mine drainage waters which is in excess of the make up water required for operation of the beneficiation process. The concentration of pollutants in process wastewaters discharged from an open-cut mine plant site shall not exceed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effluent characteristics</th>
<th>Effluent limitations—Instantaneous maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Settlesable solids</td>
<td>0.2 ml/l</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) The volume of process wastewater which may be discharged from a dredge plant site shall not exceed the volume of infiltration, drainage and mine drainage waters which is in excess of the make up water required for operation of the beneficiation process. The concentration of pollutants in process wastewater discharged from a dredge plant site shall not exceed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effluent characteristics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Settlesable solids</td>
<td>0.2 ml/l</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the Regional Administrator or Director of a State agency with authority to administer the NPDES program shall in designating new source gold placer mines, take into account and base the decision on whether one or more of the following factors has occurred after May 24, 1988.

1. The mine will operate outside of the permit area which is covered by a currently valid NPDES Permit.
2. The mine significantly alters the nature or quantity of pollutants discharged.
3. The mine discharges into a stream into which it has not discharged under its currently valid NPDES permit.
4. The mine will operate in a permit area that has not been mined during the term of the currently valid NPDES permit.
5. Such other factors as the Regional Administrator or state Director deems relevant.

§§ 440.145–440.147 [Reserved]


The following best management practices are specific requirements which shall be included in each NPDES permit for all mining operations regulated under this subpart to the greatest extent applicable in each such mining operation.

(a) Surface water diversion: The flow of surface waters into the plant site shall be interrupted and these waters diverted around and away from incursion into the plant site.

(b) Berm construction: Berms, including any pond walls, dikes, low dams and similar water retention structures shall be constructed in a manner such that they are reasonably expected to reject the passage of water.

(c) Pollutant materials storage: Measures shall be taken to assure that pollutant materials removed from the process water and wastewater streams will be retained in storage areas and not discharged or released to the waters of the United States.

(d) New water control: The amount of new water allowed to enter the plant site for use in ore processing shall be limited to the minimum amount required as make-up water for processing operations.

(e) Maintenance of water control and solids retention devices: All water control devices such as diversion structures and berms and all solids retention structures such as berms, dikes, pond structures and dams shall be maintained to continue their effectiveness and to protect from unexpected and catastrophic failure.