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March 2020 Volume 48, Number 3



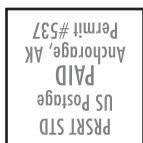
THE ALASKA MINER

Journal of the Alaska Miners Association



Join us March 30-April 4 in Fairbanks
for the Biennial Conference.
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“Next Generation: The Future” Fairbanks 2020 Conference



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Dear Alaskans,

Pebble has a clear path forward. This is an exciting time for us – and for all Alaskans.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has revoked the pre-emptive veto against Pebble. This signals a fair, equitable, and reliable permitting process.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) – a thorough and objective evaluation which shows clearly that Pebble can co-exist with the fisheries.

We are committed to a project that benefits all Alaskans. It is time to move forward.

Tom Collier, CEO
Pebble Partnership



A CLEAR PATH FORWARD

Dear Members,

As we head into the Fairbanks Conference, it is a good time to reflect on the power of the geographic diversity of our membership.

Since the beginning of this year, it seems I have been splitting my time between Anchorage, Fairbanks and (more proportionately) Juneau. Meeting with the miners and members in these communities so greatly benefits the work we do!

In Juneau, working alongside Branch Chair Jim Clark, we've been keeping those folks aware of the work we are doing on the Tier 3 waters issue, as well as important mineral tenure legislation. Juneau has a great group of business-minded people that meets regularly and they're keenly interested in not just our state initiatives, but our federal efforts as well, like the comments we are compiling on the revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) revisions; the Roadless Rule Exemption for the Tongass; and the final Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule.

We also had a great legislative reception in mid-February with the Associated General Contractors of Alaska and Alaska Trucking Association. It continues to be a pleasure to host this event with these organizations and legislators appreciate us teaming up to have a single event where all can network.

Recently, my staff and I made a trip to Fairbanks the end of February for a branch meeting and Conference planning. It was a well overdue trip and it just made my day to see so many familiar faces. We had a lovely welcome from Branch Chair Mark Huffington and had a great discussion with Interior miners about the efforts coming out of the statewide office. Roger Burggraf adjourns their meeting, which was quite possibly the sweetest part of the morning for me. Interior Alaska is truly a fantastic group of people. Thank you for having us, and I'll be back soon!



We are looking forward to a great Fairbanks Biennial Conference. We've had productive meetings and are just a few weeks away. This journal is packed with information regarding what you can expect the week of March 30 to April 4!

In all three of the statewide communities I have visited recently, members have shared concerns about changes to the University of Alaska. This is no doubt a complex and challenging situation, and one we do not take lightly. Our State Oversight and Executive Committees have deliberated AMA's role and position at length, and arrived at a position included in our 2020 Issues of Concern document:

Maintain a highly trained Alaskan workforce through support of all mining and geology related degree programs in the UA system, the UAF Mining and Geologic Engineering program, and vocational training programs like MAPTS.

We have testified several times on our position and will continue to advocate for the right programs to be maintained at the University, while recognizing the need for fiscal reform.

I look forward to visiting other branches in

the near future. Blake Bogart's group in Nome has been bustling to prepare for the summer season and our new Kenai branch chair, Houston Morris, has invited us this summer for fishing and a branch meeting. Last year, AMA Officer Lorali Simon held a meeting to check in with our folks in Healy, and I know she is looking forward to doing so again in 2020. Finally, Karen Matthias with Council of Alaska Producers and I are planning to build upon a successful Mining Day at the Southeast Alaska State again this year with Haines Chair Liz Cornejo.

The issues of AMA take the majority of my time, but the members of this association are what make me love my job. This truly is a genuine, hardworking and motivated group of people, and I am extremely blessed to be a part of this group.

Can't wait to see so many of you in Fairbanks.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deantha Crockett".

Deantha Crockett
Executive Director

The Alaska Miner is the official journal of the Alaska Miners Association, published eight times a year exclusively to our members.

It is published in partnership with the Alaska Miners Association by Fireweed Strategies LLC, 4849 Potter Crest Circle, Anchorage, AK 99516.

We actively seek contributions from our members and the mining industry. Please email story ideas and photos to Lee Leschper.

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On The Cover: The Spring Biennial Alaska Miners Convention in Fairbanks will offer plenty to see and do. Attendees may even get to see the Northern Lights while they're at the event.

The future of Alaska mining, and the next generation of miners who will lead the industry, are the focus for the Spring Biennial Alaska Miners Convention in Fairbanks.

The spring event, March 30-April 4, is hosted by the AMA Fairbanks chapter and gives Interior miners and mines a chance to showcase their success stories.

Make plans now to attend! Registration is available now at AlaskaMiners.org.

