Fact Sheet

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Proposes to Reissue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to Discharge Pollutants Pursuant to the Provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to:

Eldorado Ventures LLC

Eldorado Creek Suction Dredge

Public Comment Start Date: September 1st, 2026

Public Comment Expiration Date: September 30th, 2026

THE EPA PROPOSES TO REISSUE THE NPDES PERMIT

The EPA proposes to reissue the NPDES permit for the facility referenced above, located within Denali National Park (DNP). The Draft Permit places conditions on the discharge of pollutants from operations to waters of the United States. In order to ensure protection of water quality and human health, the permit places limits on the types and amounts of pollutants that can be discharged from the facility.

This Fact Sheet (FS) includes:

- information on public comment, public hearing, and appeal procedures
- a listing of proposed effluent limitations and other conditions for the facility
- a map and description of the discharge location
- technical material supporting the conditions in the permit
- a listing of substantial changes relative to the prior permit

CWA § 401 CERTIFICATION

Since the U.S. has exclusive federal jurisdiction within Denali National Park, the EPA intends to prepare a CWA § 401 Certification for the final permit. See Part VI.D regarding EPA's intent to certify this permit. Comments regarding the intent to certify should be directed to EPAR10WD-NPDES@epa.gov.

CLEAN WATER ACT §401(A)(2) REVIEW

CWA § 401(a)(2) requires that, upon receipt of an application and CWA § 401 certification, the EPA must notify "any other" State or Tribe if the EPA determines that the discharge may affect the quality of the other State or Tribe's waters.

As stated above, the EPA is the certifying authority and is accepting comment regarding the intent to certify this permit. Once the EPA reviews any comments received regarding the intent to certify and has signed a final certification, the EPA will determine whether the discharges may affect the quality of the waters of the State of Alaska, as required by CWA § 401(a)(2).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons wishing to comment on, or request a Public Hearing for, the Draft Permit may do so in writing by the expiration date of the Public Comment period. A request for a Public Hearing must state the nature of the issues to be raised as well as the requester's name, address and telephone number. All comments and requests for Public Hearings must be in writing and should be submitted to the EPA as described below.

By the expiration date of the public comment period, all written comments and requests must be submitted to EPAR10WD-NPDES@epa.gov with the subject line "Comments on Draft NPDES Permit (AK0053791)".

After the Public Notice expires, and all comments have been considered, the EPA will make a final decision regarding permit issuance. If no substantive comments are received, the tentative conditions in the Draft Permit will become final, and the permit will become effective upon issuance. If substantive comments are received, the EPA will address the comments and issue the permit. The permit will become effective no less than 30 days after the issuance date, unless an appeal is submitted to the Environmental Appeals Board within 30 days pursuant to 40 CFR § 124.19.

DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

The draft NPDES permit, fact sheet and other information can be downloaded from the internet at https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/about-region-10s-npdes-permit-program.

The draft Administrative Record for this action contains all documents listed in the References section. The Administrative Record or documents from it are available electronically upon request by emailing EPAR10WD-NPDES@epa.gov.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Background Information 7
A. General Information 7
B. Permit History 7
II. Facility Information 8
A. Operation Description 8
B. Effluent Description 8
C. Compliance History 9
III. Receiving Water 9
A. Water Quality Standards 9
B. Receiving Water Quality 10
IV. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring 10
A. Basis for Effluent Limits and Monitoring Requirements 10
B. Technology-Based Effluent Limits 11
C. Water Quality-Based Effluent Limits (WQBELs) 12
D. Best Management Practices 12
E. Monitoring 12
F. Electronic Submission of Discharge Monitoring Reports 13
V. Other Permit Conditions 13
A. Standard Permit Provisions 13
VI. Other Legal Requirements 14
A. Endangered Species Act 14
B. Essential Fish Habitat 14
C. CWA § 401 Certification 14
D. Permit Expiration 14
VII. References 15
Appendix A. Maps and Figures 16
Appendix B. Receiving Water Quality Data 18
Appendix C. CWA § 401 Certification 21

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. General Facility Information 7
Table 2. Flow Characterization 9

