

Placer miners—

# Not necessary to apply for Army permit

Persons and firms engaged in placer mining are being informed by the Army Corps of Engineers' Alaska District that it is not necessary for them to apply for a Department of the Army permit to cover such operations.

Applicability of the provisions of Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to this type of dredging has been studied recently by the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency.

It had been announced a few months ago that such operations would be subject to Section 404, which is concerned with the discharge of dredged and fill material in navigable and certain other waters and adjacent wetlands.

Thus, an Army permit would be required from the Corps,

which is the agency administering Section 404 compliance.

It has been determined that placer mining is an activity under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency. It is one of their categorical programs within the purview of Section 402 of the Act, requiring a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit as administered by the EPA.

The public notice pertaining to that application is being rescinded by the District.

The Corps' Alaska District, which has a gold-dredging permit application under consideration now is returning that application noting that the case is the kind that will be handled by the EPA.