



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*National Marine Fisheries Service*

*P.O. Box 21668*

*Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668*

December 21, 2007

Colonel Kevin J. Wilson  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

Re: POA-2007-1716-D  
Nevada Star Resource Corporation

Attn: Ms. Robin Leighty

Dear Colonel Wilson:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the December 10, 2007, agency coordination letter for the proposed work by Pure Nickel Incorporated. The applicant proposes to undertake helicopter-supported core drilling for mineral exploration at two mineral claim areas identified as the North Pole Hill area and Salt Chuck Area. Both are on land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, Thorne Bay Ranger District. Fine ground rock would be discharged into wetlands during drilling, and other fill would be discharged to plug drill holes. The proposed work would affect less than 0.02 acre of wetlands but may occur within 500 feet of an anadromous stream.

We offer the following comments specific to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA). Section 305(b) of the MSFCMA requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). NMFS is required to make conservation recommendations, which may include measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate or otherwise offset adverse effects.

The proposed work may occur within 500 feet of an Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) catalogued anadromous fish stream # 102-60-10950. This stream has pink, chum and coho salmon; cutthroat and steelhead trout, and Dolly Varden Char. The applicant proposed plan of operation will minimize potential water quality impacts by: accessing the site via helicopter and not constructing roads; retaining excess fine ground rock debris in a small pit at the drill site and not permitting this to enter any stream or water body; plugging completed drill holes from termination depth to the surface with commercial hole plug; and removing surface casting prior to hole abandonment. The applicant plans to use existing streams and ponds as source water for the drilling operation.

NMFS supports the applicant's planned measures (listed above) to minimize potential water quality impacts. In addition NMFS offers the following EFH Conservation Recommendations, pursuant to Section 305(b)(4)(A) of the MSFCMA to minimize impacts to water quality and EFH:

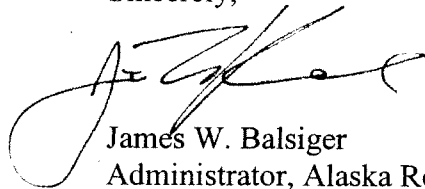


1. Water bodies with anadromous fish should not be used as source water. If water is pumped from a stream or pond with anadromous fish then a minimum sized strainer mesh of 0.25 inches should be placed over the intake. In addition, work should be confined to work windows when fish eggs are not expected to be in the gravels: June 15 – August 15 of any year.
2. Reasonable precautions should be taken to prevent incidental and accidental discharge of petroleum products into the stream. An emergency oil spill response kit or other appropriate equipment such as absorbent pads should be available on site to allow fast response to small oil spills and accidental discharge of hydrocarbons.
3. Ensure the use of best management practices to minimize ground disturbance and potential sedimentation.

Under section 305(b)(4) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Corps is required to respond to NMFS EFH recommendations in writing within 30 days. If the Corps will not make a decision within 30 days of receiving NMFS EFH Conservation Recommendations, the Corps should provide NMFS with a letter within 30 days to that effect, and indicate when a full response will be provided.

If you have any questions regarding our recommendations for this project, please contact Cindy Hartmann at 907-586-7585.

Sincerely,



James W. Balsiger  
Administrator, Alaska Region

cc: Applicant: Dale L. Hull, Chief Operating Officer, Pure Nickel Inc., 95 Wellington Street West Suite 900, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5J2N7  
USDA FS, Thorne Bay Ranger District, P.O. Box 19001, Thorne Bay, AK 99919-0001  
EPA, Juneau, Chris Meade\*  
ADNR, POW, Mark Minello\*  
USFWS, Juneau, Richard Enriquez\*  
ADF&G, Juneau, Tom Schumacher\*  
COE, Anchorage, Robin Leighty\*  
NMFS, HCD, Juneau, Cindy Hartmann\*  
NMFS, AKR, Records  
\* Electronic copy