MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Greens Creek Mine
Lead Federal Agency: USFS
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team; OPMP Coordinator: Kyle Moselle, **(2)** DEC Leads: Allan Nakanishi (WW), **(3)** Doug Buteyn (SW), **(4)** Tim Pilon (APDES), **(5)** DFG Lead: Kate Kanouse, **(6)** EPA Leads: Lynne Hood (NEPA), **(7)** Cindi Godsey (WW), **(8)** TBD (404), **(9)** Lorraine Edmond, **(10)** Corps Lead: Matthew Brody/Ellen Lyons, **(11)** Hecla contacts: Chris Wallace (Env), **(12)** Scott Hartman (General Mgr), **(13)** USFS Lead: Sarah Samuelson

The Greens Creek Mine is a silver-zinc-lead mine operated by Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company and located about 18 miles southwest of Juneau on Admiralty Island within a non-wilderness portion of the Admiralty Island National Monument. Based on known and anticipated ore reserves, the mine has a remaining life of approximately 22 years. The recent decision by the USFS for expansion of the tailings facility projects 10 years of capacity based on current production levels.	Bonding MOU with USFS and SOA being revised. Final MOU has been referred to DEC and DNR for signature. In Jan 2014, USFS, SOA and Hecla reached agreement in principle on Financial Assurance (FA) amount (~$100m) for reclamation and long-term care and maintenance activities for current disturbance and tailings expansion. Waste Mgmt Permit (WMP) public comment period expected to start June 2014. Reclamation Plan and FA amounts will be noticed with WMP. Proponent plans to grub for tailings expansion fall 2014, start construction spring 2015, and complete construction fall 2016 (pending state and federal permits).	FEIS & Record of Decision (ROD) issued Sept 9, 2013. USFS chose a modified Alternative D (18 acre expansion of existing drystack w/ no diversion of Tributary Creek). The Corps will separately conduct 404(b)(1) analysis and wetland mitigation. SEACC and Kootznoowoo filed an appeals on the ROD on Oct 28, 2013. ROD affirmed by Regional Forester Dec 2013. The Corps received a 404 permit application on Dec. 24, 2013. Corps issued Public Notice with 15-day extension (comments due May 23, 2014). EPA participated in final review of financial assurance and attended a final meeting with the USFS, State, and Hecla to discuss. EPA generally supported the final amount and supports USFS's regular review to revise as necessary.	Public comment period for APDES permit ends June 2, 2014. Draft of WMP expected by end of May 2014 for management review and 10-day applicant review. Public notice for WMP expected to start in June.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Red Dog Zn-Pb
Lead Federal Agency: Corps
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team; OPMP Coordinator: Jack DiMarchi, **(2)** DEC Leads: Tim Pilon, **(3)** Pete McGee, **(4)** DF&G Lead: Bill Morris, **(5)** DNR Lead: Brent Martellero, **(6)** Corps Lead: Don Kuhle, **(7)** EPA Lead: Cindi Godsey **(8)** Teck Alaska: Chris Eckert, **(9)** Chris Menefee (Env), **(10)** Henri Letient (Gen. Mgr)

