



FEE: \$50.00 SITE PLAN (WAIVED 2013 PER RESOLUTION #12-72)

## **CITY OF VALDEZ**

# **APPLICATION FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT**

APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE				
NAME OF APPLICANT POSE VIPAR					
ADDRESS OF APPLICANT 3455 FALCON 2D					
P.D. BON 1432 UNIDEZ 0191086					
DAYTIME PHONE 907 255 3552					
SIGNATURE (Lu /Le					
LEGAL OWNER CITY OF VALDEZ					
ADDRESS					
PHONE NUMBER					
STREET ADDRESS:					
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TOACT A ASIS 79.116					
CURRENT ZONING HEAVY INDUSTRIAL					
PROVISIONS OF ZONING ORDINANCE REQUIRING A VARIANCE (I.E. SETBACK, LOT COVERAGE, ETC.)					
OLIDAGN, LOT GOVERNOL, LIG.					
USE REQUESTED					
TEMPORARY HOW LON	G 10 YEARS				
PERMANENT					

Questions to the CUP applications

How will the proposed use conform to the present and future development of the area?

#### What will be its effect on present and future development?

After meeting with Rochelle, Kate, and Rob we discussed 3 areas identified as possible gravel extraction areas. The area by the ball fields turned out to be the least desirable area due to access restriction, no adjacent existing operations like mining etc.

Area 901 on the map is approximately 24 acres. This parcel has a driveway used by Harris S&G to access his gravel pit. According to the map presented to us there are a few property line conflicts.

This area was not in the best interest of our plan due to those reason. We also believe that in the future the adjacent gravel permit holder might be interested in expanding his business.

### Area 1500/ASLS79-116

This area we marked on the map is very close to where existing mining already takes place to the west. Most of the rip rap used in this town is mined adjacent to the proposed area, there should be little to no conflict to the future of this area.

The police shooting range is east of the proposed area. Our plan will compliment the police use area because we will block off public to the west which adds to the safety of the area for the times when the police have training activities.

Based on those facts, it seems to be of the best interest to have a business with as little human traffic as possible. A gravel extraction operation the way we have it planned has less than 5 people at one time in the pit working. It will be easy to educate and train these people to stay away from the police shooting range at all times. The range is bermed and fenced in to prevent access as well.

The gravel extraction to the east uses explosives to get access to rip-rap, again an area which allows only authorized people to enter. This area is flagged off with No Trespassing signs.

Speaking to present development, it is in the best interest for this area to be a minimal traffic area.

No Kids playing nor tourist or hikers exploring the hill sites etc. (shooting and explosives)

The area to the east is currently used for the same purpose as ours. Heavy mining operations create much noise and dust which again makes our planned area the perfect place to extract and process gravel.

The future in this area will likely be mining and gravel extraction due to the fact that our town needs much more rip-rap to help protect our homes and secure the waterways.

Gravel is a commodity in high demand just for the people in the city of Valdez. At some point we might explore to export gravel from Valdez to others in need.

If any development happens to the south east this plan will add to the needs for this development for time to come. Heavy traffic will be kept off our highways and the impact to the City of Valdez will be at a minimum. Therefore, the area is perfect for gravel extraction.

Again, only a short distance from where we plan to mine, we have the biggest gravel extraction business in Valdez. This way most mining in Valdez will be kept in a relatively small area which keeps dust and noise generated by such operation in a small controlled area. A benefit to the plan.

The area we propose has little vegetation to be cleared which makes it affordable and generates little impact to nature.

Aesthetically, this business plan will cause the smallest impact if placed in this area to our town. If using the current driveway which provides access to the Police range is approved, the only visible impact would be the gate and the signs.

To us it is important that no tourist or travelers area is bothered by the visual effect of a heavy industrial operation when coming to our town.

An important fact to help bring in more people to Valdez to seek our town for a new home or for a great place to spend their holidays.

