CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.15

(Submission #: HQB-J3P5-YHEXS, version 1)

Details

Site: Hecla Greens Creek Tailing NEP

Submission ID HQB-J3P5-YHEXS

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 2)

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)
Onsite Contact
Agent
Billing Contact

Contact

Prefix
NONE PROVIDED

First Name	Last Name
Paula	Lillesve

Title
Environmental Manager

Organization Name
Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-600-7737	8472

Email
plillesve@hecla.com

Mailing Address

PO Box 32199

JUNEAU, Alaska 99803

[NO COUNTRY SPECIFIED]

Contact Information (2 of 2)

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

Contact

Prefix
NONE PROVIDED

First Name	Last Name
Bill	Kloth

Title
General Manager

Organization Name
Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-600-7737	8140

Email
bkloth@hecla.com

Mailing Address

PO Box 32199

JUNEAU, Alaska 99803

[NO COUNTRY SPECIFIED]

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-1988-269

Project Name or Title
Hecla Greens Creek Tailing NEP

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name
NONE PROVIDED

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
08/01/2025	08/01/2035

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
NONE PROVIDED	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)
The proposed project is to extend the Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) to provide additional permanent disposal capacity within the existing Forest Service-approved lease boundary to meet the Mine's objectives for continued uninterrupted tailings and waste rock disposal operations at the mine site in a safe, environmentally sound, technically and economically practicable, and cost-effective manner, while remaining in compliance with regulatory requirements. The proposed schedule for the TDF extension would occur in two stages of development. Stage 1 would include decommissioning of Pond 9, modification of existing water management ponds, and extension of the TDF resulting in approximately 1.9 million CY of additional TDF storage capacity. Major components of Stage 2 include relocation of the existing B-Road, relocation of the existing power line and electrical substation, development of new freshwater collection system at Cannery Creek, and further extension of the TDF which would increase storage capacity by approximately 2.7 million CY.

Total fill quantity is 32,100 CY and the total amount of impact to wetlands is 4.9 acres.

Project Purpose (Describe the reason(s) for discharge)
HGCMC's purpose and need for the Project is to extend the existing TDF to provide increased permanent disposal capacity by maximizing use of areas within the existing NFS-approved HGCMC lease boundary for disposal of tailings and waste rock produced by existing operations. This additional disposal capacity is intended to meet HGCMC's objectives for continued uninterrupted tailings and waste rock disposal operations at the Mine site in a safe, environmentally sound, technically, and economically practicable and cost-effective manner, while remaining in compliance with regulatory requirements. The proposed Project would extend the operational life of mine by an estimated 12 to 18 years.

Is any portion of the work already complete?
No

Description of current activity site conditions
Area in question has not been disturbed. The area is immediately bordered by industrial activity and forest/wetlands. No impacts to area will be completed until all permissions are received.

Relevant Site Data, Photographs that Represent Current Site Conditions, or other Relevant Documentation
HGCMC NEP Photo 2.jpg - 04/02/2025 12:04 PM
HGCMC NEP Photo 1.jpg - 04/02/2025 12:04 PM
HGCMC NEP Photo 3.jpg - 04/02/2025 12:05 PM
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

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

Project Address
[NO STREET ADDRESS SPECIFIED]
[NO CITY SPECIFIED], AK *[NO ZIP CODE SPECIFIED]*

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

Project Location
58.120769,-134.747642

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	City and Borough of Juneau	Copper River	S23	T43S	R65E

Directions to Site
The mine and tailings facility are located on Admiralty Island.

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 Nicholas **Last Name** Baggett

Title
Project Manager

Organization Name
USACE

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-227-3124	

Email
nicholas.s.baggett@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
Fill material will be provided by local and regional suppliers.

