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## **Fort Knox Mine and Gil Project Inspection Report**

|                                |                                                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Inspection Date:</b>        | August 18, 2025                                             |
| <b>Time:</b>                   | 9:00AM to 4:00PM                                            |
| <b>Weather:</b>                | High overcast with some low clouds, 62°F                    |
| <b>State Agency Personnel:</b> | Jesse Garnett White, Charlene Bringham, and Darrel Vandeweg |
| <b>FGMI Personnel:</b>         | Brent Culleton, Shaun Slater, and Amanda Bador              |
| <b>Inspection Objectives:</b>  | Site Inspection                                             |

### **Operations:**

The Fort Knox and Gil mines (Map 1) are owned by Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (FGMI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation. The Fort Knox mine (Map 2) is located approximately 26-miles northeast of Fairbanks via the Steese Highway. Accessed via Fort Knox, the Gil Satellite Mine (Map 3) is approximately 10 miles east of Fort Knox. Maps 1 through 3 illustrate areas of disturbance at Fort Knox and Gil Project (Gil) as interpreted in the field and via desktop analysis of photos, drone imagery, and recent 2024 aerial orthoimagery of Gil provided by Kinross-Fort Knox. The mine's footprint resides primarily on state lands managed by Mental Health Trust (MHT) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Private lands owned or leased by FGMI are within the active mining area. Fort Knox Mine is a conventional open-pit truck-and-loader operation with milling operations that have a capacity of up to 45,000 tonnes per day. Higher grade ore is processed onsite through milling, while lower grade ore is used in cold weather heap leach facilities which produced a total mineral recovery of 377,519 oz. of gold in 2024<sup>1</sup>.

The Fort Knox Mine Reclamation Plan Approval (No. F20209852RPA.2) and Fort Knox Plan of Operations (No. F20209852POOA.2), initially issued March 25, 2020, was amended in 2021 to include Gil and is effective through March 31, 2026. FGMI submitted an approved Reclamation Closure Plan (RCP), which includes the estimated costs associated with reclamation and closure of the Fort Knox Mine. The RCP describes the procedures and processes to return land disturbed by mining operations to State standards outlined in AS 27.19.020 and 11 AAC 97.

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<sup>1</sup> Kinross Operations, *Fort Knox, USA*, Kinross Gold Corporation, website available at: <https://www.kinross.com/English/operations/default.aspx#americas-fortknox> (accessed 7/16/2025)

### **Field Inspection Plan, Execution and Summary Schedule:**

The DNR DMLW Large Mines Permitting Team (LMPT) conducted a site inspection on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Kinross-Fort Knox mine and Gil for compliance with Plan of Operations Approval (F20209852PoO.2) and Reclamation Plan Approval (F202098522RPA.2). DNR staff arrived on site at 9:00am and met with FGMI personnel to discuss the current authorizations, safety and activity onsite, and the inspection plan for the day. Based on the weather forecast, mining activity, and time constraints, a strategy was set to begin within Fort Knox at higher elevations working towards the Gil and returning via the freshwater reservoir to Fort Knox. Active areas of construction to be avoided were the east side of Barnes Creek Waste Rock Dump (BCWRD), in-pit drilling and blasting areas (Phases 9 and 10), Manh Choh Ore Stockpile, and final dam raise at the TSF. The inspection focused on active mining disturbance, growth media stockpiles, concurrent and future reclamation, and water management. All related tasks were completed by 4:30pm.

At Fort Knox, the LMPT deployed a drone at various sites around the mine including the south Fort Knox Pit rim, Victoria Creek and Barnes Creek Waste Rock Dumps (WRDs), and Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) dam crest. From these locations nearly the entirety of Fort Knox proper can be viewed by drone including the following areas of interest: Fort Knox Pit including east pit lake and in-pit tailings disposal (IPTD), west pit (Phases 9 and 10), Victoria Creek, Barnes Creek, and Yellow Pup WRDs, Barnes Creek and Walter Creek Heap Leaches (HL), Growth Media stockpiles (GM), Manh Choh ore stockpiles, TSF, TSF ponds including south (SP), north (NP), and barge pond (BP), Pearl Creek Causeway (PCC), TSF dam, Reverse Osmosis areas (ROs), TSF Seepage Collection (SC), Outfall 002, wetlands complex, and Fresh Water Reservoir (FWR). Other areas captured in drone footage include Fish Creek WRD, TSF borrow pits (north and south) and GMs.

A drone was also deployed at Gil from the North Gil Organic Dump (OD) and northern end of Sourdough WRD. From these locations nearly the entire disturbance at Gil Main and Sourdough Ridge can be viewed by drone including the following areas of interest: North and Main Gil pits, partially reclaimed drill pads and “Snack Bar”, Gil and Sourdough WRDs, Ore and Temporary stockpile pads, East, North, Sourdough, and North Gil ODs. Sourdough WRD, and Northeast and Southeast Sourdough pits. Note acronym TSFI = Tent Storage and Fuel Island (Maps 1 and 3)

At the time of this inspection, the Gil is in temporary closure status operating under care and maintenance. The Gil causeway and haul road are maintained and in good condition with stable road cuts and berms. Gil haul road berms and 100 acres of Gil waste rock dumps were hydroseeded in 2024. Maps 1 and 3 illustrate areas of disturbance at Gil Main and Sourdough Ridge as interpreted in the field and via desktop analysis of photos and drone imagery.

