



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Special Public Notice

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD ANCHORAGE
Post Office Box 6898
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	May 8, 2014
EXPIRATION:	June 24, 2014
REFERENCE NUMBER:	SPN-2014-55
WATERWAY:	Statewide

The Alaska District, United States (U.S.) Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), in accordance with regulations pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) [Public Law 95-217, 33 U.S.C. 1344 *et. seq.*] proposes to issue General Permit (GP) POA-2014-55, (formerly known as GP POA-2006-1944-M1), authorizing placement of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands and streams, associated with mechanical placer mining activities within the State of Alaska. The CWA applies to operations on state, federal, and private land. Mechanical placer mining is defined as the removal of gold or other precious materials from aggradational deposits of gravel, using mechanized equipment.

The current GP applies to operations with up to ten (10) acres of disturbance, including wetlands and uplands, and/or up to 2,000 linear feet (lf) of stream diversion, at any one time. The proposed GP would apply to work in waters of the U.S. subject to Section 404 of the CWA (wetlands and streams). The proposed GP would apply to operations with five (5) acres or less of wetland impacts, and up to 1,000 lf of streambank disturbance and up to 1,000 lf of stream bypass or diversion at any one time.

There are two items on which the Corps requests comment:

1. The current GP, POA-2006-1944-M1, is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2014. The proposed GP, POA-2014-55 would go into effect November 1, 2014, affecting the 2015 mining season. The proposed GP is explained in three attachments, including:

- a. Fact Sheet: Explanation of Proposed Changes
- b. Draft Permit: GP POA 2014-55
- c. Draft Corps GP Application Packet (4 Attachments)

2. The Corps is working with state and federal agencies to evaluate the benefits of administering the GP under one or more Programmatic General Permits. (33 CFR 320.1(a)(5))(33 CFR 323.5)

What this means for permittees and applicants:

- Permittees whose permit expires on or before October 31, 2014, will receive an automatic one year time extension until October 31, 2015. (33 CFR 330.6 (b))
- New applicants in 2015 will be authorized under the new GP, expiring October 31, 2019.
- Permittees or new applicants with projects that now exceed the limits of the GP will receive a one year time extension until October 31, 2015, or until the Corps develops an Abbreviated Individual Permit, whichever comes first.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, 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 submit email comments to POA.AKPlacerMiningGeneralPerm@usace.army.mil; by postal mail to P.O. Box 6898, 2204 3rd St., JBER, Alaska, 99506; by fax at (907) 753-5567; or by phone to Leslie W. Tose at (907) 753-5515, Deb McAtee at (907) 474-2166, or toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
401 Certification Program
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

ANCHORAGE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION
555 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617
PHONE: (907) 269-7564/FAX: (907) 334-2415

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 No. **POA-2014-55, Statewide** 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 by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.