Application for Permits to Mine in Alaska (APMA)- BLM Supplement B – Reclamation Plan

The reclamation plan may be the most important component of the Notice and Plan of Operations for the long-term mitigation of impacts and achieving sustainability. Throughout the life of the mine a reclamation plan is intended to change with approved modifications. It should provide a timeline and describe how the operator will reclaim the site to achieve the performance standards (Supplement A). Notices and Plans of Operation are considered incomplete unless they contain a complete Reclamation Plan.

For further direction consult U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Solid Minerals Reclamation Handbook (BLM Manual H-3042-1); Placer Mining In Alaska, A Guide to Mitigation and Reclamation (BLM Guide –AK-GI-89-021-3809-918); and 43 CFR 3809.320, 415, and 420.

In addition to sections 31 and 32 of the APMA, the following list identifies the topics that must be included in the Reclamation Plan:

1. Plans for regrading and reshaping the disturbed areas, including a description of the amount and location of material to be moved, equipment to be used, slope grade, location and size of run-off control structures. A series of cross-sections showing the land surface before and during mine operation and at the completion of final reclamation is required, as is a topographic map showing the planned surface configuration once reclamation is complete.
2. Soil handling plans which describe soil stockpile locations, measures to protect stockpiles from erosion, segregation of top soil from subsoil and 'overburden', measures to preserve soil viability, and placement thickness at reclamation. Generally, these items describe how you will make sure that sufficient reclamation materials are available and viable when they are needed.
3. If a stream bypass and/or stream reconstruction is involved you must document channel dimensions, floodplain slopes, channel slope, channel width and depth, stream sinuosity, entrenchment and meander width ratios, channel material dimensions, and techniques that would be used to stabilize the streambanks (anchored vegetation mats, rock, woody debris, etc.). For an example, reference the Valdez Creek Baseline Data Report on the BLM Minerals Webpage: http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/minerals/APMA. Also refer to: http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/wetlands/upload/Natural_Channel_Design_Checklist_5_16_12.pdf.
4. Describe how sediment ponds will be reclaimed including the removal of muddy water prior to dike removal.
5. Describe techniques for re-establishing riparian and upland vegetation. Include locations of seeding, specific seed mixtures, seeding or planting rates, stabilization measures to protect the site prior to vegetation re-establishment, measures to control invasive species, and proposed criteria for determining revegetation success.
6. Describe techniques for re-establishing wildlife habitat on the site.

7. Plans to remove or stabilize buildings, structures, or support facilities.
8. Post-closure management should include how you intend to repair eroded slopes, channel incisement, wash-outs, etc, during the months or years following reclamation until all of the performance standards are met.