## Future of the proposed area:

There will be a time to when the maximum amount of gravel has been extracted or the gravel extracting operation has stopped for any number of reasons.

What will be left behind?

A hole in the ground.

This hole in the ground could be if flooded become a habitat for wild life. Once all mining operations in this area come to a stop this hole in the ground could be converted to a place where visitors or residents enjoy spending time with their kids, aka (Ruth's Pond).

Explosives could be used to remove some of the hillside to fill the hole to allow future gravel and/or riprap extracting to take place.

Our plan is in complete alliance with our comprehensive plan:

#### **OVERALL GOAL**

To create an atmosphere that will encourage stable economic development in Valdez while enhancing the quality of life. Improvements should be made to all elements that give the community its' character. This would include enhancing the economic productivity and diversification of the region to assure continued economic prosperity; providing for public safety and the economic welfare of the community when siting future industrial, commercial, residential, and public land uses; enhancing the scenic beauty, uniqueness and historic significance of the Valdez area; and opening up new land for residential, commercial, and industrial land.

Goal - Land Use: Provide a community land use pattern that is compatible with existing land use patterns in the community, which is physically safe, environmentally sensitive, and consistent with the provisions and requirements of the Valdez Coastal Management Program.

Goal - Industrial Land Use: Provide for industrial land uses so that they limit impacts on adjacent land uses and the environment, and yet have safe and convenient access to the major transportation facilities they require.

Objective - Encourage the consolidation of industrial land use activities. Objective - Provide buffers between industrial and other land uses as a means to restrict the hazardous and/or nuisance aspects of industrial uses. Objective - Control undesirable air and water emissions of industrial land uses.

#### Undevelopable Lands

Undevelopable Lands include land areas, which have been identified as having:

• mass wasting hazards from landslides, debris slides, or rock slides;

## Mass Wasting Hazard

In the Valdez area, mass wasting is generally related to rock falls and debris slides. Obvious debris slides have been mapped. Occasional rock fall areas should be expected within about 100 feet of any slopes steeper than 40 degrees. Rock falls can be contained to minimize the potential hazard. Debris slides, on the other hand, may require extensive and costly engineered systems to reduce their potential impact. Some of the smaller debris slides may not have been detectable on the aerial photographs. For this reason caution is recommended in building any structures near steep slopes.

#### Image 1 of 2

This is a Flood map from 1980-1983 which shows the area subject to flooding.

Image 2 of 2 shows the map from 2016 which shoes the area subject to flooding.

Either area/time doesn't affect the area we proposed to establish a gravel extraction permit for

# 7 EROSION CONTROL, SEDIMENT CONTROL, AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater is water runoff from rain and melting snow. Runoff can be sheet flow off of a site or it can drain to streams and ditches that route it to rivers, lakes, and marine water. In some areas, runoff is routed to storm drains, which ultimately discharge to surface waters. When stormwater flows across exposed soils, construction sites, or pavement, it can pick up and carry sediment, oil, bacteria, road runoff

## Key Points - Chapter 5

- ➤ Rain, wind, and melting snow can dislodge sediment and carry it to surface water bodies, degrading their quality.
- > Use BMPs in this section to:
  - o Prevent erosion
  - o Control eroded sediment
  - o Manage and treat stormwater

and other pollutants. Sediment and associated pollutants can clog ditches and culverts, destroy habitat and reduce oxygen for fish, and be toxic to aquatic life. Stormwater runoff is a common cause of water pollution and is a challenge to control. The key to limiting impacts is to prevent erosion, capture and control sediment that does erode, and proactively manage stormwater runoff, including runoff that comes to your site from other properties. It is important to remember that stormwater can run off of other properties and onto your site, bringing increased erosion potential and contaminants with it.

Erosion Control is any practice that protects the soil surface and prevents the soil particles from being detached by rainfall, snowmelt, or wind.

