

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER  
DAM SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION UNIT



### Certificate of Approval to Operate a Dam

The **State of Alaska** under AS 46.17, and the regulations adopted under this statute, grants to:

#### **Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.**

The approval to operate the following structure at the **Fort Knox Mine** in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this certificate:

#### **Fort Knox Water Dam (NID ID#AK00211)**

The location of this project is: T2N, R3E, Sections 7, 8, 17 & 18, Fairbanks Meridian

The holder of this certificate shall:

- ☐ Operate the Fort Knox Water Dam and appurtenance works in accordance with accepted practice and Revision 7 of the Operation and Maintenance Manual dated September 2024 and approved by the Department concurrent with this certificate.
- ☐ Except for claims or losses arising from negligence of the State, defend and indemnify the State against, and hold it harmless from any and all claims, demands, legal actions, loss, liability and expense for injury or death of persons, and damages to or loss of property, arising out of or connected with the exercise of the approval granted by this certificate.
- ☐ Comply with all applicable laws, regulations and conditions.
- ☐ Allow representatives of the Department to inspect the work and records covered by this certificate at all times determined necessary by the Commissioner.
- ☐ Follow special conditions that apply to the operation of this dam as found in Attachment A, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO OPERATE A DAM**  
**Fort Knox Water Dam**

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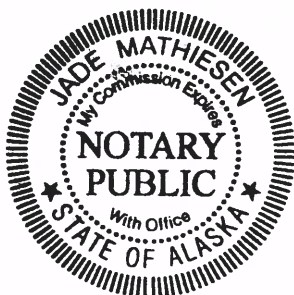
This *Certificate of Approval to Operate a Dam* supersedes any other *Certificate of Approval to Operate a Dam* for the Fort Knox Water Dam and shall become invalid 60 days after the Periodic Safety Inspection due date specified under Attachment A. A valid certificate shall be issued with revised special conditions based on information contained in a current Periodic Safety Inspection Report approved by the Department and dam safety regulatory standards current at the time of the inspection.

This *Certificate of Approval to Operate a Dam* is granted subject to the pertinent statutory provisions in AS 46.17 and in Administrative Regulations in Article 3 of 11 AAC 93.

APPROVED BY: Benjamin Wagner, P. E.  
TITLE: State Dam Safety Engineer  
Division of Mining, Land and Water  
SIGNATURE: Ben Wagner  
DATE: December 23, 2024

State of Alaska            )  
  ) SS.  
Third Judicial District    )

This is to certify that on December 23, 2024, before me appeared Benjamin Wagner, known by me to be the Director or Authorized Representative of the Division of Mining, Land and Water, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and acknowledged to me that this Certificate of Approval was voluntarily executed on behalf of the State of Alaska.



Jade Mathiesen  
Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska  
My Commission expires: with office

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO OPERATE A DAM**  
**Fort Knox Water Dam**

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**Attachment A – Special Conditions**

1. The Fort Knox Water Dam (AK00211) is approved to operate as a Class III (low) hazard potential dam as defined in 11 AAC 93.157 at a nominal crest elevation of 1,039 feet (site datum).
2. Operate, monitor, and inspect the Fort Knox Water Dam in accordance with best practices and the procedures outlined in O&M Manual. Inspect the dam and appurtenant works after all significant seismic or precipitation events. Maintain records of all inspections, monitoring data, and routine maintenance.
3. Document any routine operations and maintenance procedures that deviate from or are not included in the current version of the O&M Manual. Review the O&M Manual concurrent with each Periodic Safety Inspection (PSI) and revise as necessary.
4. Implement the recommendations of the inspection engineer included in the PSI report for the Fort Knox Water Dam by Knight Piésold dated December 19, 2024.
5. Perform a PSI as required by 11 AAC 93.159 on the Fort Knox Water Dam and appurtenance works by August 9, 2029. The frequency for Periodic Safety Inspections shall be in accordance with 11 AAC 93.159(a). The PSI must be performed by an engineer qualified in accordance with 11 AAC 93.193(b). Prior approval of the engineer and the scope of the inspection must be obtained from the Department in advance of the inspection. Submit a draft PSI report to the Department for review within 30 days of the visual inspection of the dam.
6. For any modifications, major repairs, removal, or abandonment of the dam, an application for a certificate of approval must be submitted to the Department.
7. No less than six months prior to closing the mine, submit an application in accordance with 11 AAC 93.173(j) for the transfer of the *Certificate of Approval to Operate a Dam* to the post-closure operating organization. The application must include:
  - a plan and schedule to conduct a comprehensive periodic safety inspection in accordance with 11 AAC 93.159,
  - a plan and schedule to upgrade or repair any deficiencies that may be identified in the periodic safety inspection report,
  - a revised O&M Manual prepared in accordance with 11 AAC 93.197 that reflects the post mine closure operation of the dam.
8. This *Certificate of Approval to Operate a Dam* expires on October 7, 2029.

**End of Attachment A**