

**State of Alaska  
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities**

**Mining and Reclamation Guidelines  
Material Site: Noatak River South Site  
Noatak, Alaska**

These guidelines are subject to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Material Sale Contract, ADL \_\_\_\_\_, and stipulations contained therein. For each new use or project, the user or contractor shall submit a Project Mining and Reclamation Plan to DNR for approval, subject to DOT&PF review, prior to any mining activities. This is not yet a designated material site under AS 38.05.550 (b).

**Legal Description**

A portion of Section 32, Township 25 North, Range 19 West, Kateel River Meridian. This portion contains approximately 171.647 acres. In addition, a portion of Section 29, Township 25 North, Range 19 West, Kateel River Meridian. This portion contains approximately 56.652 acres.

**General Information**

This material site approximately 2.75 miles SSE of the village of Noatak lies downstream of the village and existing airport, within the active floodplain of the Noatak River. Material consists of alluvial sand and gravel. The site has not been used previously as a source of aggregate for crushing and borrow material.

The Noatak River is actively eroding the riverbank alongside the existing airport and village: it is aggrading and tends to form braided channels in this reach of the river. There is vegetation or overburden over more than half of the material site that is bisected by a new channel. Permafrost is present in the adjacent steep riverbank, but not likely present in the gravel bar. Groundwater will be encountered within this site if dredging occurs below water level. Test holes taken in 2007 throughout the gravel bar encountered groundwater at depths of 8 to 11.5 feet. Additional site information is available at the DOT&PF Materials office, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709.

**Buffers**

Maintain a 50-ft buffer area off the edge of the main flowing channels following spring breakup, where no mining will occur, and throughout the rest of the year. This buffer may include temporary berms of overburden or vegetative organic soils if a minimum 25-foot natural buffer is maintained. Maintain a 100-ft buffer from any temporary facilities (guide banks, causeways, and piers associated with temporary bridge construction facilities).

## **Mining Guidelines**

For each new use or project, the user or contractor shall submit a Project Mining and Reclamation Plan to DNR and DOT&PF for approval prior to any mining activities. The Project Mining and Reclamation Plan will adhere to the following guidelines.

1. Locate and mark material site boundaries prior to breaking ground.
2. The proposed mining for the project will be a shallow scrape, generally mining upstream.
3. The mining depth for shallow scrapes across the full pit boundaries shall be approximately 3ft. If a deeper depth is needed to generate quantity for construction, additional mining would occur away from the active channels and is not anticipated to exceed a depth reaching water table.
4. Prior to spring breakup, a channeling berm will be constructed around the flowing channels. The berm should be roughly 6-ft tall and 20-ft wide at the base to protect the material site from flooding during breakup. This diversion berm should block off minable areas completely to keep water out of the site and prevent fish entrapment, and will be constructed prior to the 1-month fish hatching window specified by ADF&G.
5. Work within this material site will occur year-round other than during breakup. Activities during the fish hatching window will be limited to areas beyond the diversion berm, away from any active channels, and will not occur in water.
6. Working slopes shall not exceed 1.5H:1V.
7. Material may be stockpiled temporarily on the active floodplain to drain before hauling offsite. Staging, fueling and processing are prohibited in the floodplain.
8. Remove all equipment and man-made debris from the mining area after mining is complete or if high water is anticipated.
9. All mining and stockpiling activities shall be in accordance with applicable Construction General Permits (CGP) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP).

## **Reclamation Objectives and Guidelines**

This site lies in an active river floodplain. The reclamation plan has several objectives:

1. To allow natural river action to reclaim the site.
2. To blend with surrounding topography.
3. To prevent erosion and sediment transport to surrounding areas.
4. To leave the site in a safe condition that does not endanger people, fish, or wildlife.

Reclamation activities will include:

1. Safely removing the temporary berm from around the work area.
2. Returning all clean material used in temporary structures to the riverbed and spreading to match existing conditions.
3. Filling potholes and low areas to eliminate potential fish traps.

4. Smoothing slopes to blend with the surrounding terrain.
5. Grading pit floor to drain in a downstream direction.
6. Grading final slopes to 3H: 1V or flatter.

## **Project Mining and Reclamation Plan**

Prior to use of the site for any project, the contractor or user shall submit a Project Mining and Reclamation Plan, in accordance with A.S. 27.19 and 11 AAC 97 for approval by DNR and ADOT&PF. The Plan describes the proposed plan of operation and shall be in compliance with guidelines listed here. Upon approval, the Plan will be followed by the contractor or user and if applicable, the DOT Project Engineer. The plan should include the following:

### **Sketch Map**

The sketch map shall include:

1. Site boundaries, river channels, buffers and access
2. Proposed working limits, to be marked on the ground
3. Organic debris and overburden stockpile areas
4. Work pad, material stockpile locations, processing facilities or weigh scales, and temporary facilities (bridge and bridge piers).
5. Scale of drawing, north arrow, and specific dimensions as appropriate

### **Narrative**

The narrative shall include:

1. Methods of operation
2. Length and times of operation (day, month, year, and working hours)
3. Estimated quantities to be removed
4. Air and water pollution control measures
5. Reclamation measures

### **Supplements and amendments**

Supplements and amendments to an approved mining and reclamation plan may be initiated by the contractor, user or the Project Engineer, when conditions warrant such action.

Supplements and amendments must be mutually agreed upon and proper approval obtained prior to commencement of work of a changed nature.

1. Minor changes are those that affect details of the operation, but remain in compliance with the development guidelines. These changes may be authorized by the DOT&PF Project Engineer.
2. Major changes are those which cause the final outcome of the site to be significantly different from the approved mining and reclamation plan or are not in compliance with the development guidelines. These require coordination with appropriate regulatory agencies prior to approval by the Engineer.