The conference centers around technical sessions, field trips to local mines, various educational programs and a trade show. This conference will allow you to meet professionals from all aspects of the mining industry while enjoying spring in Interior Alaska.

Conference week includes many networking events, a mining trade show, representatives from operating mines and potential mining development projects in Alaska, educational short courses and technical sessions. This year's agenda will include a look at many of the forces shaping the coming decades — potential new projects, more access to resources, the challenges of training and recruitment of more miners, and the role of new technology.

The Fairbanks conference is also a great time for local miners who might not make the fall convention to learn and connect with the industry.

Registration is open at AlaskaMiners.org, as well as updates on programs and speakers.

Fairbanks also offers attendees the unique opportunity to visit several area mines with both above and below ground tours. Space is limited for these tours, which always sell out, so reserve your spot as soon as possible.

Tours will be March 30-31 and April 4. Reservations can be made at AlaskaMiners.org. Most conference events are at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks.

It's the support of our industry, both as sponsors and as vendors displaying at our trade show, that make these events possible. It's not too late to sign up as a sponsor or to reserve your booth at the Trade Show or Core Shack. Call or email Jennifer Luiten for more information at 907-563-9225 or Jennifer@AlaskaMiners.org.

We have secured special conference hotel rates from both the Westmark and Clarion Hotels. Go online at AlaskaMiners.org for discount codes and to make reservations.

Alaska Airlines is again offering a 7% discount on airfare to the conference. Travel dates are March 27-April 7 and you'll need the conference discount code ECFM58 to earn the discount when book flights.

Register today and watch AlaskaMiners.org and our Alaska Miners Facebook page for daily updates!



SPECIAL EVENTS

Fairbanks Conference registration includes access to the trade show and all technical sessions Wednesday (April 1) - Friday (April 3). Registration is \$175 for AMA members and \$300 for non-members.

Registration does not include meals, mine tours or short courses, for which you need to purchase separately. Breakfasts \$25, Keynote Luncheons \$35, Awards Banquet \$65.

Wednesday, April 1

Keynote Luncheon: Darryl Steane, President Ambler Metals LLC

Thursday, April 2

Breakfast: Mining District Breakfast

Luncheon: Chad Padgett, State Director BLM

Banquet: Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Friday, April 3

Breakfast: Friends of UAF Breakfast

Luncheon: Corri Feige, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Mining Industry Award Nominations

SHORT COURSES

(\$250 including lunch)

Monday, March 30

7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Short Course No. 1: Critical & Strategic Minerals

The Short Course includes a review of the major mineral deposit types that are host to the fourteen rare earth elements (REEs), the six platinum group elements (PGEs) and seven other critical

and strategic elements that are particularly germane to Alaska. Examples of known occurrences of those deposit types in Alaska and northwestern Canada along with the potential for the discovery of new occurrences of these deposit types shall be discussed.

Tuesday, March 31

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Short Course No. 2: Placer Mine Permitting

The Short Course includes is intended to provide the small mines operator with information on permitting issues that apply to the industry. This short course is designed to provide small mines operators with information to help them navigate the permitting process. Presenters will cover the gamut of federal, state, and Fairbanks North Star Borough permitting and compliance requirements for mining operations.

MINE TOURS

March 30 - Usibelli Coal Mine

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; \$250

Depart Carlson Center at 8:30 a.m. and arrive back at Carlson Center around 4 p.m. Box lunch will be provided. It may be worth noting that Usibelli has won numerous awards for reclamation, which it began long before there were any environmental requirements to do so.

March 31 - UAF Power plant, Limestone plant and USACE CRREL Permafrost Tunnel

9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; \$250

Depart Carlson Center at 9:30 am and arrive back at the Carlson Center around 4 pm. Box lunch provided. The group will tour the new University of Alaska-

Fairbanks (UAF) Combined Heat and Power Plant, which may be the last conventional coal-fired power plant constructed in the U.S and was named a 2019 Top Plant by Power Magazine. The new plant has a circulating fluidized bed boiler, has the lowest emission rates for PM2.5 of any coal plant in the U.S. and emits only 20 percent of the nitrogen oxide (NOx) produced by the previous UAF plant. Next, the group will drive to Fox for a brief tour of the Limestone plant, then on to the Cold Regions Research Engineering Laboratory Permafrost Tunnel, which will have just finished a big expansion when we tour. The tunnel exposes 45,000 years of frozen, fine-grained soil including organics, bacteria, and bones frozen in place.

