



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: Thursday June 17, 2021
Date of Report: 06/24/2021
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Casey Loofbourrow

Ranger District: Juneau Ranger District
Weather Conditions: Sunny. Temperature: Mid 60'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.

Transportation to and from the mine was with an Alaska Seaplanes Beaver aircraft.

Pete Strow (Senior Environmental Coordinator, Coeur Alaska) accompanied Casey Loofbourrow (geologist), Pat Dryer (hydrologist), 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, Ophir Creek, Comet Beach, Comet access road bridges, Pit 4, Bridge 1 Pond, Heli Pond, Slate Cove Marine Terminal, Fuel Depot, Pit 1, and the Tailings Treatment Facility (TTF) area.

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS:

Date	Action Item	Status
5/06/21	A culvert at the port facility stormwater collection ditch requires cleaning.	Resolved. Culvert has been cleaned. (Photo 23)
5/06/21	A blocked drainage ditch on the spur road should be monitored for functionality once snow has melted.	Resolved. Structure is effectively settling sediment from stormwater. (Photo 21)

NEW ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION ITEM 182-1: Sherman Creek Bridge downhill side abutment silt fencing is in disrepair. This should be replaced or removed if no longer needed.



ACTION ITEM 182-2: Graphitic phyllite stockpile at Pit 4 requires covering.

ACTION ITEM 182-3: The screen for the Upper Slate Lake diversion pipeline intake has accumulated debris that requires removal.

ACCESS ROADS

The access roads were in adequate condition and well maintained. Silt fencing, berms, and sediment traps appeared to be functioning as intended and no significant sediment transport to the surrounding environment was observed as a result of erosion. (2016 BMP Plan; Table 4-4).

COMET DEVELOPMENT PILE

No additional waste rock has been added to the pile since the previous inspection and the slopes of the Comet waste rock storage area appear stable (Photos 1-2).

COMET WATER TREATMENT PLANT (CWTP)

The CWTP was treating approximately 2,794 gallons per minute (gpm). Ponds 1 and 2 were in good condition and functioning as designed. Sensor calibration was occurring at the time of inspection, so pH, turbidity, and temperature of effluent were not available. The mobile water treatment plant, referred to as plant 2.5, was treating approximately 332 gpm (Photo 3).

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

COMET BEACH AND ACCESS ROAD/BRIDGES

The core storage facility at comet beach was orderly (Photo 5).

No Name Creek Bridge and abutments were in good condition with no evidence of erosion or sedimentation (Photo 6).

ACTION ITEM 182-1: Sherman Creek Bridge downhill side abutment silt fencing is in disrepair (Photo 7). This should be repaired or removed.

OPHIR CREEK

Ophir creek experienced high flows during the December 2020 storm event resulting in the migration of the active stream channel at locations below the toe of the Comet Development Pile (Photos 8-9). The changes to the stream channel were not mapped during this site visit but will likely occur during future visits. The active stream channel is currently migrating away from the Comet Development Pile.

SHERMAN CREEK OUTFALL

White material was not observed on the substrate in Sherman Creek (Photos 10-11). In the underground workings Z-Clear 129 continues to be added to seepage water at the lowermost sump. This coagulant is used in an attempt to remove flocculants and polymers used as underground drill additives that Coeur suspects contribute to the white material intermittently observed at the Sherman Creek Outfall.

PIT 4 AND PUG PLANT

The pug plant was not operating at the time of inspection but has been operating intermittently this season (Photo 12). The pug plant is used to mix ARD-generating graphitic phyllite with concrete in preparation for underground backfill and storage to prevent impacts to surface resources.



ACTION ITEM 182-2: Graphitic phyllite stored at this location is to be in covered and lined containment to manage ARD when pug plant operations are not active. The upper liner intended to prevent rainwater from contacting the stockpile was partially displaced and requires attention (Photo 13).

