



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

JUNEAU FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 22270
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2270

Public Notice of Application for Permit

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	January 21, 2020
EXPIRATION DATE:	February 4, 2020
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2019-00326
WATERWAY:	Gulf of Alaska

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States (U.S.) as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this Public Notice (PN) should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the Project Manager's email as listed below or to: regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this PN to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Randal Vigil at (907) 790-4491 or by email at: Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Matthew J. St. John, Northern Aurora Gold Corp., P.O. Box 386, Tok, AK 9978.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 30, T. 21 S., R. 18 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Bering Glacier A-4; Latitude 60.064101° N., Longitude 142.405104° W.; near Yakutat, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to mine alluvial gold.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization to excavate 24,333 cubic yards of sand from 5.85 acres below the plane of the high tide line (HTL) (approximate elevation +12.8 feet above the 0.0 foot contour) and mean high water (MHW) (approximate elevation +9.2 feet above the 0.0 foot contour), and discharge into 5.85 acres below the HTL via slurry pump the excavated sand post wash plant processing to extract gold.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-5), dated 01/13/2020.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Agency	Type Approval	Identification	Date Approved
ADNR	APMA	J183255	9-21-2018
ADF&G	Water Inlet	FH19-I-0052	10-03-2019
ADEC	Freshwater Discharge	AKG370D06	04-05-2019
ADEC	Saltwater Discharge	AKG371641	04-05-2019

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the U.S. from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

- a. Avoidance: No machine is to touch salt water, our excavation between the 12-foot 8-inch and 0-foot 0-inch low tide line (LTL) will be limited to no digging seaward of 6-feet 4-inch above mean low low water (MLLW) such that no equipment touches the salt water. There will be no impact to the water of the beach.
- b. Minimization: We excavate material only when the tide is out and place the same material and same volume of material on the beach from which it came. There is no change in volume of sand on the beach and no change in shape of the beach.
- c. Compensatory Mitigation: No compensatory mitigation is proposed. The amount of sand that we disturb will be considerably less than a winter storm. The same material and same volume of material will be replaced to the beach from which it came.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are cultural resources within the vicinity of the permit area. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time. The Corps has made a No Adverse Effect determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with SHPO. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is within the known range of the Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), pink (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), and sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) salmon. .

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This PN serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof.

Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings and a Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER

Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program (WDAP) / 401 Certification

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WDAP/401 CERTIFICATION
555 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617
PHONE: (907) 269-6285 | EMAIL: dec-401cert@alaska.gov

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice (PN) Reference Number **POA-2019-00326, Gulf of Alaska**, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

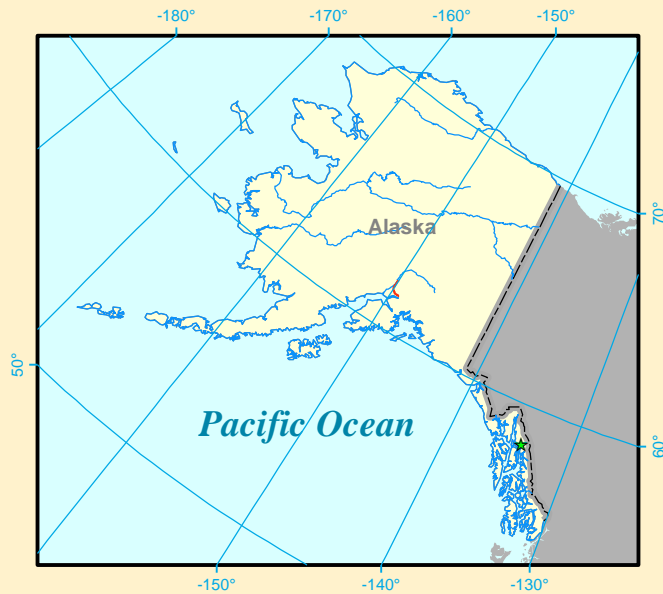
After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above or via email to dec-401cert@alaska.gov by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above. Mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

