995. *BMP Examples for Alaska: Compilation and Assessment for Harbor, Marina, boat Operations, Repair and Maintenance.*
2. RTR Resource Management, Inc. 2006. *Niblack Mining Corporation Lookout Unit Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.*
3. Knight Piesold Consulting. 2007. *Water Quality Monitoring and Baseline Plan, Niblack Construction and Exploration Project, January, 2007*
4. Niblack Mining Corporation. 2007. *Revised Niblack Construction/Exploration Plan of Operations*

## **Appendix E**

### **ACMP Coastal Zone Questionnaire**

# Coastal Project Questionnaire and Certification Statement

All questions must be answered. **If you answer "Yes" to any of the questions, please call that specific department for further instructions to avoid delay in processing your application.** Maps and plan drawings must be included with your packet.

*An incomplete packet will be returned.*

**■ APPLICANT INFORMATION**

<p>1. Niblack Mining Corp.</p> <hr/> <p>Name of Applicant Suite 615 – 800 West Pender Street</p> <hr/> <p>Address Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V63 2V6</p> <hr/> <p>City/State/Zip (604) 484-5045</p> <hr/> <p>Daytime Phone Darwin Green [dgreen@niblackmining.com]</p> <hr/> <p>Fax Number _____ E-mail Address _____</p>	<p>2. Rick Richins, RTR Resource Management</p> <hr/> <p>Agent (or responsible party if other than applicant) 1109 Main St - Suite 480</p> <hr/> <p>Address Boise, Idaho 83702</p> <hr/> <p>City/State/ZipState _____ Zip Code _____ (208) 343-8727</p> <hr/> <p>Daytime Phone (208) 343-5115</p> <hr/> <p>Fax Number _____ E-mail Address rrichins@rtr-inc.com</p>
---	---

**■ PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Yes      No**

1. This activity is a:  new project     modification or addition to an existing project  
 If this is a modification, do you currently have any State, federal or local approvals for this activity? .....

*Note: Approval means any form of authorization. If "yes," please list below:*

Approval Type	Approval #	Issuance Date	Expiration Date
ADEC Domestic Wastewater General Permit	0240DB004-1132	8/4/2006	12/31/2006
ADNR Temporary Water Use	TWUP J2005-07	6/24/2005	7/15/2010
ADNR Temporary Water Use	TWUP J2005-06	6/17/2005	6/21/2010
ADNR Fish Habitat	FH-06-VII-0014	6/13/2006	End of Project
ACOE Nationwide Permit	POA-2006-511-D	6/13/2006	End of Project
ACOE Wetlands Determination		3/31/2006	3/30/2011

2. If this is a modification, was this project reviewed for consistency with Alaska Coastal Management? .....

Previous State I.D. Number: AK \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Project Name \_\_\_\_\_

**■ PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1. Provide a brief description of your entire project and ALL associated facilities and land use conversions.

The Niblack Property is an exploration project in the initial stages of development. The main focus of the program is the evaluation of the down-dip extension of a poly-metallic resource by continued diamond drilling from underground drill platforms. The underground drill platforms will be accessed from 5,000 feet of underground workings that are being planned from a single adit entry level.

Proposed starting date for project: March 2007 Proposed ending date for project: October 2011

2. Attach the following: • a detailed project description, all associated facilities, and land use conversions, etc. (Be specific, including access roads, caretaker facilities, waste disposal sites, etc.); • a project timeline for completion of all major activities; • a site plan depicting project boundary with all proposed actions; • other supporting documentation to facilitate project review. Note: If the project is a modification, identify existing facilities and proposed changes on the site plan.

