January 7, 2019

Jill Ladegard  
Environmental Manager  
Northern Star (Pogo) LLC.  
PO Box 145  
Delta Junction, AK 99737  

Subject: Pogo Mine Plan of Operations Amendment 2 Approval  
F20189500POOA.02 for Underground Strip Vein Exploration

Dear Ms. Ladegard:

On December 18, 2018, the Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW) received a request requesting approval to amend the Pogo Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20189500POO (POOA) to support underground exploration infrastructure development.

The DMLW understands the Strip Vein Exploration request includes exploration activities that will be conducted in accordance and concurrent with previously approved production activities.

The DMLW Mining section has reviewed the proposed amendment. The Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and Fish & Game (ADF&G) have been notified and no objections to the proposed amendments have been submitted.

The requested amendments to the POOA as proposed and illustrated in the submissions dated December 18, 2018 are hereby approved as Pogo Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20189500POOA.02 (POOA). Nothing in this decision changes the conditions of the original POO Approval dated May 24, 2018. These changes should be accounted for in the next update to the Plan of Operations, the Reclamation and Closure Plan, and the 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. 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)(6), which has been set at $200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160 (a) and (b). 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,

Steve Buckley
Mining Section Chief

Enclosure: Copy of NS (Pogo) LLC’s December 18, 2018 amendment requests

Cc via email:  Chris Kennedy, NSR
               Guy Singleton, NSR
               Brent Martellaro, ADNR
               Carolyn Curley, ADNR
               Kyle Moselle, ADNR
               Charles Cobb, ADNR
               Audra Brase, ADF&G
               Ellen Lyons, USACE
               Shaun McLoughney, NSR
               Environmental, NSR
               Kindra Geis, ADNR
               William Groom, ADNR
               David Schade, ADNR
               Tim Pilon, ADEC
               Justin Burrows, ADF&G