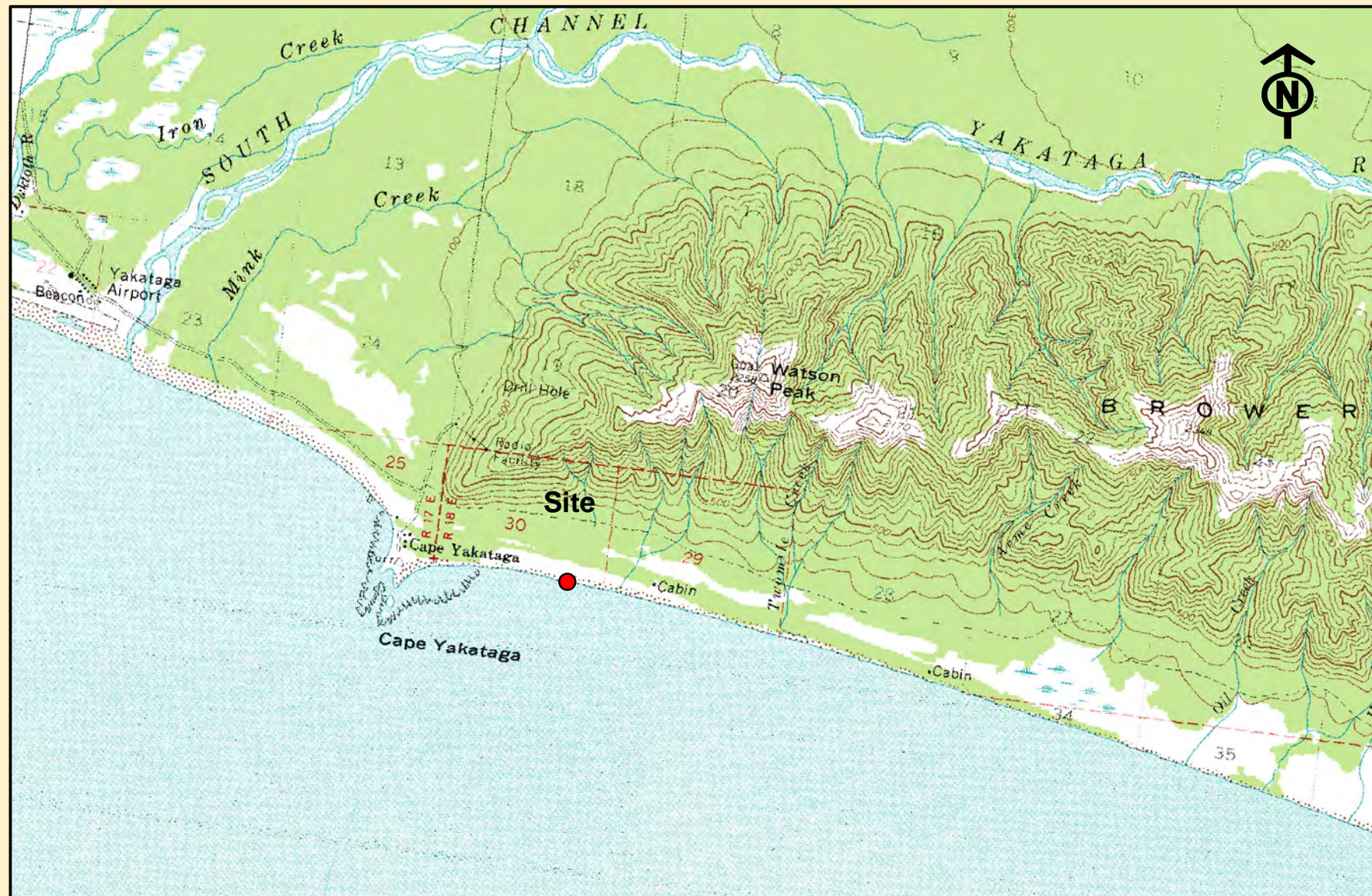
Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact Theresa Zimmerman at 907-465-6171 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 5 days of the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