ACRONYMS

1Q10	1 day, 10 year low flow
7Q10	7 day, 10 year low flow
30B3	Biologically-based design flow intended to ensure an excursion frequency of less than once every three years, for a 30-day average flow.
30Q10	30 day, 10 year low flow
ACR	Acute-to-Chronic Ratio
AML	Average Monthly Limit
ASR	Alternative State Requirement
AWL	Average Weekly Limit
BA	Biological Assessment
BAT	Best Available Technology economically achievable
BCT	Best Conventional pollutant control Technology
BE	Biological Evaluation
BO or BiOp	Biological Opinion
BOD_5	Biochemical oxygen demand, five-day
BOD_{5u}	Biochemical oxygen demand, ultimate
BMP	Best Management Practices
BPT	Best Practicable
°C	Degrees Celsius
$CBOD_5$	Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFS	Cubic Feet per Second
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
CV	Coefficient of Variation
CWA	Clean Water Act
DMR	Discharge Monitoring Report
DO	Dissolved oxygen
EA	Environmental Assessment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FDF	Fundamentally Different Factor
FR	Federal Register
Gpd	Gallons per day

HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IC	Inhibition Concentration
ICIS	Integrated Compliance Information System
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
I/I	Infiltration and Inflow
LA	Load Allocation
lbs/day	Pounds per day
LC	Lethal Concentration
LC_{50}	Concentration at which 50% of test organisms die in a specified time period
LD_{50}	Dose at which 50% of test organisms die in a specified time period
LOEC	Lowest Observed Effect Concentration
LTA	Long Term Average
LTCP	Long Term Control Plan
mg/L	Milligrams per liter
mL	Milliliters
ML	Minimum Level
µg/L	Micrograms per liter
mgd	Million gallons per day
MDL	Maximum Daily Limit or Method Detection Limit
MF	Membrane Filtration
MPN	Most Probable Number
N	Nitrogen
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOEC	No Observable Effect Concentration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
O&M	Operations and maintenance
POTW	Publicly owned treatment works
PSES	Pretreatment Standards for Existing Sources
PSNS	Pretreatment Standards for New Sources
QAP	Quality assurance plan
RP	Reasonable Potential
RPM	Reasonable Potential Multiplier
RWC	Receiving Water Concentration

SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
SPCC	Spill Prevention and Control and Countermeasure
SS	Suspended Solids
SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
s.u.	Standard Units
TKN	Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TRC	Total Residual Chlorine
TRE	Toxicity Reduction Evaluation
TSD	Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control (EPA/505/2-90-001)
TSS	Total suspended solids
TU_a	Toxic Units, Acute
TU_c	Toxic Units, Chronic
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UV	Ultraviolet
WD	Water Division
WET	Whole Effluent Toxicity
WLA	Wasteload allocation
WQBEL	Water quality-based effluent limit
WQS	Water Quality Standards
WWTP	Wastewater treatment plant

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

This fact sheet provides information on the draft NPDES permit for the following entity:

Table 1. General Facility Information

NPDES Permit #:	AK0053791
Applicant:	Eldorado Ventures LLC
Type of Ownership	Private
Physical Address:	Liberty Claims, Eldorado Creek, Denali National Park AK 99755 (Near Kantishna)
Mailing Address:	6550 Limestone Circle, Anchorage AK 99507
Facility Contact:	Yvonne Desjarlais Operator ydesjarl@gmail.com 907-440-7880
Facility Location and Outfall:	63.502778 °N -151.021389 °W
Receiving Water	Eldorado Creek

B. PERMIT HISTORY

The most recent NPDES permit for the Liberty Claims was issued on February 4, 2021, became effective on June 11, 2021, and expired on May 31, 2026. An NPDES application for permit issuance was submitted by the permittee on January 14, 2026. The EPA determined that the application was timely and complete. Therefore, pursuant to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 122.6, the permit has been administratively continued and remains fully effective and enforceable.

The National Park Service (NPS) gave notice in the Federal Register on February 26, 2016, as required by Public Law 94-429, Section 2 of the Mining in the Parks Act of September 28, 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1901) and in accordance with provisions of 36 CFR § 9.17, that Kris DeVault, the previous operator, filed a proposed plan to conduct mining operations on the Liberty #9 and Liberty #13 through #18 unpatented placer claims near Kantishna, Alaska (see map, VII.Appendix A.).

NPS developed an Environmental Assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and produced a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in 2016. The NPS approved the mining plan of operations for ten years (through 2026) on the Liberty unpatented placer claims. The NPS received a new Mining Plan of Operations in 2026, which is currently under review and, if approved, would authorize operations through 2036.