Sediment Control is any practice that traps the soil particles after they have been detached and moved by wind or water. Treatment controls, as well as source controls, can be used in controlling the transport of sediment. Such controls include passive systems that rely on filtering or settling the particles out of the water or wind that is transporting them.

Stormwater Management is the practice of collecting stormwater, diverting it away from disturbed areas, collecting it for treatment (if necessary), and discharging it to a receiving area with the capacity to absorb it.

In general, erosion control and good stormwater management practices are more effective than sediment controls, and are preferred because they keep the soil in place and enhance the protection of the site resources.

When implementing erosion and sediment control BMPs, the following principles should be adhered to as much as possible:

- Fit the natural topography, soils, and vegetation of the site;
- Minimize disturbances to natural vegetation;
- Minimize soil exposure during high precipitation storm events;
- Vegetate disturbed areas;

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- Minimize concentrated flows and divert runoff away from slopes or critical areas;
- Minimize slope steepness and slope length;
- Utilize channel linings or temporary structures in drainage channels to slow runoff velocities;
- Keep sediment on-site using settling ponds, check dams, or sediment barriers; and
- Monitor and inspect the site frequently and correct problems promptly.

Erosion control systems cannot perform adequately without the control of runoff. It is important to control flow of runoff to prevent scouring exposed soil. Diverting stormwater away from potential pollutant sources and/or managing runoff from a site are one category of source control BMPs. Numerous factors may affect the amount of runoff generated from a site, including the following:

- Precipitation;
- Soil permeability;
- Watershed area; and
- Ground cover.

The risk of high sediment discharge is greatest in the spring when vegetative cover is not yet established and snowmelt runoff occurs. As winter ends, ensure all appropriate BMP structures are in place and that any elements damaged over the winter are repaired.

## 7.1 Erosion Control

## 7.1.1 Vegetation

From temporary stockpiles to permanent reclamation of slopes, vegetation is one of the very best guards against soil erosion. Vegetation is so effective because, if implemented properly, it is self-sustaining and works to protect the soil in a variety of ways. Vegetation absorbs some of the energy of falling rain. Its roots hold soil in place and maintain the moisture-holding capacity of the soil. It reduces groundwater infiltration through evapotranspiration, which is the sum of water reintroduced into the atmosphere by evaporation and plant transpiration. In transpiration, water moves up through a plant and is released into the atmosphere as water vapor through stomata in its leaves. At the ground surface, the presence of vegetation reduces surface flow velocities. Additional benefits of vegetation can include noise reduction, dust control, and improved visual appearance. Some guidelines for vegetation are:

- If an area is already vegetated and does not need to be disturbed, do not clear it.
- If an area must be cleared for mining, clear only the amount needed for expansion within one year.
- As an area is cleared, save the sod or slash and stake it down over the cleared slopes to temporarily filter runoff until the area is mined.

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- Replace topsoil, revegetate, and reclaim mined areas as soon as possible.
- Use native species whenever and wherever possible. It would be ideal to use the same species that were cleared, but the growth rates of the native plants and the need for more immediate erosion control may make that impractical.
- Use plant species that are appropriate for the application and climate, and plant them at the appropriate time of year. Table 7-1 summarizes plant species that are commonly used at sites in Alaska.

The Alaska Plant Materials Center, under the DNR Division of Agriculture, has created a manual to help those involved in revegetation efforts select appropriate seed mixes and methods for revegetation. Gravel/rock aggregate extraction site operators should refer to this document, A Revegetation Manual for Alaska (2008) for detailed guidance on region-appropriate plant species and revegetation methods. It can be found at: <a href="http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/RevegManual.pdf">http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/RevegManual.pdf</a>.

Additional information, including local sources for native plants and seeds, can be found on the Alaska Plant Materials Center website: <a href="http://plants.alaska.gov/index.php">http://plants.alaska.gov/index.php</a>.

