ANNUAL MEETING SITE VISIT REPORT

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Water

410 Willoughby Ave, Juneau, AK 99811

Report by:
Kenwyn George
907-465-5313

Section A: General Data

Site Visit Date	Permit #	Borough	Receiving Waters	Weather	Facility Type
June 9, 2011	AK-005057	N/A	Sherman Creek E. Fork Slate Creek	Cloudy, temperatures in the 60's.	Mine

Discharges to: Surface Water ☒ Ground Water ☐ **ANNOUNCED** Site visit

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Site/ Facility visited		**Entry Time**	**Permit Effective Date**
Comet (WTP), Jualin mill and TTF facilities	**Loc:** Lat: 58d 49' 58"N Long: 134d 57' 58"W **Source: NPDES permit**	08:45	September 1, 2005
		Exit Time	**Permit Expiration Date**
		13:00	August 31, 2010

On-Site Representative

Luke Russell, Director of Environmental Affairs and Permitting, Kevin Eppers, Env. Superintendent, Dave Jensen, WTP supervisor, Ed Coffland, Dam/TTF engineer, Cassandra Joos, Sr. Env. Coordinator.

Additional Participants:

Annual meeting attendees – see below

Responsible Official(s):

Luke Russell, Kevin Eppers x Contacted	
Kevin: 523-3328	

	Yes	No
Samples Taken?		X
Photos Taken?	X	
Analytical Results?		X

Section C: Findings/Comments

SITE VISIT REPORT

Transport to the site via Coeur AK boat. Departed Juneau at 9:30 AM, arrived at the site at 11:00 AM. Provided safety training before the tour. Departed Kensington 5:00 PM.

This was a site visit for people attending the annual meeting. Personnel present: Kenwyn George, ADEC Wastewater permitting; Theresa Svancara, ADEC APDES program; Honor Carpenter and Jill Weitz, ADEC Compliance and Enforcement; Sharmon Stambaugh, ADNR; Steve McGroarty, ADNR Mining; Marti Marshall, USFS Juneau District Ranger; Sarah Samuelson, USFS Lead Minerals Administrator; Joe Manning, USFS Minerals Administrator; Chad Hood, USFS; Rorie Watt, CBJ City Engineer; Greg Chaney, CBJ; Heather Marlow, CBJ Lands-Resources Mgr, Alan Steffert, CBJ Project Engineer

Mill

The mill was operating during the tour. The assay lab was toured as well as the mill. The mine has made 26 shipments of concentrate in the last year.

Mine

The tour took participants to the ore body (photos 1 & 2). The clean water bypass pipe within the mine has been constructed almost to the air control doors near the Comet portal.

Comet WTP – operator Todd Thurber

Additional space for sediment bags has been created in the area that was constructed for the nitrate removal system. Sediment removal has been hampered by pH changes affecting the flocculant that coagulates fine sediment for capture within the bags. Elevated pH was experienced temporarily due to the paste plant construction and Cement Rock Fill (CRF) operations. An additional two shifts have been added to expedite cleaning the pond. The completion of the clean water diversion pipe within the mine will reduce sediment transport out of the mine. The 18" pipe for this should be delivered within the coming month. Materials are also awaited for the additional sumps within the mine and should arrive within 30-60 days. There will be three sumps constructed; these will also reduce the volume of sediment transported to Pond 1. Once Pond 1 has been cleaned of sediment the liner will be replaced in Pond 2.

Tailings Treatment Facility (TTF)

The lake was clear of ice and logs had been removed from in front of the dam. The current water level is 664.5'. The maximum operational water level for Phase 1 of the dam is 668'. The spillway for the Phase 1 dam is at 684', and there is sufficient freeboard between the maximum operating level and spillway to contain a 200-year storm event. Stage 2 of the dam, for which engineering and permits will commence this year, will have a spillway level of 709'. Construction of Phase 2 is planned for 2012. A bathymetric survey is to be done soon to determine the elevation of the tailings within the TTF and the density of the tailings. At the treatment plant potassium permanganate (KMnO4) tests were being conducted. This second round of testing (at the TTF plant and Comet plant #1) was run from Monday through Thursday, and results were said to be promising.

Seeps of acidic water have discolored the face of the shotcrete placed to isolate the acid generating rock. Golder will be on site June 14th to see whether better mitigation measures can be used to prevent seeps.