One of AK's longest operating open pit mines and one of the world's largest zinc-lead deposits. The mine is located in northwestern Alaska, approximately 82 miles north of Kotzebue, and 46 miles inland from the coast of the Chukchi Sea. It has been operating continuously since its opening in 1989. In 2009 it received Federal and State approvals to expand into the Aqqaluk deposit.	The mine received its modified APDES permits for the mine water discharge and the port facility discharge in May 2013; neither were challenged. Mine raised main dam in 2013 and will again in 2014. Ongoing actions related to dam performance. The environmental audit process is complete and the final audit report was received May 2014. Next major action: review/approval of new Reclamation & Closure Plan and Integrated Waste Management Permit – with new permits being issued in 1Q 2015. Ongoing Actions related to dam performance	The 2009 NPDES permit was appealed to the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board and was upheld. The Corps issued 404 permit for main dam raise in November 2013. EPA received a petition in March, 2014 from the Native Village of Kivalina to perform a CERCLA Preliminary Assessment at the site. The Region is gathering information in coordination with ADEC and ADNR to determine how best to respond to the petition. Interim petition response was issued December 2014.	Public Comment period for the APDES permit closed on Feb 3, 2014. State agencies have reviewed the draft environmental audit of the mine and the final report will be delivered in late May 2014. In fall 2011, Dam Safety issued an NOV for design issues on the dam and the certificate to operate. A dam safety review panel released report in October 2012. Red Dog has requested that the report remain confidential. The panel was a condition of the Dam Safety NOV. Company also performed Willowstick geophysical survey in attempt to identify seepage zones in subsusrface – Report has been provided to State. There are ongoing geotechnical studies aimed at answering some of the questions about the dam stability that were raised in the technical report. Mine staff met with LMPT team in Anchorage on Feb 4, 2014 to review the Willowstick survey results and be briefed on other dam realted and water management related activities at the mine.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
			LMPT participated in a permitting workshop at the mine in March 2014 as initial step in the renewal process for the Waste Management Permit and the Reclamation & Closure Plan Approval. LMPT staff from DNR-Mining/Water and DEC-Water performed mine inspections during the second half of July 2014. Reports are pending. Mine is also in process of raising the main and back tailings dams.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
Project Title: Chuitna Coal Project Supplemental EIS **Lead Federal Agency:** Corps **Responsible Person: (1)** State Lead: Large Mine Project Team; OPMP Coordinator: Sara Taylor, **(2)** DEC Lead: Allan Nakanishi (WW), **(3)** DMLW Lead: Russ Kirkham, **(4)** DHSS Lead: Dr. Paul Anderson, **(5)** EPA Leads: Jamey Stoddard (WW), **(6)** Erik Peterson (NEPA), **(7)** Matt LaCroix (404), **(8)** Corps Leads: Heidi Firstencel, **(9)** Shane McCoy			
This proposed surface coal mine is located 45 miles west of Anchorage near Tyonek. The 300-million ton project would extract low sulfur sub-bituminous coal from the Beluga Coal Field. Project prediction is for a minimum 25-year life of the mine with a production rate of up to 12 million tons per year for export. The project was previously permitted in the 1990's, but not developed. Subsequent project changes have mandated a SEIS. The current NEPA/permitting process commenced in 2006 with EPA as the lead agency. Corps assumed the lead agency role in 2010 when the State assumed authority for NPDES (APDES) permitting for mining projects. Project has been the subject of multiple challenges; controversy surrounding potential removal of ~11 miles, with subsequent restoration, of a salmon stream (#2003) that is a tributary to the Chuit River. Superior Court ruled DNR must document how it considers Instream Flow Applications when making decisions on TWUP issuances. EPA, SOA, NMFS & NVT are Cooperating Agencies. [HYPERLINK "http://www.chuitnaseis.com"]	No permits have been issued. Awaiting completed ASCMCRA permit applications. Federal permitting will begin once SEIS is completed. The Corps would like to release the draft SEIS in April 2015.	The Corps is revisiting the purpose and need statement and may redefine it more broadly. The current purpose and need statement may be overly restrictive and may be precluding consideration of reasonable alternatives. The Corps is developing a cost matrix template for mine design alternatives. The Corps continues to work through the Section 106 process with consulting parties. Using an existing contract vehicle out of EPA HQ, R10 has developed a task order for NatureServe to review the surface water baseline report, water management plan, and groundwater model to determine if the characterization of streamflow in the reports is adequate for use in impacts analysis, and whether reported impacts and post-mining stream flow predictions are accurate and supported by the data. On May 6, 2014, EPA Regional staff and management met with Cook InletKeeper to hear their concerns about the project.	ASCMCRA permitting to be in 2 parts, 1 for facilities, 1 for mine. Site specific criteria scheduled for adoption by the end of 2014. Draft sent to EPA July 31, 2014.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Pogo Mine
Lead Federal Agency: Corps
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team; OPMP Coordinator: Jack DiMarchi, **(2)** DEC Lead: Tim Pilon (WW), **(3)** DNR Lead: Brent Martellaro, **(4)** EPA Leads: Cindi Godsey (WW), **(5)** Matt LaCroix (404), **(6)** Corps Lead: Ben Soiseth **(7)** Sumitomo: Sally McLeod (Env.), **(8)** Chris Kennedy (Gen. Mgr)