April 4 - Pogo Mine

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.; \$250

Depart Carlson Center at 7 am and arrive back at Carlson Center around 7 pm. Lunch will be provided at the Pogo cafeteria. At the mine, the group will split in two, with one group touring the mill while the other goes underground, then the groups will change places.

All prices are based on per person and include lunch

MSHA REFRESHER COURSES

Free with registered convention attendance; \$200 if not registered for convention. Per person and does not include lunch.

Saturday, April 4 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MSHA Surface Refresher

Sunday, April 5, 2020 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MSHA Underground Refresher

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SPECIALTY

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Welcome to Fairbanks and Our 27th Biennial Conference

Sitting here at my desk thinking about the upcoming Alaska Miners Association 27th Biennial Conference, I feel so fortunate of the wonderful people that I have met and became friends with in my nine winters in Fairbanks.

I love Interior Alaska and Fairbanks as they offer a remarkable place to live for enjoying a career I so dearly love — that of being a miner.

Through my professional career, I have realized that miners are a wonderful group of people who care for others and will gladly jump in to help others; miners are family. As you all know, mining has provided the raw materials for countless products and services that we all enjoy in our daily lives.

It's an honor to chair the AMA Fairbanks Conference Committee for this event March 30-April 4 at the Carlson Center. I can't say enough about the committee members; such a talented group of industry minded professionals.

The conference's theme of "Next Generation: The Future" will bring miners, educators, professionals and vendors from throughout Alaska and other parts of the globe. Mining is a growing industry in Alaska, providing thousands of jobs in more than 50 Alaskan cities. With Alaska being in the forefront of Arctic mining and exploration, the week-long event will highlight innovation and research surrounding arctic environments with two days of short courses and three days of technical sessions that will also include mining projects throughout Alaska.

Conference attendees will also enjoy tours of area mines and area facilities. Tours include the Usibelli Coal Mine near Healy, the Pogo Mine near Delta Junction, the Corps of Engineers Permafrost Tunnel north of Fairbanks and the new clean-burning coal-fired power plant at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



The conference will host two mining short courses during its first two days. The courses include Critical and Strategic Minerals and Placer Mine Permitting. Technical sessions will follow during the next three days. This event is an opportunity for members of one of Alaska's largest industries to come together to discuss innovations and economic planning.

Technical sessions will include topics on Placer Mining, Policy and Regulations Update, Alaska Geology, Prospecting Alaska Mineral Resources, Engineering and Innovation, and Alaska Projects and Mines. Listening and learning from speakers during the short courses and technical sessions will excite even those with decades of experience, and the novice will go away shaking their head thinking, "I didn't know it could be done this way ... why didn't I think of that."

For a detailed schedule of the week's events, please visit the conference website at alaskaminers.org.

Mining professionals will gather in Fairbanks for a three-day trade show from April 1-3. Exhibitors of local and not so local mining related vendors will display their products inside the Carlson Center, and heavy equipment will proudly be

displayed. The trade show will have a core shack area with exhibits from Alaska's exploration projects. There will also be exhibits of local youth science fair projects focused on Alaska's natural resources.

The conference allows attendees to reacquaint themselves with old friends, and the opportunity of making new ones. There is nothing like sharing stories over a cup of coffee at a vendor's booth of what once was and what will be.

We are also excited to invite the public to visit the vendor trade show on Thursday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

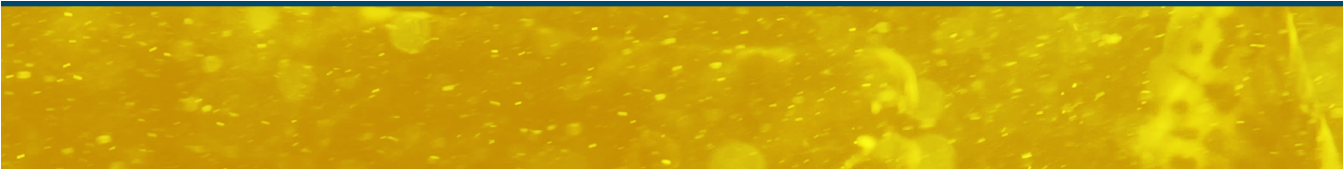
Of course, miners love to feast at banquets. The Westmark will be the site for the conference banquet Thursday evening with good fellowship, entertainment, and silent and live auctions supporting the Alaska Resource Education program. Three AMA biennial awards will also be presented to honored individuals for the Golden Heart Service Award, Promising Prospector Award, and the Hawley Lifetime Achievement Award.

Let us not forget the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation. They will be holding their special Hall of Fame event honoring mining pioneers and new Hall of Fame inductees on Wednesday evening beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Fountainhead Auto Museum. All are invited and I look forward to a packed house for honoring Alaska mining forebears.

