CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.15

(Submission #: HQB-1NRP-94WD5, version 1)

Details

Site: Leverenz - Boulder Creek

Submission ID HQB-1NRP-94WD5

Form Input

Form Instructions

Form Instructions

Instructions for filling out the 401 Prefiling Meeting Request Form are located on the Alaska DEC website at the link below.
401 Prefiling Meeting Request Form Instructions

Agents: For Delegation of Authority to act on behalf of the applicant in processing the application, use the following form, have signed, and upload with application.

- Delegation of Authority - 401 Application

Contact Information (1 of 1)

Required Contacts

The following **Contact Roles are *REQUIRED***. Please select the appropriate role(s) for each contact and complete the contact details. Multiple role(s) may be assigned to each unique individual.

- **Applicant** (Responsible Party)
- **Billing Contact**

Contact Role(s)
Applicant
Owner
Operator
Billing Contact

Contact

Prefix
NONE PROVIDED

First Name	Last Name
Leva	Leverenz

Title
Owner/Operator

Organization Name
Individual

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Mobile	6513311750	

Email
frognabit@gmail.com

Mailing Address

PO Box 60714

Fairbanks, AK 99706

United States

Project / Facility Site Info

Identify the applicable federal license or permit

A copy of the federal permit or license application is required to be submitted with the request for the water quality certification. (18 AAC 15.130, 18 AAC 15.180)

Federal Agency
Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Permit License Number (ex. USACE: POA-XXXX-XXXX; FERC: FERC-xxxx-xxxx; EPA: AK#######)
POA-2024-00614

Project Name or Title
Leverenz - Boulder Creek

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name
Boulder Creek

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
05/15/2025	10/15/2034

Approximate date(s) when any Discharge(s) may commence (+/- 30 days)

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Placer Mining	05/15/2025	10/15/2034

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)
Placer Mining within wetland areas along Boulder Creek

Project Purpose (Describe the reason(s) for discharge)
Stripping of vegetations and organic overburden to expose pay dirt, mine pay dirt, and perform reclamation using the vegetation and organics after pay dirt is mined.

Is any portion of the work already complete?
Yes

Please describe the completed work
Various areas have been stripped of overburden exposing pay dirt.
Reclamations has been done on various areas that were previously disturbed and mined by previous claim holders.

Description of current activity site conditions
Various areas are stripped of overburden exposing pay dirt and various area that were disturbed and mined by previous claim holders are in need of further reclamation.

Relevant Site Data, Photographs that Represent Current Site Conditions, or other Relevant Documentation

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Is this a linear project? (i.e., utility line, road, etc.)
No

Project Address

126 mile Steese Hwy
Central, AK 99730

Visit the link below to help with conversion between DMS and Latitude/Longitude
DSM - Lat/Long converter

Project Location
65.5451,-144.9319

Visit the following link if you need to convert the lat/long to get the **PLSS information**
Converter for Section, Township, and Range

PLSS Location (Public Land Survey System)

State Tax Parcel ID	Borough/Municipality	Meridian	Section	Township	Range
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	7	008N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	6	008N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	7	008N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	7	008N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	7	008N	014E
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NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	5	008N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	5	008N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	31	009N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	4	008N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	32	009N	014E
NONE PROVIDED	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Fairbanks	32	009N	014E

Directions to Site
Travel to mile post 126 Steese Hwy near Cental, AK, travel approximately 1/4 mile further and the mine access road is on the right-hand side of the road - just before reaching a cabin structure also on the right-hand side of the road. Travel approximately 3 miles to reach our mine camp. Our mine cut is approximately 1 mile past our mine camp.

