ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION

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October 30, 2026

Mr. Greg Mazer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
Submitted via email at Gregory.j.mazer@usace.army.mil,

Re: Comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Graphite Creek Project

Dear Mr. Mazer:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes in strong support of the Graphite Creek Project and to provide comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA).

AMA is a statewide trade association whose mission is to advocate for and promote responsible mineral development in Alaska. AMA members include large and small mining companies, individual miners, contractors, suppliers, professional service providers, and Alaskans who support a strong, responsible mining industry.

The Graphite Creek project is a prolific deposit of graphite, a critical mineral in which there is no production within the United States. Currently, 97% of graphite anode material is imported from China, a country that has placed export restrictions on the mineral. Indeed, the advancement of Graphite Creek is needed for our national security.

The Graphite Creek Project is undergoing an extensive and rigorous state and federal permitting process, the same process that has resulted in the responsible and successful operation of eight large-scale mining operations in Alaska. AMA believes that Graphite Creek can follow the same path, and that our existing permitting system will help ensure all Alaskans and communities have a meaningful role in shaping the project.

Mining is Alaska's second largest industry, with large-scale producing mines, hundreds of placer mines, and numerous exploration projects around the state. Our mines provide approximately 12,400 jobs, with an average wage of approximately $122,500, in communities across Alaska. Mining pays millions in revenues to local governments, to the State through rents, royalties, and taxes, and to Alaska Native Corporations. Those are the kinds of jobs and revenues that rural Alaska, where good opportunities are scarce, stands to gain from Graphite Creek. With at least 250 jobs associated with the mine, the economic benefits are immense. Moreover, the mine is on State of Alaska owned land, which will provide much-needed revenues through taxes and royalties.

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AMA was pleased to see Graphite Creek accepted as a FAST-41 Covered Project. The project, and others like it, need defined, predictable timetables that let project sponsors plan long-term investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment is support of the Graphite Creek project.

Sincerely,

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director
Alaska Miners Association