There will be something for everyone interested in mining at this week-long event and one that all miners can be proud of. For more information about AMA and the 27th Biennial Conference, visit the alaskaminers.org website and Alaska Miners Association Facebook page.

Come and join us for a GREAT week!

**Mark Huffington,
Conference Chair**



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— Andrea Gusty,
President & CEO,
The Kuskokwim Corporation



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Leaked Draft Final EIS Encouraging for Pebble Project

The Executive Summary of the Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement (PFEIS) for the Pebble Project leaked to the media demonstrates the project can be done without harming the Bristol Bay fishery and would be beneficial to communities closest to the project, Pebble Partnership CEO Tom Collier said in a release Feb. 11.

The document was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

"We are encouraged by the information in this leaked copy of the executive summary and believe the final EIS will support issuing a permit for the construction of a mine at Pebble and that it can be done responsibly. The findings show the project can be developed without harm to the Bristol Bay fishery and would have important economic benefits for communities closest to the mine," said Collier.

Collier noted that the release of the PFEIS to the cooperating federal, state, local and tribal agencies shows that the permitting process is advancing for the project and should meet the USACE's published schedule for a final EIS this summer.

From the leaked Executive Summary:

- ES-76 There would be no measurable change in the number of returning salmon and the historical relationship between ex-vessel values and wholesale values.
- ES-69 Considering the low use of habitat to be removed, impacts to anadromous and resident fish populations from these direct habitat losses would be expected to fall within the range of natural variability.
- ES-38 Employment through the project would have beneficial economic effects on minority and low-income communities lasting for the life of the project.
- ES-35 (Subsistence) Overall, impacts to fish and wildlife would not be expected to impact harvest levels, because no population-level decrease in resources would be

anticipated.

- ES-54 There would be no effects on any community groundwater or surface water supplies from the changes in groundwater flows at the mine site.

"Clearly there will be a lot more information to digest when the USACE releases the final EIS this summer. We believe it will show the level of

diligence taken by the cooperating agencies to review the full technical scope of the project and to ensure all issues have been adequately evaluated in this process. We further believe it will show this project can be developed responsibly and in line with the expectations Alaskans have for economic development and environmental protection."



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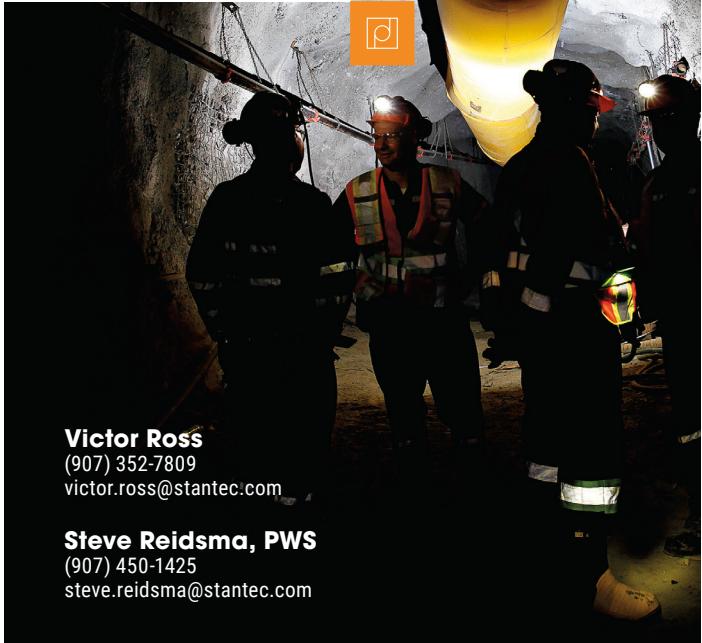
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In February, Northern Star Resources Limited's Pogo Mine celebrated pouring its 4 millionth ounce of gold. Here Pogo External Affairs Manager Wendie MacNaughton hefts the 50-pound of gold that included that milestone pour. Photo courtesy Northern Star Resources.