**■ PROJECT LOCATION**

1. Attach a copy of the topographical and vicinity map clearly indicating the location of the project. Please include a map title and scale.
2. The project is located in which region (see attached map):  Northern  Southcentral  Southeast  
 Southwest  within or associated with the Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor
3. Location of project (Include the name of the nearest land feature or body of water.) Niblack Anchorage, P.of Wales Island  
Township 78S Range 88E Section 33/34 Meridian Copper River Latitude/Longitude (WGS84)N55.0667159 / W132.1461172  
USGS Quad Map Craig A-1
4. Is the project located in a coastal district? Yes  No  If yes, identify: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Coastal districts are a municipality or borough, home rule or first class city, second class with planning, or coastal resource service area.) Note: A coastal district is a participant in the State's consistency review process. It is possible for the State review to be adjusted to accommodate a local permitting public hearing. Early interaction with the district is important; please contact the district representative listed on the attached contact list.*
5. Identify the communities closest to your project location: Ketchikan
6. The project is on:  State land or water\*  Federal land  Private land  
 Municipal land  Mental Health Trust land  
\*State land can be uplands, tidelands, or submerged lands to 3 miles offshore. See Question #1 in DNR section.  
Contact the applicable landowner(s) to obtain necessary authorizations.

**■ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) APPROVALS**

- |  | Yes                                 | No                                  |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Will a discharge of wastewater from industrial or commercial operations occur? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Will the discharge be connected to an approved sewer system? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Will the project include a stormwater collection/discharge system? .....   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2. Do you intend to construct, install, modify, or use any part of a wastewater (sewage or greywater) disposal system? .....                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| a) If the answer is yes, will the discharge be 500 gallons per day or greater?.....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) If constructing a domestic wastewater treatment or disposal system, will the system be located within fill material requiring a COE permit? ..... | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

If you answered yes to a) or b), answer the following:

- 1) What is the distance from the bottom of the system to the top of the subsurface water table? \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) How far is any part of the wastewater disposal system from the nearest surface water? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Is the surrounding area inundated with water at any time of the year? .....
- 4) How big is the fill area to be used for the absorption system? \_\_\_\_\_
- (Questions 1 & 2 will be used by DEC to determine whether separation distances are being met; Questions 3 & 4 relate to the required size of the fill if wetlands are involved.)*

- |  | <b>Yes</b>                          | <b>No</b>                           |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3. Will your project require a mixing zone? .....<br><i>(If your wastewater discharge will exceed Alaska water quality standards, you may apply for a mixing zone. If so, please contact DEC to discuss information required under 18 AAC 70.032.)</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. a) Will your project result in construction, operation, or closure of a facility for solid waste disposal?.....<br><i>(Note: Solid waste means drilling wastes, household garbage, refuse, sludge, construction or demolition wastes, industrial solid waste, asbestos, and other discarded, abandoned, or unwanted solid or semi-solid material, whether or not subject to decomposition, originating from any source. Disposal means placement of solid waste on land.)</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Will your project result in treatment of solid waste at the site?.....<br><i>(Examples of treatment methods include, but are not limited to: incineration, open burning, baling, and composting.)</i>   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Will your project result in storage or transfer of solid waste at the site?.....  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Will the project result in storage of more than 50 tons of materials for reuse, recycling, or resource recovery?.....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Will any sewage solids or biosolids be disposed of or land-applied to the site? .....<br><i>(Sewage solids include wastes that have been removed from a wastewater treatment plant system, such as a septic tank, lagoon dredge, or wastewater treatment sludge that contain no free liquids. Biosolids are the solid, semi-solid, or liquid residues produced during the treatment of domestic septage in a treatment works which are land applied for beneficial use.)</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Will your project require application of oil, pesticides, and/or any other broadcast chemicals? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. a) Will you have a facility with industrial processes that are designed to process no less than five tons per hour and needs air pollution controls to comply with State emission standards? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Will you have stationary or transportable fuel burning equipment, including flares, with a total fuel consumption capacity no less than 50 million Btu/hour? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Will you have a facility with incinerators having a total charging capacity of no less than 1,000 pounds per hour?.....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Will you have a facility with equipment or processes that are subject to Federal New Source Performance Standards or National Emission Standards for hazardous air pollutants? ....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Will you propose exhaust stack injection?.....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Will you have a facility with the potential to emit no less than 100 tons per year of any regulated air contaminant?.....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Will you have a facility with the potential to emit no less than 10 tons per year of any hazardous air contaminant or 25 tons per year of all hazardous air contaminants?.....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Will you construct or add stationary or transportable fuel burning equipment of no less than 10 million Btu/hour in the City of Unalaska or the City of St. Paul? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Will you construct or modify in the Port of Anchorage a volatile liquid storage tank with a volume no less than 9,000 barrels, or a volatile liquid loading rack with a design throughput no less than 15 million gallons? .....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) Will you be requesting operational or physical limits designed to reduce emissions from an existing facility in an air quality nonattainment area to offset an emission increase from another new or modified facility? .....   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Do you plan to develop, construct, install, or alter a public water system?.....  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. a) Will your project involve the operation of waterborne tank vessels or oil barges   |                                     |                                     |

