

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER**

**DRAFT COMMISSIONER'S ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING
Mineral Order 1341
Closing Lands to Mineral Entry**

Designated Material Site (DMS) ADL 419665

The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to close lands to mineral entry.

The DNR, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW), Northern Regional Lands Office is proposing that Designated Material Site ADL 419665, be closed to mineral entry. This site is approximately 54 acres at approximately MP 213.5 Richardson Highway.

While there are currently no mining claims within the designation site, there are claims within ½ mile. Establishing a right to extract locatable minerals is incompatible with the use of this area 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 sometimes 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 timeframes required. To allow new mineral location within the boundaries of the designated site could create serious conflicts between land estate and mineral estate users.

Public notice was published on the State of Alaska's online public notice website July 23, 2026. In addition, public notice was sent to the Postmasters for Delta Junction and Gakona, Doyon, Limited, and surrounding State Mining Claim owners.

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 Order (closing) X to new entry under the locatable and mining laws of the State of Alaska.

Concur:

Christy Colles, Director
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources

Date

Approved:

John Crowther, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

Date

An eligible person affected by this decision of the department, and who provided timely written comment or public hearing testimony may request reconsideration to the DNR Commissioner per AS 44.37.011 and 11 AAC 02. Any request for reconsideration must be received by the Commissioner's Office within twenty (20) calendar days after issuance of the decision under 11 AAC 02.040. The Commissioner may order or deny a request for reconsideration within thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of the decision. If the Commissioner takes no action on a request for reconsideration within thirty (30) days after issuance of the decision, the request for reconsideration is considered denied. The Commissioner's decision on reconsideration, other than a remand decision, is a final administrative order and decision of the department. An eligible person must first request reconsideration to the Commissioner before seeking relief in superior court. The Alaska Court System establishes its own rules for timely appealing final administrative orders and decisions of the department.

Reconsideration may be mailed or hand-delivered to the DNR Commissioner's Office, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; or faxed to (907)-269-8918 or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. Reconsideration must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(1)(F), which has been set at \$200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160(a)-(b). A copy of 11 AAC 02 is available on the department's website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/pdf/DNR-11-AAC-02.pdf>