



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

FAIRBANKS FIELD OFFICE
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
1046 Marks Road
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: June 13, 2025

EXPIRATION DATE: July 14, 2025

REFERENCE NUMBER: POA-2025-00278 APMA 9902

WATERWAY: West Fork Comeback Creek a tributary of
Aloha Creek (Tributary of Hogatza River)

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

All comments regarding this public notice 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 public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact John Sargent at (907) 314-1801 or by email at John.C.Sargent@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Mr. Drew Miller, Taiga Mining Company, Incorporated

LOCATION: The project site is located within Latitude 66.2547° N., Longitude 155.7057° W.; about 245 miles west northwest of Fairbanks, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to economically recover placer gold resources in the lower reaches of the West Fork of Comeback Creek drainage.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge fill material into approximately 18.5 acres of wetlands during placer mining activities. Approximately 3,300 linear feet of incised

stream channel (average 5 to 6 feet wide by 3-foot high banks, and 0.5 feet to 2.5 feet water depth) would be diverted into a temporary 3,450-foot bypass stream channel during mining. The bypass channel would be 6 to 8 feet wide, with 4-foot-high banks. After mining is completed the bypass stream would be reclaimed with connecting ponds, shallow littoral areas, and wetlands. A 2,740 linear foot 15- to 20-foot-wide gravel access road would be constructed that would fill about 0.18 acres of wetlands. For access to the mine site a temporary bridge would span the channel at Aloha Creek. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-7), dated June 9, 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant had applied for a fish habitat permit with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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

a. Avoidance and Minimization: Wetlands and stream channel impacts would not be avoided completely because of the presence of recoverable placer gold resources in areas containing wetlands. The use of low impact drilling and sampling had delineated the location and extent of the gold resources for this project. Areas that do not contain viable gold resources would be avoided, and only economically viable resources would be targeted for mining. When possible, the storage of overburden and other materials would be done on uplands, thus, minimizing impacts to aquatic resources. Impacts to Aloha Creek would be minimized with a temporary bridge span.

b. Compensatory Mitigation: Compensatory mitigation was not proposed by the applicant because reclamation activities following mining would create shallow ponds, vegetated littoral areas and other wetlands and, thus, mitigate for impacts to wetland functions. The reclaimed creek would be meandering in nature and would connect the contoured mine pits forming shallow littoral and deeper water areas. Organic materials and soils separated in the site preparation work would be spread over the recontoured areas to promote growth of native plants. The reclaimed mine would be monitored for creation of wetlands and pond littoral areas, vegetation growth and potential issues such as soil instability and unnecessary soil erosion.

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 no cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the areas of ground disturbing activities and uplands immediately adjacent to these areas. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of

cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties 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. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

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 (Magnuson-Stevens 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 not within mapped EFH.

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

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps 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 Corps, 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 public notice 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 rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

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) 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