Table 7-1: Species/Cultivar Characteristic Chart (adapted from A Revegetation Manual for Alaska, 2008)

	(adapted from 11 Nevogetation Wandar for Alaska, 2008)					
Species	Cultivar Or Equivalent	Availability <sup>1</sup>	Site Conditions Adaptation	Growth Form <sup>2</sup>	Height Average	Region Of Use <sup>3</sup>
Bluegrass, Alpine Poa alpina	Gruening	Fair	Dry	Bunch	6 in.	All
Bluegrass, Glaucous Poa glauca	Tundra	Fair	Dry	Bunch	10 in.	A,I,W
Bluegrass, Kentucky Poa pratensis	Merion	Excellent	Lawns	Sod	10 in.	I,SC,SE
Bluegrass, Kentucky Poa pratensis	Nugget	Good	Lawns	Sod	10 in.	I,SC,SE
Bluegrass, Kentucky Poa pratensis	Park	Excellent	Lawns	Sod	10 in.	I,SC,SE
Fescue, Red Festuca rubra	Arctared	Very Good	Dry to Wet	Sod	18 in.	All
Fescue, Red Festuca rubra	Boreal	Excellent	Dry to Wet	Sod	18 in.	W,I,SE,SC, SW
Fescue, Red Festuca rubra	Pennlawn	Excellent	Dry to Wet	Sod	12 in.	I,SC
Hairgrass, Bering <u>Deschampsia</u> beringensis	Norcoast	Good	Dry to Wet	Bunch	20 in.	All
Hairgrass, Tufted Deschampsia caespitosa	Nortran	Good	Dry to Wet	Bunch	20 in.	All
Polargrass Arctagrostis latifolia	Alyeska	Fair	Wetter Areas	Sod	24 in.	A,I,W,SC
Polargrass Arctagrostis latifolia	Kenai	Fair	Wetter Areas	Sod	24 in.	SC,SE,SW
Reedgrass, Bluejoint Calamagrostis canadensis	Sourdough	Fair	All	Sod	36 in.	All

<sup>1.</sup> Availability varies from year to year and within any given year.

<sup>2.</sup> Growth form and height will vary with conditions.

<sup>3.</sup> Region of Use: W = Western Alaska; I = Interior Alaska; SE = Southeast Alaska; SC = Southcentral Alaska; SW = Southwest Alaska; A = Arctic Alaska; All = All of Alaska.

#### 7.1.1.1 Water and Fertilizer

Adequate water and nutrients are essential for successful revegetation. If it is suspected that the topsoil may be lacking in nutrients when it is time to plant, it may be worthwhile to have a chemical analysis done on it in order to determine what types of fertilizers would be helpful. When using fertilizers, try to apply them under conditions in which they are less likely to wash off into streams, rivers, and lakes. Losing fertilizer to surface water can have negative impacts on the ecological balance and is a waste of fertilizer.