This conventional underground gold mine is located 90 miles southeast of Fairbanks. Delta Junction is 40 miles southwest. Sumitomo Metal Mining LLC is the project owner. They have continued to add to their resource and the mine will be in operation beyond the original plan of 10 years. The owner is now developing access to the East Deep ore and designing a third water treatment plant in order to increase their treatment capacity to 600 gpm from the current 400 gpm	Critical scheduling items for the mine include increasing their water treatment capacity from 400 gpm to 600 gpm by EOY 2014. Mine anticipates contructing new water treatment plant by year-end 2015.	The Corps recently issued 404 permit for 0.15 acres wetland disturbance associated with planned construction of WTP#3. In July, 2014, the Corps issued a permit modification to accommodate disturbance associated with construction of exploration roads to the south of the main mine area.	DEC and DNR have approved Plan mods to accommodate the mine's plans to construct water treatment plant #3. This plant will increase the mine's water treatment capacity to 600 gpm from the current 400 gpm (approx.) The mine is under a COBC requirement to complete construction of the plant by end of 2015. In early 2014, the mine completed underground closure studies in order to comply with a special stipulation of its Reclamation & Closure Plan approval; the study modeled mine water inflows flowing closure and also included acid-base-accounting and humidity cell tests to characterize the wall rock and paste fill underground and preliminary designs for the portal plugs that will be constructed at closure. Mine Environmental Manager Sally McLeod ended her tenure at the mine on July 31, 2014. Mine GM Chris kennedy will be managing the department until a replacement is hired.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Fort Knox Mine
Lead Federal Agency:
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team, **(2)** DEC Leads: Tim Pilon (WW), **(3)** Ken Spires (SW), **(4)** EPA Lead: Cindi Godsey (WW), **(5)** Corps Lead: Ben Soiseth

Open-pit gold mine located 26 miles NE of Fairbanks; produces 330,000 ounces of gold/year. Located on State of Alaska Mental Health Trust lands. Operator is Fairbanks Gold Mine, Inc (FGMI), a subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corp. Project includes a conventional gold milling operation and a large valley-fill heap leach. In early 2014 FGMI decided to delay the start of the feasibility study for the Gil deposit in order to allow another exploration season to add more certainty to the gold resource estimate.	Critical path for Fort Knox is getting the Integrated Waste Management Permit, Plan of Ops, Reclamation & Closure (R&C) Plan and Millsite Lease all renewed by March 2014. These approvals will include the expansion fof the Walter Creek Heap Leach. The permits were issued at the end of March 2014.	Mine has met with the Corps to discuss wetlands loss and gain (from new wetlands on reclaimed tailings).	Agency review of Plan of Ops approval, Reclamation & Closure Approval and updated waste management permit is complete State agencies went to public notice with with new R&C Plan/FA, & Integrated Waste Management Permit on Feb 12, 2014 for a 30-day notice period; no comments were received and the permits were issued at the end of March 2014. State issued a Certificate of Approval in May 2014 to modify the main tailings dam as part of the plan to raise the dam an additional 25' during the 2014 construction season. The mine has since decided to make that lift in two stages during the 2014 and 2015 construction seasons. The mine has also applied for an exploration permit form the BLM to perform exploration on NOAA lands immediately west of the current pit with the hopes of expanding the gold resource in that direction.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Gil Project

Lead Federal Agency: NA

Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team, **(2)** DEC Lead: Tim Pilon (WW), **(3)** Ken Spires (SW), **(4)** Corps Leads: Ben Soiseth, **(5)** Ellen Lyons

Gil is a gold deposit owned by Kinross (owner of Fort Knox) and is 6 miles east of Fort Knox . Concept is development of open pit with associated valley-fill heap leach. Would be largely stand-alone project, but project description pending forthcoming feasibility study which will contemplate options of jointly using certain portions of the Fort Knox Mill for final gold recovery or trucking some of the run-of-mine ore to Fort Knox for processing. Gil has backed off from feasibility study. Plan for more drilling during summer 2014.			Presently ADF&G involved in baseline fish studies otherwise State involvement is negligible pending further development of a project description

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Donlin Gold Project
Lead Federal Agency: Corps
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team; OPMP Coordinator: Jeff Bruno, **(2)** DEC Leads: Gary Mendivil; **(3)** Renee Evans (WW), **(4)** Lori Aldridge (SW), **(5)** ADFG Leads: Bill Morris, **(6)** Jim Simons, **(7)** Lee McKinley, **(8)** EPA Leads: Mark Jen (PM) **and** (404), **(9)** Cindi Godsey (WW), **(10)** Corps Lead: Don Kuhle/Keith Gordon