Alaska

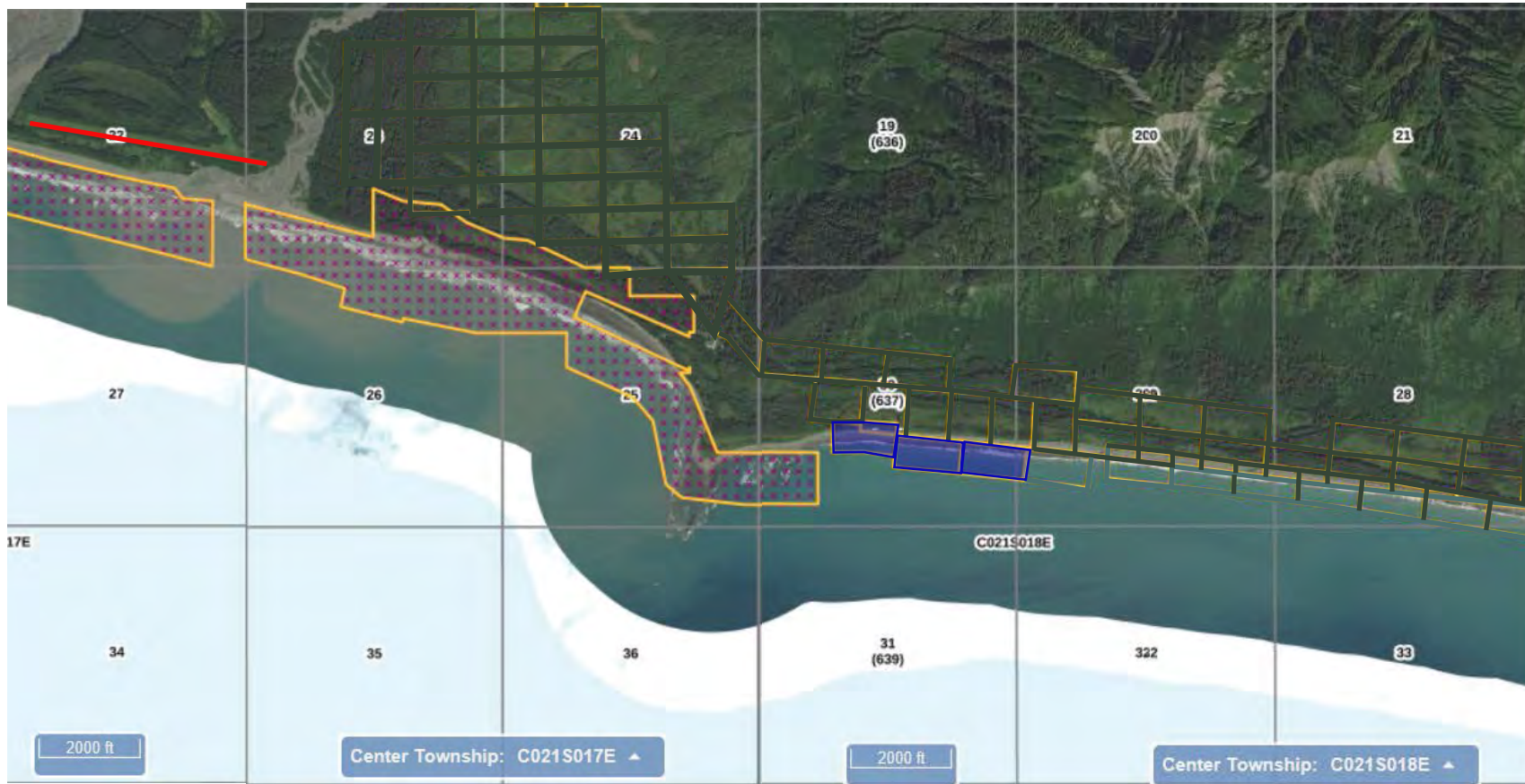


SE Alaska



Location USGS Quad Map Bering Glacier A-4

POA-2019-00326, Gulf of Alaska
Matthew StJohn
Alluvial Gold Mining
01/15/2020



OPERATOR
NORTHERN AURORA GOLD CORP
PROJECT
YAKATAGA BEACH SANDS

STATE MINING LEASE

536970

EXISTING FAA AIRSTRIP
 EXISTING ROADS

State Mining Claims

ADL_67257 Sunrise 1 Fraction
ADL_67258 Sunrise 2 Fraction
ADL_67259 Sunrise 3 Fraction

5,280 ft



PLAN VIEW 1

Date Source: Alaska Mapper NAD83 (State of Alaska DNR)
Claim data as depicted on Alaska Mapper 02/12/2019
USGS Bering Glacier A-4 Quadrangle
Copper River Meridian, Township 021S, Range 017E, & Township 021S, Range 018E
All locations are approximate and unsurveyed.

