STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER

COMMISSIONER'S ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING
MINERAL ORDERS
1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327

Closing Lands to Mineral Entry
AS 38.05.185(a)

MATERIAL SITES ALONG THE JAMES DALTON HIGHWAY

The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources proposes to close 6,560 acres of state-selected lands to mineral entry at material sites along the James Dalton Highway.

On December 30, 1971, a utility corridor was established by Public Land Order (PLO) 5150 to protect the route of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. PLO 5150 withdrew lands to the federal government and caused them to be unavailable for conveyance to the state including material sites along the James Dalton Highway that are used to maintain the highway. Pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order 14153 "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential", the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is expected to revoke PLO 5150 making lands available for state acquisition. Management of these lands is expected to be transferred to the state in January of 2026. In anticipation of the eventual conveyance of these lands to the state, these mineral orders close 36 material sites used currently along the James Dalton Highway to mineral entry and mining.

The James Dalton Highway is the only major public road connecting the North Slope to Alaska's main road system. The primary purpose of the James Dalton Highway is to support oil and gas industry activities and serves as an important transportation link for residents of local communities. Material sites, located along the highway, are needed to maintain and repair the highway. Establishing a right to extract locatable minerals is incompatible with the use of these areas for sand, gravel, or rip-rap. The locatable minerals are typically intermixed with sand and gravel or contained within the actual rock with rip-rap. Material sale contracts are sporadic and unpredictable; large quantities of material are often required in a relatively short timeframe for emergency repairs and road reconstruction projects. Mineral estate holders are often unable to remove the locatable minerals from the surrounding substrate within the required timeframes. To allow new mineral location within the boundaries of the designated site could create conflicts between land estate and mineral estate users.

For these reasons, I find mining activity would be incompatible with the current and proposed land estate uses as material sites supporting the highway's purposes for industrial and commercial traffic and transportation, and as the primary connection between the North Slope and main road system of the state.

In accordance with AS 38.05.185 – 38.05.275 and AS 38.05.300, I find that the best interests of the State of Alaska and its residents are served by closing this land as described by Mineral Orders 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, to entry under the mineral location and mining laws of the State of Alaska. This order is subject to valid existing rights.

John Crowther, Commissioner Designee
Department of Natural Resources

1/26/2026
Date

Dalton Highway Material Sites: Specific Mineral Closing Orders						
File	#	Meridian	Township	Range	Section	Acreage
MO	1292	F	011N; 012N	009W; 009W	06; 31	100
MO	1293	F	013N	011W	08	140
MO	1294	F	015N	012W	31	90
MO	1295	F	016N	013W	15, 22, 23, 14	340
MO	1296	F	016N	013W	03, 04	270
MO	1297	F	019N	015W	24	90
MO	1298	F	021N	014W	05, 06, 07, 08	260
MO	1299	F	022N	014W	30, 29, 32, 31	100
MO	1300	F	022N	014W	19	80
MO	1301	F	022N; 022N	014W; 015W	07; 12	200
MO	1302	F	024N	014W	14, 23	210
MO	1303	F	024N	013W	07, 05, 06, 08	50
MO	1304	F	025N	013W	23, 24, 25, 26	90
MO	1305	F	025N	012W	18	60
MO	1306	F	026N; 026N	012W; 013W	30, 31; 25, 36	220
MO	1307	F	026N	013W	26, 27, 25, 22, 23	480
MO	1308	F	026N	013W	14, 15	140
MO	1309	F	027N	013W	25, 26, 23	320
MO	1310	F	027N	013W	12	50
MO	1311	F	028N	012W	27, 29, 21, 22, 28	370
MO	1312	F	030N	011W	30	110
MO	1313	F	030N	011W	17, 18, 19, 20	310
MO	1314	F	030N	012W	13	20
MO	1315	F	031N; 031N	010W; 011W	19, 30; 25	160
MO	1316	F	031N	010W	18, 17, 08	190
MO	1317	F	035N	010W	21	120
MO	1318	F	035N	010W	16, 21	170
MO	1319	F	035N	010W	09, 04	170
MO	1320	U	014S	012E	20, 17, 21	270
MO	1321	U	013S	012E	21, 22	60
MO	1322	U	013S	012E	15, 16, 21	230
MO	1323	U	012S	012E	16, 09	120
MO	1324	U	011S	011E	27, 28, 21, 22	450
MO	1325	U	011S	011E	26	190
MO	1326	U	009S	012E	33, 34	250
MO	1327	F	021N	014W	07	80