The proposed Donlin Gold Mine is located near the Kuskokwim River Village of Crooked Creek in Southwest Alaska, approximately 120 miles upstream from Bethel. It is a large (on the order of 40 million ounces of gold), undeveloped refractory gold deposit on lands owned by the Kuskokwim Village Corporation (surface) and Calista Regional Corporation (subsurface). The proposal is for an open pit mine measuring two miles wide and one mile wide. Project proponent is Donlin Gold Inc., a partnership of Barrick Gold Corp and NovaGold, Inc. They plan to build a 300+ mile natural gas pipeline to provide power for the mine operations. The Kuskokwim Basin is a mercury province and there are nearby mercury ore deposits with a history of production (Red Devil). Project proponent submitted 404 permit application in 2012 which started the EIS process. This could be the 1st time a mining project proposes perpetual water	DEIS – Apr 2015 FEIS – May 2016 ROD – July 2016 Draft Environmental Consequences section of PDSEIS is scheduled for release Oct 30, 2014. [HYPERLINK "http://www.donlingoldeis.com"]	On April 23, EPA participated in a data gaps analysis meeting and provided comments on April 29, 2014. Prel. Draft Ch 2 Alternatives currently in review until Feb 24, 2014. Evaluating Alternatives: 1. Reducing diesel barging 2. Port Site 3. Tailings disposal methods/locations 4. Gas pipeline alignments. Prel. Draft Ch 3 - Affected Environment released end of Feb 2014 for review on biological, physical and social resources, spill risks, and health effects. Workshop on Financial Assurance & Bonding - Applicant commits to including Financial information in DEIS. Meeting with the Corps and the applicant regarding functional assessment of wetlands and compensatory mitigation plan. Report to	State Pipeline Coordinator Office (SPCO) public noticed Donlin pipeline ROW application on April 9, 2014. [HYPERLINK "http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/pco/documents/Donlin/Donlin_PN_Application.pdf"] Several pre-application meetings taking place with DNR, DEC, and ADF&G.

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Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
treatment as an initial permitting component. Estimated startup capital costs for the project are $6.7 billion, including $834 million for the natural gas pipeline.		be completed soon. EPA will review/comment with follow up meetings. Meeting with the Technical Work Group on Barging effects on the Kuskokwim River. Meeting on data gap analysis for the EIS. Agency review of the Donlin Technical Reports regarding mercury, hydrogeomorphology, air quality, alternative 5, and wetland functional assessment was due September 15.	

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Pebble Cu-Au-Mo Project
Lead Federal Agency: Corps (likely)
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team; OPMP Coordinator: Jack DiMarchi, **(2)** DEC Leads: Allan Nakanishi (WW), **(3)** Lori Aldridge (SW), **(4)** EPA Leads: Rick Parkin (PM for BBWA), **(5)** Cindi Godsey (WW), **(6)** Heather Dean (404), **(7)** Corps Leads: Katie McCafferty, **(8)** Pebble Ltd. Partnership: Tim Havey

Pebble Project is a very large copper-gold-molybdenum mineral deposit located 200 miles southwest of Anchorage on state land. It contains components that, if developed, would likely involve both a large open-pit surface mine and an underground block cave operation. The project was in an advanced state of exploration, but is now in care & maintenance status owing to departure of partner Anglo American who was funding the project as part of their earn-in agreement with owner Northern Dynasty Minerals. ~27,000 pages of baseline study results for the time period 2004-2008 were previously released Proponent is the Pebble Limited Partnership (Anglo-American and Northern Dynasty). However, in September 2013 Anglo pulled out of the partnership. Northern Dynasty reduced staff in Anchorage and is seeking financial options.	No permitting schedule presently. Project on care and maintenance status approximately seven years. Still in pre-application phase. Public comments on the Proposed Determination are due by Sept 19, 2014. Public meetings were held August 12-15. Due to the large number of comments received, EPA extended the time period to withdraw the Proposed Determination or to prepare the Recommended	EPA is undergoing a process under Clean Water Act 404(c) to identify options to protect the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery in Bristol Bay, Alaska. EPA released the final Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment (BBWA) on January 15, 2014, and is currently developing a "Proposed Determination" under Section 404 (c). Information is available at [HYPERLINK "http://www2.epa.gov/bristolbay"] and [HYPERLINK "http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/bbwa/"] On January 9, 2014, PLP sent a letter to EPA's Region 10 Inspector General challenging the substance and value of the BBWA and requesting an investigation relating to bias. On May 2, 2014, the EPA announced that the Office of the Inspector General will begin preliminary research to determine whether the EPA adhered to laws, regulations, policies and procedures in developing its assessment of potential mining impacts on ecosystems in Bristol Bay, Alaska.	Coordination of Pebble at DNR/MLW now with Large Mine team based in Fairbanks. (Jack DiMarchi, Brent Martellaro, Carolyn Curley). On May 21, 2014 PLP filed a lawsuit in US District Court against EPA challenging the legality of the 404(c) activities. In June the State filed a motion to intervene on behalf of PLP against the EPA. That motion was granted On July 3, 2014 the State joined (Intervenor-Plaintiff) PLP and Alaska Peninsula Corporation in a Motion for Preliminary Injunctive essentially asking courts to halt EPA's ongoing 404(c) activities until the courts can judge the merits of the lawsuit against the EPA.