II. FACILITY INFORMATION

A. OPERATION DESCRIPTION

1. Operation Area

Eldorado Ventures LLC owns and operates the Eldorado Creek Suction Dredge located in Denali National Park, AK. The operation is focused on the extraction of gold from deposits found in the stream bed along ~7,000 feet of Eldorado Creek.

2. Mining Process

Suction dredges, the most common hydraulic dredging system, are quite popular in Alaska with the small and recreational gold placer miner. A suction dredge is a mechanical device that floats on the stream surface and pumps stream water and stream bed material through a suction intake conduit to a sluice box from which gold or other minerals may be recovered. Suction dredges consist of a supporting hull with a mining control system, excavating and lifting mechanism, gold recovery circuits, and waste disposal system. All floating dredges are designed to work as a unit to dig, classify, beneficiate ores and dispose of waste. Because suction dredges work the stream bed rather than stream banks, the discharge from suction dredges consists totally of stream water and bed material. However, due to the nature of the operation, there is potential for pollutants such as oil/grease to be introduced to the stream.

The EPA commissioned a suction dredge study in Alaska in 1997 and 1998 and found that the primary effect of dredging on water chemistry was increased turbidity, total filterable solids, and copper and zinc concentrations downstream of the dredge. Turbidity was found to exceed background levels by approximately a factor of 10, 100 feet downstream of the dredge. However, at and below 200 feet downstream, turbidity levels were within 1.5 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) of background conditions, which is within the water quality standards (WQS) of Alaska.

In general, as distance from the dredge site increased, water quality impacts decreased. By 262 feet downstream, copper and zinc concentrations were comparable to those upstream, and macroinvertebrate abundance and diversity was unaffected at this distance as well. Stream bed morphology was similarly affected; the immediate substrate below the operation was strongly impacted but there was little effect beyond the dredging area. Additionally, it was found that dredge piles formed by the mining operation dispersed in 1-3 years and the channel returned to pre-dredge conditions within a year.

B. EFFLUENT DESCRIPTION

As described above, the dredging operation at Eldorado Creek utilizes 2 suction dredges to mine roughly 7,000 feet of the stream. The discharge is primarily stream water and streambed material such as sand, gravel, and silt. However, there exists the potential for other pollutants to be introduced, such as oil and grease. There are no numeric effluent limits in the existing permit, as such there is no numeric effluent data. The current

permit utilizes best management practices (BMPs) to control the discharge from the dredging operations, namely turbidity. The facility submitted a description of the flow of their operations with their application for reissuance, summarized below in Table 2.

Table 2. Flow Characterization

Dredge #	Frequency		Flow Rate (Gallons Per Day)		Duration (Days)
	Average Days/Week	Average Month/ Year	Long Term Average	Maximum Daily	
1 (4-6 inch)	1	3.5	28,800	80,000	15
2 (6-8 inch)	5	3.5	57,699	160,000	70

C. COMPLIANCE HISTORY

There are no recorded instances of effluent compliance violations, and the facility has not operated since 2019.

Additional compliance information for this facility, including compliance with other environmental statutes, is available on Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO). The ECHO web address for this facility is: https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=AK0053791&sys=ICP

III. RECEIVING WATER

In drafting permit conditions, the EPA must analyze the effect of the facility's discharge on the receiving water. The details of that analysis are provided in the Water Quality-Based Effluent Limits (WQBEL) section in Part IV.C. This section summarizes characteristics of the receiving water that impact that analysis.

This dredge operates in and discharges to Eldorado Creek, Denali National Park, Alaska. The dredge is located within lands of exclusive federal jurisdiction and discharges to waters of the United States.

A. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

CWA § 301(b)(1)(C) requires the development of limitations in permits necessary to meet WQS. 40 CFR 122.4(d) requires that the conditions in NPDES permits ensure compliance with the WQS of all affected States. A State's WQS are composed of use classifications, numeric and/or narrative water quality criteria and an antidegradation policy. The use classification system designates the beneficial uses that each water body is expected to achieve, such as drinking water supply, contact recreation, and aquatic life. The numeric and narrative water quality criteria are the criteria deemed necessary to support the beneficial use classification of each water body. The antidegradation policy represents a three-tiered approach to maintain and protect various levels of water quality and uses.

The waters within Denali National Park are not subject to Alaska WQS. However, as Alaska is the downstream state from the dredging operation, the EPA will apply Alaska WQS.

