CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.15

(Submission #: HQH-94DD-XDPAM, version 1)

Details

Site: Swanberg Mine Submarine

Submission ID HQH-94DD-XDPAM

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
Billing Contact
Onsite Contact
Application Preparer
Operator

Contact

Prefix
Mr.

First Name	Last Name
Kenneth	Hughes

Title
Managing Member

Organization Name
Arctic Placer Drilling & Mining, LLC

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-304-2175	

Email
stargatealaska@gmail.com

Mailing Address

PO Box 1175

Nome, AK 99762

[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-2021-00089

Project Name or Title
Swanberg Mine Submarine

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name
NONE PROVIDED

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
04/15/2026	11/30/2035

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Fill	04/15/2026	11/30/2035

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)
Placer mine with reclamation devoted to future development scenarios.

Project Purpose (Describe the reason(s) for discharge)
Placer Mine reclamation

Is any portion of the work already complete?
Yes

Please describe the completed work
Roughly 70 years go 33% of Submarine and Everly were stripped with the organics stacked in rows evident in sat photos. Further, several ditches have been constructed across the property to provide water to previous mining operations as the area is basically a tundra plain with no defined creeks or streams except for Peluk Creek off the eastern claim boundary.

Description of current activity site conditions
Mostly untouched since the work 70 years ago. Light ATV traffic across the site and installation of the driveway permitted by the State of Alaska to the edge of the right-of-way.

Relevant Site Data, Photographs that Represent Current Site Conditions, or other Relevant Documentation
POA-2021-00089 Boundary Map V2.pdf - 11/21/2025 08:28 AM
Comment
Satellite view shows completed work: Antique ditching, current driveway

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

Project Address
.75 Mi Nome-Council Highway
Nome, AK 99762

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

Project Location
64.491590,-165.362726

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	Nome Census Area	Kateel River	30,31	11	33

Directions to Site
Travel East from Nome on the Nome-Council Highway. The site is the first driveway East of the Swanberg Dredge pullout and west of Peluk Creek on the north side of the highway.

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 Amanda **Last Name** Locken

Title
Regulatory Specialist

Organization Name
USACE

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Mobile	907-347-6148	

Email
Amanda.N.Locken@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
Organic overburden, sand/gravel overburden and tailings from the site mining operation.

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

Type	Cubic Yards
Organic	544,500.0
sand/gravel	2,178,000.0

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

Surface Area	Units
68.24	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)
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
64.492527874686,-165.36151205896792

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

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
The receiving water is wetlands which we are filling with material previously removed from said wetlands or similar location. This discharge will be 100% turbid and sediment, gravel, sand, organic material.

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
We will be berming the outer perimeter with organics and visually monitoring our boundaries to insure that the discharge of tailings during reclamation activity stays within the programmed parameters.

Avoidance Measures
Complete avoidance of Waters of the United States including wetlands is
not practicable because wetlands are abundant throughout the mine site. Drill records support the need to impact wetlands in order to accomplish the applicants purpose to fully extract viable minerals from the site.

Minimization Measures
The applicant proposes to stockpile organic material to be used for site reclamation and to include natural revegetation and creation of low-lying areas in mined pits to help recreate conditions for wetland development on the project site following mining activities. Drilling in marginal areas would be performed to confirm the presence of economically viable resources prior to mining.

Mitigation Measures
Compensatory mitigation is not proposed for the project because the avoidance and minimization measures described are appropriate and practicable to the scope and degree of environmental impacts of the project.

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
Access to recourses
Tax base impacts
Commercial activities
Access to a transportation network
Expanded leases and royalties

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project
This project will provide additional employment opportunities for craftsmen in the region and by eliminating the mineral value will make additional land available for development on the edge of Nome within city limits. Development of the driveway and roads within the project property will provide additional access to this large area necessary for its further development and increase the value of the local tax base. The project operation will provide much needed sales tax revenue to the city and mining license tax proceeds to the State of Alaska. Access to neighboring properties may also be granted depending on agreements with those owners yet to be developed.

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
ADOT	Driveway Permit	DW32049	*NONE PROVIDED*	08/22/2022	*NONE PROVIDED*
Alaska Departement of Natural Resources	APMA	9935 AM 1	11/07/2025	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*
City of Nome	Excavation/Fill	24-00072	*NONE PROVIDED*	07/03/2024	*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
Dan	Grimmer

Title
City Clerk

Organization Name
City of Nome

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-443-6611	

Email
dgrimmer@nomealaska.org

Other Agency or Local Contacts (2 of 2)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name	Last Name
Erika	Alexander

Title
Geologist II

Organization Name
Alaska DNR, DMLW

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-451-2791	

Email
erika.alexander@alaska.gov

Attachments

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

POA-2021-0089 v2.0 signed.pdf - 11/21/2025 08:28 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.

POA-2021-0089 Color Plates.pdf - 11/21/2025 08:28 AM

Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments

NONE PROVIDED

Reason for Confidentiality
Although some parts of the permit necessary for public comment for the USACE and already included there may be already public that which is not required by law is considered proprietary.

Comment
Confidential

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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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 stargatealaska@gmail.com stargatealaska@gmail.com on 11/21/2025 at 10:02 AM