## **Findings:**

Detailed route maps with areas of interest, including photos of all inspected sites with observations notes, are in Appendix A.

### **1. Inspection of Active Areas of Disturbance**

#### **1.1. Fort Knox Pit (pit) and in-pit tailings disposal:**

Expansion of the pit continues to evolve including construction activity at the IPTD, drilling and blasting at phases 9 and 10, and deposition of tails into the pit lake. The pit was viewed from the southern pit rim on the ground and via drone (photos 1-4). Partial views of the pit can be seen in photos 8, 10, 11, and 12.

#### **1.2. Victoria Creek WRD, Victoria Creek GM, and Yellow Pup WRD:**

The Victoria Creek WRD and Yellow Pup WRD are located south and south-southeast of the pit respectively. There was no activity at either site during the inspection. The top and northern side of the Victoria Creek WRD (photo 5) and top eastern side of the Yellow Pup WRD (photos 8 and 9) were viewed with a drone when deployed from the southern pit rim. A drone was also deployed on an access road from which the remainder of the Victoria Creek WRD was viewed (photos 6 and 7).

#### **1.3. Barnes Creek HL, Barnes Creek WRD, and Barnes Creek GMs:**

A drone was deployed from the top of the Barnes Creek WRD to view Barnes Creek HL, GM stockpiles, and Walter Creek HL. Recent work on the Barnes Creek HL (Photos 1) has focused on expansion of stages 5 and 6 and was active at the time of inspection. The Barnes Creek WRD (Photos 13-16) is no longer used for tailing emplacement and is in the initial process of reclamation with benches graded and contoured on the northern and western sides. Active construction and recontouring work at Barnes Creek WRD were observed during the visit (photos 13-16). GM stockpiles were stable and in good condition (photos 11 and 13-16).

#### **1.4. Tailings Storage Facility (TSF):**

DNR staff observed the TSF, North, South, and Barge ponds, PCC, seepage interception and monitoring systems, TSF Dam, active construction of the final stage of the dam raise, and GM stockpiles. The TSF in its entirety was in good condition at the time of inspection. A drone was deployed from the dam crest (photos 17-22). The combined volume of growth media stockpiles near the TSF is 3,504,600 cubic yards. Combined acreage of the ponds fluctuates at around 663 acres and 2,606 acre-feet of water (2024). *The TSF dam is approximately 4,865 ft long and has a crest height of 385.5 ft.<sup>2</sup>.*

#### **1.5. Gil pits, WRD's, GM and organic stockpiles:**

The following features in the Main Gil area were observed: GM 1-5, organic stockpiles 1-2, temporary non-PAG stockpile, WRD's, pits, and partially reclaimed drill pads and "Snack Bar" (photos 23-29). The following features in the Sourdough Ridge area were observed: Pits, road to what would have been Southwest Sourdough pit, GM 1, and Sourdough WRD (photos 30-32).

#### **1.6. Fresh Water Reservoir (FWR):**

The freshwater reservoir including the dam, causeway, and spillway complex, encompasses approximately 173 acres (photos 33, 34, and 36).

#### 1.7. Manh Choh Ore Storage Pad:

The Manh Choh Ore Storage Pad was active at the time of inspection. Ore from Manh Choh mine is deposited into stockpiles consisting of high-grade oxide, low-grade oxide, high-grade sulfide, and low-grade sulfide just southwest of the Walter Creek HL (photo 37). Manh Choh tailings have been deposited into the Fort Knox Pit since July 2024.

- 1.8. Walter Creek HL: No work on this facility was observed during this visit (photos 1, 16, and 38). The stacking of ore on the facility was completed in 2021, and concurrent reclamation was initiated in 2022 including re-sloping of benches in preparation for growth media application. It covers about 435 acres.

## 2. Water Management

- 2.0. DNR staff observed the tailing entering the Fort Knox pit lake, TSF, PCC, TSF Dam, engineered wetlands, RO2, Outfall 002, and FWR including the dam, spillway, and wetlands.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations:**

It is recommended that FGMI evaluates the slope conditions within the Gil Main Pit and Sourdough pits to determine if BMP's may be used to provide stability during a temporary closure.