1. Designated Beneficial Uses

This facility discharges to Eldorado Creek in the Eldorado Creek-Moose Creek Watershed (HUC 190803101804).

18 AAC 70.020(a) lists Alaska's designated uses for waterbodies. EPA is utilizing these beneficial uses for the waters that are affected by the discharge of the suction dredging operation.

At the point of discharge, the receiving waters are protected for the following designated use classes and subclasses:

Fresh Waters

- Water Supply
- Drinking, culinary, and food processing
- Agriculture, including irrigation and stock watering
- Aquaculture
- Industrial
- Water Recreation
- Contact Recreation
- Secondary Recreation
- Growth and Propagation of Fish, Shellfish, Other Aquatic Life, and Wildlife

B. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

The water quality for the receiving water is summarized in Appendix B.

1. Water Quality Limited Waters

The State of Alaska's 2024 Integrated Report Section 5 (CWA § 303(d)) does not list Eldorado Creek as impaired. However, Slate Creek, which is a smaller stream that flows into Eldorado Creek, is listed as impaired for iron, arsenic, and antimony levels. Alaska listed it as Category 4a, which is impaired but with a recovery plan in place.

Because water from Slate Creek flows into Eldorado Creek and not vice versa, there is no impact from the dredging operation on the impaired waters.

IV. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING

A. BASIS FOR EFFLUENT LIMITS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

In general, the CWA requires that the effluent limits for a particular pollutant be the more stringent of either technology-based effluent limits (TBELs) or WQBELs. TBELs are set according to the level of treatment that is achievable using available technology. A WQBEL is designed to ensure that the WQS applicable to a waterbody are being met and may be more stringent than TBELs.

1. Pollutants of Concern

Pollutants of concern are those that either have TBELs or may need WQBELs. The EPA identifies pollutants of concern for the discharge based on those which

- Have a TBEL
- Have an assigned wasteload allocation (WLA) from a TMDL
- Had an effluent limit in the previous permit
- Are present in the effluent monitoring. Monitoring data are reported in the application and DMR and any special studies
- Are expected to be in the discharge based on the nature of the discharge

There are no TBELs, WLA, or numeric effluent limits in the existing permit. However, there are narrative limits in the form of best management practices (BMPs) and monitoring requirements for turbidity and oil/grease. Based on this, the following are considered pollutants of concern

- Turbidity
- Oil/Grease

B. TECHNOLOGY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITS

CWA § 301(b) requires technology-based controls on effluents. The EPA has established technology-based controls, also called effluent limitation guidelines (ELGs), for numerous industry categories. On May 24, 1988, the EPA established ELGs for the Gold Placer Mine industry at 40 CFR Part 440, Subpart M. However, these guidelines do not apply to suction dredge operations that process less than 50,000 cubic yards of ore per year, a number that the permitted operation does not exceed. In the absence of established ELGs, the EPA may establish technology-based limits based upon Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) (CWA § 402(a)(1) and 40 CFR 122.43, 122.44, 125.3).

Here, the EPA is establishing best management practices (BMPs) through BPJ to minimize the environmental impacts of the discharge. BMPs are measures that are intended to prevent or minimize the generation and the potential for the release of pollutants from facilities to the waters of the United States. BMPs are commonly required in NPDES permits.

The use of BMPs is allowed under CWA § 402(a)(2) and 40 CFR 122.44(k) of the NPDES regulations. 40 CFR 122.44(k) allows the inclusion of BMPs in lieu of numerical effluent limits under certain circumstances, including where numeric effluent limits are infeasible [40 CFR 122.44(k)(3)] or the practices are reasonably necessary to achieve effluent limitations and standards or to carry out the purposes and intent of the CWA [40 CFR 122.44(k)(4)].

Suction dredging's unique method of intake and displacement presents unusual permitting challenges. As discussed above, the suction dredge operation consists of a surface vessel that contains a mining control system, excavating and lifting mechanism, gold recovery circuits, and waste disposal system. The permitted discharge consists entirely of fresh water and streambed material that is immediately released back into the receiving water from the surface vessel. Because it is infeasible to establish numeric technology-based effluent limits, BMPs are required to reduce the impact of the discharge and meet the intent of the CWA.

C. WATER QUALITY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITS (WQBELS)

CWA § 301(b)(1) requires the establishment of limitations in permits necessary to meet water quality standards by July 1, 1977. Although AWQS are not directly applicable to the waterbody, the EPA is utilizing these standards to assure that water quality at the National Park boundary will not be impacted by the discharge.

