



FISH HABITAT PERMIT

FH24-III-0231

ISSUED: October 29, 2024

EXPIRES: January 31, 2025

Michael Eckert, General Manager
Northern Star (Pogo) LLC
PO Box 145
Delta Junction, AK 99737

RE: Sediment Removal
Goodpaster River (Stream Number 334-40-11000-2490-3407)
Off-River Treatment Works Pond
Sections 14, 23, T 5S, R 14E, FM (Big Delta B-2 Quad)
Location: 64.4736 N, 144.9158 W

Dear Michael Eckert:

Pursuant to AS 16.05.871 (b), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Habitat Section has reviewed your proposal to remove sediment at Northern Star (Pogo) LLC's Off-River Treatment Works (ORTW) inlet pond off of the Goodpaster River.

Project Description

You propose to remove sediment and ice from the ORTW inlet channel. These actions are necessary to attempt to restore adequate flow to the pond for mine operations. No equipment will be operated from below the ordinary high water line, equipment will work on the existing inlet banks. All sediment and ice will be moved to a suitable upland location. We received your request with additional map imagery on October 21, 2024.

Anadromous Fish Act

The Goodpaster River (Stream Number 334-40-11000-2490-3407) has been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fishes pursuant to AS 16.05.871(a). The Goodpaster River provides spawning and migratory habitat for Chinook and chum salmon, and rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon. Your project as proposed should

not have adverse effects on anadromous fish or their habitat and should not obstruct the free passage of fish.

In accordance with AS 16.05.871(d), your project is approved subject to the project description and permit terms.

Permit Terms

This letter constitutes a permit issued under the authority of AS 16.05.871 and must be retained on site during project activities. Please be advised that this determination applies only to activities regulated by the Habitat Section of ADF&G; other agencies also may have jurisdiction under their respective authorities. This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to secure other permits; state, federal, or local. You are still required to comply with all other applicable laws.

You are responsible for the actions of contractors, agents, or other persons who perform work to accomplish the approved project. For any activity that significantly deviates from the approved plan, you shall notify the ADF&G Habitat Section and obtain written approval in the form of a permit amendment before beginning the activity. Any action that increases the project's overall scope or that negates, alters, or minimizes the intent or effectiveness of any provision contained in this permit will be deemed a significant deviation from the approved plan. The final determination as to the significance of any deviation and the need for a permit amendment is the responsibility of the ADF&G Habitat Section. Therefore, it is recommended that you consult the Habitat Section before considering any deviation from the approved plan.

You shall give an authorized representative of the state free and unobstructed access to the permit site, at safe and reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting or monitoring compliance with any provision of this permit. You shall furnish whatever assistance and information the authorized representative reasonably requires for monitoring and inspection purposes.

In addition to the penalties provided by law, this permit may be terminated or revoked for failure to comply with its provisions or failure to comply with applicable statutes and regulations. You shall mitigate any adverse effect upon fish or wildlife, their habitats, or any restriction or interference with public use that the commissioner determines was a direct result of your failure to comply with this permit or any applicable law.

You shall indemnify, save harmless, and defend the department, its agents, and its employees from any and all claims, actions, or liabilities for injuries or damages sustained by any person or property arising directly or indirectly from permitted activities or your performance under this permit. However, this provision has no effect if, and only if, the sole proximate cause of the injury is the department's negligence.

You may appeal this permit decision relating to AS 16.05.871 in accordance with the provisions of AS 44.62.330-630.

Please direct questions about this permit to Habitat Biologist Lauren Yancy at 907-459-7254 or lauren.yancy@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner



BY: Audra L. J. Brase, Regional Supervisor
Habitat Section
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ecc: Al Ott, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks
Russell Gossett, Northern Star (Pogo) Environmental
Andrew Gryska, ADF&G SF, Fairbanks
Brandy Baker, ADF&G SF, Delta Junction
Permit Coordinator, ADF&G SF
Christine Gleason, ADF&G CF, Fairbanks
Matt Sprau, USFWS, Fairbanks
Fairbanks Mining, ADNR, Fairbanks
Tim Pilon, ADEC, Fairbanks
James Hyun, ADNR, Anchorage
USACE, Alaska District
NOAA Fisheries HCD, Anchorage
AWT, Northern Detachment, Fairbanks

ley/AB