



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
Mining Section

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May 12, 2016

Jennifer Pyecha
Senior Environmental Engineer
Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.
PO Box 73726
Fairbanks, AK 99707-3726

Subject: Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO.5 to Install a light duty vehicle spur road for Fish Creek Road

Dear Ms. Pyecha,

On May 6, 2016 the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) received correspondence from Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (FGMI), requesting approval to amend the *Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO* (POOA) to install a spur road for a light duty traffic bypass of construction activities on the Fish Creek Road.

The DMLW understands this request includes the potential to clear and grub the area of 1,000 feet long and 20 feet wide, avoiding areas designated as wetlands, and that FGMI will stockpile all organic material for future reclamation. DMLW understands that this spur road will not impact Fish Creek Road.

The DMLW has reviewed the proposed amendment and consulted with Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and Fish & Game (ADF&G).

The requested amendment to the POOA as proposed and illustrated in your May 6, 2016 submission is hereby approved as *Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO.5*. Nothing in this decision changes the conditions of the original POOA Approval dated March 28, 2014. The associated disturbance of these activities must be accounted for in the next update to the Reclamation and Closure Plan and associated closure cost estimate.

Please be advised that this authorization does not eliminate the potential need for authorization of your activity from other Federal, State or local divisions or agencies.

A person affected by this decision may appeal it, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within 20 calendar days after the date of "issuance" of this decision, as defined in 11 AAC 02.040(c) and (d) and may be mailed or delivered to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. If no appeal is filed by the appeal deadline, this decision becomes a final administrative order and decision of the

department on the 31st calendar day after issuance. An eligible person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Brent Martellaro at 907-451-2788.

Sincerely,



Marty Lentz
Mining Section Chief

cc via email: Bartly Kleven, FGMI
Brent Martellaro, ADNR
Carolyn Curley, ADNR
Tim Pilon, ADEC
Ellen Lyons, USACE

Mark Huffington, FGMI
Stephanie Lovell, ADNR
Kyle Moselle, ADNR
Audra Brase, ADF&G