There are no applicable numeric WQBELs found in the AWQS that the suction dredge operation would be subject to. In order to ensure that the WQS within the waters of Eldorado Creek are met, the EPA is implementing limits in the form of BMPs, described below.

D. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

BMPs are measures that are intended to prevent or minimize the generation and release of pollutants from industrial activities to waters of the Unites States through operational controls and ancillary activities. Pursuant to CWA § 402(a)(2) and 40 CFR § 122.44(k)(3)-(4), development and implementation of BMPs may be included in NPDES permits.

The Draft Permit requires the following BMPs:

1. Dredging that directly causes stream bank or beach erosion is prohibited
2. Motorized winches or other motorized equipment shall not be used to move boulders, logs, or other natural obstructions.
3. Prudent care must be used to limit the size of the discharged turbidity plume, in accordance with Permit Part I.B.1.
    i. *Prudent care includes, but is not limited to: changing the substrate material that is being dredged, avoiding the dredging of silt and clay material, moving the operation to a portion of the stream with a lower flow rate, reducing the overall volume of dredge material being processed, or suspending operations until ambient conditions are conducive to a smaller plume.*
4. Site conditions, such as currents, wind, and substrate type, must be considered and operational methods must be adjusted, as necessary, to ensure discharges comply with limits in Permit Part I.
5. All wastewater discharges, including those from oversized, screened material, must be controlled to minimize aeration and reduce air entrainment that may hinder

particle settling. Controls include avoiding discharges into air, directing discharges vertically downward or employing downspouts, deflectors, or similar equipment.

6. Releases of petroleum products and other hazardous substances must be prevented or mitigated as set forth in Permit Part II.6:
7. All spills containing fuel, oil, or other hazardous substances must be reported in acf

E. MONITORING

The EPA has determined that turbidity and oil/grease are pollutants of concern and has included BMPs for each pollutant in the Draft Permit. Monitoring requirements are designed to ensure that the BMPs are implemented properly.

1. Turbidity

The Draft Permit requires daily visual inspection to determine the downstream range of the turbidity plume, with the plume not to exceed 500 feet downstream of the suction dredge during operation. When the Permittee is operating 2 dredges within 500 feet of one another, it will be considered a single dredge operation, and compliance will be measured from the dredge that is further upstream. If 2 dredges are operating more than 500 feet apart, monitoring shall be performed for each dredge and separate records shall be kept.

2. Oil and Grease

The Draft Permit requires visual monitoring for any floating oil, film, or sheen on the surface of the receiving water originating from the dredging vessels while they are in or near the creek. Visual monitoring must be conducted twice a day, once at the start of daily operations and once at the end of daily operations.

F. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORTS

The Draft Permit requires that the permittee submit DMR data electronically using NetDMR. NetDMR is a national web-based tool that allows DMR data to be submitted electronically via a secure Internet application.

The EPA currently conducts free training on the use of NetDMR. Further information about NetDMR, including upcoming trainings and contacts, is provided on the following website: https://netdmr.epa.gov.

V. OTHER PERMIT CONDITIONS

A. STANDARD PERMIT PROVISIONS

Permit Parts III, IV and V contain standard regulatory language that must be included in all NPDES permits. The standard regulatory language covers requirements such as monitoring, recording, and reporting requirements, compliance responsibilities, and other general requirements.

VI. OTHER LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

A. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) if their actions could beneficially or adversely affect any threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitats. The EPA has determined there are no ESA-listed species or designated critical habitats within the receiving water and, therefore, ESA consultation is not required.

B. ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

Essential fish habitat (EFH) is the waters and substrate (sediments, etc.) necessary for fish to spawn, breed, feed, or grow to maturity. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (January 21, 1999) requires the EPA to consult with NMFS when a proposed discharge has the potential to adversely affect EFH (i.e., reduce quality and/or quantity of EFH). The EPA has determined there are no EFH within the receiving water and, therefore, EFH consultation is not required.

C. CWA § 401 CERTIFICATION

CWA § 401 requires the State in which the discharge originates to certify that the discharge complies with the appropriate sections of the CWA, and with any appropriate requirements of State Law. This facility is located within Denali National Park and Preserve and discharges to waters under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government approximately 35 miles upstream of the boundary with the state of Alaska's jurisdiction. Therefore, according to 40 CFR 121.13(a), the EPA is the certifying authority. The EPA is taking comment on its intent to certify this permit.