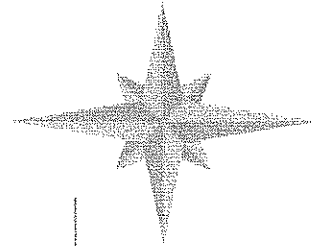


<p>OPERATOR NORTHERN AURORA GOLD CORP</p> <p>PROJECT YAKATAGA BEACH SANDS</p>	<div data-bbox="785 1052 861 1120" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>WETLAND TO BE EXCAVATED AND BACKFILLED BELOW 12'8"</p> <p>30'X3600; APPROX 2.45 ACRES</p> <div data-bbox="1890 1055 1932 1218" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>PLAN VIEW 2</p>	

12'8" HIGH TIDE LINE →
 6'4" REFERENCE LINE →
 0'0" CONTOUR LINE →



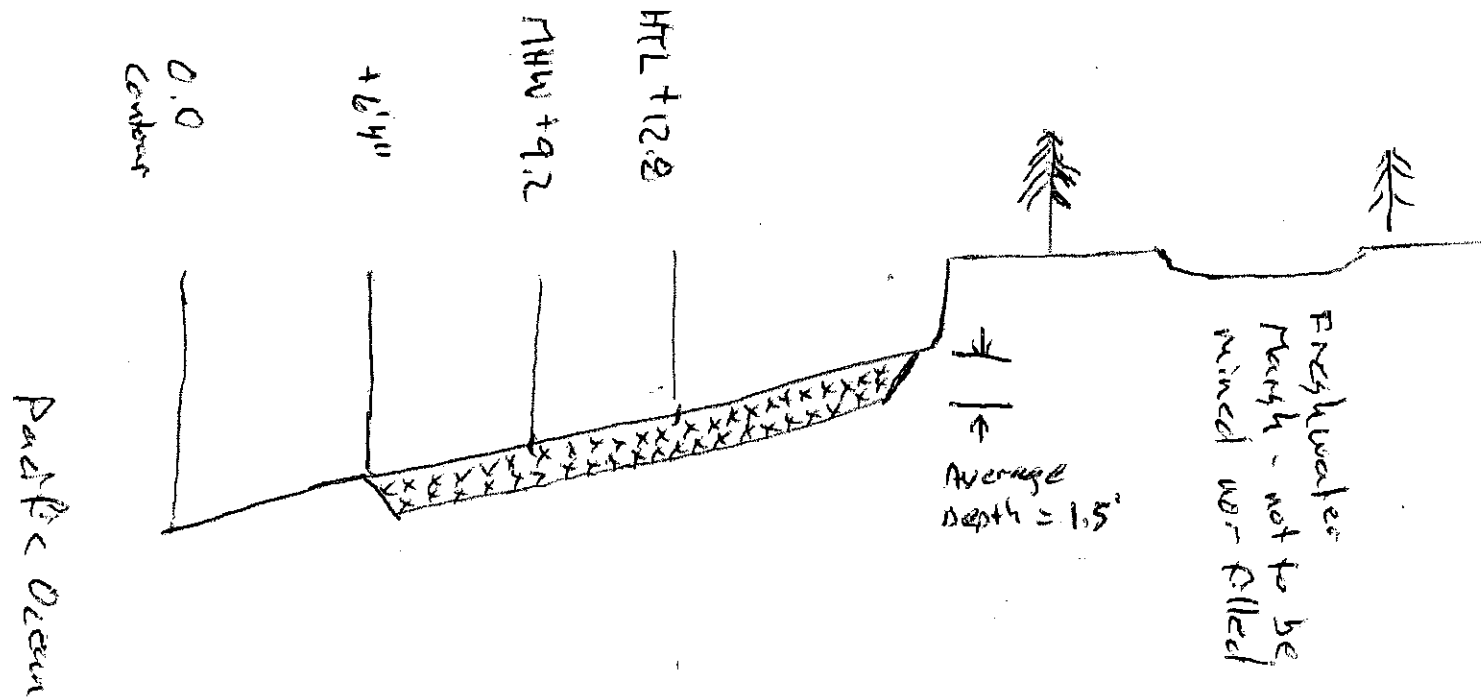
<p>OPERATOR NORTHERN AURORA GOLD CORP</p> <p>PROJECT YAKATAGA BEACH SANDS</p>	<div data-bbox="785 1052 861 1120" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>WETLAND TO BE EXCAVATED AND BACKFILLED BELOW 12'8"</p> <p>30' X 5000'; APPROX 3.4 ACRES</p> <div data-bbox="1877 1062 1906 1218" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>PLAN VIEW 3</p>	