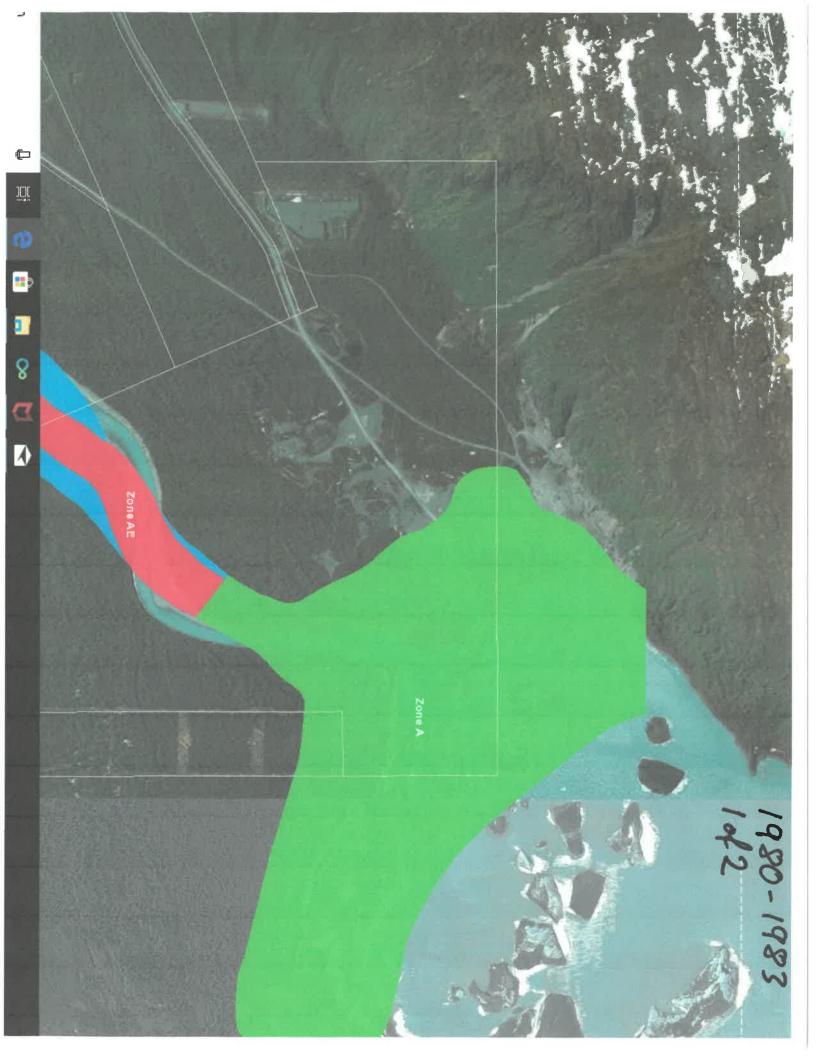
## 7.1.1.2 Erosion Control Blankets and Mulching

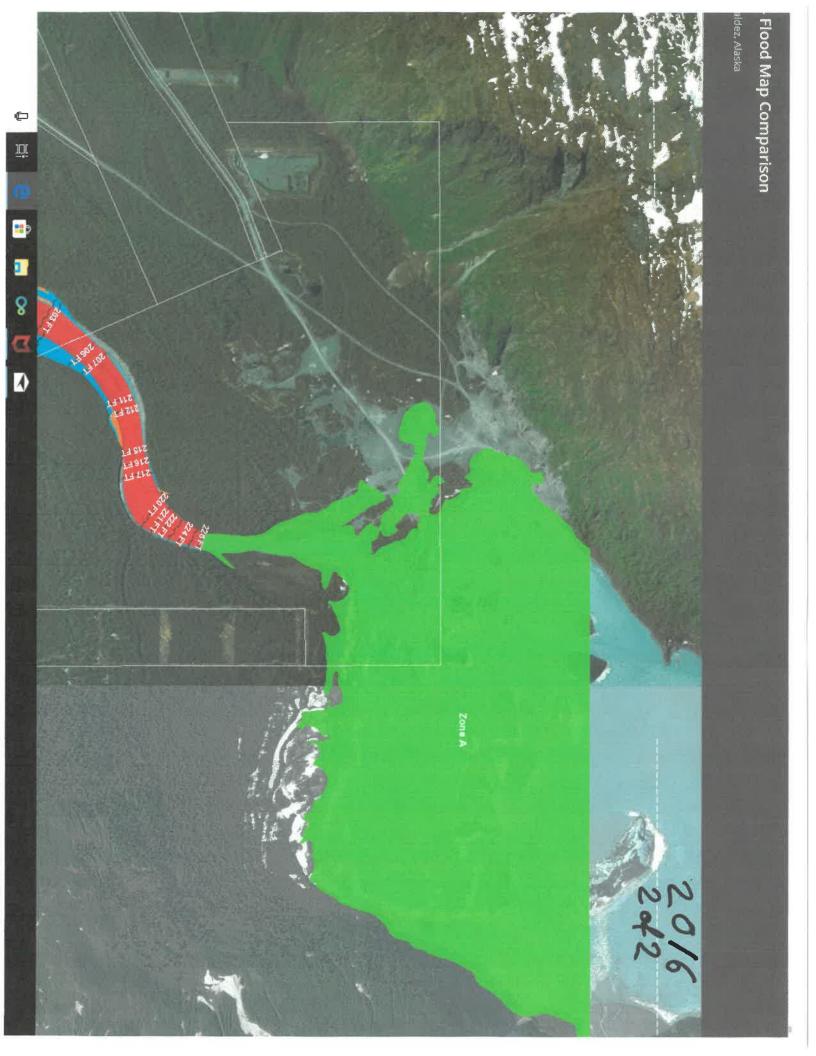
Erosion control blankets are geotextiles made from natural materials, such as jute, coconut husk fibers, and straw, or synthetic materials like plastic. They help to hold seed and soil in place until vegetation is established. Erosion control blankets are very effective, but often prohibitively expensive for large areas. Mulching and hydroseeding are cheaper and also effective, though less effective in steep, erosion prone areas. A good practice is to use a combination of erosion control blankets in oversteepened and erosion-prone areas and to use mulch elsewhere to stabilize soil while vegetation becomes established. The effectiveness of blankets is greatly reduced if rills and gullies develop, so proper anchoring and ground preparation are important. The type of blanket selected depends on the longevity required, the gradient, climate, and other factors. The drawing below is one example. Follow the manufacturer's specifications for installation and stapling requirements.