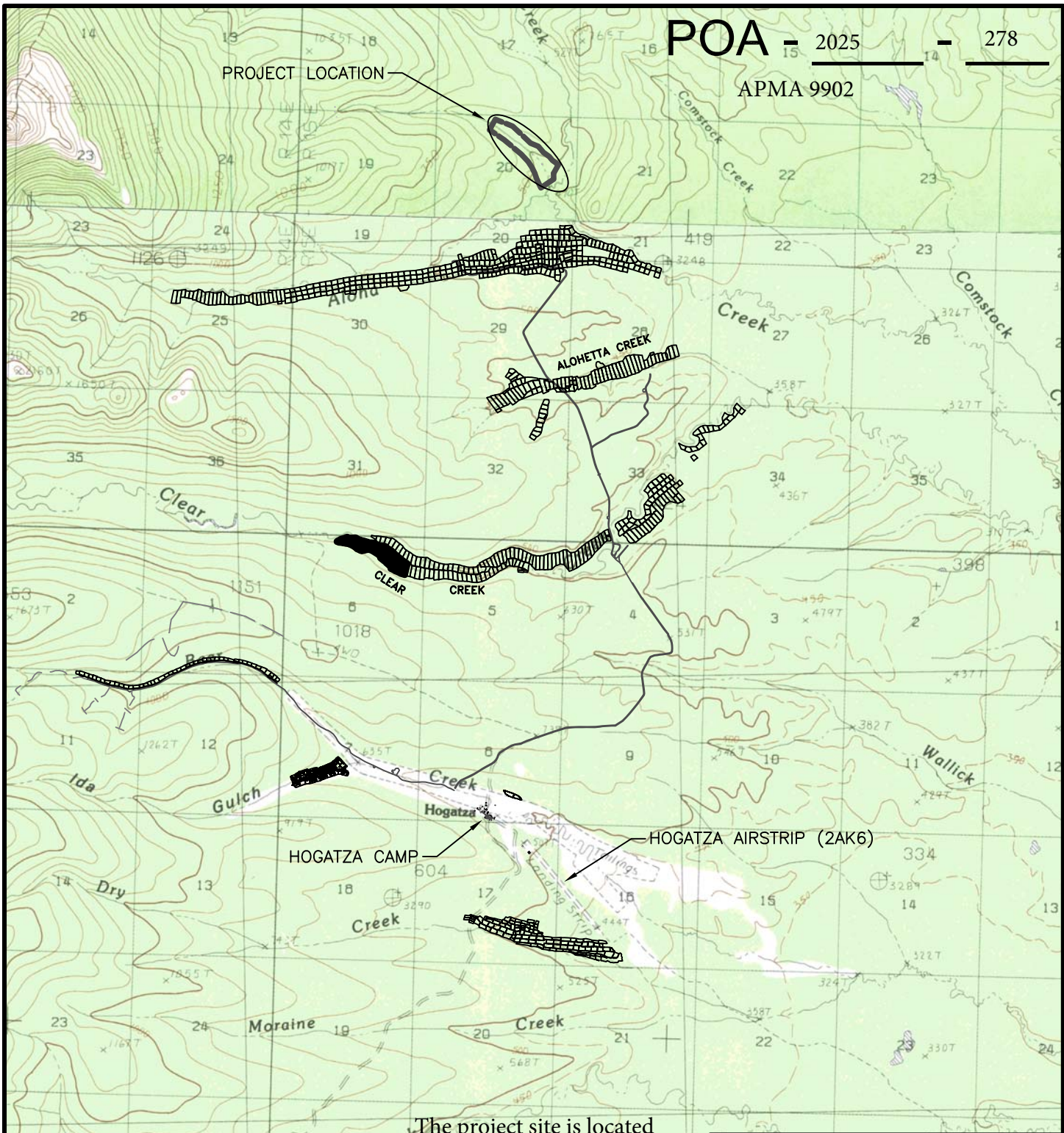
set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

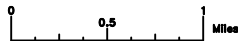
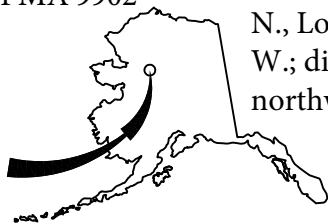
Project Location



The project site is located within Latitude 66.2347° N., Longitude 155.7057° W.; directions to site, in northwestern, Alaska.

