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Location: State of Alaska

CWA 401 Water Quality Certification Request

version 2.17

(Submission #: HQQ-Y6BA-BW26V, version 1)

Details

Site: Pogo Gold Mine Expansion Area for rock storage and laydown for underground mining 2026

Submission ID HQQ-Y6BA-BW26V

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 2)

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)
Consultant
Agent

Contact

Prefix
Mr.

First Name	Last Name
Victor	Ross

Title
Regulatory Principal

Organization Name
Stantec Consulting Services

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	9073555005	

Email
victor.ross@stantec.com

Mailing Address

962 North Meridian Place Suite 1B

Wasilla, AK 99623

United States

Contact Information (2 of 2)

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

Contact

Prefix
NONE PROVIDED

First Name	Last Name
Russell	Gossett

Title
Environmental Manager

Organization Name
Northern Star (Pogo) LLC

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-895-2831	

Email
rgossett@nsrltd.com

Mailing Address

PO Box 145

Delta Junction, AK 99737

United States

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-1996-00211

Project Name or Title
Pogo Gold Mine Expansion Area for rock storage and laydown for underground mining 2026

Primary Receiving Waterbody Name
Liese Creek & Goodpaster River

Estimated Project Dates (+/- 30 days)

Project Estimated Start Date	Project Estimated End/Completion Date
11/30/2026	01/31/2031

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

Description	Discharge Estimated Start Date	Discharge Estimated End Date
Rock Fill pad construction	12/01/2026	01/31/2031

Project Description (Nature of Activity, include all features)
Fill will be placed into wetlands for a new rock storage area next to the 1380 portal. A portal has been constructed south of Road #7, between the Road and the Airstrip in uplands. During the construction of the new portal, non-mineralized rock extracted during underground development has been placed adjacent to the portal to create a laydown area in uplands. The rock has been placed in compacted lifts to ensure stability and maximize space. The new pad has been designed to safely operate year around while reducing erosion impacts from predicted flooding of the existing airstrip area from the Goodpaster River. Non-mineralized rock will be stacked approximately 25 feet above the valley floor, adjacent to the portal, protecting all approaches from flood events. Prior to rock placement, vegetation was cleared and stockpiled for final reclamation. Best Management Practices (BMP) include stabilizing final side slopes and grading to direct surface water. Additional rock will be placed in wetlands adjacent to the existing laydown and storage area. A new stilling basin will be excavated along with a drainage ditch system to capture all runoff from the rock and storage pads. Stormwater from the new storage area will be collected and directed to a stilling basin to remove sediment prior to discharge. The stilling basin outfall will be directed to a natural vegetative filter area for final filtration prior to discharge to the Goodpaster River. All final rock side slopes will be graded, top-soiled and seeded to ensure final slope stability. A total of 9.18 acres of wetlands will be filled for the new rock storage area.

Project Purpose (Describe the reason(s) for discharge)
The project purpose is to safely extend the life of the current underground mine. Current economics allow Northern Star to mine additional resource by underground techniques extending the mine life an additional ten years. Additional acreage is required for the disposal of non-mineralized rock. The surface rock storage area needs to accessible in all weather conditions and be designed to meet mine safety requirements.

Is any portion of the work already complete?
No

Description of current activity site conditions
The 1380 portal and access road are permitted and in place. The current rock storage pad is reaching capacity and additional waste rock space is required. The mill, drystack, camp and water treatment are in place. The mine operating using existing facilites while filling additional wetlands and uplands adjacent to the existing portal with clean waste rock.

Relevant Site Data, Photographs that Represent Current Site Conditions, or other Relevant Documentation
NONE PROVIDED

Comment
NONE PROVIDED

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

Project Address
[NO STREET ADDRESS SPECIFIED]
[NO CITY SPECIFIED], AK *[NO ZIP CODE SPECIFIED]*

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

Project Location
64.46327366077163,-144.91803036229996

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	Fairbanks North Star Borough	Fairbanks	22,23	5 S	14 E

Directions to Site
The Pogo Mine is located approximately 38 miles northeast of Delta Junction, Alaska. Driving north from Delta Junction or south from Fairbanks on the Richardson Highway, turn east on the Shaw Creek Road until reaching the mine access gate. Access to the mine is via a 49-mile all season road from the Richardson 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 Carolyn **Last Name** Farmer

Title
Project Manager

Organization Name
USACE Alaska Regulatory Division

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	561-785-5634	

Email
carolyn.h.farmer@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
Subsurface rock from underground workings

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

Type	Cubic Yards
Clean rock	3,206,577

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

Surface Area	Units
9.18	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
Goodpaster River

Discharge Location
64.46354768543934,-144.92314570987733

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
Turbidity and sediment will be contained on site by the design of the rock dumps and the use of a containment berm. All runoff from the waste rock storage area will first be intercepted by a perimeter diversion ditch or berm system. The ditch will be graded to maintain positive flow and constructed with stable side slopes appropriate for site conditions. Where necessary, ditch segments will be armored with riprap or erosion control matting to prevent scour. Water entering the stilling basin from the ditch will dissipate energy through controlled inlet structures such as riprap aprons or level spreaders to prevent short-circuiting and resuspension of settled material. The basin will incorporate adequate freeboard and sediment storage capacity. Accumulated sediment will be removed periodically and placed back onto the waste rock storage area or other approved upland locations. Discharge from the stilling basin will occur via a stabilized outlet structure designed to prevent erosion. Where practicable, discharge will flow through a vegetated filter area prior to reaching the Goodpaster River to provide additional polishing and promote infiltration. The discharge pathway will be stabilized to prevent channelization. Reclamation will be completed on final slopes.