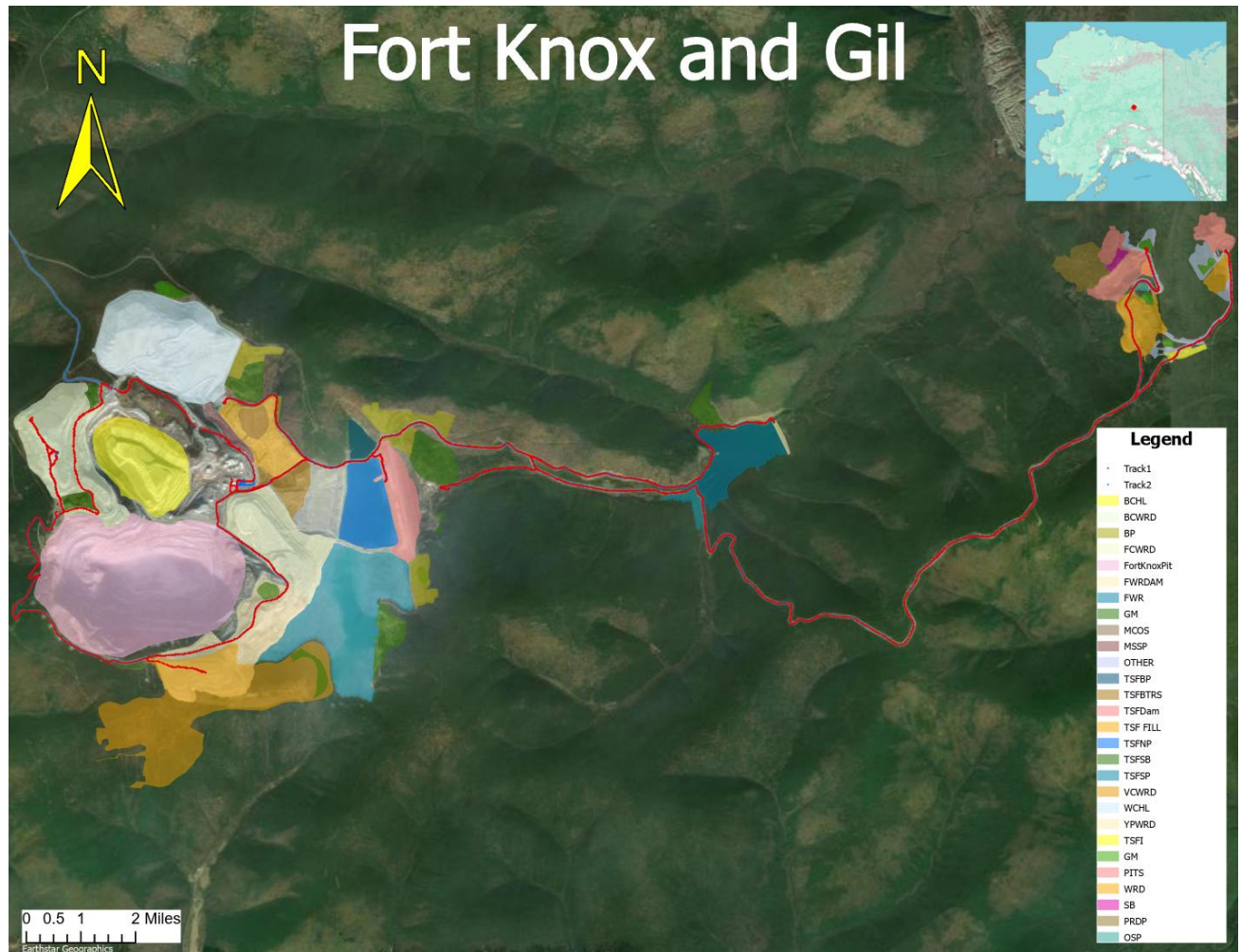
Overall, FGMI facilitates their mining activities in a manner which prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of State land and State water resources. All other observed activities conform with the Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan Approvals, and current activities meet the state's requirements under AS 27.19.020 and 11 AAC 97.200. DNR finds Fort Knox Mine operations are in good condition and consistent with industry standards.

