

## PUBLIC NOTICE – NIBLACK PROJECT

### FEDERAL PERMIT APPLICATION AND DRAFT STATE DECISIONS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the State of Alaska are making available to the public on April 23, 2007 the following applications, draft permits, public notice and preliminary decisions relating to the Niblack Underground Exploration Project for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Niblack property is located off Moira Sound on southeastern Prince of Wales Island, approximately 30 miles southwest of the town of Ketchikan. The project is expected to last 2 years. The applicant, Niblack Mining Corporation, proposes to develop an initial 6,000 feet of underground tunneling from a single adit entry. The main purpose of the underground work is to provide access for exploration drilling to test deep zones of mineralization. The project will require development of a marine access and camp barge facility on the adjacent State-owned tide and submerged lands. All other surface disturbances including an access road, portal, and waste rock storage and disposal areas will be confined to private property. Total surface disturbance requiring post-closure reclamation is approximately 5.5 acres. The proposed underground access will generate about 60,900 cubic yards of waste rock, most of which is benign. Approximately 14,300 cubic yards is potentially acid-generating (PAG) material which will be temporarily placed in an engineered, lined storage facility. At the end of the exploration period, all PAG waste rock will be picked up and transferred back underground and the adit will be sealed.

- In addition to this public notice, the ACOE is publishing a federal public notice of an application for a Department of the Army permit for the portions of work below the high tide line that are subject to ACOE jurisdiction, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and 404 of the Clean Water Act (POA-1982-290-N). This public notice may be viewed at: <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/reg/PNNNew.htm>
- The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) has prepared a Draft Reclamation Plan Approval and a Draft Temporary Water Use Permit. A Preliminary Decision for a tideland lease has also been made in accordance with AS 38.05.070 – to be eligible to appeal this decision a person must comment, in writing, during the comment period. ADNR is also coordinating public review of the Alaska Coastal Management Program's (ACMP's) consistency determination.
- The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) has prepared a draft Waste Management Permit (2006-DB0037) for handling and temporary disposal of PAG waste rock at a lined, .85 acre facility, and wastewater treatment and disposal from the PAG facility and the adit. ADEC also anticipates that it will issue a 401 certification of the ACOE 404 permit.

#### PUBLIC MEETING & HEARING

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007**

**KETCHIKAN  
Ted Ferry Civic Center  
888 Venetia Way**

**7 to 8 pm  
Project Presentation  
and Discussion**

**8 to 9 pm  
Public Hearing**

#### HOW TO COMMENT

Draft permits, public notice, preliminary decisions, and support documents are available for review at:

ADNR / Anchorage (550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 900)  
ADNR / Craig (Westwind Plaza, Suite 302)

ADEC / Juneau (410 Willoughby, Suite 303)  
Ketchikan Public Library (629 Dock Street)

**Draft documents may also be obtained from this website:**

[www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/niblack](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/niblack)

**Comments must be in writing and received by 5:00 pm AST, May 23, 2007.**

Please send comments to the contacts below for distribution to the appropriate agencies. If submitted via email, please start subject line with "Niblack public comment".

Department of The Army Section 10 & 404 Permit  
ATTN: Nicole Hayes, Regulatory Specialist  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District  
Regulatory Division, East Branch  
PO Box 6898, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-0898  
Telephone: (907) 753-2712, Fax: (907) 753-5567  
Email: [nicole.m.hayes@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:nicole.m.hayes@poa02.usace.army.mil)

State of Alaska DNR and DEC Permits  
ATTN: Bob Tsigonis, Project Manager  
ADNR / Office of Project Management & Permitting  
3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Telephone: (907) 374-3708, Fax: (907) 451-2703  
Email: [bob\\_tsigonis@dnr.state.ak.us](mailto:bob_tsigonis@dnr.state.ak.us)