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

A permanent stilling basin will be constructed as part of the surface water management system to manage sediment discharge from the waste rock storage and associated laydown areas. The basin is designed to receive runoff collected from the perimeter diversion ditches and graded surfaces surrounding the portal and rock storage area. The stilling basin and associated conveyance features will remain accessible year-round for inspection and maintenance. Inspections will be conducted routinely and after major precipitation or snowmelt events. Any identified deficiencies will be corrected promptly.

Avoidance Measures

Preliminary wetland mapping for the project was used to avoid impacts to wetlands along the access corridor and at the rock dump. Uplands and prior disturbance were prioritized for use. Construction equipment access will utilize existing roads. No borrow sources will be developed within wetlands for this project. The fill has been contained adjacent to an existing pad. The fill is contained by diversion ditch, road, and airstrip. Uplands were incorporated into the design. Clearing and grubbing will be limited to areas necessary for construction. Vegetation and organic soils will be segregated and stockpiled in upland areas for later reclamation. Equipment staging, fueling, and
maintenance will occur in designated upland areas to prevent inadvertent discharge of fuels or lubricants to wetlands or surface waters. Wetlands near the Goodpaster River - an anadromous stream - were avoided. The fill has a design elevation for capacity, stacking, and final drainage. All lifts have been designed to drain away from the portal entrance. The outside diversion ditch will contain sediment and storm water leaving the pad and direct surface flow first to the stilling basin and then to the Goodpaster River.

Minimization Measures

Waste rock placement will occur in engineered, compacted lifts designed to maximize stability and minimize the overall footprint of fill. Lift placement will proceed from the upland portal outward in a controlled manner to avoid unnecessary disturbance. The fill surface will be graded to promote positive drainage away from the portal and toward designed collection features. All stormwater management features, including diversion ditches, perimeter berms, and the stilling basin, will be constructed early in the construction sequence so that runoff from active work areas is controlled
prior to placement of significant volumes of fill. Temporary erosion and sediment controls will be installed as needed during active construction and maintained until permanent controls are established. A permanent stilling basin will be constructed as part of the surface water management system to minimize sediment discharge from the waste rock storage and associated laydown areas. The basin is designed to
receive runoff collected from perimeter diversion ditches and graded surfaces surrounding the portal and rock storage area. The purpose of the stilling basin is to:
1. Reduce flow velocity from concentrated runoff.
2. Promote sediment settling prior to discharge; and
3. Provide an accessible location for inspection, maintenance, and water quality monitoring.
4. Reduce and minimize impacts to waters outside of the fill footprint. The stilling basin will be sized based on anticipated drainage area, local precipitation data, and expected sediment loading during active placement. At a minimum, the basin will be designed to detain runoff from a typical design storm event and provide sufficient residence time to allow suspended sediment to settle prior to discharge.

Mitigation Measures

No In Lieu Fee providers exist for the watershed.
The existing wetland mitigation, Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District Mitigation Bank, has no wetland credits available for sale. At the end of mining surface disturbance will be reclaimed. The surface hydrology will be restored in the
Liese Creek Valley to the greatest extent practicable. Emphasis has been placed in all designs and during reclamation to protect the Goodpaster River. All mine facilities were evaluated for restoration at the mine. All available aquatic sites will be restored in the final restoration plan. There are no known or existing restoration opportunities available at Pogo.

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

Describe Social and/or Economic Importance of the project
The project extends the life of the current underground mine an additional ten years. Employment continues for the 690 employees of the mine. Rents and royalties continue for the State of Alaska. Local businesses benefit from the purchases of good and services in the region for the next ten years.

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
ADNR	APMA	Pending	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*
ADNR	Plan Approval	Reclamation Bond	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*	*NONE PROVIDED*

Other Agency or Local Contacts (1 of 1)

Contact Role
OTHER_REG_CNTCT

Other Agency and or Local Contacts

First Name Michael **Last Name** Eckert

Title
General Manager

Organization Name
Northern Star (Pogo) LLC

Phone Type	Number	Extension
Business	907-895-2834	

Email
meckert@nsrltd.com

Attachments

Copy of Federal Application (USACE, EPA, or FERC, etc.)
Pogo_Eng_Form_4345_signed.pdf - 08/19/2026 12:45 PM
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.

Pogo_Supplement_Final.pdf - 08/19/2026 12:45 PM
Attachment 1_Pogo_Supplement_260811_Revised_Figures_red.pdf - 08/19/2026 01:02 PM
Comment
NONE PROVIDED

Document Attachments

Response_Final_letter_20260811.pdf - 08/19/2026 01:02 PM
Attachment 2_rpt_pogo_facilities_pjd_FINAL_260504_red.pdf - 08/19/2026 01:03 PM
Attachment 3_EDMS - Revised Submission Receipt Acknowledgement - HQM-9VQB-57Q4X, Pogo Mine Portal Pad Expansion.pdf - 08/19/2026 01:03 PM
Comment
Response document sent to USACE included. A response to USACE RFI with Attachment 1, 2, and 3

Delegation of Authority for Submission of Application

delegation-of-authority-401-application.pdf - 08/19/2026 12:45 PM
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)

Certification Statement

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.

Signed By victor.ross@stantec.com victor.ross@stantec.com on 08/19/2026 at 1:09 PM
YFCXctXipjimbqxkArky33nPyy1t1s9OyhwaPMBTXGx3c8Xmz8m8FAmdifVbcy6WvNK1QZlSNI7oSvFF0+Cyeg==