- that carry crude or non-crude oil as bulk cargo, or the transfer of oil or other petroleum products to or from such a vessel or a pipeline system?.....
- b) Will your project require or include onshore or offshore oil facilities with an effective aggregate storage capacity of greater than 5,000 barrels of crude oil or greater than 10,000 barrels of non-crude oil?.....
- Yes      No**
- c) Will you operate facilities on land or water for exploration or production of hydrocarbons? .....

**If you answered "No" to ALL questions in this section, continue to next section.**  
**If you answered "Yes" to ANY of these questions, contact the DEC office nearest you for information and application forms. Please be advised that all new DEC permits and approvals require a 30-day public notice period. DEC Pesticide permits take effect no sooner than 40 days after the permit is issued.**

Based on your discussion with DEC, please complete the following:

Types of project approvals or permits needed and name of individual you contacted.	Date application submitted
Temporary Water Rights Application – John Dunker	November, 2006
ADEC Waste Management – Kenwyn George	December, 2006

9. Does your project qualify for a general permit for wastewater or solid waste?.....    
*Note: A general permit is an approval issued by DEC for certain types of routine activities.*

**If you answered "Yes" to any questions in this section and are not applying for DEC permits, indicate reason:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ (DEC contact) told me on \_\_\_\_\_ that no DEC approvals are required on this project because \_\_\_\_\_
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**■ DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (DFG) APPROVALS**

**Yes      No**

1. Is your project located in a designated State Game Refuge, Critical Habitat Area or State Game Sanctuary? .....
2. Does your project include construction/operation of a salmon hatchery? .....
3. Does your project affect, or is it related to, a previously permitted salmon hatchery?.....
4. Does your project include construction of an aquatic farm?.....

**If you answered "No" to ALL questions in this section, continue to next section.**  
**If you answered "Yes" to ANY questions under 1-4, contact the ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division headquarters for information and application forms**

Based on your discussion with ADF&G, please complete the following:

Types of project approvals or permits needed.	Date application submitted

**If you answered "YES" to any questions in this section and are not applying for ADF&G permits, indicate reason:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (ADF&G contact) told me on \_\_\_\_\_ that no ADF&G approvals are required on this project because \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

■ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) APPROVALS

Yes No

1. Is the proposed project on State-owned land or water or will you need to cross State-owned land for access? ("Access" includes temporary access for construction purposes. *Note: In addition to State-owned uplands, the State owns almost all land below the ordinary high water line of navigable streams, rivers and lakes, and below the mean high tide line seaward for three miles.*) .....    
 a) Is this project for a commercial activity? .....
2. Is the project on Alaska Mental Health Trust land (AMHT) or will you need to cross AMHT land? *Note: Alaska Mental Health Trust land is not considered State land for the purpose of ACMP reviews.* .....
3. Do you plan to dredge or otherwise excavate/remove materials on State-owned land? .....    
 Location of dredging site if different than the project site: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Meridian \_\_\_\_\_ USGS Quad Map \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you plan to place fill or dredged material on State-owned land? .....    
 Location of fill disposal site if other than the project site: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Meridian \_\_\_\_\_ USGS Quad Map \_\_\_\_\_  
 Source is on:  State Land  Federal Land  Private Land  Municipal Land
5. Do you plan to use any of the following State-owned resources: .....    
 **Timber:** Will you harvest timber? Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Materials such as rock, sand or gravel, peat, soil, overburden, etc.:**  
 Which material? \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of source:  Project site  Other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Meridian \_\_\_\_\_ USGS Quad Map \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you plan to divert, impound, withdraw, or use any fresh water, except from an existing public water system or roof rain catchment system (regardless of land ownership)? .....    
 Amount (maximum daily, not average, in gallons per day): 170,000gpd  
 Source: Groundwater Intended Use: Dewatering exploration tunnel  
 If yes, will your project affect the availability of water to anyone holding water rights to that water? .....
7. Do you plan to build or alter a dam (regardless of land ownership)? .....
8. Do you plan to drill a geothermal well (regardless of land ownership)? .....
9. At any one site (regardless of land ownership), do you plan any of the following? .....    
 Mine five or more acres over a year's time  
 Mine 50,000 cubic yards or more of materials (rock, sand or gravel, soil, peat, overburden, etc.) over a year's time

Have a cumulative unreclaimed mined area of five or more acres

If yes to any of the above, contact DNR about a reclamation plan.

If you plan to mine less than the acreage/amount stated above and have a cumulative unreclaimed **Yes**

**No**

mined area of less than five acres, do you intend to file a voluntary reclamation plan for approval? .....

10. Do you plan to explore for or extract coal? .....

11. a) Will you explore for or produce oil and/or gas?.....

b) Will you conduct surface use activities on an oil and/or gas lease or within an oil and/or gas unit?.....

12. Will you investigate, remove, or impact historical or archaeological or paleontological resources (anything over 50 years old) on State-owned land?.....

13. Is the proposed project located within a known geophysical hazard area?.....

*Note: 6 AAC 80.900(9) defines geophysical hazard areas as "those areas which present a threat to life or property from geophysical or geological hazards, including flooding, tsunami run-up, storm surge run-up, landslides, snowslides, faults, ice hazards, erosion, and littoral beach process." "known geophysical hazard area" means any area identified in a report or map published by a federal, state, or local agency, or by a geological or engineering consulting firm, or generally known by local knowledge, as having known or potential hazards from geologic, seismic, or hydrologic processes.*

14. Is the proposed project located in a unit of the Alaska State Park System? .....

15. Will you work in, remove water or material from, or place anything in, a stream, river or lake? (This includes work or activities below the ordinary high water mark or on ice, in the active flood plain, on islands, in or on the face of the banks, or, for streams entering or flowing through tidelands, above the level of mean lower low tide.)  
*Note: If the proposed project is located within a special flood hazard area, a floodplain development permit may be required. Contact the affected city or borough planning department for additional information and a floodplain determination.)* .....

Name of waterbody: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Will you do any of the following:.....

*Please indicate below:*

Build a dam, river training structure, other instream impoundment, or weir

Use water

Pump water into or out of stream or lake (including dry channels)

Divert or alter a natural stream channel

Change water flow or the stream channel

Introduce silt, gravel, rock, petroleum products, debris, brush, trees, chemicals, or other organic/inorganic material, including waste of any type, into water

Alter, stabilize or restore banks of a river, stream or lake (provide number of linear feet affected along the bank(s))

Mine, dig in, or remove material, including woody debris, from beds or banks of a waterbody

Use explosives in or near a waterbody

Build a bridge (including an ice bridge)

Use a stream, lake or waterbody as a road (even when frozen), or cross a stream with tracked or wheeled vehicles, log-dragging or excavation equipment (backhoes, bulldozers, etc.)