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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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2020 AMA FAIRBANKS CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

NEXT GENERATION | THE FUTURE

ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION	MONDAY MARCH 30, 2020		TUESDAY MARCH 31, 2020		WEDNESDAY APRIL 1, 2020	THURSDAY APRIL 2, 2020	FRIDAY APRIL 3, 2020	SATURDAY APRIL 4, 2020		SUNDAY APRIL 5, 2020
REGISTRATION	7:00 - 9:00 a.m.		7:00 - 9:00 a.m.		7:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.			
BREAKFAST 7:00 - 8:00 a.m.						Mining District Breakfast	Friends of UAF Breakfast			
MORNING 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	SHORT COURSE 1: Critical & Strategic Minerals <i>*Begins at 7:30 a.m. today</i>	USIBELLI MINE TOUR 8:30 a.m - 4:00 p.m	SHORT COURSE 2: Placer Mine Permitting	UAF POWER PLANT & PERMAFROST TUNNEL 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	TECHNICAL SESSION: Placer Mining	TECHNICAL SESSION: Alaska Geology	TECHNICAL SESSION: Engineering & Innovation	MSHA SURFACE REFRESHER ALL DAY 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CARLSON CENTER	NORTHERN STAR - POGO MINE TOUR 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	MSHA UNDERGROUND REFRESHER ALL DAY 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CMI
					Break: 9:30-10:00 a.m.	Break: 9:30-10:00 a.m.	Break: 9:30-10:00 a.m.			
					TECHNICAL SESSION: Placer Mining	TECHNICAL SESSION: Alaska Geology	TECHNICAL SESSION: Engineering & Innovation			
LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.					KEYNOTE LUNCHEON with Darryl Steane, Ambler Metals	KEYNOTE LUNCHEON with Chad Padgett, State Director BLM	KEYNOTE LUNCHEON with Corri Feige, Commissioner, AK DNR			
AFTERNOON 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.					TECHNICAL SESSION: Policy and Regulations Update	TECHNICAL SESSION: Prospecting Alaska's Mineral Resources	TECHNICAL SESSION: Alaska Projects and Mines			
					Break: 3:00-3:30 p.m.	Break: 3:00-3:30 p.m.	Break: 3:00-3:30 p.m.			
	TECHNICAL SESSION: Policy and Regulations Update	TECHNICAL SESSION: Prospecting Alaska's Mineral Resources	TECHNICAL SESSION: Alaska Projects and Mines							
EVENING 5:00 - 9:30 p.m. <i>(Various times listed)</i>	OneALASKA Rally 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.		SPEAKERS RECEPTION: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	STEM & SCIENCE FAIR: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	SUPPLIERS RECEPTION & AMAPAC FUNDRAISER: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	AMA Banquet & Industry Awards Cocktails 6:00 p.m. Banquet 7:00 p.m.				
			AMA Board of Directors Meeting 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.		Mining Hall of Fame Inductions: 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.					
TRADE SHOW <i>(Various times listed)</i>			TRADE SHOW SET-UP 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.		TRADE SHOW 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	TRADE SHOW 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	TRADE SHOW 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. TEARDOWN - 2:30 p.m.			
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						NO ROOMS - MINE TOURS (various locations - all day tours)				

**Spring 2020
Mining Trade Show
Carlson Center,
Fairbanks**

April 1-2
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
April 3
8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Suppliers Reception &
AMPAC Fundraiser**
April 1, 5-7 p.m.

