

Division of Mining & Water Management Goals and Objectives

The Division of Mining and Water Management was created as a direct response to budget reductions in the former Division of Water. The merged division is responsible for making available for use and development the state's mineral and water resources and for managing these resources to assure the state's best interests are met.

The Division goal for mineral management is to:

1) assure the maximum amount of the state's mineral resources are available for exploration and prudent development, 2) provide technical assistance and oversight as required by law to assure that other public resources are not unreasonably or unduly damaged, 3) maintain mining claim lease, coal lease and permit files in a cost effective and timely manner to assure revenues from the state's mineral resources are collected timely, and 4) make the files easily accessible to the mineral users and the public.

The Division goal for water management is to:

1) manage the state's water resources held in trust through timely and responsible adjudication of applications for water use, 2) ensure safety of dams, 3) collect, interpret, and disseminate water resource data essential for domestic and commercial uses including export, and for prudent development of Alaska's resources, 4) secure Quiet Title to submerged lands beneath navigable inland waters with priority to waterbodies having potential for economic development, 5) provide leadership in the cooperative resolution of water management issues, 6) implement procedures that assure a fair return for appropriation and for exportation of Alaska's water.

Significant objectives are:

Mining Section:

- * Administer State Coal Mining Laws and promote development of coal resources
- * Complete reclamation work on dangerous abandoned mine sites
- * Assist permitting large-scale mining
- * Maintain mineral property records
- * Develop multi-year permit program
- * Monitor/expedite multi-year reclamation plans
- * Process/adjudicate 7,500 new mining claims
- * Process/adjudicate annual labor/rental of 30,000+ mining locations
- * Process deeds/contracts for ownership transfer, 4000 properties
- * Adjudicate 450 APMA's
- * Assist mining companies/small operators in permitting/compliance

Water Section:

- * Inspection of dams for safety and maintain database of dams to ensure compliance
- * Accept/initiate 1200 water-related applications
- * Develop hydrological data to protect interests of individuals and communities from unexpected flooding & erosion
- * Work with Federal agencies regarding navigability of 14 million acres of submerged lands
- * Work with mining industry, providing hydrologic data necessary for mining operations
- * Provide coordination of Alaska Water Management Council to ensure priorities are identified