September 14, 2020

Jillian Ladegard
Pogo Mine Environmental Manager
Northern Star (Pogo) LLC
3204 International Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Subject: Pogo Mine Plan of Operations Approval Amendment 6
F20189500POOA.06 for Waste Rock Characterization Methods

Dear Ms. Ladegard:

On September 3, 2020, the Division of Mining, Land, and Water, Mining Section (DMLW) received correspondence from Northern Star (Pogo) LLC requesting approval to amend the Pogo Mine Plan of Operations Approval (POOA 20189500). Pogo is requesting to update the method for the characterization of Waste Rock to using a handheld XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence) in place of the current benchtop XRF.

We reviewed the requested amendments and consulted with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish & Game. No objections to the proposed amendment have been received.

The requested amendment to your Plan of Operations (F20189500), as described and illustrated in your submissions listed above is hereby approved as Pogo Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20189500POOA.06. Nothing in this decision changes the conditions of the original Plan of Operations Approval dated May 26, 2018. The above listed changes should be accounted for in the next major update to the Plan and the reclamation cost estimate.

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

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. Under 11 AAC 02.030, appeals
and requests for reconsideration filed under 11 AAC 02 must be accompanied by
the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(1)(F), which has been set at $200 under
the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160 (a) and (b).

This decision takes effect immediately. 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.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steve Buckley
Mining Section Chief

Enclosure:

Cc via email:  Brent Martellaro, ADNR  
Carolyn Curley, ADNR  
Ashlee Adoko, ADNR  
Charles Cobb, ADNR  
Allan Nakanishi, ADEC  
Justin Burrows, ADF&G  
Guy Singleton, NSR  
Environmental, NSR

Kindra Geis, ADNR  
William Groom, DNR  
A.J. Wait, ADNR  
Tim Pilon, ADEC  
Audra Brase, ADF&G  
Shaun McLoughney, NSR  
Hilary Macdonald, NRS