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Press Release

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DEC Issues \$12,000 Penalty to CCR Mining Company for Illegal Wastewater Discharges and Permit Violations

(ANCHORAGE, AK) – The Alaska Department of Law on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation collected \$12,000 in civil penalties from CCR Mining Company for violations of the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Mechanical Placer Miners General Permit that were documented during the 2011 mining season. CCR Mining was mining mineral claims located on Harrison Creek, approximately 83 miles northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. Harrison Creek drains directly into Birch Creek, which is a designated National Wild and Scenic River and is listed in the Department of Fish & Game's Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes.

CCR Mining Company's permit did not authorize the discharge of wastewater from their mining operations and on three separate occasions, unpermitted discharges from the mine site exceeded state water quality standards for turbidity. High levels of turbidity have been shown to have adverse impacts on fish habitat. Other alleged violations included failure to report the discharges and failure to mitigate the discharges.

"DEC's goal is to improve and protect Alaska's water quality and one way we do this is by enforcing conditions in the permits we issue. Discharges of pollution from placer mine activities can damage important habitat and harm Alaska's natural resources," said Michelle Bonnet, Director of DEC's Water Division.

A large portion of the penalty represents the estimated economic benefit CCR Mining gained by failing to fully comply with the Mechanical Placer Miners General Permit.

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