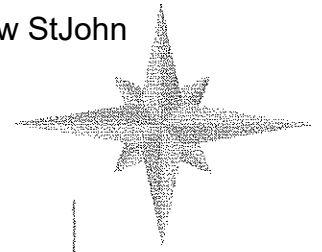
NORTHERN AURORA GOLD CORP
UNDERSTANDING THE DETAILS ENGINEERING THE PROCESS

Area to be excavated/dredged
and backfilled

slope 12.8 : 200



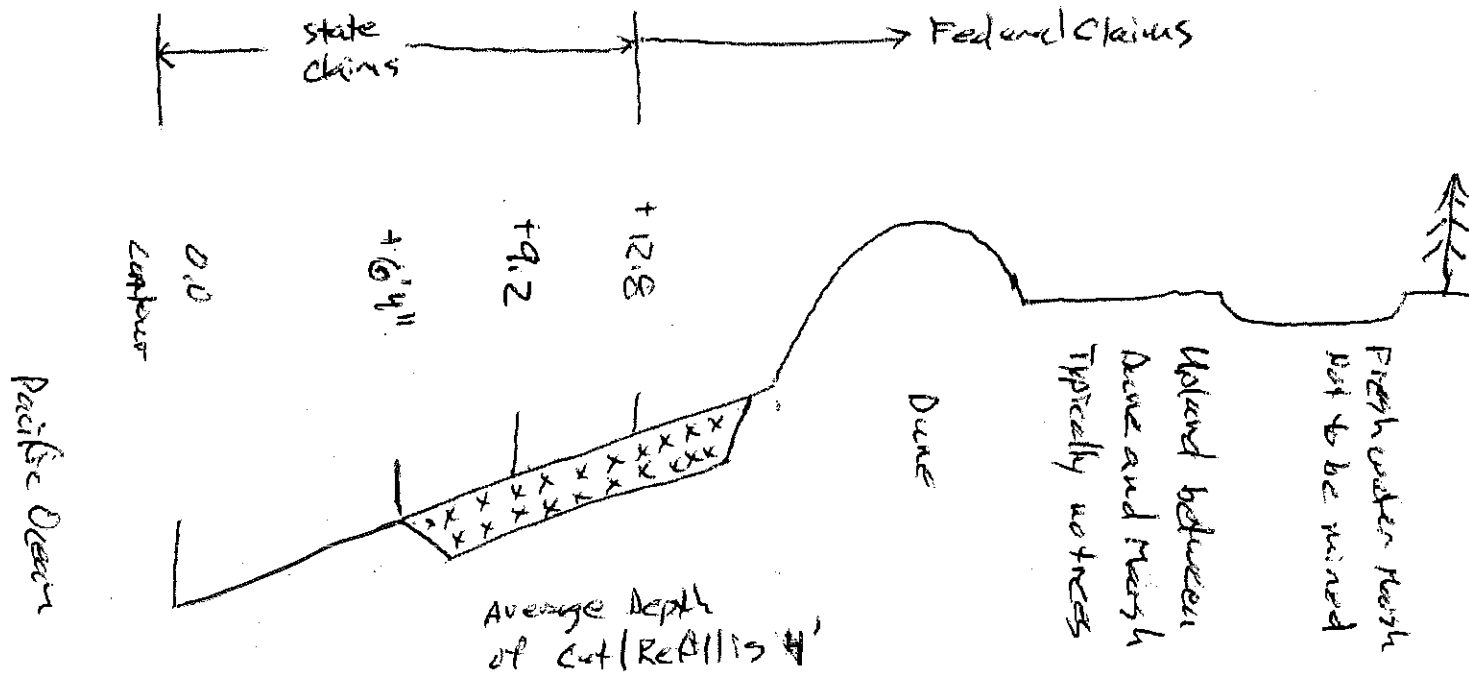
#1 Elevation before + after mining
Lease 536970



NORTHERN AURORA GOLD CORP
UNDERSTANDING THE DETAILS, ENGINEERING THE PROCESS

xxx Area to be dredged/excavated
xxx and backfilled

— slope 12.8:50



#2 Elevation before & after mining
Claims 67257, 67258, 67259