Report prepared by: Jesse Garnett White

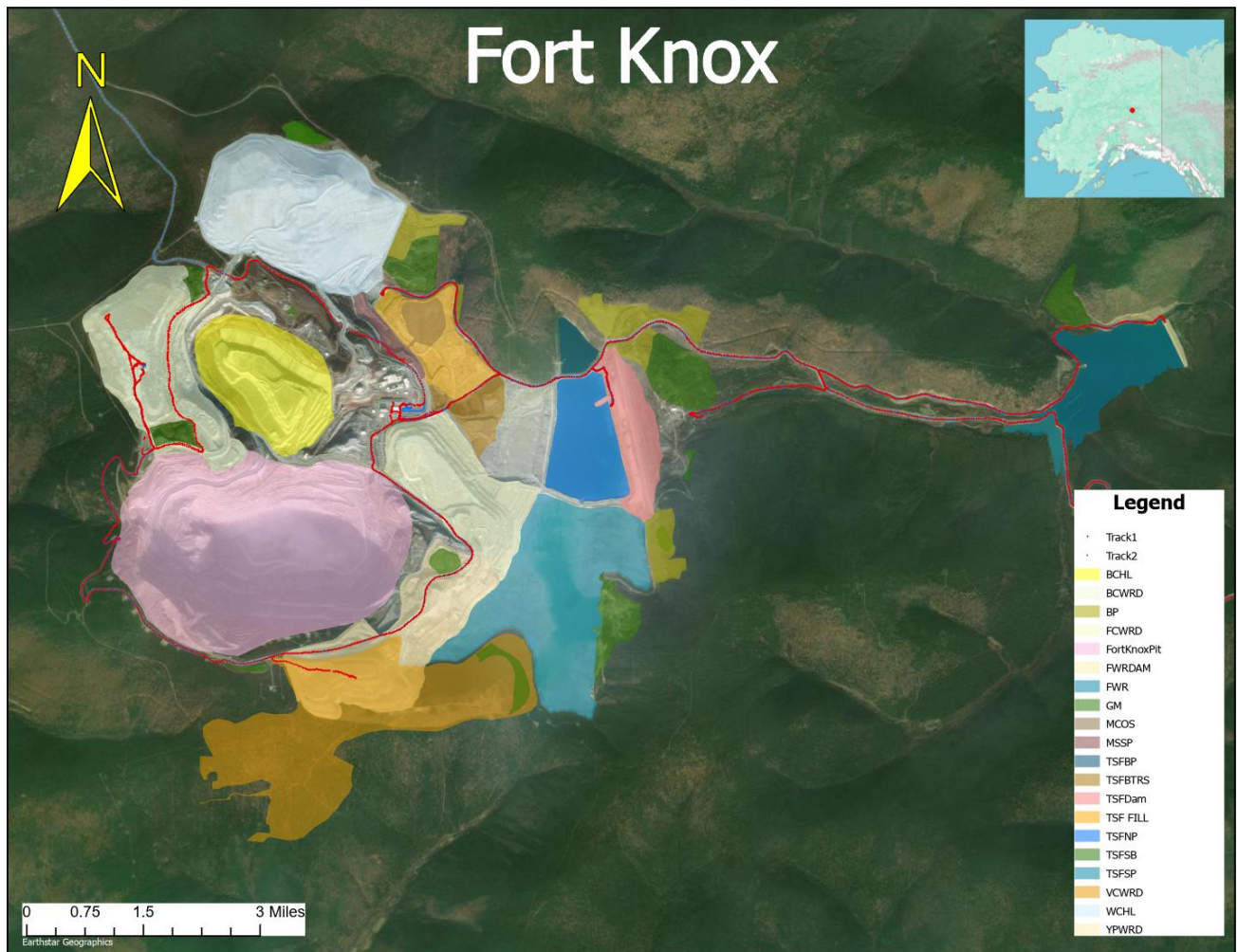
Cc: Steve Buckley (DNR)  
William Groom (DNR)  
Carolyn Curley (DNR)  
Aaron Kruse (DNR)  
Jenny March (DNR)  
Ben Wagner (DNR)  
Kim Bustillos (DNR)  
Ashley Adoko (DNR)  
Allan Nakanishi (DEC)  
Timothy Pilon (DEC)  
Audra Brase (DFG)  
Bartley Kleven (FGMI)  
Brent Culleton (FGMI)  
Edmond Packee (FGMI)  
Muradur Rashedin (FGMI)