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Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
The project would require road access and a supply of power in addition to the project's mining footprint. Mine life could be 50-100 years, possibly more. The project is the focus of national attention/opposition. In response to a petition from nine tribal governments, EPA has initiated a watershed assessment of the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds in Bristol Bay under the authority of Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act.	Determination to February 4, 2015.	The Corps of Engineers drafted a letter to the project proponents advising them that their proposed functional analyses for streams, wetlands, and marine waters are inadequate and will require adaptation/revision through the efforts of an interagency working group. The Interagency working group is engaged. On April 29, 2014, EPA received letters from the Pebble Limited Partnership and the Alaska Attorney General in response to the February 28 information request under Clean Water Act Section 404(c). On, July 18, 2014, EPA issued a notice for a Proposed Determination to restrict dredge and fill operations associated with mining at the Pebble site under 404(c) authority. EPA's Proposed Determination applied restrictions and prohibitions on any future mine development in a defined area, the waters of the South and North Fork Koktuli Rivers and the Upper Talarik Creek watersheds. During the week of August 11, 2014, EPA conducted 7 public hearings to take comments on the Proposed Determination. The hearings were in Anchorage, Dillingham, Igiugig, Iliamna, Kokhanok, New Stuyhok and Nondalton. The		

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Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State
		public comment period on the proposed determination ended September 19, 2014. Due to the large number of comments received, EPA extended the time period to withdraw the Proposed Determination or to prepare the Recommended Determination until February 4, 2015. EPA received over 670,000 written comments on the Proposed Determination. On September 26, 2014, the US District Court granted the EPA's motion to dismiss the lawsuit challenging EPA's authority under the CWA that the State, PLP, and APC filed against the EPA. On October 31, 2014, PLP appealed the US District Court's decision to the 9th Circuit. PLP has also filed two other lawsuits in US District Court, one under the Federal Advisory Committee Act and one under the Freedom of Information Act. This litigation is ongoing.	

MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Livengood Project
Lead Federal Agency:
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team, **(2)** DEC Lead: Tim Pilon (WW), **(3)** ADF&G Lead: Bill Morris, **(4)** EPA Lead: Cindi Godsey, **(5)** Corps Lead: Ben Soiseth, **(6)** BLM Leads: Matthew Reece, **(7)** Ben Soiseth

This gold mining project is located 70 miles northwest of Fairbanks. International Tower Hill (ITH) is proponent. Project was looking like a large open-pittable deposit but feasibility study released July 2013 failed to meet expectations and project is now in care & maintenance status while owner looks at options to improve project economics.	This project is in holding status pending financing. Camp/offices at site closed and all site work is handled out of Fairbanks ITH office.		Feasibility Study released July-2013 with less than anticipated economic benefits. Project activities reduced to care and maintenance while company is evaluating ways to optimize project description and reduce costs.

Project Title: Kensington Gold Mine
Lead Federal Agency: USFS
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Projects Team; OPMP Coordinator: Kyle Moselle **(2)** DEC Leads: Pete McGee (WW), **(3)** Doug Buteyn (SW), **(4)** DFG Lead: Kate Kanouse , **(5)** USFS Lead: Sarah Samuelson, **(6)** EPA Lead: Cindi Godsey, **(7)** Corps Lead: Randy Vigil

Gold mine operated by Coeur Alaska located 45 miles north of Juneau. Began production in June 2010 and expect to produce 125,000 ounces of gold per year.			DEC has received a request to modify the APDES permit to allow for graphite phyllite seeps to enter the Tailings Management Facility. DEC is reviewing the request to determine if it is a significant or non-significant amendment. DEC is conducting a compliance inspection in early Une 2014 for the water treatment plant on the Comet Beach side of the mine.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Graphite One Project
Lead Federal Agency:
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Jack DiMarchi, **(2)** DEC Lead: Tim Pilon , **(3)** ADF&G Lead: Bill Morris , **(4)** EPA Lead: , **(5)** Corps Lead: Mike Holley, **(6)** BLM:

Coarse graphite deposit located on north flank of Kigluaik Mtns, east of Teller. Initial drill results indicate this one of the largest coarse graphite resource on the planet.	Start Environmental Baseline in 2014	Mining claims are Federal (BLM land mananger) surrounded by State claims. The Corps and ADOT considered this project when identifying candidate deep water port sites in NW Alaska. In May 2014, BLM performed an administrative review of the 24 Federal claims and found that only 4 are valid for graphite exploration; 5 others were determined to be invalid and the remainder are only valid for metalliferous minerals. BLM will likely be approving exploration plans for any of the 20 invalid/metalliferous-only claims. There has been dialogue between BLM and DNR Lands about conveying the BLM land under these claims to the State, which has a valid selection.	Main deposit is on Federal (BLM) land. This is surrounded by State land/State mining claims. Engaged Large Mine Permit Team (LMPT) in late 2013; LMPT will advise on scope of baseline program. Permitting still 2+ years away. In May 2014, and as part of the dialogue to convey BLM lands to the State, the State began a review of the existing State mining claims that Graphite One staked over the area. During the review, it became apparent that certain essential facts had been erroneously reported on Affidavit of Labor forms in 2012 which clouds the title of the State claims. Normal steps to cure the issue are complicated because a third party overstaked the Graphite One State claims. DNR communicated the issue to Graphite One and suggested it use legal counsel to determine its best course of action. In June 2014 Graphite One filed amended Affidavits of Labor and paid the penalty fees. In addition DNR-Mining is preparing a leter to G1 clarifying that their clais are in good standing.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Usibelli Jumbo Dome Mine
Lead Federal Agency: ACOE
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team, **(2)** DEC Lead: Tim Pilon (WW), **(3)** DMLW Lead: Russ Kirkham, **(4)** EPA Lead: Gayle Martin (404), **(5)** Corps: Ben Soiseth

The Usibelli Coal Mine is located near Healy and is expanding through the acquisition of state leases in an area known as Jumbo Dome. The coal is sub-bituminous C with very low sulfur content. Formal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) permit has been submitted to DNR coal section for review. Permit application is currently undergoing completeness review. DEC is evaluating mine water management options. ADF&G is working with the applicant on Title 16 fish passage permits. DEC staff met with Usibelli Coal Mine staff to discuss coverage under the Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP). Usibelli claims the mine will have zero discharge and does not need coverage under the MSGP. DEC disagrees.		The Corps verified use of NWP 21 for the haul road portion of the project in December 2011, and for Term 1 of the mine in February 2012. NWP 21 expired in March 2012, and was re-issued with a limit of 0.5 acres; nonetheless, a grandfathering provision of the reissuance allowed surface coal mining activities that had been previously verified by the 2007 NWP 21 to be reauthorized without applying the new limits imposed on the reissued 2012 NWP 21 with re-verification by the Corps. The Corps re-verified Usibelli's use of NWP 21 for the haul road and Term 1 of the mine on December 21, 2012, with an expiration date of March 18, 2017.	

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Usibelli Wishbone Hill Mine

Lead Federal Agency:

Responsible Person: (1) DEC Lead: Allan Nakanishi (WW), **(2)** DNR Lead: Russ Kirkham, **(3)** EPA Lead: Cindi Godsey (WW), **(4)** Tami Fordham (Tribal), **(5)** Corps Lead: Ben Soiseth

Usibelli is seeking permits from the state in order to mine coal from 800 acres near Palmer and Sutton in the Matanuska Valley. Project is located on State Mental Health Trust and private lands. The mine would produce up to 500,000 tons of coal per year for 12 years. There is local concern about potential impacts from fugitive dust. The Native Village of Chickaloon has also voiced concern about potential impacts to drinking water, surface and groundwater, subsistence foods, and religious and cultural practices. Usibelli applied in a timely manner for a 5-year renewal of the Surface Mining permit that was set to expire in November, 2011. The original deadline for public comment on the permit renewal was October 14, but was extended to November 15 at the request of the local community. The DEC Air Quality Division was working with Usibelli on an air quality minor permit, but Usibelli withdrew the permit application in mid-October. Usibelli has since refiled its Air Quality permit application. A request for a detailed health impact assessment (HIA) was submitted to the Dept. of Health & Social Services on June 13 after the department had completed a "draft rapid assessment". A similar request was attempted to be submitted through the Mat/Su Borough Assembly, but that request was denied	Air Permit (State) – issued June 2014 APDES Permit	404 Permit (will trigger NEPA)	Still awaiting Office of Surface Mining (OSM) reply to State's Ten Day Letter response.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Niblack Project
Lead Federal Agency: TBD
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Projects Team; OPMP Coordinator: Kyle Moselle, **(2)** DEC Leads: Renee Evans (WW), **(3)** Doug Buteyn (SW), **(4)** DFG Lead: Mark Minillo, **(5)** EPA Lead: Cindi Godsey, **(6)** Corps Lead: Marcia Heer, (7) USFS Lead: Sarah Samuelson