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Sheet 1 of 7
June 9, 2025

PROJECT LOCATION

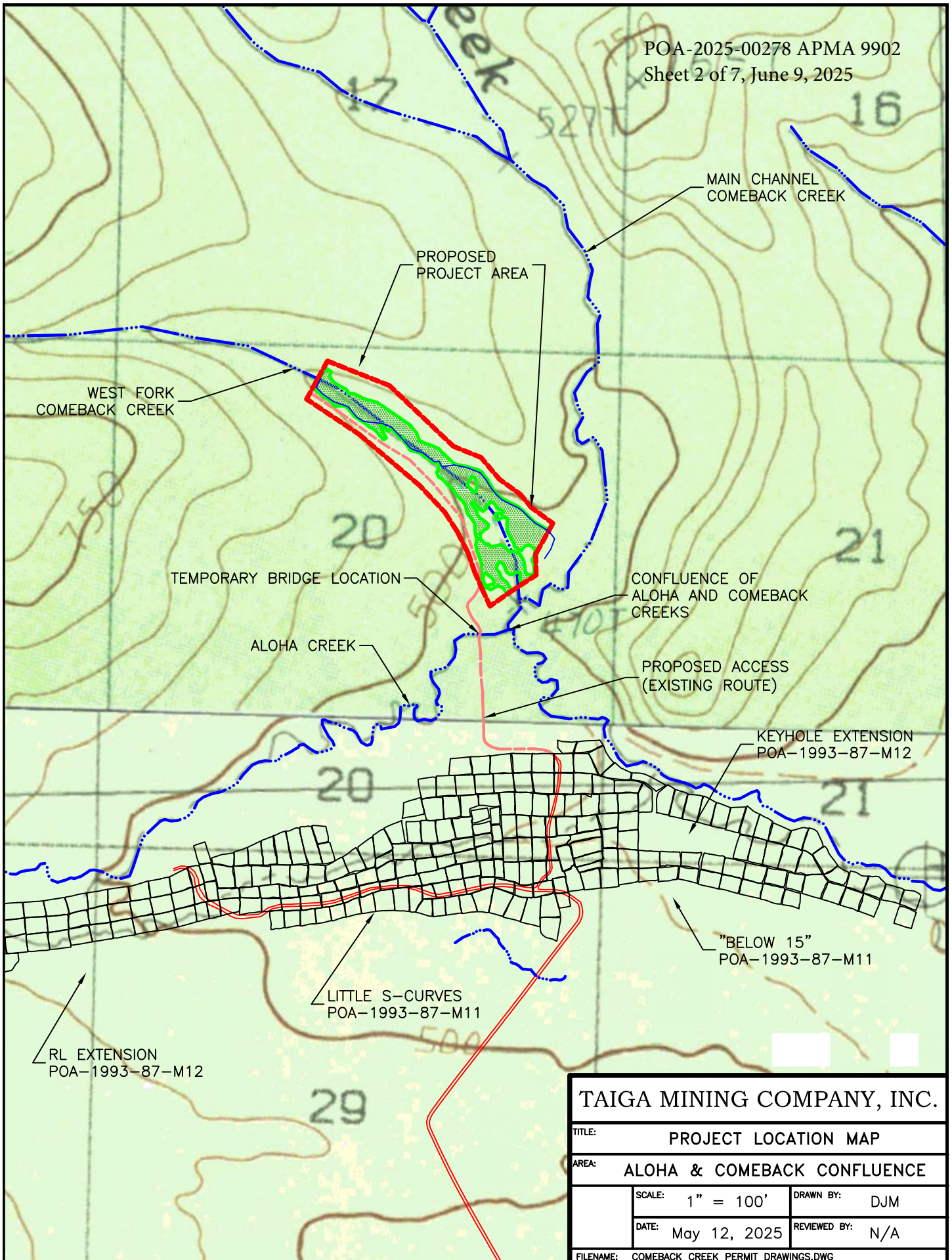


VICINITY MAP

OWNER/OPERATOR:
TAIGA MINING COMPANY, INC.
