

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS
STATE PIPELINE COORDINATOR’S SECTION**

**COMMISSIONER’S ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING
MINERAL ORDERS
1331, 1332, 1333, and 1334**

**Closing Lands to Mineral Entry
AS 38.05.185(a)**

MATERIAL SITES ALONG THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM

The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources proposes to close 857 acres of state-selected lands to mineral entry at material sites along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS).

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 TAPS that are used to maintain TAPS. 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 2026. In anticipation of the eventual conveyance of these lands to the state, these mineral orders close four material sites used currently along TAPS to mineral entry and mining. The four material sites are located within the following:

Mineral Order	Material Site	Meridian	Township	Range	Section(s)	Acreage
MO 1331	OMS-82-0	Fairbanks	15 North	12 West	17 & 20	300
MO 1332	OMS 87-2B	Fairbanks	20 North	15 West	34	240
MO 1333	OMS 88-3	Fairbanks	20 North	15 West	10	160
MO 1334	OMS 106-1	Fairbanks	35 North	10 West	28	157

Material sites, located along the TAPS Right-of-Way (ROW) Lease and access roads, are needed for maintenance and projects to preserve TAPS access and integrity. 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 rock which is used as rip-rap. Although a potential exists for locatable minerals within the material sites, the potential for economic locatable minerals is low. Material sale contracts are sporadic and unpredictable; large quantities of material are often required in a relatively short timeframe for emergency repairs and projects, necessary for safe TAPS operations. 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 material sites could create conflicts between the land estate and mineral estate users.

For these reasons, I find:

1. Mining activity would be incompatible with the current and proposed land estate uses as material sites supporting TAPS.
2. The legal descriptions of the proposed mineral orders will automatically adjust to align with those of future designations of the material sites.

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 1331, 1332, 1333, and 1334 to entry under the mineral location and mining laws of the State of Alaska; such mineral orders will take effect concomitantly when Public Land Order 5150 is lifted, and the state's selection attaches to lands covered under these mineral orders. These orders are subject to valid existing rights.

John Crowther, Commissioner Designee
Department of Natural Resources

Date