



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 22, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Gravel Reclamation: In 2011, the Assembly adopted reclamation standards for gravel pits within the Borough. All new and existing gravel pits were required to remove junk vehicles and grade slopes to maximum 50% grade. New gravel pits were required to achieve 60 percent live cover after four growing seasons following completion of each mining phase.

There were 68 gravel pits granted preexisting legal nonconforming status that are not required to achieve 60 percent live cover. Since the ordinance was adopted in 2011, 41 gravel permits have been issued, 16 of which have been expired for at least four growing seasons.

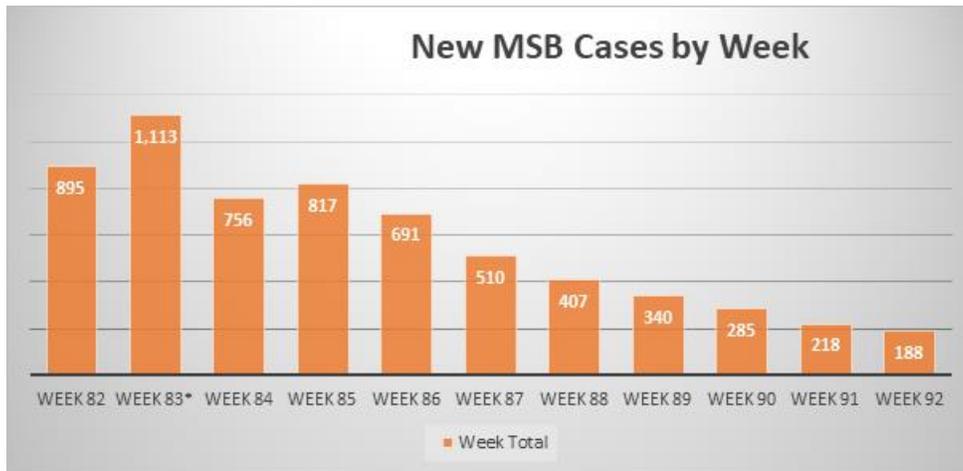
The Borough does not have a reporting requirement for reclamation, and enforcement has been difficult for a variety of reasons. Aerial imagery can be utilized to determine the percentage of live cover over a particular area, eliminating one of the hurdles to enforcement. However, because gravel operations under 2,000 cubic yards are exempt from Borough regulations, it is difficult to definitively say when a mining phase has been complete and the clock starts for reclamation standards.

In the spring, code enforcement officers will investigate reclamation efforts for the 16 pits where gravel permits have expired for at least four growing seasons. If there is a desire to discuss potential code changes related to reclamation, it may be best to wait until the current conditional use permit (CUP) exemption for up to 20,000 cubic yards has made its way through the referral process.

Leachate Hauling – As of December 20, 2021 the Borough has hauled six loads of leachate to the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility facility. This has saved us approximately \$300 per haul. This idea has been in the works ever since we took over hauling from our last contractor. We have successfully received our permit, outfitted our tanker truck, been approved by DOT, and moved these six loads. We anticipate three to five loads per week reducing the need to use a subcontractor in the future.

COVID-19 Update:

This will be the last weekly COVID-19 update; beginning in January we will do updates on a monthly basis.



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fish and Wildlife

- Mat-Su fish officials meet with state game board – Frontiersman

COVID-19

- Changes coming to Alaska's COVID-19 dashboard – KTOO

Public Outreach

- Borough planning department outlines plans to Talkeetna Community Council - KTNA

Redistricting

- Breaking down the five lawsuits challenging the Alaska Redistricting – ADN
- Scheduling conference set for Alaska redistricting cases – Frontiersman

Additional Troopers in Mat-Su

- 4 Alaska State Troopers coming to the Valley – Frontiersman
- Lack of law enforcement in rural Alaska led to promises of more police – KTOO

State

- Emergency eviction moratorium on renters now ended, but evictions still drop – Frontiersman
- Governor plans another push for large PFDs in new budget plan – Frontiersman

Future Events:

Tuesday, January 4 @3pm, Assembly Special Meeting re Gravel

Friday, January 7 @10am, Joint Assembly/Legislative Delegation, Wasilla LIO office

Note: There will be no Weekly Post next week on December 29. The next Weekly Post will be on January 5, 2022.