

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

SOLID WASTE & WATER PROGRAMS

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FIELD INSPECTION REPORT HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING COMPANY

Inspection Date: August 21, 2008, 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM.
Report Date: August 25, 2008

Weather: Mild, overcast.

HGCMC Personnel: Nellie Ballou, Kerry Lear (Tailings site)
USFS Personnel: Sarah Shoemaker
State Personnel: Kenwyn George, ADEC

Documentation: Photos were taken and are available for inspection at ADEC in Juneau

Purpose of visit:

To observe the installation of the new 18" polyethylene storm water pipe.

Tailings Site

All liner and geotextile had been laid in the Northwest corner. Tails are being placed adjacent to the existing pile.

Water Treatment Plant

Water was being recirculated within the plant while the mill is shut down for routine maintenance for 2-3 days. All sampling instrumentation is now in the WTP building. Kerry Lear pointed out how water could quickly be diverted to Pond 7 if there was a plant upset; also how clean water from the mill could be directly discharged to the outfall or directed to the outfall pipe if it met discharge criteria.

Pond 6

The pond was not inspected. However, the wet well being installed to the south side had arrived and was on a flatbed, ready to be installed the next day. It is approximately 20 feet deep/tall. Sampler pipes are to be installed at some of the incoming pipes from the tailings site drainage area. Once installed HGCMC will not be entering the wet well should there ever be problems with the sampling pipes, however it will be possible to backflush them to clean them out.



New 18” polyethylene pipe

Installation of this pipeline was in progress at Mile 1.5-1.6 of the “B” road. This pipe is carrying all flows from Pond 23 and Pond D. The existing 8” and 10” pipes enter a manifold on the 18” pipe just down from Pond 23. This water management practice was considered more convenient during construction since the existing pipes and the 18” pipe have to be moved around beside the road while the bedding preparation is done. At the time of the visit work was being done on a clean water culvert. There will be dirty water culverts to each side of the clean water culvert. The pipes are being bedded on sand from the pit alongside the “A” road. This material will also be an indicator of the presence of the pipes during future maintenance work. The pipe is being laid such that there are no low spots, all the way from the treatment plant/Pond 7 to Pond 23. Where there is suitable land adjacent to the road the pipes are being laid side-by-side. Where there is rock there will be no blasting or moving the road, so the pipes will be stacked and held in place by cover material. Air valves will be installed on tees (the riser will have a large opening to allow easy capture of air and act as an air “reservoir”) after the completion of installation. Installation of the pipe is expected to take 1 ½ months (with completion around mid-October). 8” pipe between mile 1.8 and Pond 6 that presently resides to the west of the road will be removed for re-use elsewhere.



Mile 1.5 to 1.6



Manifold just downstream from Pond 23

Site 1350

Approximately 40-60,000 cy of waste material was deposited at this site around 1987. Approximately 15%-25% of the material has been excavated and taken to the pad on Site 23 where it is being treated with lime and temporarily stored.



Site 23 pad

The pad is now receiving waste rock from Site 1350. It has a “belly” drain to collect seepage rain and seepage waters for later treatment at the treatment plant.



Pit 7

Rock segregated from the sand at the pit on the “A” road is stored at this site. Some of the rock is being crushed. This rock is used for storm water rock “burritos” and for roads in the tailings site.