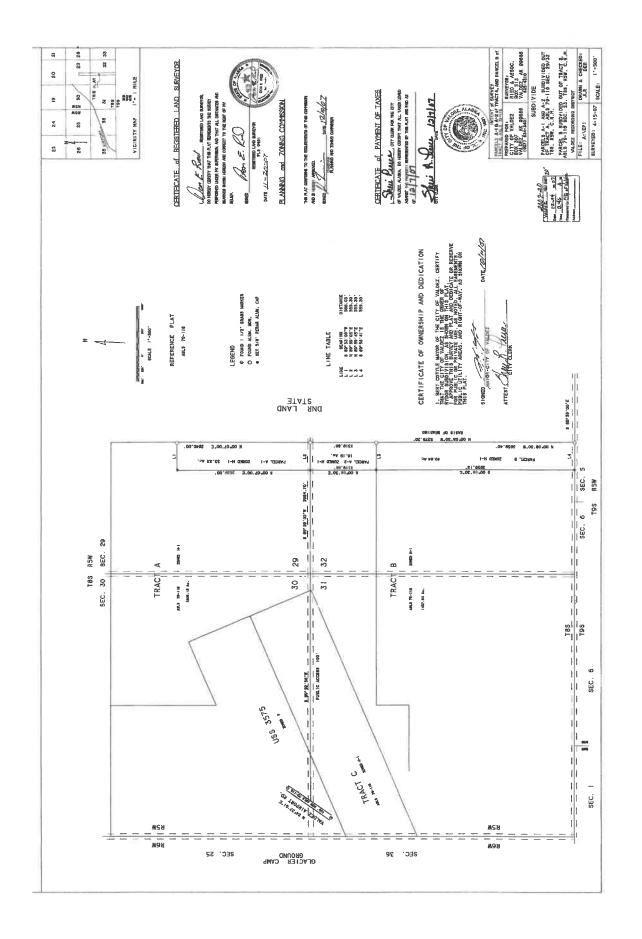
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17.50.040 Gravel extraction as a conditional use.