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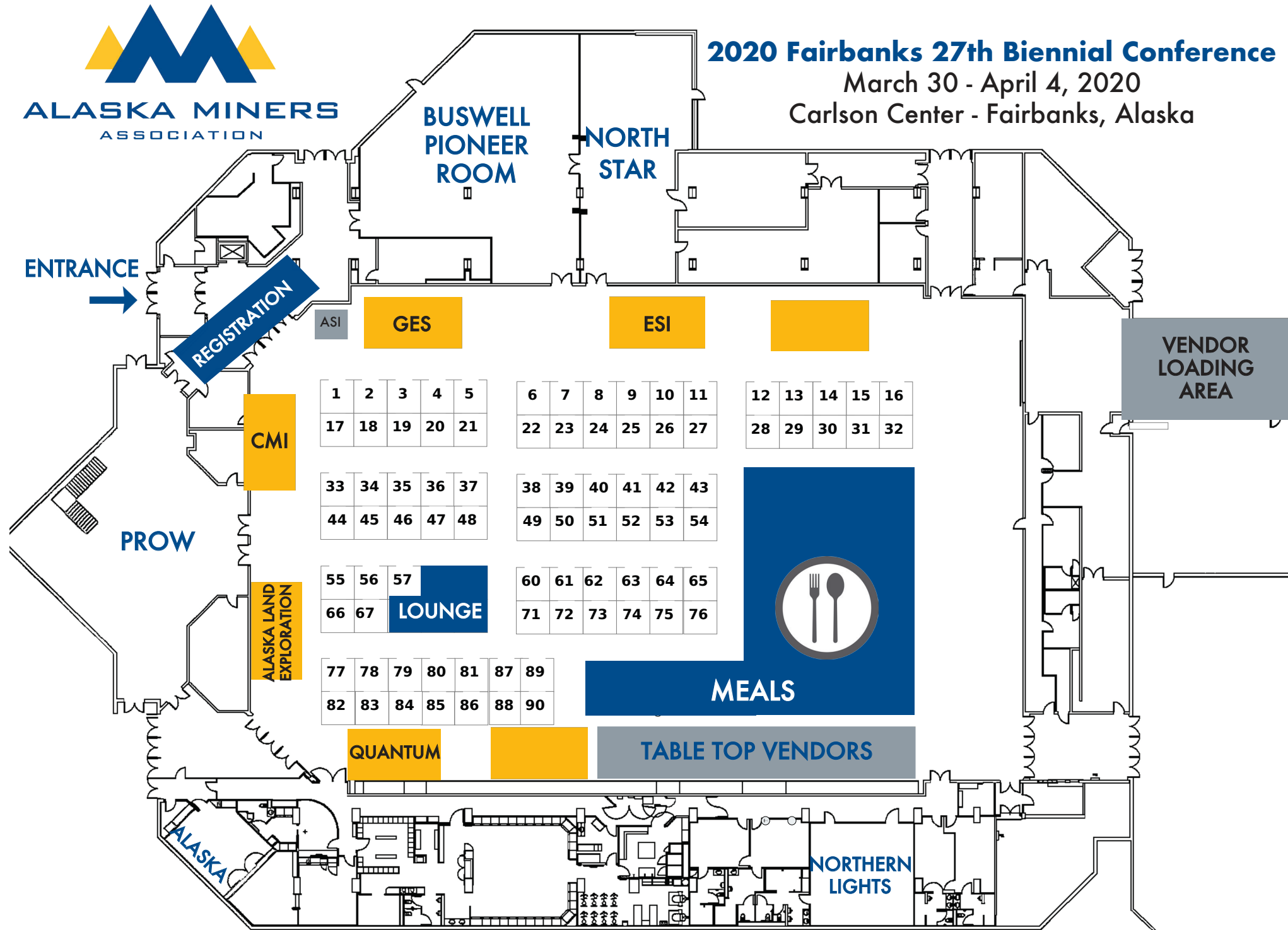
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■ State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

■ State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land & Water

■ State of Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

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■ The Alaska Support Industry Alliance

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AMA Mining Industry Award Nominations Open

AMA likes to recognize the rock stars of Alaska’s mining industry at our Banquet and Industry Awards Ceremony at the Biennial Conference in Fairbanks.

Awards are presented to members of AMA nominated by their peers for outstanding service, practices, and more. Please consider nominating a person, colleague, company or project for recognition at this year’s Awards Banquet held Thursday, April 2. Nominations must be received by March 13 in order to be considered by the selection committee, and can be submitted by emailing them to Deantha Crockett, Executive Director at deantha@alaskaminers.org.

Here are brief descriptions of each award. More detail and nomination forms are online at AlaskaMiners.org.

advancing Alaska’s mining industry. This award seeks to recognize the service contributions of a mining industry pioneer, individual or employee who, like Chuck, devoted his professional life to ensuring a successful mining industry in Alaska.

Please limit submissions to no more than 1,000 words. Submissions

should be sent via email to Deantha@alaskaminers.org by close of business March 13. Applications will be reviewed by a 5-person committee comprised of the AMA Board Officers, AMA Executive Director, and Convention Committee Chairmen. The winner will be announced at the banquet April 2.

Golden Heart Service Award

The Golden Heart Service Award honors an individual active in AMA who has exemplified the spirit of advocating for Alaska’s miners. This award recognizes someone who has gone above and beyond to provide significant effort, expertise, or funding to an issue impacting Alaska’s miners and demonstrates a commitment to fostering long-term viability of Alaska’s miners, for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Promising Prospector Award

The Promising Prospector Award honors a new face or up and coming Alaska miner who has made a positive impact on the mining industry in Alaska. This award will recognize a miner who embodies a passion and commitment to promoting Alaska through responsible mineral development.

Charles C. Hawley Lifetime Achievement Award

The Charles C. Hawley Lifetime Achievement Award is named in honor of the longtime AMA member and former Executive Director Emeritus who dedicated his entire career to





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Nominations open for BLM reclamation awards

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking nominations for the 2020 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards, as part of its ongoing efforts to foster sustainable development of natural resources.

These awards, presented annually, showcase some of the finest examples of responsible mineral resource development. A number of Alaska mines and miners have been honored by this program in recent years.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska.

"The BLM appreciates members of the mineral development community who demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security," said Michael Nedd, BLM Deputy Director for Operations. "We look forward to recognizing such organizations and individuals for their outstanding work in these areas."