Install a culvert or other drainage structure

Construct, place, excavate, dispose or remove any material below the ordinary high water of a waterbody

Construct a storm water discharge or drain into a waterbody

Place pilings or anchors

Construct a dock

Construct a utility line crossing

Maintain or repair an existing structure

Use an instream in-water structure not mentioned here

**If you answered "No" to ALL questions in this section, continue to next section.  
 If you answered "Yes" to ANY questions under 1-16, contact the Area DNR, office for information and application forms.**

Based on your discussion with DNR, please complete the following:

Types of project approvals or permits needed.	Date application submitted
ADNR Fish Habitat Permit FH-06-VII-0014	6/13/2006
Temporary Tideland Lease – Brady Scott//Travis Guymon	December, 2006
Waste Management Permit – Ed Emswiler	Pending
Waste Water Permit – Kenwyn George	Pending
Temporary Construction, Excavation Dewatering Permit – Kenwyn George	Pending
General Waste Permit (Barge) – Ed Emswiler	Pending
Temporary Water Use Permit – John Dunker	Pending
Corps Section 10 Permit – John Leeds	Pending

**If you answered "Yes" to any questions in this section and are not applying for DNR permits, indicate reason:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (DNR contact) told me on \_\_\_\_\_ that no DNR approvals are required on this project because \_\_\_\_\_

**■ FEDERAL APPROVALS**

**Yes No**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)**

1. Will you dredge or place structures or fills in any of the following:
- tidal (ocean) waters? streams? lakes? wetlands\*? .....
  - If yes, have you applied for a COE permit? .....

Date of submittal: December 2006

Name of COE contact: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Note: Your application for this activity to the COE also serves as application for DEC Water Quality Certification.)*

*\*If you are not certain whether your proposed project is in a wetlands (wetlands include muskegs), contact the COE, Regulatory Branch at 907-753-2712 for a wetlands determination (outside the Anchorage area call toll free 1-800-478-2712)*

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

2. Is the proposed project located on BLM land, or will you need to cross BLM land for access?.....
- If yes, have you applied for a BLM permit or approval? .....

Date of submittal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of BLM contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)**

3. a) Do you plan to construct a bridge or causeway over tidal (ocean) waters, or navigable rivers, streams or lakes?.....
- b) Does your project involve building an access to an island? .....
- c) Do you plan to site, construct, or operate a deepwater port?.....
- If yes, have you applied for a USCG permit? .....

Date of submittal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of USCG contact: \_\_\_\_\_

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

4. a) Will the proposed project have a discharge to any waters? (Stormwater Only) .....
- b) Will you dispose of sewage sludge (contact EPA at 206-553-1941)? .....
- If you answered yes to a) or b), have you applied for an EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit? .....

Date of submittal: Pending

Name of EPA contact: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: For information regarding the need for an NPDES permit, contact EPA at 1-800-424-4372)

- c) Will construction of your project expose more than one acre of soil? (This applies to the total amount of **Yes**

**No**

land disturbed, even if disturbance is distributed over more than one season, and also applies to areas that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale.) .....

- d) Is your project an industrial facility that will have stormwater discharge directly related to manufacturing, processing, or raw materials storage areas at an industrial plant?.....
- If you answered yes to c) or d), your project may require an NPDES Stormwater permit. Contact EPA at 206-553-8399.

**Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**

5. a) Is your project located within five miles of any public airport?.....
- b) Will you have a waste discharge that is likely to decay within 5,000 feet of any public airport? .....
- If yes, please contact the Airports Division of the FAA at 907-271-5438.

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)**

6. a) Does the project include any of the following:
- 1) a non-federal hydroelectric project on any navigable body of water.....
- 2) a location on federal land (including transmission lines) .....
- 3) utilization of surplus water from any federal government dam .....
- b) Does the project include construction and operation, or abandonment of natural gas pipeline facilities under sections (b) and (c) of the Federal Power Act (FPA)?.....
- c) Does the project include construction for physical interconnection of electric transmission facilities under section 202 (b) of the FPA?.....
- If you answered yes to any questions under number 6, did you apply for a permit from FERC?.....

Date of submittal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of FERC contact:

(Note: For information, Div. Hydropower-Environment and Engineering contact: Vince Yearek 202-502-6174 or Mike Henry 503-944-6762, 202-502 8700; (for Natural Gas Projects) Division of Pipeline Certificate 202-502-8625; for Alaska projects contact Richard Foley – 202-502-8955)

**U.S. Forest Service (USFS)**

7. a) Does the proposed project involve construction on USFS land? .....
- b) Does the proposed project involve the crossing of USFS land with a water line?.....
- If the answer to either question is yes, did you apply for a USFS permit or approval?.....