The Niblack Project is a copper-gold-silver-zinc prospect located on Prince of Wales Island southwest of Ketchikan. The proponent is Heatherdale Resources, a Hunter-Dickinson group company (HDI is also parent of Northern Dynasty). The Project is in an advanced exploration phase, including approval for up to 6,000 feet of underground tunneling and 25,000 feet of underground drilling. Niblack holds 6,200 acres of federal and state mineral claims and 250 acres of patented (private) land. All current disturbances are on patented land, but some surface exploration has occurred within the adjacent Inventoried Roadless Areas of the Tongass National Forest. DNR and the Forest Service approved additional geotechnical and exploration drilling in 2012, which the company conducted. However, the site has been in a temporary closure since Oct. 2012. Development proposals may include off-site processing of ore (two sites in Ketchikan are being considered). Power at the mine site could eventually come from hydroelectric resources.	Pre-application phase, advanced exploration Project is in temporary closure under existing WMP. Temporary closure expires Oct 2015. Further exploration activities pending funding. Niblack has proposed a marine discharge of existing contact water.	USFS approved surface exploration drilling in 2001 Inventoried Roadless Area #507 on June 7, 2012.	APDES application for marine discharge in review by DEC. Mixing zone analysis completed. Public notice expected in July 2014. Tidelands easement application in review by DNR-Lands for outfall line of marine discharge. Public notice of tidelands application completed May 2, 2014. Best Interest Finding (BIF) is now being drafted. Public notice of BIF and draft easement expected in July 2014. Corps NW #7 pre-construction notice application submitted. 10-day agency notice expected early June 2014. [$$ from AIDEA]

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Rock Creek Mine [now Nanuuq Project under Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC)]
Lead Federal Agency:
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Projects Team; OPMP Coordinator: Jack DiMarchi, **(2)** DEC Leads: Tim Pilon (WW), **(3)** Doug Buteyn (SW), **(4)** DNR lead: Brent Martellaro **(5)** ADF&G Lead: Laura Jacobs, **(6)** EPA Leads: Cindi Godsey, **(7)** Thor Cutler (UIC), **(8)** Corps Lead: Mike Holley **(9)** Lead for BSNC: Consultant Frank Bergstrom, **(10)** Harry Noah

Consists of open-pit gold mines: Rock Creek Mine located six miles north of Nome and Big Hurrah Mine located 42 miles east of Nome. NovaGold transferred its subsidiary, Alaska Gold Co., which owns the project to Berings Straits Native Corp. on Nov 1, 2012. Big Hurrah Mine located on land owned by Alaska Gold Co. and surrounding lands owned by Salomon Native Corporation. A reclamation & closure plan was approved in Feb, 2012. The State signed off on the Phase I reclamation and responsibility for Phase II transferred with Alaska Gold Co. to Bering Straits Native Corp (BSNC) on Nov 1 and $6.8 million of the $20.3 million financial assurances were released. The remainder remained with Alaska Gold Co. when it was transferred to BSNC. DNR/MLW will require new personal bond and eventually updates to the Reclamation plan to reflect Phase I completion. DEC Waste Mgmt Permit will expire and new monitoring plan will be required.	AGC & financial assurances transferred Nov 1 to BSNC. State inspection of Phase I close was completed. Dam Safety has issued letter removing breached dam from state jurisdiction in August 2012. NovaGold submitted a final annual report on the project in March, 2013. BSNC continues to provide quarterly monitoring reports required by the permits. As of July 2013, no further efforts for at least a year for resumed mining of Rock Creek/Big Harrah under so-called Nanuuq Gold project based on financial and ore delineation issues.		No bid by BSNC to resume mining for at least one year. State will continue to require monitoring and compliance with next phase of reclamation as required. BSNC met with DNR and DEC in May 2014 to provide an update on reclamation activities and tentative plans for the site's future. They informally proposed some changes to the approved Reclamation & Closure Plan and were advised to formalize the request in writing to the State. BSNC also introduced a preliminary plan to mine at Big Hurrah and truck ore to the Rock Creek Mill for processing; however, these plans are wholly contingent on raising funds and it was agreed that much more has to occur before approval to move forward with this plan could be obtained from state agencies.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Nixon Fork Mine
Lead Federal Agency: BLM
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Projects Team; OPMP Coordinator: Jack DiMarchi, **(2)** DEC Leads: Tim Pilon (WW), **(3)** Lori Aldrich (EH/Solid Waste), **(4)** BLM leads: James Whitlock (compliance), **(5)** Alan Bittner (ANC Field Mgr), **(6)** EPA Lead: Cindi Godsey, **(6)** Fire River Gold: Blane Wilson (Gen. Mgr), **(7)** Larry Wilson (Env)