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

Type	Cubic Yards
Unconsolidated General Fill Material	13,100
Sand and Gravel Mix 6 Inch Minus, Leveling Course	19,000

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

Surface Area	Units
4.9	Acres

Discharge Location Information (1 of 2)

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)
001

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
Wetlands

Discharge Location
58.120769,-134.747642

Discharge Location Information (2 of 2)

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
Cannery Creek

Discharge Location
58.12163946336503,-134.74772783068852

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)
Turbidity
Sediment
Petroleum Hydrocarbons
Metals

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
During construction: peat dewatering, existing flow control structures, and stormwater from developed areas will be directed through Water Treatment Plant 7. The water will be treated in accordance with Hecla's existing APDES permit (AK0043206) for wastewater and stormwater discharge. Construction will occur in two stages to allow for the evaluation of effectiveness of mitigation measures prior to Stage 2. The following potential impacts are based on flows during active construction that are not captured and diverted to Water Treatment Plant 7.

Turbidity and Sediment, construction of the TDF Expansion has the potential to cause temporary sediment discharge into Cannery Creek which in turn could increase turbidity. A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) will be developed, and best management practices (BMPs) will be deployed in accordance with the ADEC Construction General Permit to mitigate for turbidity and sediment.

Hydrocarbons, there is a minimal risk of potential impacts from petroleum hydrocarbons associated with leaks or spills from construction equipment. Spills of this nature most commonly involve small volumes of diesel or hydraulic fluid and are immediately cleaned up in accordance with the Greens Creek Mine Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC) and are mitigated through good housekeeping measures employed in the CGP SWPPP.

Metals, the expansion of the TDF would not result in the creation or shipment of metals concentrate and there would be no direct effect to marine water uses as a result of the project. Storm water runoff during construction will be controlled in accordance with the ADEC General Permit for Discharges from Large and Small Construction Projects as well as APDES permit (AK0043206).

Ponds 7 and 10 will be enlarged during Stage 1 to account for additional flows from the TDF expansion; however, in an emergency overflows may be discharged into Hawk Inlet via emergency spillways.

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?
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

Turbidity and Sediment, construction of the Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF) Expansion has the potential to cause temporary sediment discharge into Cannery Creek which in turn could increase turbidity. A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) will be developed, and best management practices (BMPs) will be deployed in accordance with the ADEC Construction General Permit to mitigate for turbidity and sediment.

Hydrocarbons, there is a minimal risk of potential impacts from petroleum hydrocarbons associated with leaks or spills from construction equipment. Spills of this nature most commonly involve small volumes of diesel or hydraulic fluid and are immediately cleaned up in accordance with the Greens Creek Mine Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC) and are mitigated through good housekeeping measures employed in the CGP SWPPP.

Metals, the expansion of the TDF would not result in the creation or shipment of metals concentrate and there would be no direct effect to marine water uses as a result of the project. Indirect effects of the continued production and shipment of metals concentrations are discussed in the SEIS. Storm water runoff during construction will be controlled in accordance with the ADEC General Permit for Discharges from Large and Small Construction Projects as well as APDES permit (AK0043206).

Avoidance Measures

Complete avoidance of impacts is not practicable due to the prevalence of wetlands surrounding the existing Mine and Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF), and the need for the TDF to be located in close proximity to the Mine and to the existing disposal facility and its attendant features. The following avoidance measures have been incorporated into design and construction of the project:

- Avoid new disturbance outside the existing USFS-approved HGCMC lease boundary and minimize disturbance to the portion of the Monument within the lease boundary.
- Avoid direct disturbance to fish-bearing reaches of Tributary Creek and Cannery Creek.
- Avoid construction of a new remote TDF.

Minimization Measures

The following minimization measures have been incorporated into the design and construction of the project:

- Continue the same or similar dry stack tailings disposal method, which has been previously reviewed and approved.

Extend the existing tailings stack in a manner that minimizes new disturbance and impacts to aquatic resources. To the extent practical, locate the extended TDF and new supporting infrastructure on areas already disturbed or on areas immediately adjacent to existing disturbance. Where feasible, use in place infrastructure (such as roads, water treatment facilities, and drainage control).

