



INSPECTION REPORT: KENSINGTON GOLD MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group
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Date of Inspection: Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Date of Report: Wednesday, January 19, 2022
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Casey Loofbourrow

Ranger District: Juneau Ranger District
Weather Conditions: Snow and rain. Temperature: 30'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.

Any conditions noted as Requires Action will require attention from the operator and suggestions for necessary work are listed below

A Cessna 206 aircraft provided by Alaska Seaplanes was use for transportation to and from the mine.

Kevin Eppers (Environmental Manager, Coeur Alaska) accompanied Casey Loofbourrow (geologist) and Richard Dudek (geologist) of the USFS Tongass Minerals Group.

Sites visited during the inspection included: access roads, Comet Development Pile, Comet Water Treatment Plant (CWTP), Sherman Creek Outfall 001, Pit 4, the Tailings Treatment Facility (TTF) area, and the Fuel Depot.

STATUS OF PENDING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS:

ID	Action Item	Status
183-2	ARD seepage at the TTF SE abutment.	Pending. Shotcrete or other mitigation measures will be applied, as needed, once snow melt and ground conditions permit access and ability to perform the work (Photo 14).
185-1	The graphitic phyllite (GP) stockpile at Pit 4 was not adequately covered to prevent rainwater infiltration and potential ARD generation.	Resolved. Stockpile was covered with impermeable liner before snowfall (Photo 9).



NEW ACTION ITEMS:

No new action items to report.

ACCESS ROADS

The access roads were in adequate condition (2016 BMP Plan: Table 4-4). A deep snowpack exists throughout the site and mitigation measures to control melt water will be implemented, including creating gaps in the snowpack adjacent to roads to allow surface melt water to exit the roadway and reduce road surface erosion.

COMET DEVELOPMENT PILE

The slopes of the Comet waste rock storage area appear stable (Photo 1). Explosives were used following recent heavy snowfall to reduce the avalanche hazard above the CWTP (Photo 2).

COMET WATER TREATMENT PLANT (CWTP)

The CWTP was treating approximately 1050 gallons per minute (gpm). Ponds 1 and 2 were receiving mine site water and functioning as intended (Photos 3-4). The mobile water treatment plant (CWTP plant 2.5) has been idled and winterized (Photo 5).

White material was not observed on the test rocks used for monitoring in the CWTP (Photo 6).

SHERMAN CREEK OUTFALL

White material was not observed in Sherman Creek at Outfall 001 (Photo 7).

PIT 4/PUG PLANT

The pug plant has ceased operation for the winter (Photo 8). The graphitic phyllite at this location was covered with an impermeable liner before snowfall (Photo 9).

TAILINGS TREATMENT FACILITY (TTF) AREA

The TTF lake elevation was 713.6 feet.

The TTF dam spillway was covered with deep snow (Photo 10). Coeur has installed a handrail along the new raise above the spillway to facilitate safe inspection and maintenance (Photo 11)

The TTF was mostly frozen, and tailings were being deposited in the northeast area of the facility (Photo 12). At that location water is being sprayed to maintain an unfrozen area to allow the tailings deposition barge to move as needed (Photo 13).

Pending action item 183-2: The ARD seep observed below the TTF dam in previous inspections is under deep snow (Photo 14). Once this area is accessible, Coeur will evaluate the need for additional mitigation measures and implement those as needed.

The TTF water treatment rate was 552 gpm.

Good housekeeping practices were observed at the TTF water treatment plant (Photo 15)(Appendix 4g BMP plan; Table 4-1).

FUEL DEPOT

The fuel depot was in good condition and no sheen was observed. Deep snow was present which limited the extent of the facility that was visible (Photo 16).

PHOTOS. All photos taken on day of inspection. Additional photos available upon request.



Photo 1. Comet waste rock stockpile.



Photo 2. Comet waste rock stockpile above CWTP. Dark areas are where explosives were used for avalanche hazard reduction.



Photo 3. Pond 1 at CWTP.



Photo 4. Pond 2 at CWTP.



Photo 5. Winterized CWTP 2.5.



Photo 6. Test rocks in CWTP.



Photo 7. Sherman Creek Outfall 001.



Photo 8. Idled pug plant in Pit 4.



Photo 9. Graphitic phyllite stockpile in Pit 4.



Photo 10. TTF dam spillway.



Photo 11. TTF dam spillway with new handrail.



Photo 12. TTF lake. Dark area with open water in foreground is the reclaim barge, tailings deposition area is dark area up and to the right of reclaim barge.



Photo 13. Tailings deposition area showing spraying water used to maintain open water for deposition barge maneuverability.



Photo 14. Location of ARD seep below TTF dam covered in snow.

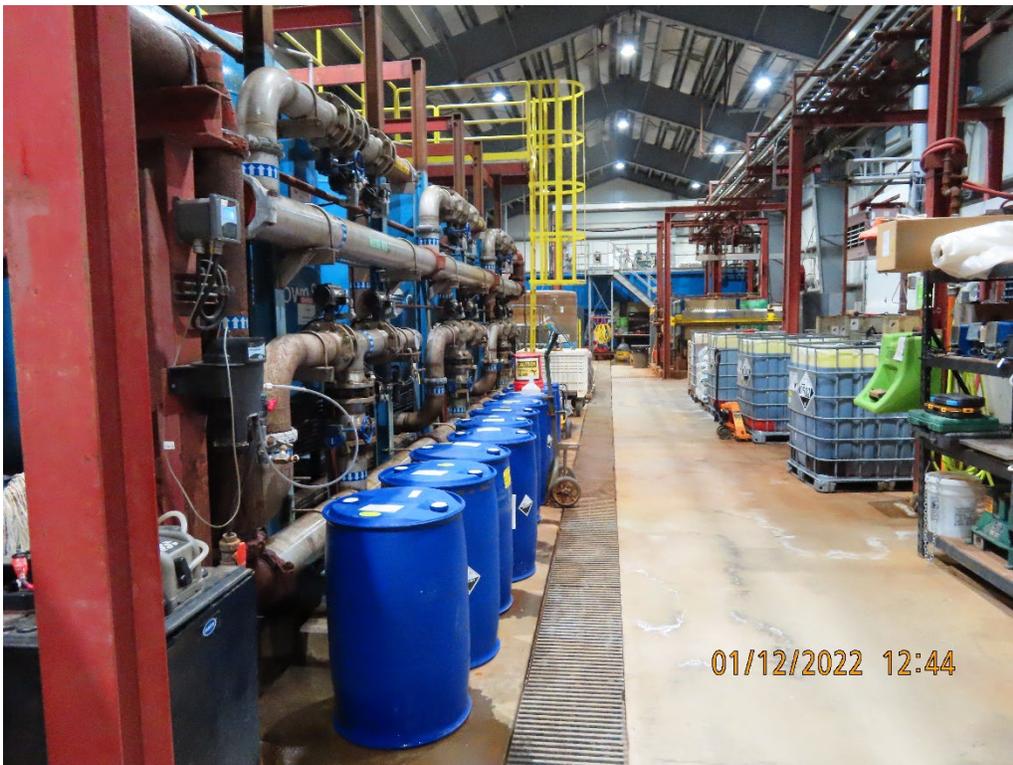


Photo 15. TTF WTP interior.



Photo 16. Fuel depot showing deep snow.

Thanks to the Kensington Mine for a safe visit.
U.S. Forest Service: /s/ Casey Loofbourrow