CREEK: WEST FORK COMEBACK CREEK
QUAD MAP: HUGHES A-6
T10N, R15E, S20, KRM

Mine Site and Access Road

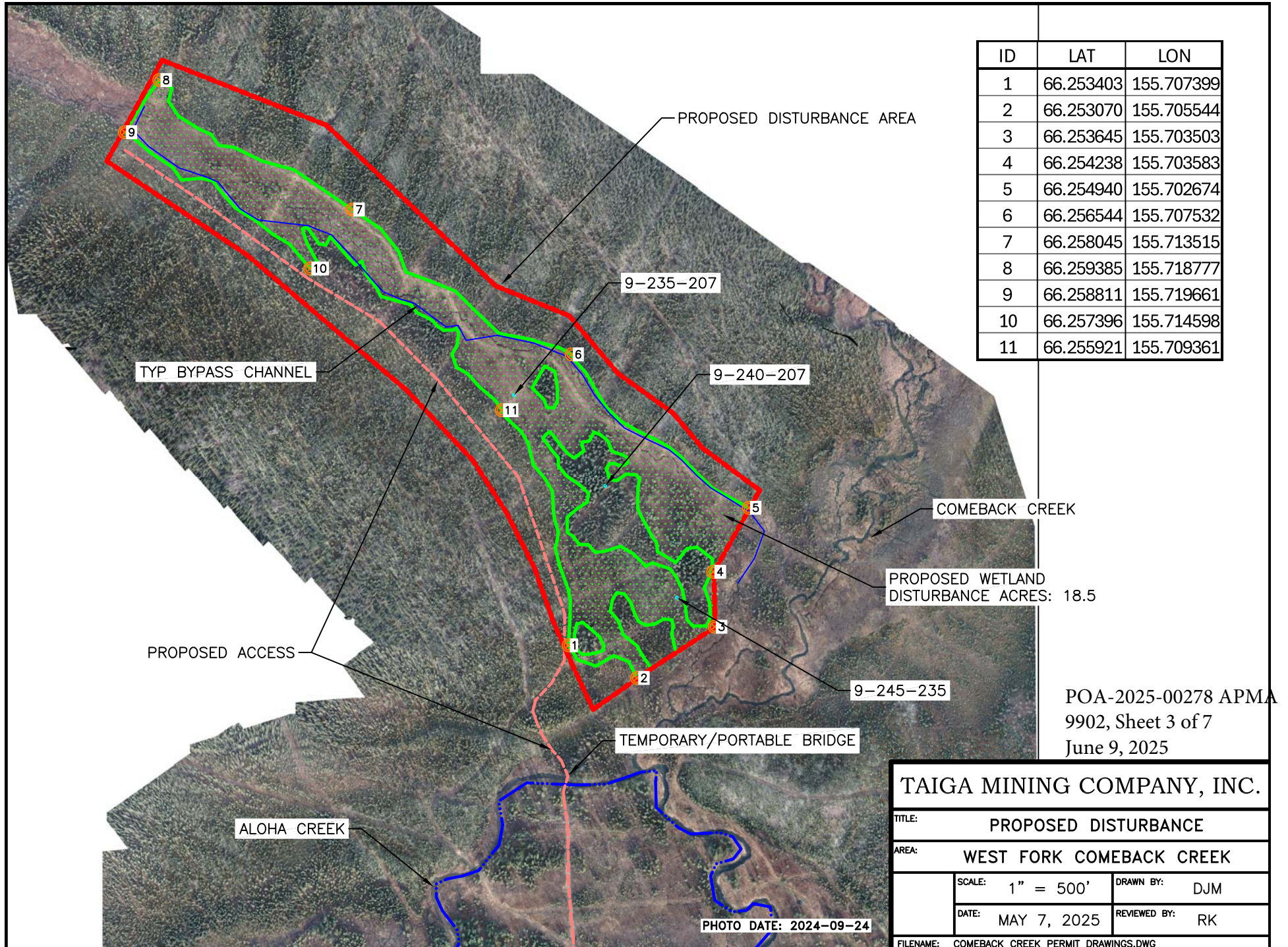
POA-2025-00278 APMA 9902
Sheet 2 of 7, June 9, 2025