Storm water. No issues. Very little rainfall so far this year. Ponds appear in good working order, water levels are down in some ponds as the water is used for dust control on the roads.

SAMPLING ACTIVITIES – None conducted.

SUMMARY

Any issues requiring action by Coeur or the state agencies?

1. During the May 5th inspection it was noted that the secondary containment around the transformer at the Comet WTP was full of water. A polyethylene sheet had been placed over the whole unit to prevent rainwater from filling the containment.

Section D: Compliance/Recommendations

ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS

None

POTENTIAL WATER QUALITY VIOLATIONS

Manganese levels are elevated and above water quality standards. Coeur is working on a method to remove manganese from the effluent.

Section E: Appendices

1: Photographic record.

Signature	Signature only acknowledges receipt of this report. Inspection report given to:
Kenwyn George 6/15/11	
Environmental Engineer Division of Water Date	Company (if applicable): Date

PHOTO ADDENDUM – KENSINGTON MINE – MAY 5, 2011

PHOTO 1. ORE BODY

PHOTO 2. ORE BODY

PHOTO 3. COMET WTP, SEDIMENT BAGS TO THE RIGHT

PHOTO 4. ADDITIONAL SEDIMENT BAGS

Photo 5. Pond 1 sediment and dredge

Photo 6. TTF dam and impoundment

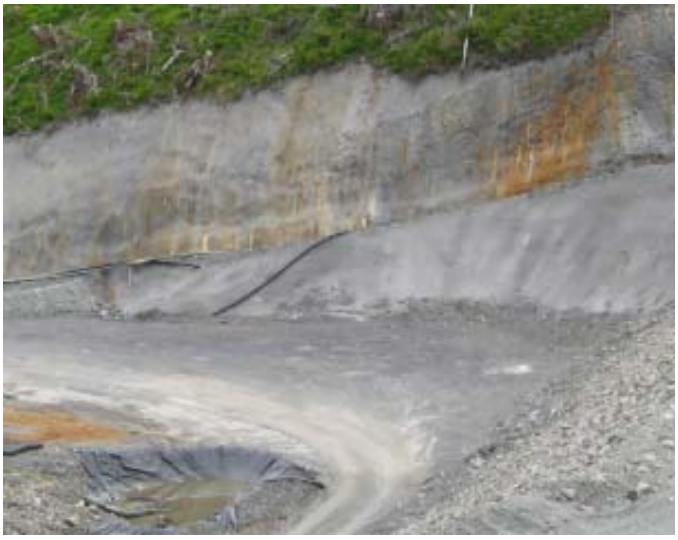

Photo 7. Acidic seeps below the dam

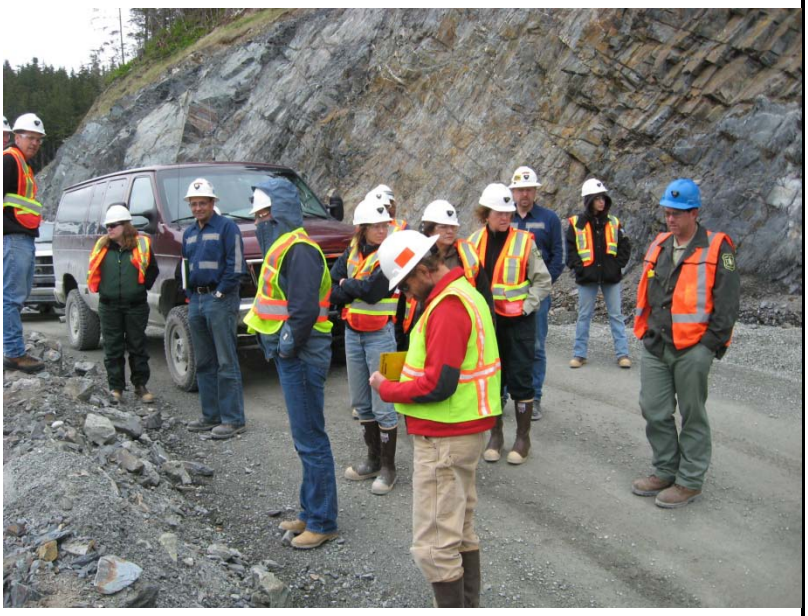

Photo 8. Tour group