- A. Gravel extraction outside of the HI-G heavy industrial, gravel extraction zone requires a conditional use permit. Zones that allow gravel extraction as a conditional use are the public lands zone, heavy industrial zone and the light industrial zone. In addition to meeting the requirements of Sections 17.50.010 through 17.50.030, an applicant for gravel extraction as a conditional use shall submit the following:
- 1. Site plan description, including:
- a. Drainage,

Drainage does not to be addressed since we are digging a hole. All stockpiled material will be within the boundaries of the pit and any potential drainage will stay contained within the pit.

- b. Existing and proposed topographical contours (ten-foot contour), Submitted in the application
- c. Work depths,

Average work depth will be in shallow drafts just below the overburden which will be stripped and placed in a designated area.

d. Overburden and debris disposition,

Overburden/Debris. All Organic debris will be mulched into woodchips. The organic cover will be pushed to the road facing boundaries to create a neat and aesthetic appearance, blocking the operation from the eyes of tourist etc. By utilizing mulch from the clearing process we are able to promote the natural vegetation found in this area to reclaim and flourish, again an addition to present a clean and orderly appearance.

- e. Erosion and sediment control plan,
  An Erosion and sediment plan was submitted in the proposal.
- f. Revegetation or restoration plan, Submitted in the proposal.



#### g. Water table information,

There is no accurate water table information available for this area, however, the Harris pit is about 40 feet lower than the proposed area, considering that the groundwater table is about at 35 feet at the Harris pit we assume a water table of more the 30 feet at this location. The public gun range is about 1600 feet downstream from the proposed location and about 25 to 30 feet lower in elevation than the area we plan to mine in. We have never heard or observed any standing water at the gun range. We believe it is save to assume the water table is a minimum of 30 feet below grade.

- h. Water quality information for work in waterways, No work will commence in any waterways.
- i. Floodplain alteration information for all work in the one hundred-year floodplain;
   Our plan does not pertain to the floodplain information because it is outside the flood area. See pictures.
- 2. Final site restoration and revegetation plan;

Excavations will be graded into shallow drifts. The typical Alaska vegetation will take over and reclaim everything within 1 year.

3. Security plan to prevent casual trespass;

Placards/signs will be posted along with a locked gate. The area toward the gravel road will be bermed to prevent unauthorized access.

The proposed area shares a property line with the City of Valdez shooting range to one side, the back side has a steep hill and the side toward the Valdez Glacier lake shares a boundary with another mining operation where explosives are frequently used. The only area accessible is the front which will be blocked off with a berm approximately 15 feet high.

Signs will be posted along the gravel road to warn and discourage people from entering.

- 4. Description of natural resource extraction and processing operations proposed for the site, including: Land will be cleared like previously explained, land will be cleared and opened up to 1 season of gravel extracting.
- a. Ingress and egress points,There will be 1 main gate for ingress and egress.
- b. Hours of operation,7 am to 8 pm
- c. Estimate of quantities to be extracted and timetable, with supporting calculations conforming to generally accepted engineering principles;

The plan is to remove about 5000 yards per season, land will be cleared to allow extraction for 1 season. Material will be extracted by utilizing heavy equipment such as excavators and/or front end loaders.

5. Other materials the director of community development may require.

If a ground water level has to be determined we will dig a hole in this area down to 25 feet at no cost to the city of Valdez to investigate the groundwater level.

- B. The planning and zoning commission may approve a gravel extraction conditional use only if the commission finds that the use meets the following standards:
- 1. The extraction operations will not pose a hazard to the public health and safety;
- 2. The extraction operations will not generate noise, dust, surface water runoff or traffic that will unduly affect the surrounding land use;
- 3. The permittee assures that after extraction operations cease, the site will be left in a safe, stable and aesthetically acceptable condition.
- C. The planning and zoning commission shall attach such conditions to the approval of a gravel extraction conditional use permit as it finds are necessary to conform the use to the standards set forth in subsection B of this section. (Prior code § 30-44.1)



## **NOTE TO FILE** January 10, 2019

After reviewing the additional information submitted by RSR Contracting for their conditional use permit application, we request the following information for submission:

- Work depths please provide a more specific depth of digging by giving a range in feet.
- Erosion and sediment control plan please utilize the general guide you submitted in your initial application to describe a site specific plan. Please outline how you intend to implement those guidelines at this site.
- Revegetation or restoration plan please give specifics of your revegetation plan for this site. Which of the options mentioned in the guidelines submitted to you intend to utilize. Will these methods be utilized as you are mining or only during final site restoration and revegetation?
- Description of natural resource extraction and processing operations proposed for the site please provide more specifics. After extraction from site, what kind of processing or storage will occur on site?