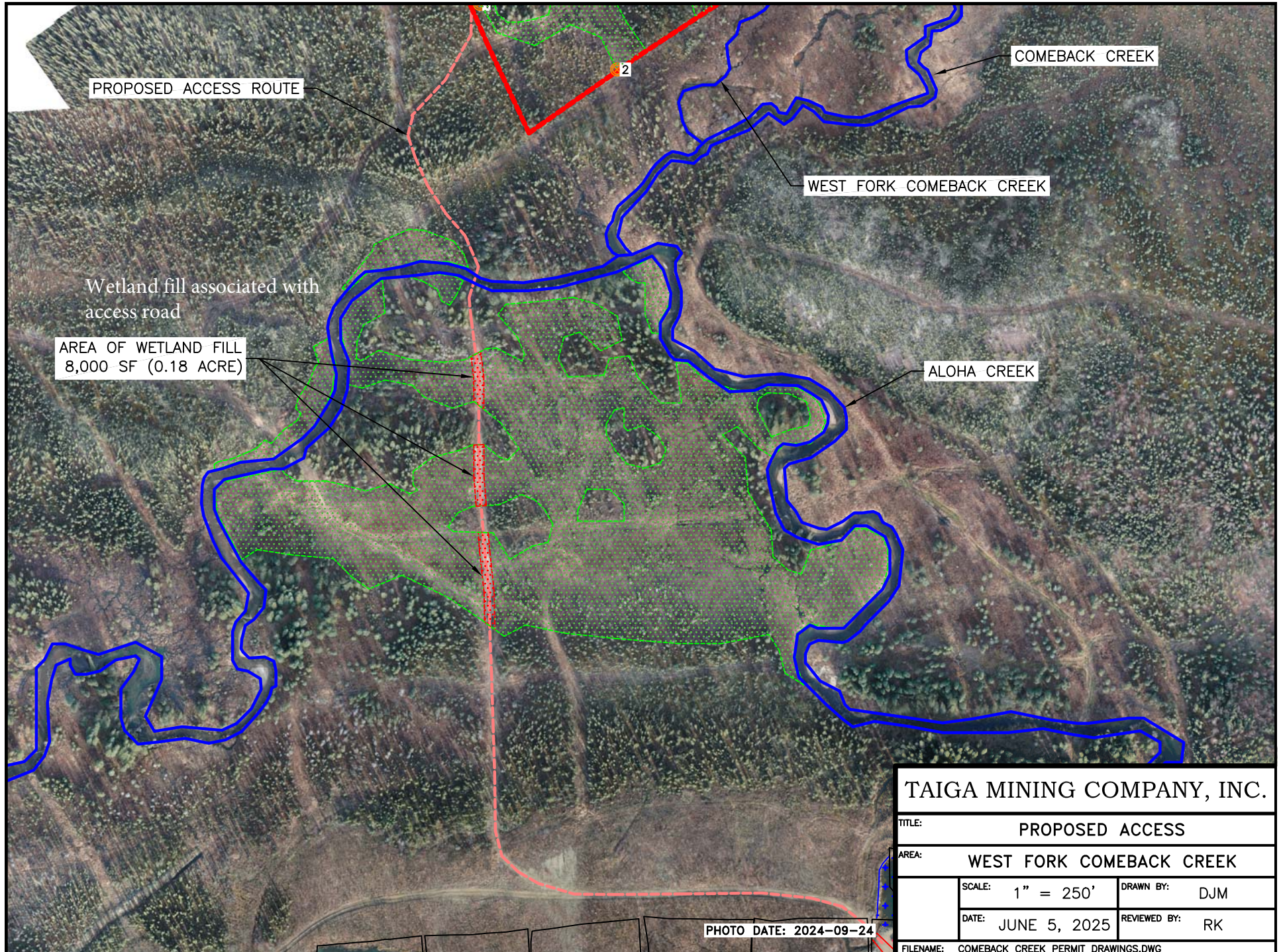
TAIGA MINING COMPANY, INC.

TITLE: PROJECT LOCATION MAP		
AREA: ALOHA & COMEBACK CONFLUENCE		
	SCALE: 1" = 100'	DRAWN BY: DJM
	DATE: May 12, 2025	REVIEWED BY: N/A
FILENAME: COMEBACK CREEK PERMIT DRAWINGS.DWG		