D. PERMIT EXPIRATION

The permit will expire five years from the effective date.

VII. REFERENCES

EPA. 1991. *Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control.* US Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water. EPA/505/2-90-001. https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/owm0264.pdf.

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Prussion, A.M, Royer, T.V, Minshall, W.G, 1999. Impact of suction dredging on water quality, benthic habitat, and biota in the Fortymile River, Resurrection Creek, and Chatanika River, Alaska. Prepared for EPA by Idaho State University. June 1999.

Water Pollution Control Federation. 1976. *Chlorination of Wastewater.* Water Pollution Control Federation, Subcommittee on Chlorination of Wastewater. Washington, D.C.

Appendix A. Maps and Figures

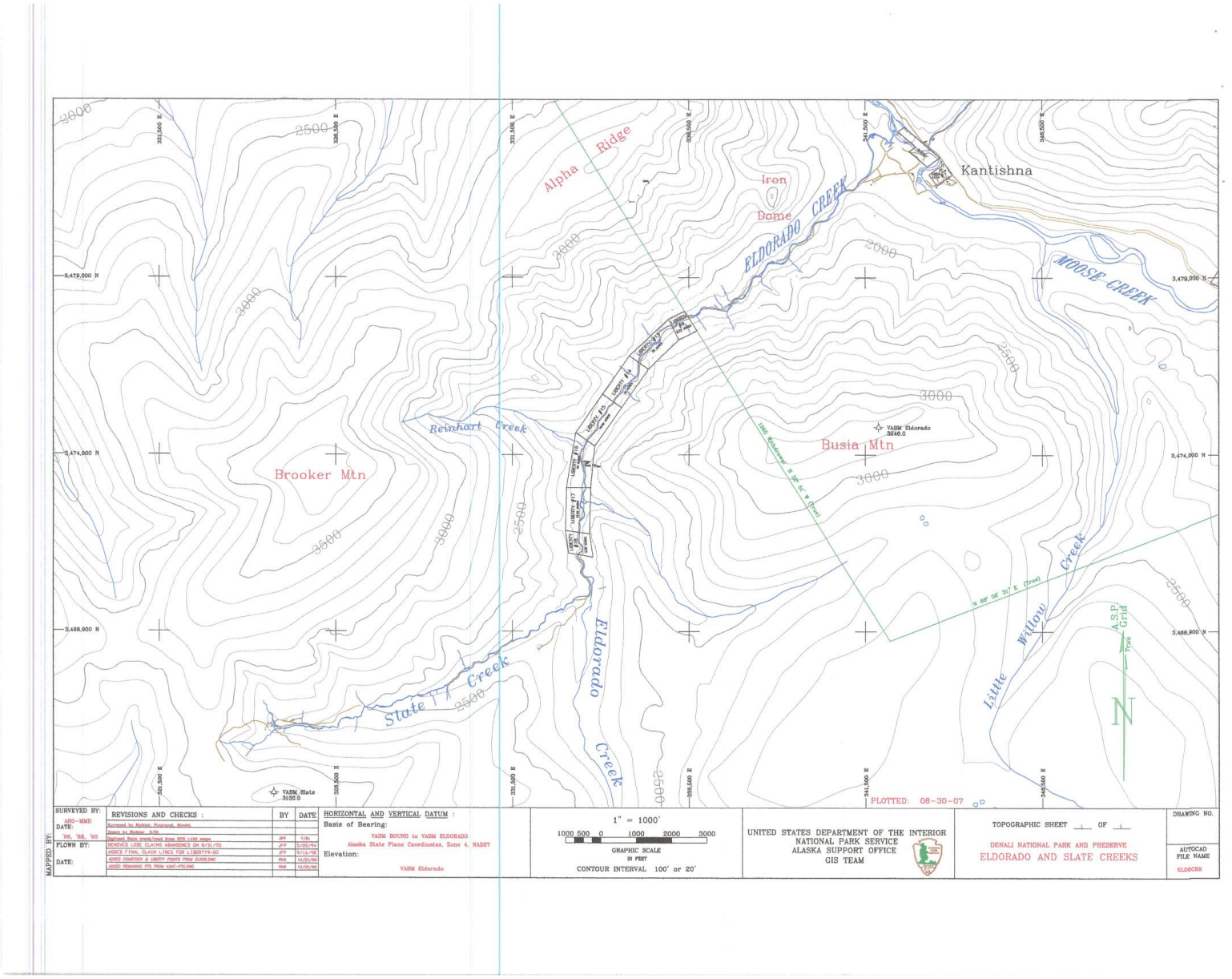

Figure 1. Location of Mining Claim

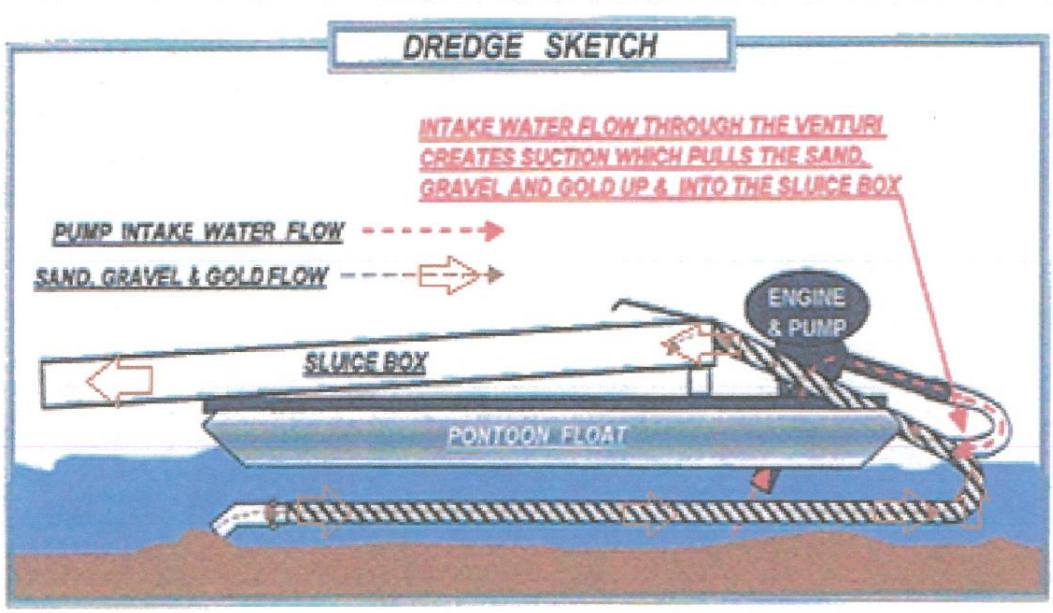

Figure 2. Float Dredge Operation Sketch

Appendix B. Receiving Water Quality Data

All data from United States Geological Service (USGS) Alaska Water Science Center survey conducted in 2008 and 2010 (location ID: USGS-15547580).

