

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

COMMISSIONER'S ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING
MINERAL ORDER 1291

AS 38.05.185(a)

NORTHEAST ALASKA AREA PLAN

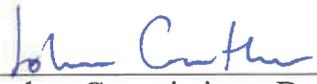
The Northeast Alaska Area Plan (NEAAP), developed in accordance with AS 38.04.065, proposes closing land in Units designated either Settlement or Settlement-Commercial and classified as Settlement Land in the Northeast Alaska Area Plan, and as listed in Table C-1 and depicted in the plan maps.

The Division of Mining, Land and Water requests the mineral estate of approximately 72,300 acres, identified in the attached mineral order, be closed to mineral entry and location, in accordance with AS 38.05.300 for future land disposals. Mining activity on the project area would be incompatible with the current and proposed land estate uses.

The Division of Mining, Land and Water also requests the mineral estate of approximately 8,094 acres, identified in the attached mineral order, be opened to mineral entry and location. This will rescind portions of MCO 554 and MCO 201. Given the absence of need or the presence of physical features that preclude settlement, it is recommended these areas be opened to mineral entry.

Public notice of the comment period for the proposed mineral order was conducted in accordance with AS 38.05.945.

In accordance with AS 38.05.185(a) and AS 38.05.300, I find that the best interests of the State of Alaska and its residents are served by closure of the land to entry under the mineral location and mining laws of the State of Alaska as described by Mineral Order 1291. This order is subject to valid existing rights.



John Crowther, Commissioner Designee
Department of Natural Resources

02/25/2026
Date

Appendix C

Mineral Order 1291

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER
MINERAL ORDER 1291

X Closing Lands to Mineral Entry X Opening Lands to Mineral Entry

- I. **Name:** Northeast Alaska Area Plan
Land Classification Order NC-24-001
- II. **Reason for Mineral Order:** This Mineral Order is based on the attached Commissioner's Administrative Finding and Northeast Alaska Area Plan.
- III. **Authority:** Alaska Statute (AS) 38.05.185 and AS 38.05.300.
- IV. **Location and Legal Description:** This order affects lands in management units classified as Settlement Land.

See Map C-1, Lands to be Included in Mineral Order 1291, for reference.

- V. **Mineral Opening and Closing:** This mineral order is subject to valid existing rights and is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.05.185 and AS 38.05.300 to the Department of Natural Resources. In accordance with AS 38.05.185(a), I find that the best interests of the State of Alaska and its residents are served by closing land and opening other specified land described in this mineral order to entry under the mineral location and mining laws of the State of Alaska. The above-described lands are hereby modified to entry under the locatable mineral and mining laws of the State of Alaska with the adoption of the Northeast Alaska Area Plan.

Concur: Christy Colles 2/25/2026
Christiana Colles, Director Date
Division of Mining, Land, and Water

Approved: John Crowther 02/25/2026
John Crowther, Commissioner Designee Date
Department of Natural Resources