



## INSPECTION REPORT: KENSINGTON GOLD MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group  
8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd  
Juneau, AK 99801  
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Date of Inspection: Thursday November 14, 2019  
Date of Report: Tuesday December 3, 2019  
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Richard Dudek

Ranger District: Juneau Ranger District  
Weather Conditions: Fog with rain. Temperature: low 40’s °F.

Exploration in accordance with operating plan	Not Applicable
Timber removal following timber sale contract	Not Applicable
BMPs for erosion control	Satisfactory
Water Quality BMPs	Satisfactory
Public safety & fire prevention	Satisfactory
Reclamation work adequate and timely	Satisfactory
Roads maintenance adequate and current	Satisfactory
Tails placement in accordance with plan	Satisfactory
Waste Rock placement in compliance	Satisfactory
Company supervision of operation	Satisfactory
Operating in a clean and orderly manner	Satisfactory

\*\*Any conditions noted as UNSATISFACTORY will require follow up action by the Mine Inspector and a written memorandum to the operator, outlining the necessary work.\*\*

### NEW REMARKS

Coeur Alaska provided transportation to and from site.

Kevin Eppers (Sr. Environmental Manager, Coeur Alaska) accompanied Richard Dudek (Geologist, United States Forest Service (USFS)), Jon Wendel (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)) and Dylan Morrison (ADEC).

This inspection included the Access roads, Comet Development Pile, Comet Water Treatment Plant (CTWP), Sherman Creek Outfall 001, Comet Bridges, Pit 4, Bridge 1 ponds, and the TTF area.

### ACTION ITEMS:

- **Additional BMPs for stormwater management and sediment controls are required at Bridge 1. Turbid water was observed flowing from a pond into the forest, then into Johnson Creek.**

**NOTEWORTHY ITEMS: Coeur Alaska personnel are currently excavating the contaminated soils from where the old diesel generators were located (Photo 1).**

### ACCESS ROADS

During the inspection, the access roads were in adequate condition (2016 BMP Plan; Table 4-4).



### **COMET DEVELOPMENT PILE**

Waste rock from the Raven drift is currently being deposited at this location (Photo 2).

### **COMET WATER TREATMENT PLANT (CWTP)**

On 11/24/2019, the CWTP was treating 1,900 gallons per minute (gpm). Pond 1 was receiving mine site water (Photo 3). Pond 2 was receiving back wash from the water treatment plant (Photo 4).

White material was observed on the clean test rock used for monitoring its accumulation (Photo 5). Personnel at the CWTP continue to use calcium chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) to help remove white material out of solution.

### **SHERMAN CREEK OUTFALL**

White material was observed on the rocks in the creek bed (Photo 6-7).

### **COMET ACCESS ROAD BRIDGES**

Both of the Comet Bridges silt fencing are working as intended (Photos 8-9). A stormwater cutout by the No Name Bridge end needs to be moved to prevent the gravel road from eroding (Photo 10).

### **KENSINGTON MILL AREA**

Coeur Alaska personnel are currently excavating contaminated soils from where the old diesel generators were located (Photo 11). These soils will then be shipped off site to an appropriate facility for disposal. Coeur Alaska will then remove the generators remaining support infrastructure, and then construct a ramp from the Julian portal down through to where generators 1 and 2 were located.

Good housekeeping practices were observed at the assay laboratory ((Photo 12) (Appendix 4g BMP Plan; Table 4-1)).

### **PIT 4**

Coeur personnel continue to use the graphitic phyllite (GP) stockpile (Photo 13) staged at pit 4 for GP/cement underground backfill. The x-ray sorter was offline the day of this inspection (Photo 14).

### **BRIDGE 1**

The small tire that was documented in IR 177 has been removed, and the secondary silt fencing was repaired (Photo 15).

During the site inspection it was observed that turbid water had breached a settling pond's wall and was flowing into Johnson Creek (Photos 16-18). Additional mitigations for stormwater management and sediment controls are required at this location.

### **TAILINGS TREATMENT FACILITY (TTF) AREA**

The TTF's recorded water level on 11/24/2019 was 707 feet (Photo 19). The tailings barge has been moved central area of the TTF.

Coeur Alaska is currently exploring additional BMPs and/or modifications to prevent future ARD from flowing into the dam spillway (20-21).

The dam spillway and the effluent spillway were functioning as intended (Photos 22-23). No ARD plumes were observed in the northern TTF area (Photo 24).

The treatment plant was discharging approximately 1,050-gpm to the effluent spillway, and the withdrawal rate from the Upper Slate Lake (USL) bypass was 525-gpm. The seep plant was not online during this inspection.

“Good housekeeping” practices were observed at the TTF water treatment plant (Appendix 4g BMP Plan; Table 4-1).

**FOLLOW UP ITEMS:**

- Inspect the BMPs for Bridge 1 settling ponds.
- Inspect the access roads.
- Inspect the Comet water treatment plant and settling ponds.
- Inspect for white material in Sherman Creek.
- Inspect the TTF area.

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**PHOTOS** (Additional photos available upon request)

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**Photo 1.** The location where the old generators once stood.



**Photo 2. The Comet development pile.**



**Photo 3. Pond 1 at the Comet Water Treatment Plant.**



**Photo 4. Pond 2 at the Comet Water Treatment Plant.**



**Photo 5. The test rock used for monitoring white material accumulation.**



**Photo 6. Sherman Creek outfall 001.**



**Photo 7. A rock pulled from Sherman Creek with white material on it.**



**Photo 8. No Name Creek Bridge (Comet Beach access road system).**



**Photo 9. Concern here is the increased potential for erosion at the bridge end.**



**Photo 10. Sherman Creek Bridge (Comet Beach access road system).**



**Photo 11. The location where the old diesel generators were located.**



**Photo 12. The Kensington assay laboratory.**



**Photo 13. The pug plant at pit 4.**



**Photo 14. The x-ray sorter for reject pebbles at pit 4.**



**Photo 15. The tire has been removed and new secondary silt fencing was installed.**



**Photo 16. Turbid water was observed breaching the settling pond and flowing into the forest.**



**Photo 17. Turbid water flowing towards Johnson Creek.**



**Photo 18. Turbid water from the settling pond flowing into Johnson Creek.**



**Photo 19. The Tailings Treatment Facility.**



**Photo 20. Coeur personnel recently applied additional cement to the spillway walls to indicate if any new ARD generation has breached the wall.**



**Photo 21. ARD staining**



**Photo 22. The diversion pipeline discharging into the dam spillway.**



**Photo 23. The TTF water treatment plant effluent spillway.**



**Photo 24. The northern TTF laydown area.**

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Thanks to Kensington Mine for a safe visit.  
U.S. Forest Service Officer: /s/ Richard Dudek

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