	Alkalinity, mg/l CaCO3	Aluminum, ug/L	Antimony, ug/L	Arsenic, ug/L	Barium, ug/L	Beryllium, ug/L
Average	137.4	22.6	47.1	1.9	20.1	1.0
Minimum	0.4	13.2	26.8	1.4	17.3	0.0
Maximum	175.0	33.5	78.2	2.7	22.9	2.9
Count	10.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	3.0
Std. Dev	47.2	6.5	16.9	0.4	1.9	1.4
Coef. Var	0.34	0.29	0.36	0.22	0.09	1.41
95%	171.9	31.8	73.0	2.6	22.7	2.6
5%	61.4	14.2	28.8	1.5	17.8	0.0
90%	168.7	30.1	67.8	2.4	22.6	2.3

	Bicarbonate, mg/L	Bismuth, bed sediment, mg/kg	Cadmium, ug/L	Calcium, mg/L
Average	178.3	0.3	0.1	34.5
Minimum	167.0	0.3	0.1	0.1
Maximum	191.0	0.3	0.1	74.5
Count	3.0	1.0	3.0	6.0
Std. Dev	9.8	0.0	0.0	34.6
Coef. Var	0.06	0.00	0.39	1.00
95%	189.6	0.3	0.1	73.2
5%	168.0	0.3	0.1	0.1
90%	188.2	0.3	0.1	72.0

	Carbon dioxide, mg/L	Cobalt, ug/L	Copper, ug/L	Hardness, mg/L CaCO3	Iron, ug/L
Average	2.3	1.5	3.3	137.9	62.1
Minimum	1.8	0.3	0.3	6.3	12.6
Maximum	3.1	3.1	11.8	289.0	156.0
Count	3.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Std. Dev	0.6	1.0	4.0	131.0	55.9
Coef. Var	0.24	0.68	1.21	0.95	0.90
95%	3.0	2.9	9.7	283.8	147.5
5%	1.8	0.3	0.3	6.6	14.3
90%	2.9	2.6	7.5	278.5	139.0