# Appendix A

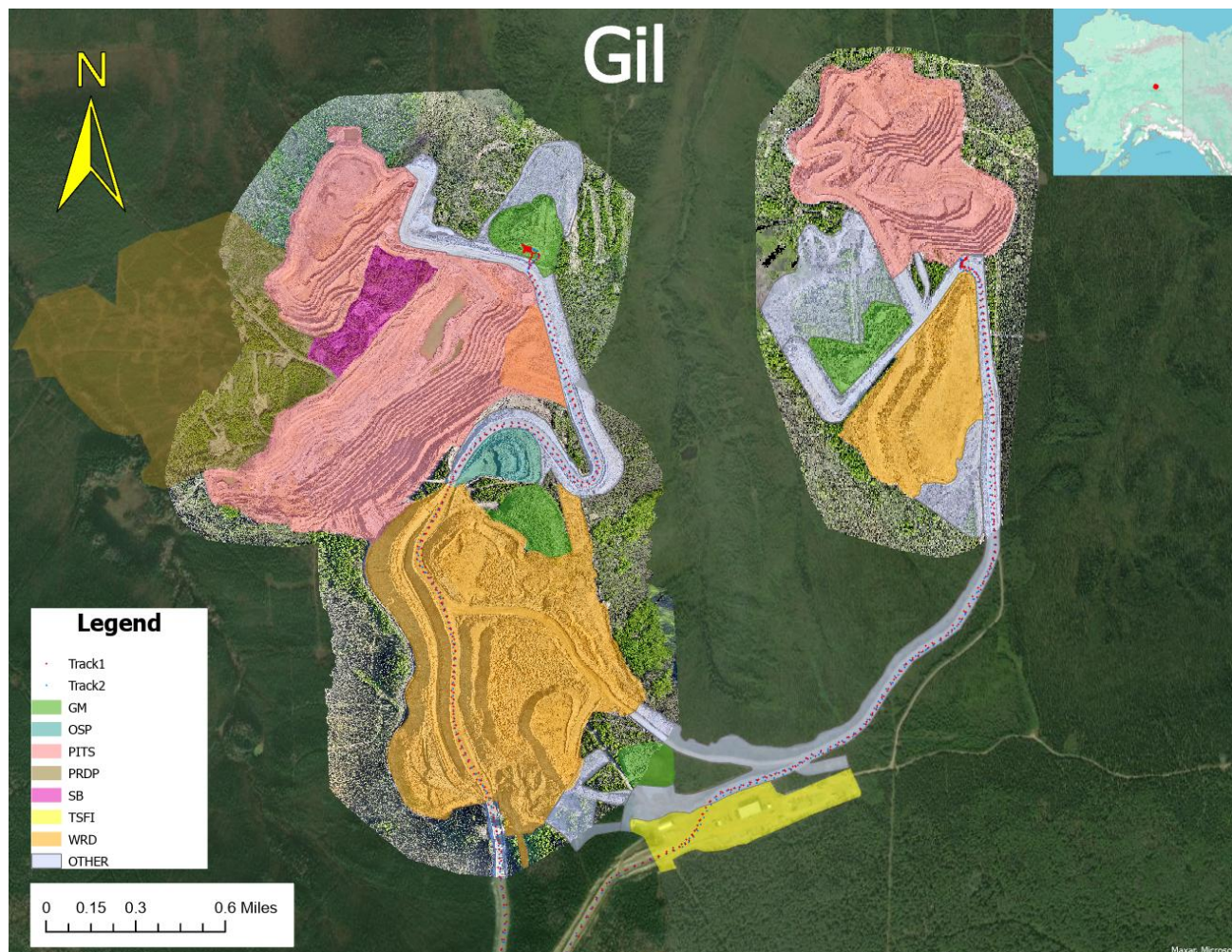
## Inspection Maps and Observations



Map 1: Fort Knox and Gil mines inspection tracks and areas of interest.



Map 2: Fort Knox Mine inspection tracks and areas of interest.



Map 3: Gil inspection tracks and areas of interest.

# Field Inspection Observations

|                          |                                                     |                                      |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Acronym list for photos: | APDES-Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System | PCC-Pearl Creek Causeway             |
|                          | BCHL-Barnes Creek Heap Leach                        | PRDP-Partially Reclaimed Drill Pads  |
|                          | BCWRD-Barnes Creek Waste Rock Dump                  | RO-Reverse Osmosis                   |
|                          | BCGM-Barnes Creek Growth Media (#)                  | SB-Snack Bar                         |
|                          | BP-Barge Pond                                       | SESP-Southeast Sourdough Pit         |
|                          | DAM-TSF Dam                                         | SHG-Sulfide High Grade               |
|                          | EOD-East Organic Dump                               | SLG-Sulfide Low Grade                |
|                          | FCWRD-Fish Creek Waste Rock Dump                    | SOD-Sourdough Organic Dump           |
|                          | FWR-Fresh Water Reservoir                           | SP-South Pond                        |
|                          | GM-Growth Media                                     | SWRD-Sourdough Waste Rock Dump       |
|                          | GWRD-Gil Waste Rock Dump                            | TNB-Tailings North Borrow            |
|                          | HL-Heap Leach                                       | TSB-Tailing South Borrow             |
|                          | HLB-Heap Leach Borrow                               | TSF-Tailing Storage Facility         |
|                          | IPTD-In Pit Tailings Disposal                       | TSFI-Truck Stop and Fuel Island      |
|                          | MCOS-Manh Choh Ore Stockpile                        | TSFSC-TSF Seepage Collection         |
|                          | MGP-Main Gil Pit                                    | TSFGM-TSF Growth Media #             |
|                          | MSSP-Millsite Stockpile                             | TSFNGM-TSF North Growth Media        |
|                          | NESP-Northeast Sourdough Pit                        | TSFSGM-TSF South Growth Media (#)    |
|                          | NGOD-North Gil Organic Dump                         | TSP-Temporary Stockpile Pad          |
|                          | NGP-North Gil Pit                                   | VCWRD-Victoria Creek Waste Rock Dump |
|                          | NOD-North Organic Dump                              | VCGM-Victoria Creek Growth Media (#) |
|                          | NP-North Pond                                       | WCHL-Walter Creek Heap Leach         |
|                          | OHG-Oxide High Grade                                | WRD-Waste Rock Dump                  |
|                          | OLG-Oxide Low Grade                                 | WTP-Water Treatment Plant            |
|                          | OSP-Gil Ore Stockpile                               | YPWRD-Yellow Waste Rock Dump         |

Photo 1: View of the **Fort Knox Pit** and **In-pit Tailings Disposal** with views of Barnes Creek and Walter Creek HLs, Barnes Creek and Fish Creek WRDs, and Manh Choh Ore Stockpile.



Photo 2: West side of **Fort Knox Pit** with views of **Phase 10** drilling and blasting program and distant views of Barnes Creek WRD and GM2.



Photo 3: East side of **Fort Knox Pit** including a partial view of the East Pit Lake, **In-pit Tailings Disposal** with distant views of Tailings North Borrow, North, South, Barge ponds, Pearl Creek Causeway, TSF South GM2, Tailings South Borrow 2, and Fish Creek and Yellow Pup WRDs.



Photo 4: South side of **Fort Knox Pit** including views of the **In-Pit Tailings Disposal**, **East Pit Lake**, **West Pit**, and **Phase 10** drilling and blasting program.

Distant partial views of South Pond and the Yellow Pup and Victoria Creek WRDs.



Photo 5: Top of **Victoria Creek WRD** with view of Victoria Creek placer operations in the background.



