

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER

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ANNUAL MEETING SITE VISIT REPORT HECLA GREENS CREEK MINING COMPANY

Site visit Date: June 08, 2011, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Report Date: June 14, 2011

Weather: Overcast, temperatures in the low 60's

HGCMC Personnel: Jennifer Saran, Environmental Affairs Manager
Pete Condon, no longer HGCMC but providing consulting services
as Petros Geoconsulting . Geochemist
Chris Neville, Mine manager
Bob Haecker, Mill Manager

Agency Personnel: Kenwyn George, ADEC Wastewater permitting; Ed Emswiler,
ADEC Solid Waste; Tim Pilon, ADEC Wastewater permitting;
Theresa Svancara, ADEC APDES program; Jill Weitz, ADEC
Compliance and Enforcement; Sharmon Stambaugh, ADNR; Steve
McGroarty, ADNR Mining; Chad VanOrmer, USFS ANM District
Ranger; Sarah Samuelson, USFS Lead Minerals Administrator; Joe
Manning, USFS Minerals Administrator; Chad Hood, USFS; Teri
Camery, CBJ; Heather Marlow, CBJ Lands-Resources Mgr, Alan
Steffert, CBJ Project Engineer

Purpose of visit: Annual site visit for the state's Large Mine Permitting Team. After safety training the visit comprised tours of the underground, mill and site facilities. The mill was not operating at the time of the visit to enable routine maintenance to be done.



Mine tour group

Underground tour: The group was split into two for the mill and underground tours. Two personnel carrier tractors took people underground to the 473 Level. The mine currently descends to -420’.

Site 23: An inclinometer at this site has indicated movement at the base of the pile of around 3mm per year. Three additional inclinometers have been installed to track pile movement. Two GPS stations have also been constructed atop rigid steel tubes. Any movement of these would indicate movement of the top of the pile. Acid generating rock from Site 1350 had been placed on the lined area this site for later placement underground. Additional monitoring of Greens Creek downstream of Gallagher Creek and any potential seepage from the site 23 area was briefly discussed and is to be further investigated.



GPS station

Site E: Material will be removed during the summer to the tailings facility; it will take 4-5 years to remove all the material from this site. Approximately 40,000 cy a year are removed. Beneath the Site E waste rock is material suitable for reclamation.

Tailings site: Work was under way on the road re-alignment to the east of the East Ridge expansion. Imported rock was being used for the foundation because local rock contains pyrite. A liner is to be placed in this area and tied into the existing liner. Proposals to double the area of the tailings facility to provide sufficient storage for the next 30 years was discussed and a ridge climbed to overlook the area to the south of the existing tails pile, i.e. in the Tributary Creek drainage. An alternate site adjacent to the A road was also viewed. An EIS is presently being conducted for this proposed expansion project. Hecla would like to begin site preparation activities in 2012 for use of the expansion area for tailings placement by 2014.



Tailings site; active placement, spreading and rolling under way.



East Ridge expansion road in the background.



Location for alternate tailings expansion site

Other

Zinc Bridge was having maintenance work done on it.

Photos:



Hawk Inlet facilities



Sand pit on the "A" road.