



## INSPECTION REPORT: KENSINGTON GOLD MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group  
8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd  
Juneau, AK 99801  
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Date of Inspection: Wednesday, September 21, 2022  
Date of Report: October 12, 2022  
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Pat Dryer

Ranger District: Juneau Ranger District  
Weather Conditions: Mostly Cloudy. Temperature: mid 50's °F.

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Exploration in accordance with operating plan | Not Applicable |
| Timber removal following timber sale contract | Satisfactory   |
| 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\*\*

Transportation to and from the mine was provided by Alaska Seaplanes.

Kevin Eppers (Coeur Environmental Manager) accompanied Pat Dryer (Hydrologist) and Casey Loofbourrow (Geologist) of the USFS Tongass Minerals Group.

Sites visited during the inspection included: Access roads, Comet waste rock storage area, Comet Water Treatment Plant (CWTP), Sherman Creek Outfall 001, Pit 4, Pit 7, the Mud Dump, and the Tailings Treatment Facility (TTF) and access road.

### STATUS OF PENDING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS:

| ID    | Action Item   | Status  |
|-------|---|---|
| 188-1 | Kensington access road guard rails are damaged and need to be replaced.   | <b>Pending.</b> Coeur is awaiting materials to make the repairs.  |
| 191-1 | Staining on the TTF dam lower access road will be investigated to determine source and if additional mitigation measures are necessary. | <b>Pending.</b> Coeur has constructed catchment sumps and taken water quality samples. Coeur is waiting on results from water quality sampling to determine source of staining. |

**NEW ACTION ITEMS:**

No new action items were observed during this inspection.

**ACCESS ROADS**

Access roads appeared in good condition with stormwater BMP's functioning and in good repair.

**COMET DEVELOPMENT PILE**

The slopes of the Comet waste rock storage area appeared stable (Photo 1). There has been no recent waste rock placement at this site. On this inspection the USFS and Coeur personnel walked the perimeter of the Comet development pile to determine if BMP's at the toe of the pile were functioning as designed. The Comet development pile appeared stable and BMP's appeared to be functioning as intended (Photos 2 and 3). This was conducted as part of the quarterly BMP inspection as specified in the POA1 ROD.

Timber clearing has commenced following the timber sale contract adjacent to Pond 1 (Photo 4) for the Comet waste rock storage expansion of POA1. Coeur plans to construct stormwater BMP's once grubbing has started.

**COMET WATER TREATMENT PLANT (CWTP)**

The CWTP treatment rate was approximately 2433 gpm. A dredge was located in Pond 1 (Photo 5) and was operating at the time of the inspection. Pond 2 was receiving waters pumped from Pond 1 (Photo 6).

White material was not observed on the test rocks used for monitoring in the CWTP (Photo 7).

**SHERMAN CREEK OUTFALL**

No white material was observed at Outfall 001, where treated water from the CWTP is discharged (Photo 8).

**COMET BEACH**

The core storage area at the Comet Beach was in orderly condition.

**MUD DUMP**

The surface equipment shop has been relocated from Pit 4 to the north end of the Mud Dump (Photo 9).

**PIT 4/PUG PLANT**

The Pug Plant was not operational during our visit and was in the process of being repaired. The graphitic phyllite stockpiled in Pit 4 was covered as required to prevent water infiltration into the stockpile (Photos 10 and 11).

**PIT 7**

Coeur has finished stockpiling material at Pit 7 for this season. Coeur intends to use this material as fill for POA1 Stage 4 back dam construction.

**TAILINGS TREATMENT FACILITY (TTF)**

The water level for the TTF (Photo 12) was 715.75 feet.



The TTF dam spillway appeared in good condition and there was no visual indication of ARD seepage reaching the spillway (Photo 13). The face of the dam was free of debris (Photo 14).

**PENDING ACTION ITEM 191-1:** Adjacent to and running across the lower TTF dam access road, reddish staining from a seepage is present. Due to the presence of ARD-generating graphitic phyllite, groundwater in this vicinity is captured in wells and transported to the ARD seepage treatment plant. Additionally, Coeur has constructed a containment sump (Photo 15) and collected water quality samples for which results have not yet been received. Preliminary field sampling indicates the seep may not be ARD, as the pH is above 7.0. This location will be monitored, and water quality testing results summarized, in a subsequent inspection report.