Federal Agency Contact (1 of 1)

Have you been working with anyone in the Federal Agency?
Yes

Federal Contact Role
USACE

Federal Agency Contact

First Name	Last Name
Gwen	Jacobson

Title
Regulatory Specialist

Organization Name
Department of The Army - Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	9073475802	

Email
gwendolyn.a.jacobson@usace.army.mil

Dredge Material to be Discharged

Is dredging involved?
No

Tier Analysis

A tier analysis is comprised of a layered approach to determine the need for testing the dredge material to aid in generating physical, chemical, toxicity and bioaccumulation information, but not more information than is necessary to make factual determinations.
The tier analysis is a series of tiers (I – IV) or levels of intensity (and cost) of investigation. It is necessary to proceed through the tiers only until information is sufficient to make factual determinations, no further testing is required.

- **Tier I - Site Evaluation and History**. The initial tier (Tier I) uses readily available, existing information (including all previous testing). For certain dredge materials with readily apparent potential for environmental impact (or lack thereof), information collected in Tier I may be sufficient for making factual determinations.
- **Tier II - Chemical Testing** is concerned solely with sediment and water chemistry.
- **Tier III - Biological Testing (bioassay and/or bioaccumulation testing)** is concerned with well-defined, nationally accepte toxicity and bioaccumulation testing procedures.
- **Tier IV - Special Studies** allows for case-specific laboratory and field testing, and is intended to for use in unusual circumstances.

For more information regarding a Tier analysis, see below references

- EPA Inland Testing Manual
- USACE Seattle District Civil Works DMMP User Manual

Fill Material to be Discharged

Will Fill Material be Discharged?
Yes

For fill material, identify the material source
washed pay dirt gravels

Types of material being discharged and the amount of each type (cubic yards)

Type	Cubic Yards
washed pay dirt gravels	96,800

Surface area in (acres or linear feet) of wetlands or other waters filled

Surface Area	Units
15	Acres

Discharge Location Information (1 of 1)

Identify the location and nature of any potential discharge that may result from the proposed project and the location of receiving waters

Discharge Location ID (001, 002, 003, - increment by one)
002

NOTE: if you have a receiving water that is Wetlands, just enter the generic term "Wetlands". Do not enter "Wetlands of Tanana River", for example.

Please select 'Other' if your waterbody is not in the list below.
You can start typing the name of the waterbody to filter the list.

Receiving Waterbody / Wetlands Name
Boulder Creek

Discharge Location
65.5451,-144.9319

Other Pollutant Sources

Contaminated Site Information

Determine if your project is **within 1,500 feet** of a known Alaska DEC Contaminated Site. See the *Alaska DEC Contaminated Web Map* below. This will help you to identify if any potential pollutants/parameters of concern may be present on your project site., see DEC's website:

- Contaminated Sites Web Map
- Contaminated Sites Database Search website

Is the project within 1,500 feet of a known contaminated site?
No

Parameters of Concern that may be present in discharge

Parameter(s) of Concern

Identify the parameters of concern that may be present in your discharge from the dredge and/or fill material.

Note, **TURBIDITY** and **SEDIMENT** are routine parameters associated with dredge and/or fill activities.

Consider if other parameters may be present from past activities in the area such as contamianted site data, impaired waters or other relevant water quality data, or other parameters of concern identified during the application process.

Parameter(s)
Sediment
Turbidity

If known, describe respective concentrations, persistence, and potential impacts to the receiving water and data on parameters that may alter the effects of the discharge to the receiving water
unknown

Impaired Waters

An ***impaired waterbody*** are those listed as a **Category 4 [304(b)] or Category 5 [303(d)]** in the current EPA approved *Alaska's Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.*

For the most recently *Approved Integrated Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment Report (Integrated Report)*, see DEC's website:

- **Integrated Water Quality Monitoring And Assessment Report** https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/integrated-report

Does a discharge of any parameter identified above occur to an impaired waterbody?
Yes

What parameters are causing the Category 4 or 5 impairment?
Turbidity

Are any of the above parameters causing the impairment present in the proposed discharge?
No

If determined necessary and requested by the Department, submit sufficient and credible baseline water quality information for the receiving water which meets the requirements of 18 AAC 70.016(a)(6)(A-C).