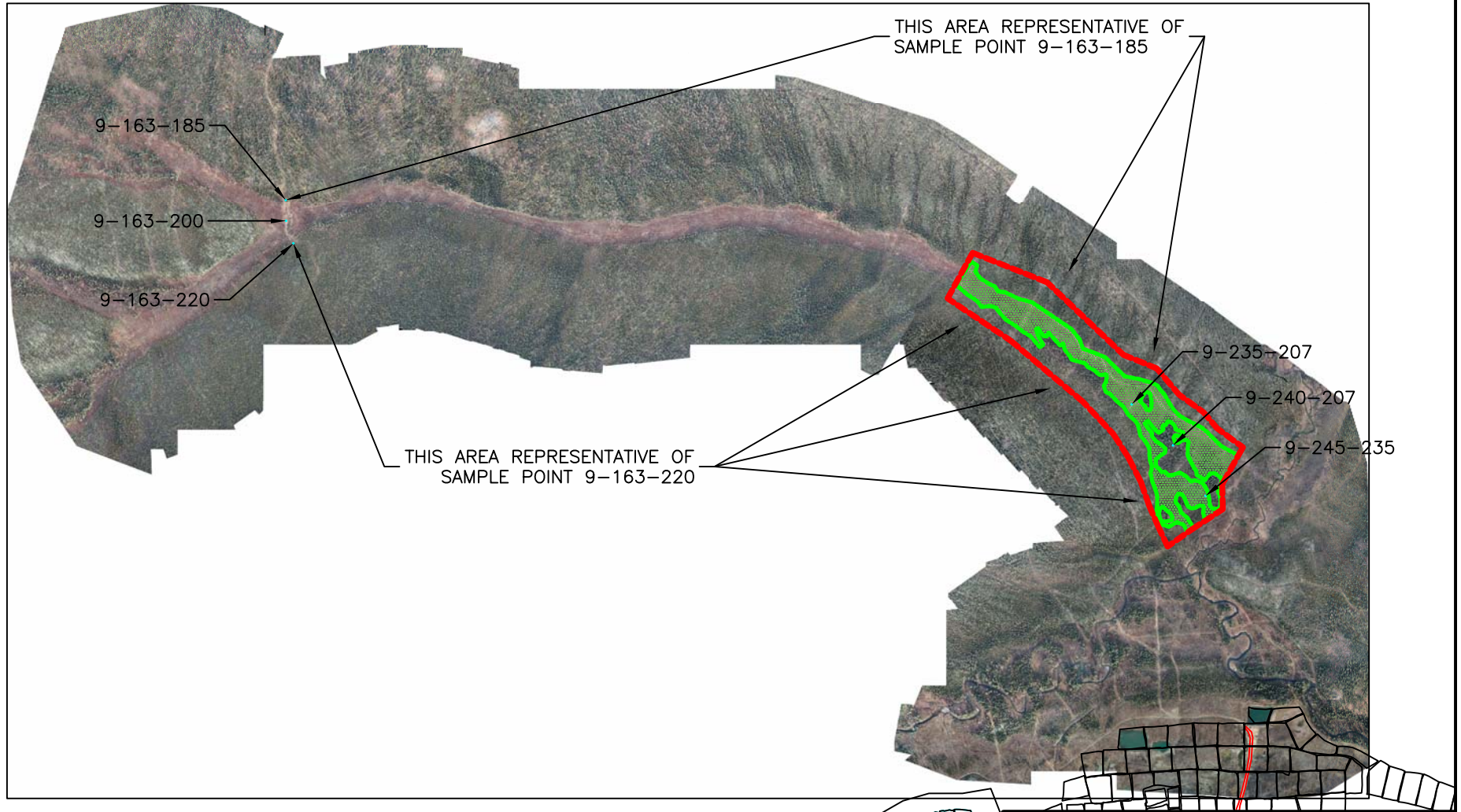
Wetland Fill at Mine Site



Wetland Fill at
Access Road



Mine Site



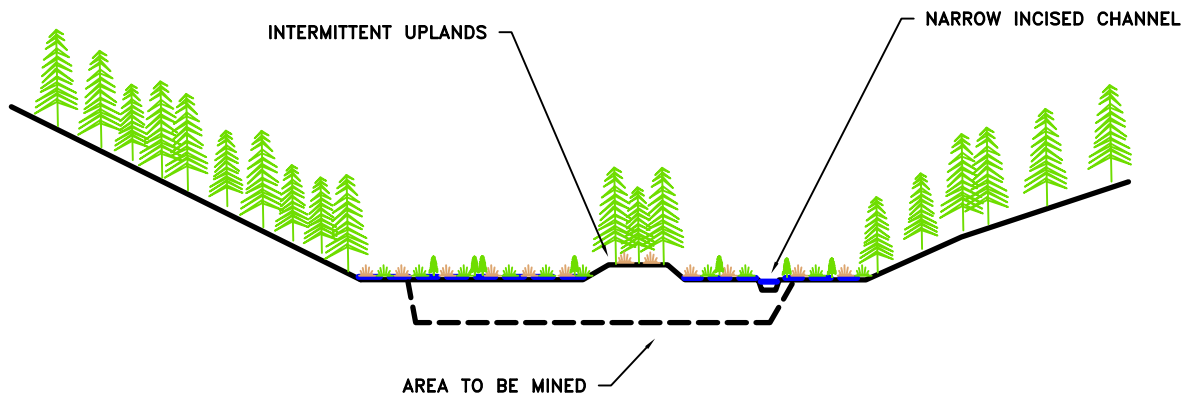
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Sheet 5 of 7
June 9, 2025