Date of submittal: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of USFS contact: Jeff DeFriest (Juneau Ranger District)

8. Have you applied for any other federal permits or authorizations? .....

AGENCY	APPROVAL TYPE	DATE SUBMITTED
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 10 Rivers/Harbors	December 15, 2006
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Modification of Nationwide Permit	December 30, 2006

**Please be advised that the CPQ identifies permits subject to a consistency review. You may need additional permits from other agencies or the affected city and/or borough government to proceed with your activity.**

**Certification Statement**

The information contained herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that the proposed activity complies with, and will be conducted in a manner consistent with, the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

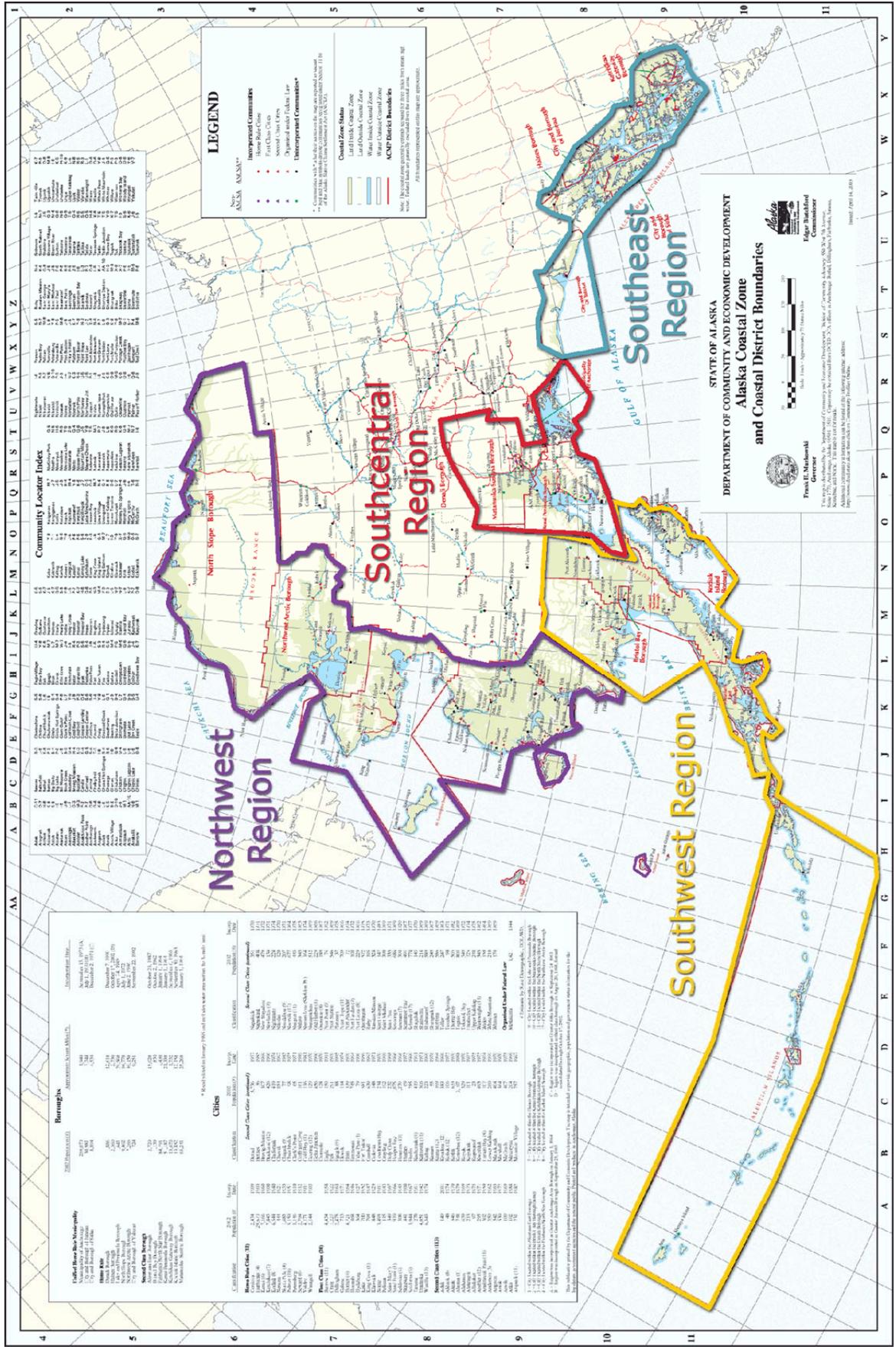
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant or Agent Date

