



# NOTICE OF REVIEW

## APDES Proposed Final Individual Permit

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)  
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

### NOTICE OF REVIEW OF AN ALASKA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (APDES) PROPOSED FINAL GENERAL PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Following the close of a 30-day public notice period, DEC prepared an APDES proposed final individual permit for Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company. Prior to making the final decision to issue the individual permit, DEC invites you to view the proposed final permit and associated documents. You can access the proposed final permit and associated documents on DEC's Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program web page at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>

#### **Proposed Final Permit Review**

**Start:** August 7, 2015

**End:** August 14, 2015

**Permit No.:** AK0043206

#### **Proposed Permit Coverage**

The Greens Creek Mine is a lead, zinc, silver, and gold mine and mill located on the northwest portion of Admiralty Island approximately 18 miles southwest of Juneau, Alaska. The mine and mill are owned and operated by the Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company (HGCMC). The facility has been in operation since 1989 with a period of temporary shutdown between April 1993 and 1996. At an average production rate of 2,200 to 2,400 tons of ore per day, HGCMC predicts an additional 10 years mine life.

Mine facilities encompass approximately 273 acres in the Admiralty National Monument, and the U.S. Forest Service manages the Admiralty Island National Monument. The mine's facilities are located in the Greens Creek, Zinc Creek, Cannery Creek and Tributary Creek drainages. These creeks flow into Hawk Inlet. Major site facilities include the underground mine, waste rock storage areas, mill, tailings storage facility, and port facilities (Hawk Inlet terminal), and roads connecting these components.

The proposed permit allows HGCMC to discharge treated wastewater into the Hawk Inlet through outfall 002 and limits the maximum flow from outfall 002 to 4.6 million gallons per day. The specific sources of wastewater contributing to outfall 002 include the underground mine; process water from the mill; sanitary wastes; and storm water, seepage, and runoff from waste rock and tailings storage areas.

The proposed permit authorizes a rectangular mixing zone in Hawk Inlet for outfall 002. The mixing zone is a rectangular box shape extending from the inlet floor to the water surface. It has a maximum

width of 165 feet centered along the 160 feet long diffuser, and it extends 40 feet perpendicular to either side of the diffuser for a total length of 80 feet.

**Determination**

The DEC has determined to reissue the above listed individual permit.

**DEC Contact:**

Tim Pilon, 907-451-2136, [tim.pilon@alaska.gov](mailto:tim.pilon@alaska.gov)

**Administrative Record**

The APDES preliminary draft permit, fact sheet, and associated documents are available for public review at the DEC offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. Please contact the office of your choice to arrange for hard copies of the documents to be available for your review.

555 Cordova Street  
**Anchorage**, AK 99501  
907-269-6285

610 University Avenue  
**Fairbanks**, AK 99709  
907-451-2100

410 Willoughby Ave #303  
**Juneau**, AK 99811  
907-465-5300

The documents are also accessible from the DEC website at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>

**Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice**

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in this public review, please contact Natalie Wolfe at (907) 269-0291 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 5 days of publication of this notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.