PHOTO DATE: 2024-09-24

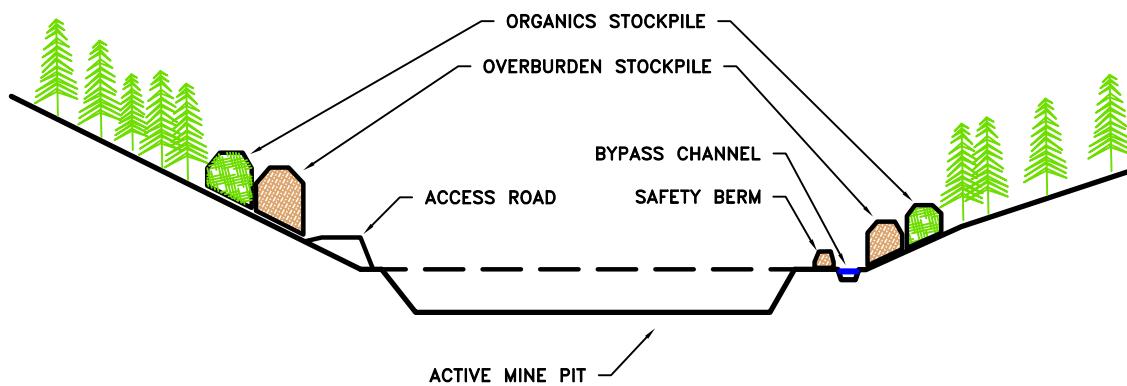
TAIGA MINING COMPANY, INC.

TITLE: SOIL PIT LOCATIONS		
AREA: WEST FORK COMEBACK CREEK		
	SCALE: 1" = 500'	DRAWN BY: DJM
	DATE: MAY 7, 2025	REVIEWED BY: RK
FILENAME: COMEBACK CREEK PERMIT DRAWINGS.DWG		

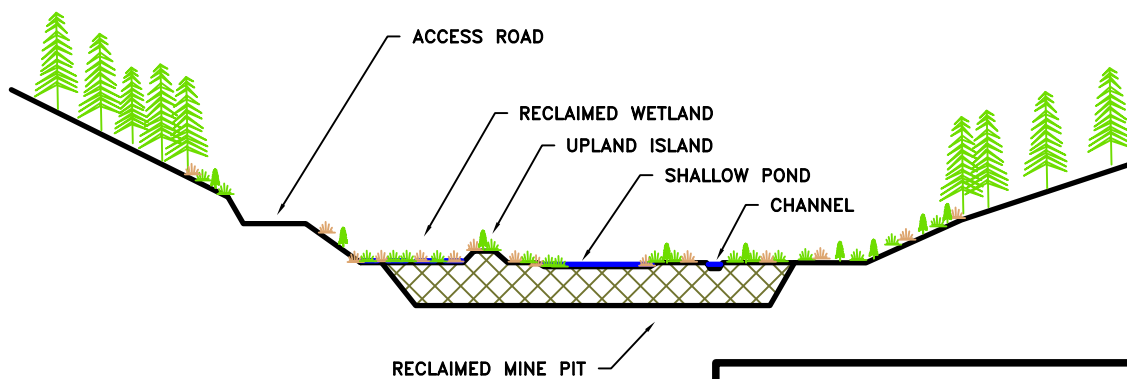
EXISTING CONDITIONS / MINE PLAN



DURING MINING ACTIVITIES



RECLAMATION PLAN



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Sheet 6 of 7 June 9 2025

TAIGA MINING COMPANY, INC.