	Lithium, ug/L	Magnesium, ug/L	Manganese, ug/L	Nickel, ug/L	Organic carbon, mg/L
Average	2.0	22.2	46.0	3.8	2.9
Minimum	1.6	20.1	29.5	2.4	1.3
Maximum	2.3	24.8	70.2	5.0	5.0
Count	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Std. Dev	0.2	1.5	14.2	0.9	1.4
Coef. Var	0.11	0.07	0.31	0.25	0.49
95%	2.3	24.4	66.1	4.9	4.8
5%	1.7	20.4	30.2	2.5	1.3
90%	2.2	23.9	62.1	4.9	4.7

	Oxygen mg/L	pH, s.u	Selenium, ug/L	Silica, mg/L	Stream flow, instantaneous, ft3/sec
Average	11.9	8.1	0.2	7.3	13.0
Minimum	11.7	8.0	0.2	6.4	9.0
Maximum	12.1	8.2	0.2	8.0	19.0
Count	10.0	17.0	6.0	6.0	3.0
Std. Dev	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.5	4.3
Coef. Var	0.02	0.01	0.14	0.07	0.33
95%	12.1	8.2	0.2	7.9	18.2
5%	11.7	8.1	0.2	6.5	9.2
90%	12.1	8.2	0.2	7.8	17.4

	Stream width measure, ft	Sulfate	Suspended Sediment Concentration (SSC), mg/L
Average	15.3	89.4	1.7
Minimum	15.0	82.6	0.0
Maximum	15.5	96.6	5.0
Count	3.0	6.0	6.0
Std. Dev	0.2	5.8	1.6
Coef. Var	0.02	0.07	0.96
95%	15.5	96.6	4.3
5%	15.1	82.7	0.3
90%	15.5	96.5	3.5

	Suspended Sediment Discharge, ton/day	Temperature, air, deg C,	Temperature, water, deg C
Average	0.0	15.0	4.7
Minimum	0.0	11.9	4.4
Maximum	0.1	17.0	6.0
Count	3.0	3.0	11.0
Std. Dev	0.0	2.2	0.4
Coef. Var	0.71	0.15	0.09
95%	0.1	16.9	5.3
5%	0.0	12.3	4.5
90%	0.1	16.8	4.6

	Total dissolved solids, mg/L	Total dissolved solids, tons/day
Average	298.3	10.8
Minimum	261.0	7.1
Maximum	330.0	15.7
Count	12.0	3.0
Std. Dev	17.1	3.6
Coef. Var	0.06	0.33
95%	324.5	15.1
5%	274.8	7.4
90%	319.3	14.5

Appendix C. CWA § 401 Certification

Below is the EPA's draft CWA § 401 Certification. The EPA is taking comment on the EPA's intent to certify this permit as described in Section VI.VI.C.

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification for
Discharger Located within Lands of Exclusive Federal Jurisdiction Boundaries

Facility:	Eldorado Creek Suction Dredge
NPDES Permit Number:	AK0053791
Location:	Denali National Park
Receiving Water:	Eldorado Creek
Facility Location:	Liberty Claims, Eldorado Creek, Denali National Park AK 99755

This grant of certification without conditions applies to the water quality-related impacts from the activity subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit referenced above.

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires applicants for Federal licenses or permits to conduct any activity which may result in any discharge into waters of the United States to obtain a certification or waiver from the certifying authority where the discharge originates or will originate. this case, the state of Alaska does not have the authority to provide CWA Section 401 certification for projects within Denali National Park, which is exclusive federal jurisdiction in relevant respects. Therefore, the EPA is making the certification decision for the permit for discharges within Denali National Park

The EPA has determined that the activity will comply with the applicable water quality requirements, including any limitation, standard, or other requirement under sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA; any federal and state or Tribal laws or regulations implementing those sections; and any other water quality-related requirement of state or Tribal law.

The EPA's Public Notice Process
On September 1st, 2026, the EPA issued a public notice for the Draft Permit, including the intent to certify under Section 401, and provided the opportunity for the public to submit comments until September 30th, 2026.

Susan Poulsom
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Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure
EPA Region 10