- Minimize new disturbance to environmental resources and sensitive habitats, such as WOTUS.
- Consider closure and reclamation as part of design and operations.
- Design and construct the TDF to be technically feasible and environmentally sound.
- Comply with applicable federal, state, and local legal and regulatory standards.
- Ground disturbing activities will be limited to the project footprint. Project boundaries shall be clearly identified in the field (e.g., staking, flagging, silt fencing, etc.) prior to site clearing and construction to ensure avoidance of impacts to WOTUS, including wetlands, beyond the authorized project footprint.
- An Army Corp of Engineers 404 Certification will be obtained.
- A Dam Safety Permit or Approval will be obtained from Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) for raising Pond 7/10.
- The existing solid waste permit will be modified.
- Clearing limits will be clearly demarcated prior to construction to ensure impacts stay confined within the project footprint for areas that are near waterbodies. Construction limits will also be staked to ensure that ground disturbing impacts are limited.

Mitigation Measures

Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company has designed the proposed Project to avoid and minimize impacts to WOTUS to the greatest extent practicable. The proposed Project would result in 4.9 acres of unavoidable impacts to WOTUS. HGCMC proposes to provide compensatory mitigation through the purchase of credits from the Southeast Alaska Land Trust, a USACE approved in-lieu-fee provider with an approved service area that includes the Project location.

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
Employment, job availability, and salary impacts
Tax base impacts

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project
Hecla provides the following social and economic benefits:
• The construction of the TDF expansion will provide a temporary contractor workforce of approximately 40-60 people.
• Hecla is the largest private-sector employer and taxpayer in Juneau, Alaska. The City and Borough of Juneau recognizes financial benefits from taxes paid by the Mine to the local government of Juneau. The project will also allow continued access to hard rock mining resources and continue to provide economic and social benefits associated with the mining industry.
• Hecla established the Greens Creek Community Advisory Committee (CAG). The committee is a collaborative effort with local stakeholders to ensure that community input is considered in the environmental and social aspects of the mine•s planning and operations. CAG allows for clear communication on local concerns and issues, and includes various representatives and community leaders in the southeast.
• Hecla•s Greens Creek mine is the largest provider of student aid at the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS). This includes scholarships to students in relevant careers and training opportunities. Hecla partners with the UAS Center for Mine Training for the Pathway to Mining Careers development program. The program focuses on the education, recruitment, and training of Alaskans careers in the industry.
• The Hecla Charitable Foundation provides support for community initiatives. Hecla works with local stakeholders to identify opportunities. Grant applicants are also able to submit a Foundation Grant Application directly online. The following are programs in Alaska supported by the Foundation:
o Partnered with the Angoon Youth Conservation Corp for eight years in a row. The program provides job opportunities in environmental stewardship for Native youth.
o Contributions to Cancer Connection, a nonprofit assisting Southeast Alaskans living with cancer and their families.
o Grants to Discovery Southeast, a non-profit that introduces children and families to the outdoors. The program includes outdoor education for Southeast Alaskan elementary classrooms.

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
USACE	404 Application	POA-1988-269	02/25/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*
USFS	Final Record of Decision and EIS	57306	10/09/2020	11/07/2024	*NONE PROVIDED*

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 2)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name **Last Name**
Chad VanOrmer
Title
Regional Forester
Organization Name
USFS
Phone Type **Number** **Extension**
Business 907-789-6202
Email
cvanormer@fs.fed.us

Other Agency or Local Contacts (2 of 2)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name	Last Name
Nicholas	Baggett

Title
Project Manager

Organization Name
USACOE

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-227-3124	

Email
nicholas.s.baggett@usace.army.mil

Attachments

Copy of Federal Application (USACE, EPA, or FERC, etc.)
OneDrive_1_3-5-2025.zip - 04/02/2025 11:35 AM
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.
Figures Project Maps.pdf - 04/02/2025 11:50 AM
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments
NONE PROVIDED
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application
Hecla_DEC 401 Cert Request.pdf - 04/02/2025 11:35 AM
Hecla_401-prefiling-request.pdf - 04/02/2025 11:35 AM
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;
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.

Signed By plillesve@hecla.com plillesve@hecla.com on 04/02/2025 at 12:17 PM