

Search for Gold at Nome

The search for gold on the beach at Nome is taking on a new form, according to a proposal for dredging that has been submitted to the Corps of Engineers.

The American Smelting and Refining Company of Salt Lake City has applied to the Corps for a permit to move 100,000 cubic yards of beach material in their effort to recover gold from beneath the waters off shore.

The Anchorage firm of Ely, Guess and Rudd filed an application on behalf of the Utah organization.

Excavation by dragline along a 2,000-foot stretch of beach just west of Nome, and reaching out from shore about 80 feet for material, is the plan of the ASR Company.

A towed skid-mounted washing plant will be used to wash the gravel to recover any gold it may contain. The washed material will be redeposited in the excavated

area and leveled so that no holes or ridges remain.

The applicant proposes to do this work between July 15 and September 15 this year, testing the feasibility of this type of mining in the near-shore environment.

The Corps of Engineers, responsible under law for maintaining the Nation's navigable waters, must in processing the application, consider the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. Coordination with other concerned Federal, State, and local agencies as well as consideration of comments from the public, are involved in this process.

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed work should write to the Corps' Alaska District, Box 7002, Anchorage, 99510, by May 30 to have their input considered in this case.