Consists of an underground gold mine located 32 miles northeast of McGrath. Located in an area of historic mining. Operator is Fire River Gold. Mine resumed production July 4, 2011 and made progress in improving project economics but the mine closed again in Fall 2013. In July 2014 it was announced that the Nixon Fork Mine and Mystery Creek resources, the Alaska Entity that operates the mine, were now controlled by Waterton Golobal and no longer owned by Fire River Gold. The change in ownership was triggered by an underlying agreement between Fire River Gold and Waterton. The management team at the Nixon fork Mine and officers of Mystery Creek Resources reamin unchanged so a seamless transition is expected.	Current schedule is driven by completion/approval of the Temporary Closure Plan. The last State comments were sent to the company on Nov 18, 2013 – awaiting updated draft of plan. This should be the final draft.	BLM is a close participant in the closure approval process – If FRG adopts the latest changes to their temporary closure plan then the BLM will approve it concommittant with the State approving the same plan.	Final version of Temporary Closure Plan adopted by State in January 2014. Property is being managed by on site caretakers. Updates to mine Plan of Operations put on indefinite hold while company is in temporary closure status.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Bokan Mountain/Dotson Ridge REE
Lead Federal Agency: USFS
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Projects Team; OPMP Coordinator: Kyle Moselle, **(2)** DEC Lead: Allan Nakanishi (WW), **(3)** DFG Lead: Mark Minillo, **(4)** USFS Lead: Sarah Samuelson, **(5)** EPA Lead: TBD, **(6)** Corps Lead: Matthew Brody

The Bokan-Dotson Ridge Rare Earth Element (REE) prospect is located on the southern end of Prince of Wales Island, approximately 37 miles southwest of Ketchikan. The proponent is Ucore Rare Metals, Inc, and the property consists of approximately 10,000 acres of federal mining claims on the Tongass National Forest. The REE resource is primarily contained in narrow dikes, but with good grade and high heavy/light REE ration. The Bokan-Dotson Ridge REE Project area is located along Dotson Ridge adjacent to Bokan Mountain (site of the historic Ross Adams uranium mine, last operated by Newmont Mining Corporation).		Plan of Operation for geotechnical drilling approved by the USFS on July 8, 2013. Ucore plans to complete that work in 2014 (pending funding).	Current disturbance levels are less than 5 acres, so no DNR approved reclamation plan or bonding is required at this time. Current activities do not required issuance of solid waste or waste water discharge permits from DEC. [$$ from AIDEA]

Project Title: Free Gold Golden Summit
Lead Federal Agency:
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Projects Team; OPMP Coordinator:

Project in the Fairbanks area, exploration has occurred for several years			Company entered into MOU with OPMP for project coordination in early 2014. Initial kick-off meeting was held in April 2014. Company is developing its environmental baseline program in response to feedback the State provided at that meeting and a follow-up meeting, also in April 2014.

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MINING PROJECTS

Description & Link	Schedule	Federal	State

Project Title: Placer Mining General Permit
Lead Federal Agency: ACOE
Responsible Person: (1) State Lead: Large Mine Project Team, **(2)** DEC Lead: , **(3)** DFG Lead: , **(4)** EPA Lead: , **(5)** Corps Lead: Leslie Tose/Deb McAtee

General Permit POA-2006-1944-M1; authorizes placement of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the United States, including wetlands, for placer mining activities within the State of Alaska. The GP applies to placer mining operations of ten acres or less of disturbance area, and stream diversions of up to 2000 linear feet.	Issued Apr 2012; expires Oct 2014		

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