Awards are offered in the following five categories: the Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award, the Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award, the Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award, the Hardrock Mineral Director's Award, and the Mine Legacy Steward Award.

The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award recognizes

achievements demonstrating continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed federal, state, or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight.

The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award recognizes the successful coordination of projects with local and regional stakeholders, including those projects that contribute to quality of life or demonstrate concern for the long-term health of the local community, while fostering a strong local economy.

The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award recognizes operators or organizations with fewer than 15 employees who have demonstrated continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed federal, state, or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight.

The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award is presented to a single operator whose dedication and commitment to excellence has resulted in the use of a new or innovative design or technique that allows or enhances successful operations in technically challenging conditions or in critical environmental settings.


The Mine Legacy Steward Award recognizes partnership activities that assist in addressing hardrock abandoned mine land features across the American West. Individuals as well as organizations are eligible for this award.

More details are available at www.blm.gov.



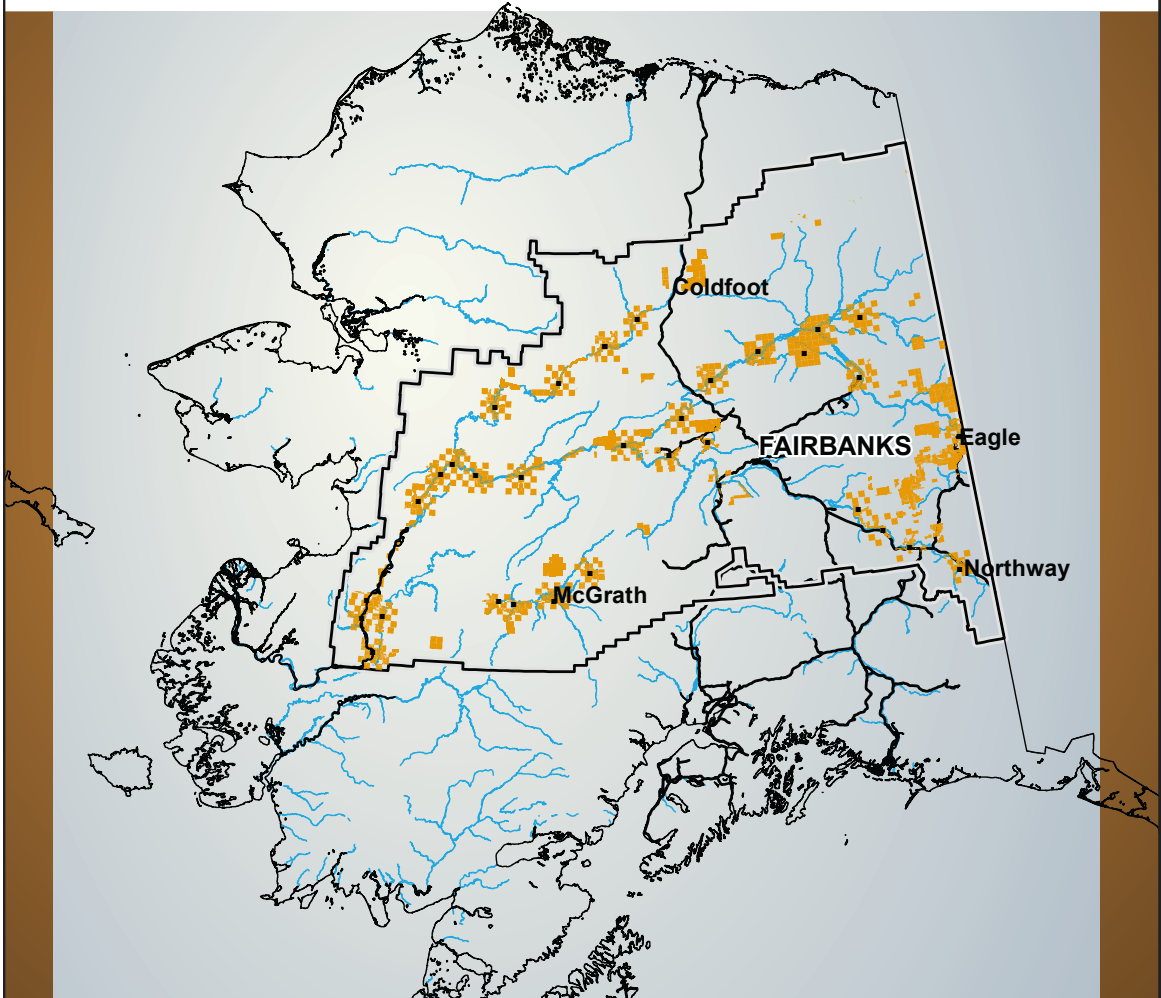
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Alaska Coastal Aggregates LLC
Alaska Commercial Fishing & Agricultural Bank
Alaska Forest Association
Alaska Frontier Constructors Inc.
Alaska Gold Company, LLC
Alaska Industrial Hardware
Alaska Land Exploration, LLC
Alaska Policy Forum
Alaska Power & Telephone Company
Alaska Railroad Corporation
Alaska Resource Education
Alaska Rock Products Association
Alaska Roteq
Alaska State Chamber of Commerce
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Not yet a member of the Alaska Miners Association? Or have not yet renewed your membership for 2019? Renew today so you don't miss a single issue of The Alaska Miner or this year's 2020 Alaska Miners Handbook and Service Directory, available only to AMA members. Call or email Jennifer Luiten, Membership and Fundraising Director 907-270-9232, jennifer@AlaskaMiners.org.

