



INSPECTION REPORT: KENSINGTON GOLD MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group
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Date of Inspection: Wednesday, March 8, 2022
Date of Report: Wednesday, March 15, 2022
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Casey Loofbourrow

Ranger District: Juneau Ranger District
Weather Conditions: Sunny. 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
Road 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

The mine crew boat was used for transportation to and from the mine.

Pete Strow (Senior Environmental Coordinator, Coeur Alaska) accompanied Casey Loofbourrow (geologist), Pat Dryer (hydrogeologist), 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, the Slate Cove marine facility, 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).



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 appear to be functioning, preventing excessive ponding or concentrated surface runoff.

COMET DEVELOPMENT PILE

The slopes of the Comet waste rock storage area appear stable (Photo 1). Recent waste rock placement has not occurred.

COMET WATER TREATMENT PLANT (CWTP)

The CWTP was treating approximately 1750 gallons per minute (gpm). Turbidity of the received water measured 168 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU), and discharged treated water measured 0.4 NTU. Ponds 1 and 2 were receiving mine site water and functioning as intended (Photos 2-3). The mobile water treatment plant (CWTP plant 2.5) has been idled and winterized.

White material was not observed on the test rocks used for monitoring in the CWTP (Photo 4).

SHERMAN CREEK OUTFALL

White material was not observed in Sherman Creek at Outfall 001 (Photo 5).

PIT 4/PUG PLANT

The graphitic phyllite at this location is covered with an impermeable liner to minimize rain and meltwater infiltration and potential generation of acid rock drainage (Photo 6).

TAILINGS TREATMENT FACILITY (TTF) AREA

The TTF dam spillway was covered with deep snow. No visual indication of active acid rock drainage seeps entering the spillway past the recently constructed concrete raise was observed (Photo 7).

The TTF was mostly frozen, and tailings were being deposited in the northeast area of the facility (Photo 8). At that location water is being sprayed to maintain an unfrozen area to allow the tailings deposition barge to be relocated as needed.

Pending action item 183-2: The ARD seep observed below the TTF dam in previous inspections is under deep snow. 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 950 gpm.

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

MARINE PORT FACILITY AND FUEL DEPOT

The fuel depot was in good condition and no sheen was observed. Snow was present which limited the extent of the facility that was visible (Photo 9).

The stormwater BMPs at the marine facility were functioning as intended, with discharged water observed to be clear (Photo 10).

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



Photo 1. Comet waste rock stockpile.



Photo 2. Pond 1 at CWTP.



Photo 3. Pond 2 at CWTP.



Photo 4. Test rocks in CWTP.



Photo 5. Sherman Creek Outfall 001.



Photo 6. Graphitic phyllite stockpile in Pit 4.



Photo 7. TTF dam spillway.



Photo 8. TTF lake. Dark area with open water in foreground is the reclaim barge, tailings deposition area is in the background.



Photo 9. Fuel depot with deep snow present.



Photo 10. Slate Cove marine facility stormwater sediment BMPs.

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