



INSPECTION REPORT: KENSINGTON GOLD MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group
8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 789-6276 – office
(907) 586-8808 – fax

Date of Inspection: Wednesday, December 21, 2022
Date of Report: Tuesday, January 10, 2023
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Richard Dudek

Ranger District: Juneau Ranger District
Weather Conditions: Mostly Cloudy with wind. Temperature: 11 °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 the Coeur Alaska crew boat.

Kevin Eppers (Coeur Environmental Manager) accompanied Richard Dudek (Geologist) from the USFS Tongass Minerals Group and Shannon Kelly from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR).

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

STATUS OF PENDING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS:

ID	Action Item	Status
191-1	Staining on the TTF dam lower access road will be investigated to determine source and if additional mitigation measures are necessary.	Pending. Coeur has constructed catchment sumps and taken water quality samples. Preliminary results have been shared with the USFS, but further sampling is planned to determine the source.
194-1	Graphitic phyllite stockpiled at Pit 4 was not covered.	Pending. Surface Operations will be notified about this action.



192-2	Investigate source of surface discharge near abandoned borehole in Pit 4.	Pending. Further investigation is necessary to determine if source of groundwater.
194-3	Large woody debris was observed along the face of the TTF dam.	Pending. The woody debris is currently frozen in the TTF.

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

No new actions items were observed on this inspection.

ACCESS ROADS

Access roads appeared in good condition. During the winter months, Surface Operations apply pea gravel to the roads for traction.

COMET DEVELOPMENT PILE

The Comet waste rock storage pile was stable (Photo 1) and there has been no recent waste rock placement at this site.

COMET WATER TREATMENT PLANT (CWTP)

The CWTP treatment rate was approximately 1,734 gpm. A dredge was observed in Pond 1 (Photo 2) and was not operating at the time of this inspection. Pond 2 was receiving backwash water from the CWTP (Photo 3).

White material was not observed on the test rocks used for monitoring in the CWTP.

SHERMAN CREEK OUTFALL

No white material was observed at Outfall 001 (Photo 4).

MILL PONDS (WOLF PONDS)

As stated in IR 194 11/16/2022, a fuel spill had occurred at the Mill benches 30,000-gallon diesel fuel tank, which overwhelmed the fuel/water separator with fuel/water mix entering the Mill ponds (Photo 5). ADEC was informed that a spill had occurred at this location. During the reclamation process, the excavated contaminated soils were covered and staged at Pit 4. The contaminated soils are currently being evaluated by Coeur Alaska to determine the most cost-effective way for disposal (Photo 6).

PIT 4/PUG PLANT

The Pug Plant is currently offline during the winter months (Photo 7).

PENDING ACTION ITEM 194-1: Graphitic phyllite stockpiled at Pit 4 was partially uncovered. The pile needs to be covered as required to prevent ARD generation (Photo 8).

PENDING ACTION ITEM 194-2: To determine the source of upwelling near abandoned borehole in Pit 4. Currently due to freezing conditions, no upwelling was observed (Photo 9).

UNDERGROUND PASTE PLANT



The RO system is currently online to help reduce the concentration of sulfates in mill water entering the TTF (Photo 10). Coeur Alaska will dispose of the brine waste in the underground stopes.

TAILINGS TREATMENT FACILITY (TTF)

The water level for the TTF (Photo 11) was 720.5 feet. TTF Operators were breaking up the ice to create a path to access the tailings barge.

The TTF dam spillway appeared in good condition and is covered with snow and ice. There were no visual signs of ARD seepage in the spillway (Photo 12).

PENDING ACTION ITEM 191-1: Coeur Alaska constructed a containment sump adjacent to the TTF dam access road for collecting water quality samples. Preliminary results showed elevated metals and sampling at this location. Coeur Alaska will continue sampling/monitoring after the winter season is over.

Good housekeeping (Appendix 4g BMP plan; Table 4-1) practices were observed inside the TTF water treatment plant (Photo 13).

The TTF water treatment plant was treating 804 gpm and the turbidity of the effluent water at Outfall 002 was 0.477 NTU.

FUEL DEPOT

The fuel depot was in good condition with the BMPs functioning as intended. No fuel sheening was observed inside the fuel containment area (Photo 14).

PORT FACILITY

The port facility appeared in good condition with stormwater BMPs were frozen over (Photos 15-17).

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



Photo 1. The Comet development pile.



Photo 2. CWTP pond 1.



Photo 3. CWTP pond 2.



Photo 4. The Sherman Creek Outfall 002.



Photo 5. The Mill ponds (Wolf Ponds).



Photo 6. The contaminated soils stockpiled at pit 4.



Photo 7. The pug plant at pit 4.



Photo 8. GP pile at pit 4.



Photo 9. The location of the abandoned borehole where upwelling took place.



Photo 10. The reverse osmosis (RO) system for removing sulfates out of mill water.



Photo 11. The TTF.



Photo 12. TTF dam spillway and bypass.



Photo 13. The TTF water treatment plant.



Photo 14. The fuel depot.



Photo 15. The port facility.



Photo 16. Port facility ditch.



Photo 17. Port facility access road.

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