Avoidance & Minimization BMPs and Mitigation Measures

Describe how impacts are being avoided and minimized on the project site. Include best management practices (BMPs) for sediment and erosion controls that will be implemented to minimize environmental impacts, and any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge.

Include a description of any methods and means proposed to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge
Coarse and fine tailings are leveled out and vegetation and organics are returned and spread out on top to promote regrowth

Avoidance Measures
the site was selected over alternate sites based on historical evidence of rich gold deposits. Because gold deposits are known to occur within the alluvial valley of Boulder Creek, where wetland are common, complete avoidance would be impractical. By using existing access routes and camp sites, further impacts would be avoided. Additionally, no work is planned within Boulder Creek.

Minimization Measures
Minimization will be accomplished through reclamation, erosion, and water use practices. Reclamation will include backfilling mine cuts with in-situ materials layered by type: coarse gravel, fine tailings, overburden, and organics; and then compacted and graded to match pre-disturbance contours. Overburden and organics will be stockpiles at the edges of mine cuts; this, in conjunction with graded berms, will help prevent erosion during high water events. Additionally, no work would occur within 50 feet of the creek channel in order to prevent runoff or unintended discharge. To mitigate impacts to local wildlife, ramps would be placed at each non-active trench to allow for safe entry and exit. Additionally, water used for mining will be recirculated and self-contained to minimize impact to aquatic resources and wildlife.

Mitigation Measures
compensatory mitigation should not be required because we are not only planning to full reclaim our own placer mining impacts, but we have also assumed the responsibility and associated expenses of reclaiming 4.5 acres of wetlands that were distributed and abandoned by previous miners/claim holders.

Social / Economic Importance

Social or Economic Importance

(18 AAC 70.016(c)(5): Provide information that demonstrates the accommodation of important social or economic development. The applicant shall complete either a social OR economic importance analysis (or both) for each affected community in the area where the receiving water for the proposed discharge is located.

Social Importance Analysis
NONE PROVIDED

Economic Importance Analysis
NONE PROVIDED

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project
The impact to Boulder Creek does not affect the social or economic development of the local community

Description of Social or Economic Importance, if needed
NONE PROVIDED
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

List of Other Permits or Certificates

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

Include a list of all other federal, interstate, tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed project, including all approvals or denials already received.

Agency	Type of Approval*	Identification Number	Date Applied	Date Approved	Date Denied
DNR	APMA	2914	12/03/2024	02/13/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*
DFG	Fish Habitat Permit	FH25-III-0015	12/03/2024	02/23/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*
DEC	General Permit	AKG370D22	07/20/2020	06/01/2021	*NONE PROVIDED*

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 1)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name **Last Name**
Gwen Jacobson

Title
Regulatory Specialist

Organization Name
Department of The Army - Army Corps of Engineers

Phone Type **Number** **Extension**
Business 9073475802

Email
gwendolyn.a.jacobson@usace.army.mil

Attachments

Copy of Federal Application (USACE, EPA, or FERC, etc.)

USACE Permit Application.pdf - 03/12/2025 02:29 PM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Figures and/or Drawings/Plan Sets. To include a map or diagram of the proposed activity site, including the proposed activity boundaries in relation to local streets, roads, and highways.

APMA 2914 Completed Application.pdf - 03/12/2025 02:32 PM

Comment

The location of our mining operation is approximately 4 miles from the nears road - Steese Hwy.

Document Attachments

POA-2024-00614_20240103_NOV_LevaLeverenz.pdf - 03/12/2025 02:30 PM

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

NONE PROVIDED

Comment

NONE PROVIDED

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:
1) in the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall management of the project or operation;
2) in the case of a partnership, by a general partner;
3) in the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; and
4) in the case of a municipal, state, federal or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.
The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Agreements and Signature(s)

As per 18 AAC 15.030 signing of applications, all permit or approval applications must be signed as follows:
1) in the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president or his duly authorized representative, if the representative is responsible for the overall management of the project or operation;
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Signed By Leva Leverenz on 03/12/2025 at 2:35 PM