Photo 6: View of **Victoria Creek and Yellow Pup WRDs**.



Photo 7: Northern view of **Victoria Creek WRD** and partial view of the **Yellow Pup WRD**.



Photo 8: **Yellow Pup WRD and Victoria Creek GM2** with views of the burn pile and garbage dump.

Partial and distant views of east side of Fort Knox Pit, Victoria Creek and Fish Creek WRDs, North and South ponds, Pearl Creek Causeway, and the TSF Dam.



Photo 9: **Yellow Pup WRD** with views of the South Pond, Dam, Pearl Creek Causeway, TSF South GM2, Tailings South Borrow 2, monitoring well access road, and partial view of Fish Creek WRD.



Photo 10: **Barnes Creek HL** and lower levels of the WRD with distant views of the south Fort Knox pit wall, Yellow Pup and Fish Creek WRDs, North and South ponds separated by the Pearl Creek Causeway, and TSF Dam and distant view of the Gil Road.



Photo 11: **Barnes Creek HL** with partial views of south Fort Knox pit wall, Yellow Pup and Fish Creek WRDs, North and South ponds, Pearl Creek Causeway, Barnes Creek WRD and GM1, and Fort Knox access road.



Photo 12: **Barnes Creek HL** with partial views of Walter Creek HL, HL Borrow HL GM1, Manh Choh Ore Stockpiles, North and South Ponds, Pearl Creek Causeway, GM2, Fish Creek WRD, Tailings South Borrow 2, Fort Knox pit, Gil road, and the Mill and Crusher.



Photo 13: **Barnes Creek WRD** including partial views of Barnes Creek HL and GM1 and Fort Knox access road.

Note the active reclamation and contouring of the eastern side of Barnes Creek WRD and previous contouring work on the north side.



Photo 14: **Barnes Creek WRD** including partial views Walter Creek HL and Barnes Creek HL and GM2.

Note the active reclamation and contouring of the eastern side of the Barnes Creek WRD and previous contouring work on the west side.

Note the locations of the Fort Knox access road and Exploration Road 11 (currently blocked by contouring).



Photo 15: **Barnes Creek GM2** with partial views of Barnes Creek WRD and HL, HL Borrow, HL GM1, and Manh Choh Ore Stockpile.

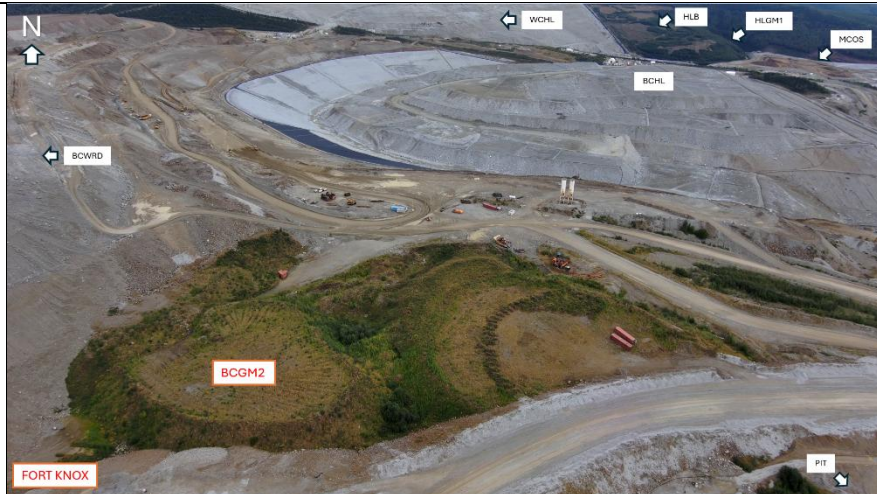


Photo 16: **Walter Creek HL** with partial views of Barnes Creek GM1, WRD, and HL, HL Borrow, HL GM1, and Fort Knox access road.

Note the active reclamation (contouring) of the eastern side of Barnes Creek WRD.



Photo 17: **Tailings Storage Facility** with views of Pearl Creek Causeway, North and South ponds, dam crest, Fish Creek WRD, upper and lower portions of the Yellow Pup WRD, Tailings South Borrow 2, and TSFGM2.



Photo 18: **Barge Pond and RO3 Water Treatment Plant** including views of the dam crest, North Pond, Tailings North and HL borrows, Manh Choh Ore Stockpile, Walter Creek HL, and Barnes Creek WRD.



Photo 19: **TSF Dam** crest and final dam raise including views of RO2 Water Treatment Plant, Outfall 002, and GM stockpiles.



Photo 20: **TSF Dam** and view of final dam raise active construction.



Photo 21: **TSF Dam** with views of the final dam raise, North, South, and Barge ponds, decant jetty, RO3 WTP, TSF North GM, and Fish Creek Road.