Good housekeeping practices were observed inside the TTF water treatment plant (Photo 16, Appendix 4g BMP plan; Table 4-1). The TTF water treatment plant was treating 730 gpm, and the water discharged to Outfall 002 measured 7.39 pH and .285 NTU.

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

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**Photo 1. Comet waste rock storage area.**



**Photo 2. View of the slope of the Comet Development pile looking north from the Comet Water Treatment Plant.**



**Photo 3. View from the toe of the Comet Development pile looking north.**



**Photo 4. Tree clearing has commenced as part of approved activities under POA1 near Pond 1 of the Comet Water Treatment Plant.**



**Photo 5. Comet Water Treatment Plant (CWTP) Pond 1.**



**Photo 6. CWTP Pond 2.**



**Photo 7. CWTP white material test rocks.**



**Photo 8. Sherman Creek Outfall 001.**



**Photo 9. Surface equipment shop relocated from Pit 4 to the Mud Dump.**



**Photo 10. Graphitic phyllite stockpile at Pit 4.**



**Photo 11. Graphitic phyllite day use stockpile at Pit 4**



**Photo 12. TTF looking north**



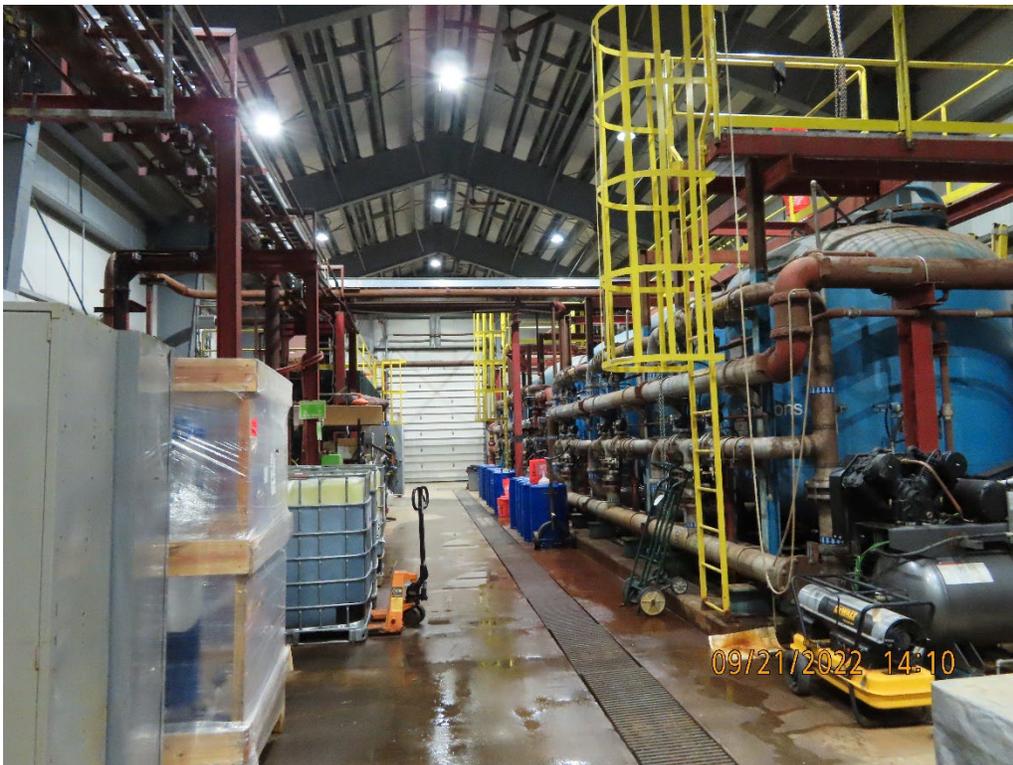
**Photo 13. TTF dam face.**



**Photo 14. TTF dam spillway.**



**Photo 15. Seepage staining adjacent to lower TTF dam access road and constructed containment sump.**



**Photo 16. TTF water treatment plant interior.**



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

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