*Note:* Federal agencies conducting an activity that will affect the coastal zone are required to submit a federal consistency determination, per 15 CFR 930, Subpart C, rather than this certification statement. ACMP has developed a guide to assist federal agencies with this requirement. Contact ACMP to obtain a copy.

This certification statement will not be complete until all required State and federal authorization requests have been submitted to the appropriate agencies.

- **To complete your packet, please attach your State permit applications and copies of your federal permit applications to this questionnaire.**



## **Appendix F**

### **Environmental Risk Questionnaire**

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

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Contract Administration</b><br>550 W 7th Ave., Suite 640<br>Anchorage, AK 99501-3576<br>(907) 269-8594 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Northern Region</b><br>3700 Airport Way<br>Fairbanks, AK 99709<br>(907) 451-2740 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Southcentral Region</b><br>550 W 7th Ave., Suite 900C<br>Anchorage, AK 99501-3577<br>(907) 269-8552 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Southeast Region</b><br>400 Willoughby, #400<br>Juneau, AK 99801<br>(907) 465-3400 |
|--|--|---|---|

**APPLICANT ENVIRONMENTAL RISK QUESTIONNAIRE**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help clarify the types of activities you propose to undertake. The questions are meant to help identify the level of environmental risk that may be associated with the proposed activity. The Division of Mining, Land

and Water's evaluation of environmental risk for the proposed activity does not imply that the parcel or the proposed activity is an environmental risk from the presence or use of hazardous substances.

Through this analysis, you may become aware of environmental risks that you did not know about. If so, you may want to consult with an environmental engineer or an attorney.

Niblack Mining Corporation (NMC)

Applicant's Name Doing Business As

Suite 615-800 West Pender St.

Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA V6C 2V6

Address State      Zip

( 604 ) 484-5045 ( ) SAME      dgreen@niblackmining.com      Darwin Green, V.P. Exploration  
Message Phone      Work Phone      E-Mail      Contact Person

Describe the proposed activity:

Niblack Mining Corporation (NMC) proposes to construct a 3090 ft. access drift, plus about 920 ft. of footwall drift and 1140 ft. of hanging wall drift for the purpose of exploring via underground drilling the Lookout Unit. About 50,000 ft. of diamond drilling is planned. The adit will be 14.5 ft. wide and 13ft high. It will generate 60,900 yd<sup>3</sup> of waste rock to be stored both permanently (NAG rock = 44,600 yd<sup>3</sup>) and temporarily (PAG rock = 14,300 yd<sup>3</sup> prior to placement back underground. Previously, a 16ft. wide access road was constructed from a barge landing area to the adit site.

Currently, a water treatment plant is planned to treat up to 140 gpm of water from the excavation dewatering at the adit consttuction, as well as stormwater flows. A 24-person floating mancamp will accomodate the miners. It includes water, waste water, and solid waste management systems, all self-contained. A dock and barge landing area will also be constructed in advance of the adit construction during early spring, 2007. Other planned facilities and activities are described in detail in the document: *Niblack Project Underground Exploration Plan of Operations, Niblack Mining Corporation, December, 2006*

In the course of your proposed activity will you generate, use, store, transport, dispose of, or otherwise come in contact with toxic and/or hazardous materials, and/or hydrocarbons? Yes  No

If yes, please list the substances and the associated quantities. Use a separate sheet of paper, if necessary.