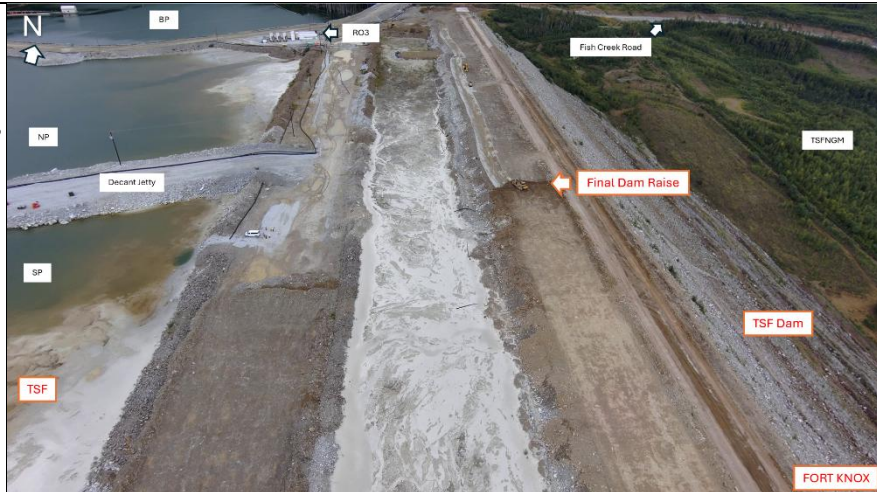


Photo 22: Western view of the **TSF Dam** including final dam raise.



Photo 23: View of **Main Gil** from Sourdough Ridge including Truck Shop, organic stockpiles East, North, and North Gil Organic Dumps, Temporary Stockpile Pad, Gil WRD Ore Stockpile Pad, Main Gil and North Gil Pits, and Snack Bar (SB).

Note the location of the Gil Road, Yellow Pup WRD, and Fresh Water Reservoir in the far distance.

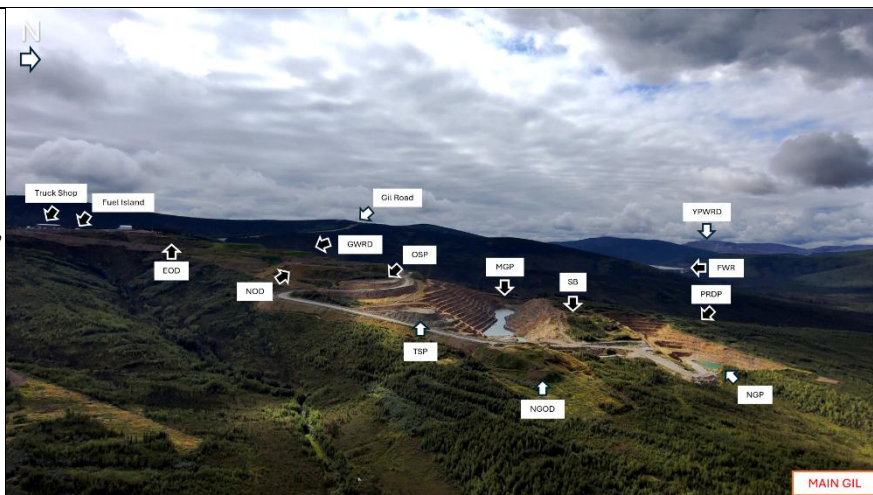


Photo 24: **Main Gil Pit** exhibiting pit wall erosion and groundwater inflill. Note the location of the Snack Bar, Partially Reclaimed Drill Pads, and North Gil Pit



Photo 25: MGP exhibiting areas of pit wall erosion and groundwater inflow.

Note locations of the TSP, GWRD, OSP, SB, NGOD, and NGP.



Photo 26: MGP pit wall erosion and groundwater inflow.

Note locations of SB and NGP.



Photo 27: NGP with views of partially reclaimed drill pads, SB, MGP, NGOD, TSP, OSP, NOD, and GWRD.

Note the successful hydroseeding application of the GWRD.



Photo 28: View of the SB and PRDP.



Photo 29: View of Main Gil including truck shop, organic dumps (EOD and NOD), waste rock dumps (GWRD), and OSP.

Note the successful hydroseeding application on the GWRD.



Photo 30: View of Sourdough Ridge from Main Gil including Northeast Sourdough Pit (NESP) and Southeast Sourdough Pit (SESP), Sourdough Waste Rock Dump (SWRD), and Sourdough Organic Dump (SOD).

Note the successful hydroseeding application on the SWRD and SOD.



Photo 31: Sourdough Ridge including views of SWRD and SOD.

Note the successful hydroseeding application on the SWRD.



Photo 32: Sourdough Pits, NESP and SESP with views SOD and SWRD.

Note the sinkhole in NESP and pit wall erosion in SESP.



Photo 33: Fresh Water Reservoir (FWR) including views of the dam, plunge pool, wetlands, and Gil Road and causeway.