Thank you to all the AMA corporate and individual members who joined or renewed their membership to the association in January. You make AMA possible!

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Alaska’s miners have encountered significant problems with our existing law on mineral tenure, Title 38 of the Alaska Land Act, Article 8, Mining Rights. Sen. Click Bishop’s introduction of Senate Bill 155, an Act relating to exploration and mining rights, has a good chance to resolve those in this legislative session.

Both placer miners and large commercial operators have received notices of abandoned claims arising from unclear statutory language regarding affidavits of labor and locator qualification requirements. Some miners have spent thousands of dollars to resolve issues with DNR or have even lost their state mining claims from simply making a minor mistake or clerical error.

AMA has worked with DNR for over four years on these issues.

This bill is a product of hours and hours of collaboration and deliberation between industry and agency, and attention by Senator Bishop, a miner himself, to develop a solution that will streamline administrative processes, reduce conflicts between miners and reduce conflicts between miners and DNR.

SB155 will:

- 1. Update types of entities (LLCs, trusts and others) that can hold claims and provide curative mechanism for qualification defects.
- 2. Clarify that a MTRSC location establishes mineral rights to all land open and available within the location. This is the

interpretation that has worked effectively for both industry and the state for 20 years.

3. Resolve issues with Annual Labor including:

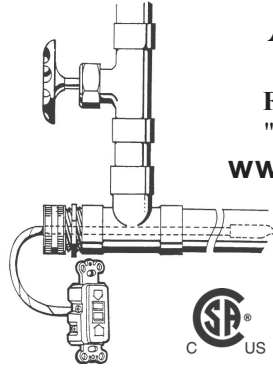
- Putting labor affidavit requirements clearly in statute
- Requiring DNR to first send a notice of an opportunity to cure clerical errors prior to sending a notice of abandonment. This includes notification to claim holder provision and 90 days in which claim holder can correct errors
- Updateing list of examples for qualifying work and provides that cash payment can be made for no more than five years

4. Provide more certainty to improve opportunity to convert to state claims.

SB155 does not impose more work to state agencies, including DNR, or on miners. Nor does it regulate environmental aspects of mining operations.

Claim holders should remain engaged in this issue by submitting letters in support and provide testimony when we prompt you. Personal stories from experience help to educate all Alaskans on this highly technical and critical issue.

You can provide your thoughts by emailing the Senate Resources Committee staff lead Konrad Jackson at konrad.jackson@akleg.gov and staff to the bill sponsor, Senator Bishop or Darwin Peterson at darwin.peterson@akleg.gov.



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Alaska Mining Calendar

MARCH 20

Meet Alaska 2020. Annual Meeting of the Alaska Support Industry Alliance. “Getting Alaska Minerals to Market” program track. Dena’ina Center, Anchorage, AlaskaAlliance.com.

MARCH 30

OneALASKA Rally. 4:30-6 p.m., Fairbanks location TBD. Visit www.alaskaminers.org for more information.

MARCH 30-APRIL 4

2020 Biennial AMA Conference & Trade Show. “Next Generation: The Future.” Carlson Center, Fairbanks, Alaska

MAY 28

Alaska Oil and Gas Association Annual Conference, Dena’ina Center, Anchorage. Aoga.org.

June 26

Alaska Resource Development Council, 44th Annual Membership Luncheon, Anchorage. Akrdc.org

AMA Branch Meetings

Anchorage

Every Friday 7 a.m. at Peanut Farm (old side)

Fairbanks

Every Friday 7 a.m. at Westmark Hotel

Juneau

Every Friday 7 a.m. at Prospector Hotel

Haines

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