NMC will use the following hazardous materials and quantities for this construction project:

- 1) water gel explosives, stick power, blasting caps (7000 lbs ammonium nitrate+700 lbs powder+500 lbs. nonel+ 1000 ft. cord)
- 2) diesel fuel - 31,000 gal. stored (21 day cycle)
- 3) gasoline & lubricating oils - 1000 gal. stored (21 day cycle)

Appropriate USDS sheets will be posted onsite. A explosives BMP plan has been prepared, ans a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan has been written and is maintained onsite, including annual refresher training. Other potential hazardous material handling involves the temporary storage of about 13,000 yd<sup>3</sup> of potentially acid generating (PAG) waste rock. This material will be stored about one half mile (2500 ft.) directly north of the underground adit on a lined (HDPE) storage site. The site also employs an engineered stormwater facility and management plan to convey the 24hr., 25-year storm event around the site, and a synthetic plastic cover over the wate rock storage pile. Water treatment is also provided for any stormwater runoff of leachate

If the proposed activities involve any storage tanks, either above or below ground, address the following questions for each tank. Please use a separate sheet of paper, if necessary, and, where appropriate, include maps or plats:

a. Where will the tank be located? See Figure 2, Site Plan. The fuel tanks will be located above the barge landing sitge at the laydown area

The lined, bermed area is designed to hold 110 percent of the contents of the fuel tanks, plus the design storm (6 inch.) precip event.

b. What will be stored in the tank? Diesel fuel in Tanks 1 & 2, gasoline in tanks 3 & 4.

c. What will be the tank's size in gallons? Tanks 1 & 2 = 10,000 gal each ( may use bladders); Tanks 3 & 4 = 500 gal each

(may use bladders)

d. What will the tank be used for? (Commercial or residential purposes?) Industrial / construction

purposes - storage of fuel

e. Will the tank be tested for leaks? Yes - at installation pressure tested, then regularly (monthly) by visual inspection & recorded

f. Will the tank be equipped with leak detection devices? Yes  No . If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Tank inspections & testing are described as follows: Tanks will be visually inspected monthly. Visual inspections are conducted with respect to the following:

1) Tank fill valves will be in the closed position when not in use

2) All valves will be inspected for signs of leakage or deterioration

3) Inlet and Outlet piping, as well as tank flanges will be checked for leakage and to insure that adequate support is provided.

4) Level indicators and discharge control equipment will be checked to see that all are operating properly

5) The tank shell surfaces will be visually inspected for areas of rust or other signs of deterioration. Particular attention will be paid to areas with peeling paint (or other coating), welds, and seams

6) The ground surface in the loading area will be checked for obvious signs of leakage or spills, specifically stained or visibly damp soils

Annual inspections include examination of the tank shell, welds, rivets and bolt, foundations, and supports. Above ground valves and pipelines will be examined for the general conditions of lange joints, expansion joints, valve glands and boies, catch pans, pipeline supports, and condition of metal surfaces

Do you know or have any reason to suspect that the site may have been previously contaminated? Yes  No

if yes, please explain:

I certify that due diligence has been exercised and proper inquiries made in completing this questionnaire, and that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Darwin Green, V.P. Exploration, NMC

Date \_\_\_\_\_

AS 38.05.035(a) authorizes the director to decide what information is needed to process an application for the sale or use of state land and resources. This information is made a part of the state public land records and becomes public information under AS 09.25.110 and 09.25.120 (unless the information qualifies for confidentiality under AS 38.05.035(a)(9) and confidentiality is requested). Public information is open to inspection by you or any member of the public. A person who is the subject of the information may challenge its accuracy or completeness under AS 44.99.310, by giving a written description of the challenged information, the changes needed to correct it, and a name and address where the person can be reached. False statements made in an application for a benefit are punishable under AS 11.56.210.