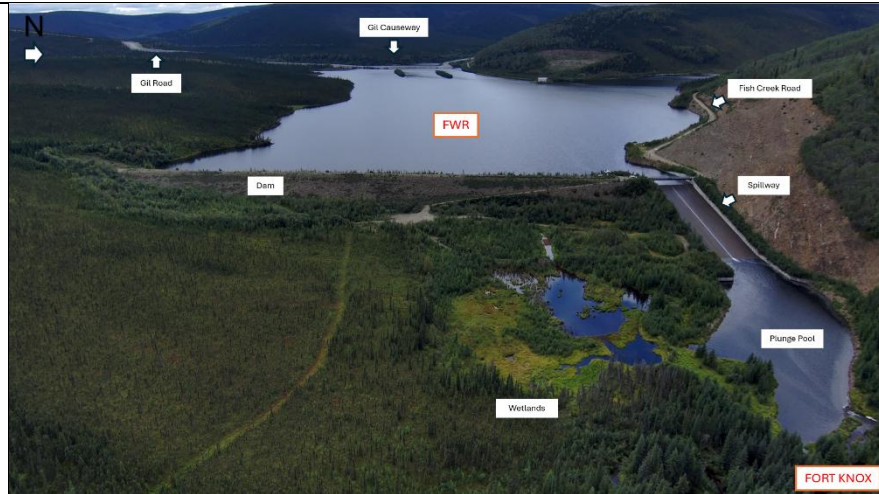


Photo 34: FWR spillway, plunge pool, and wetlands.



Photo 35: Outfall 002.

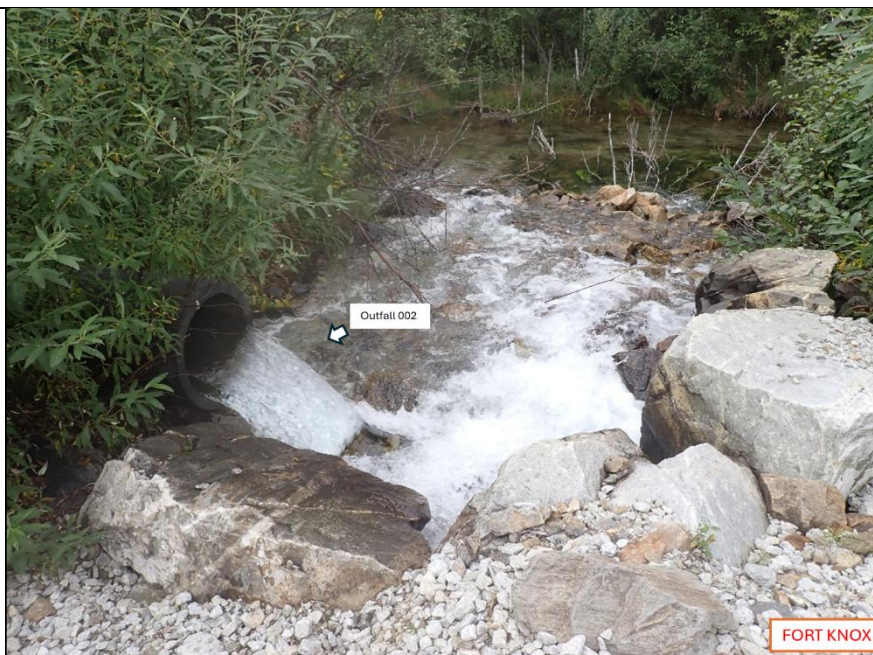


Photo 36: APDES Engineered Wetlands Complex including views of the TSF dam face, TSF Seepage Collection (TSFSC) RO2, Outfall 002, upper and lower wetlands, FWR, Fish Creek Road (FCR), and Gil Road.

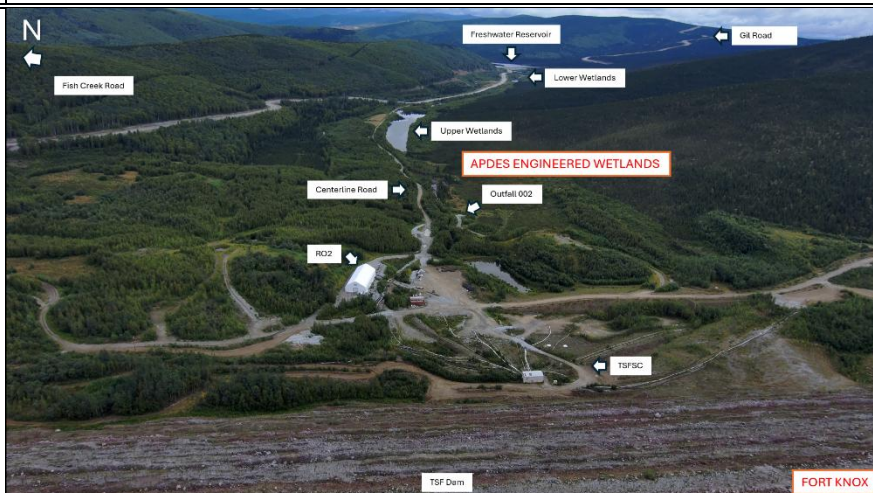


Photo 37: Manh Choh ore stockpiles (MCOS) include the following:

Stockpile 6 Overflow  
OHG-Oxide High Grade

Stockpile 5 Overflow  
SHG-Sulfide High Grade

Stockpile 4 SLG Sulfide  
Low Grade

Stockpile 3 SHG-Sulfide  
High Grade

Stockpile 2 OLG-Oxide  
Low Grade

Stockpile 1 OHG-Oxide  
High Grade



Photo 38: Walter Creek Heap Leach – WCHL, RO1, and partial views of HLB, and HLG1.