These items will be discussed in a meeting with Roger and Kim from RSR contracting on January 11, 2019.

Kate Huber, CFM Senior Planner City of Valdez | Planning Department P.O. Box 307, Valdez AK 99686

☎ 907.834.3451 | 
☒ khuber@valdezak.gov

## Kate Huber,



## Regarding your NOTE TO FILE from January 10th 2019

- 1) Work depth please provide a more specific depth of digging by giving a range in feet
- 2) Erosion and sediment control plan please use the general guide you submitted in your initial application to describe a site specific plan. Please outline how you intend to implement those guidelines at this site.
- 3) Revegetation/restoration plan -

## Answer to 1,2 & 3

We propose Segmental Mining/Reclamation. In segmental M/R, the mine site is divided into segments and the order of mining and reclamation among the segments is determined. Prior to mining, topsoil from the first segment is stockpiled. After all resources have been extracted to a depth of 6 to 12 feet from the first segment and the slopes have been reshaped to a slope of a minimum of a 3:1 ratio, topsoil is stripped from the second segment and placed on the first segment. This continues until the final segment is mined, and then it is reclaimed with the stockpile of topsoil from the first segment. This reclamation strategy minimizes handling of topsoil and avoids creating large areas of unreclaimed land but may be impractical for sites with very thin soil or where material like sand and gravel must be mixed from various parts of the mine in order to meet product specifications. To help the possible issue with the lack of available soil we plan to mulch all vegetation and mix the mulch in with the layer of soil stripped to promote the healthy growth of Alaska type vegetation.

The process will assure that the site will return to a condition that will not pose a hazard to public health and the environment.

We will avoid pushing the top layer into a stockpile and mix all vegetation like brush, gravel and trees into a unusable pile, which simply creates nothing other than an unsightly waste pile with no further use. This is the typical way of stripping land found Alaska wide. Reclaiming is very difficult with this process.

4) Description of natural resource extraction and processing operations proposed for the site - please provide more specifics. After extraction from the site, what kind of processing or storage will occur on site?

#### Answer:

The area where the processing equipment will be set up is about 2 acres in size, this allows equipment to load material and recover processed material. The material will be stockpiled close to the processing equipment at about 100 feet away. This provides a distance which is safe for trucks to get in to the pit and be loaded. The area will be split into 2 sections.

Section 1 – this is where the screening plant will be staged and gravel will be refined.

Section 2 – this is where trucks will be loaded to transport the material off site.

The processing operation will be near the hillside to keep dust and noise as far as possible away from the road. We will be far enough away from the hillside to assure the property is safe in the event of an avalanche or landslide. As we proposed, the segmental mining process will be utilized. This will make the operations the most efficient and least disturbing to the surroundings.

Fuel storage - No permanent fuel tank other then the equipment tank will be onsite. Equipment refueling will take place in form of deliveries made by our local fuel provider on an as-needed base.

A container with oil/fuel spill equipment will be onsite to provide fast response in the event of a spill. There will be enough spill response material on site to contain the biggest spill possible.

A site plan/drawing will be submitted to the fire department.

The police department will be informed as well.

We hope that this letter will give you the clarification you asked for. If there are any additional questions or any more explanation is needed, do not hesitate to let us know.

Thank you very much. We hope to be able to mine this spring.

Roger & Kim

**RSR Contracting LLC**