



Information Bulletin

Placer Mining Wetland Reclamation Plan Approvals

The Yukon Water Board is implementing the following approach for placer mining applications that require wetland reclamation plan approval by the Chief of Placer Land Use. This approach applies to all Class 4 placer applications requiring a Mining Land Use Approval and Water Licence from the Board.

Placer Reclamation Plan Approval Approach

Where *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* Decision Documents instruct applicants to submit wetland reclamation plans to the Chief of Placer Land Use, the Board will add this requirement into Approval terms and conditions, if and when the Board approves operating plans and issues Mining Land Use Approvals. The Chief of Placer Land Use will be responsible for the review and approval of wetland reclamation plans post-approval.

How will this affect my application and Approval?

- The Water Board will continue to issue Water Licences and Mining Land Use Approvals for Class 4 placer operations. This process remains unchanged.
- If a Decision Document requires it, operators will submit to the Chief of Placer Land Use a wetland reclamation plan, for review and approval, *as a condition of their Mining Land Use Approval* when the approved operating plan considers working in wetlands or wetland areas.
- The Chief of Placer Land Use will provide guidance on the type and form of wetland reclamation plans for a particular project.
- Upon approval by the Chief, Licensees will be required to submit a copy of the approved wetland reclamation plan to the Water Board using their water licence file on WATERLINE.

What does this approach apply to?

This approach applies to all placer mining undertakings requiring a Water Licence and Mining Land Use Approval from the Yukon Water Board. For more information on how this might affect your particular application please contact the Yukon Water Board directly at ywb@yukonwaterboard.ca or 867-456-3980.

Background

The Yukon Water Board functions as the Chief of Placer Mining Land Use under the *Placer Mining Act* at the time of approving, amending or renewing Class 4 placer operating plans. Government of Yukon, Mineral Resources functions as Chief after the Board approves, amends or renews Class 4 placer operating plans. Recent Decision Document terms from *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* assessments for Class 4 placer undertakings require operators to submit wetland reclamation plans to the Chief for review and approval prior to mining in some areas of their project where wetlands or wetland areas are present.