

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER

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FIELD INSPECTION REPORT HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING COMPANY

Inspection Date: November 18, 2008, 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

Report Date: November 25, 2008

Weather: Cool to cold, light snow at higher elevations

HGCMC Personnel: Briefly: Jennifer Saran, Kerry Lear

Sampling: Ted Morales, Chris Wallace

State Personnel: Kenwyn George, Richard Heffern, ADEC

Purpose of visit:

To observe sample collection at a surface site and a well. Collect reference samples for independent analysis at the same time as HGCMC collect their samples.

Discussion with Kerry Lear

The use of air monitoring devices around the tailings site was discussed with Kerry Lear. He said there is a permanent high-volume TSP monitor near the outfall shack. They also have a portable one, but it is battery driven and the batteries do not last for long periods. Historically they have deployed this in the tributary creek drainage due to lack of line power there. Currently it is not deployed because batteries have to be carried out to the unit, and they are heavy. These samplers are not used to show compliance with the ambient air quality standards but to help assess Pb dust outfall onto the ground and its migration into the ground water and subsequently adjust control strategies to reduce ground water contamination. It should be noted that only EPA Reference or Equivalent Method (FRM/FEM) high-volume TSP samplers should be used to show compliance with the Pb-TSP ambient air quality standard since low-volume TSP and PM₁₀ samplers tend to show poor comparability with the EPA FRM Pb-TSP high-volume method.

HGCMC lab

Prior to going out to the monitoring sites, the lab was visited to lab discuss calibration procedures of test meters for field measurements of pH, conductivity, temperature and turbidity.

Monitoring Site 54 – Greens Creek – Lower

DEC observed HGCMC staff collect water samples at two sites. The surface water samples were for Suite P of the FWMP (Appendix 1 of the GPO).



Field filtering



Monitoring Site 56 – Well D-00-1

This well was purged the day before sampling. Duplicate ground water samples were collected for Suite Q of the FWMP (Appendix 1 of the GPO).



Samples were sealed in a cooler by ADEC and transported to Juneau where they were shipped to TestAmerica for analysis via Alaska Airlines Goldstreak.

Tailings Site

The tailings site was briefly observed on the return trip to Hawk Inlet. Tailings are being placed in the south-western portion of the Pit 5 expansion area.