TITLE: TYP MINE SECTIONS (W FK COMEBACK CR)

AREA: POA-____-__, COMEBACK CREEK

SCALE: NO SCALE

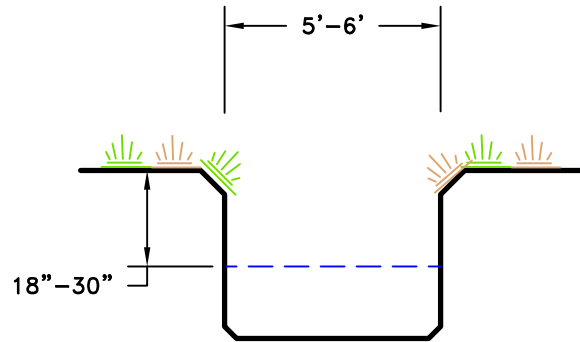
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DATE: MAY 12, 2025

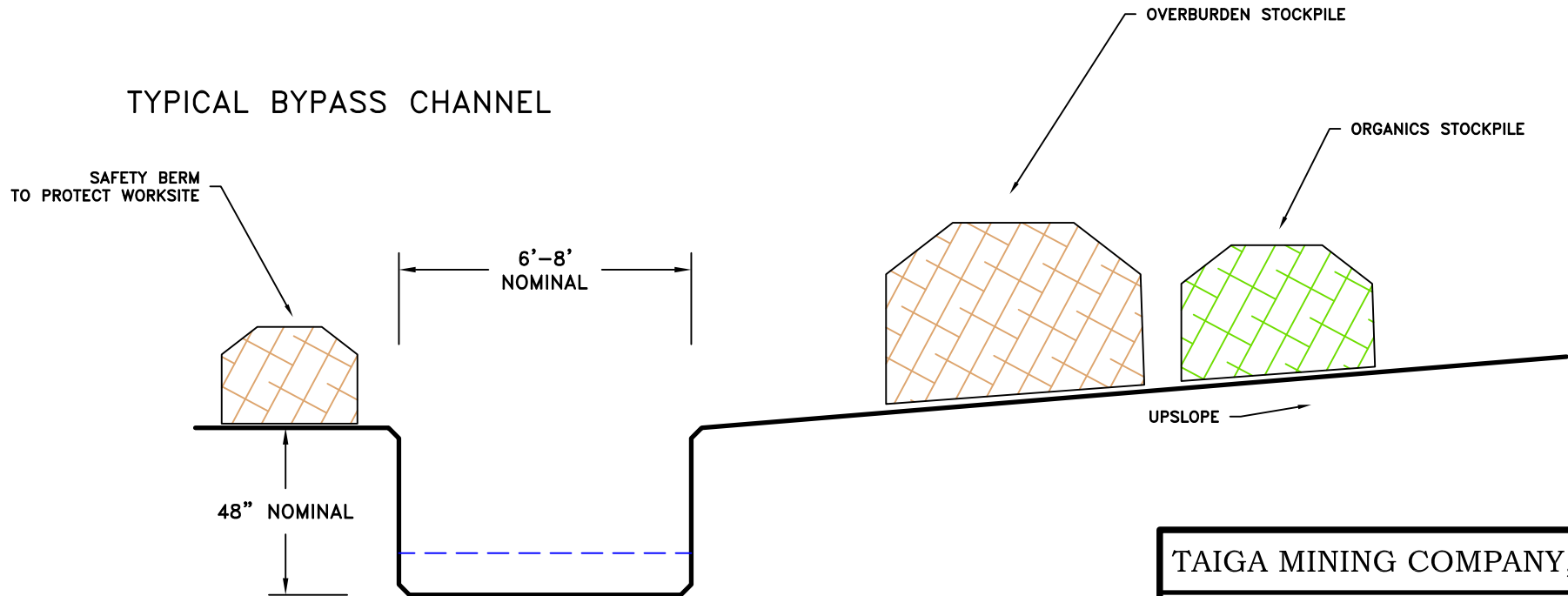
REVIEWED BY: BWB

FILENAME: TYPICAL SECTIONS ALOHA (USACE) 2025.DWG

EXISTING CHANNEL



TYPICAL BYPASS CHANNEL



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TAIGA MINING COMPANY, INC.

TITLE: TYP BYPASS CHANNEL

AREA: POA-2025-00278

SCALE:	NO SCALE	DRAWN BY:	DJM
DATE:	JUNE 06, 2025	REVIEWED BY:	BWB

FILENAME: TYPICAL SECTIONS ALOHA (USACE) 2025.DWG