The waste rock stockpile at this location appeared stable (Photo 14). The Pit 4 Pond and liner appeared in good condition (Photo 15).

BRIDGE 1 POND AND HELI POND

Access road sediment management ponds known as Bridge 1 Pond and Heli Pond were inspected and appeared to be functioning as intended (Photos 16-17)

TAILINGS TREATMENT FACILITY (TTF) AREA

The TTF's recorded water level was 716.25 feet. Tailings placement was occurring in the northwest area of the TTF. A new log boom was installed to prevent debris from accumulating against the face of the dam (Photo 18).

The TTF dam spillway was functioning as intended and free of debris (Photo 19). The acid rock drainage (ARD) diversion sill appeared to be preventing seepage of ARD into the dam spillway (Photo 19).

The outfall water measured 7.69 pH and .315 NTU. The discharge from the Upper Slate Lake (USL) bypass was approximately 3,600 gpm.

ACTION ITEM 182-3: The screen for the Upper Slate Lake diversion pipeline intake has accumulated organic debris that requires removal (Photo 20).

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

The settling pond near the alpine area of the TTF spur road appeared to be functioning. This BMP was listed as an action item from the previous inspection. However, high flows from increased precipitation has allowed turbid water to overflow the settling pond and discharge into the environment. This area will be continued to be monitored for effectiveness of the BMP (Photo 21).

MARINE PORT FACILITY AND FUEL DEPOT

All contaminated sediments from the fuel spill, that occurred April 18, 2021, has been removed from the marine port facility. Coeur excavated contaminated materials and completed testing to confirm the full extent of the spill had been addressed, and the site has been backfilled (Photo 22). There is still a small amount of contaminated material temporarily stockpiled at Pit 1 awaiting containers to be used to ship to an approved disposal facility out of state (Photo 23).

An action item from the previous inspection was to clean accumulated sediment from a culvert connecting sediment sumps, and this has been accomplished (Photo 24).

The tank farm, fueling bay, and fuel transfer header appeared in good condition and free of spills (Photos 25-27)

FOLLOW UP ITEMS:

Inspect the access road bridges and abutments.

Inspect growth media stockpile.

PHOTOS All photos taken June 17, 2021. Additional photos available upon request.



Photo 1. Comet Development Pile looking south.



Photo 2. Comet Development Pile looking north.



Photo 3. Mobile water treatment plant, referred to as plant 2.5.



Photo 4. Test rocks for white material accumulation in CWTP.



Photo 5. Core storage shed at Comet Beach.



Photo 6. No Name Creek Bridge abutment.



Photo 7. Sherman Creek Bridge abutment with silt fencing in disrepair.



Photo 8. Ophir Creek showing stream channel migration and large cobble bedload from Dec 2020 storm.



Photo 9. Ophir Creek stream channel migration.



Photo 1. Sherman Creek outfall absent of white material.



Photo 2. Sherman Creek outfall with white material absent in substrate.



Photo 3. Pit 4, Pug Plant, and graphitic phyllite stockpile.



Photo 4. Graphitic phyllite stockpile at Pit 4 that requires covering with impermeable liner.



Photo 5. Waste rock pile at Pit 4.



Photo 6. Pit 4 pond below waste rock stockpile.



Photo 7. Bridge 1 Pond.



Photo 17. Heli Pond.



Photo 18. Improved log boom across TTF to prevent debris from accumulating against dam face.



Photo 19. TTF Dam Spillway.



Photo 20. The screen for the Upper Slate Lake diversion pipeline intake that has accumulated organic debris that requires removal.



Photo 21. Site of previous action item, showing sediment being effectively settled from stormwater before discharge.



Photo 22. Backfilled site where fuel-contaminated soil had been excavated.



Photo 23. Remaining contaminated soil from marine terminal fuel spill.



Photo 24. Site of previous action item showing culvert has been cleared of sediment.



Photo 25. Fuel Depot.



Photo 26. Fueling bay.



Photo 27. Fuel transfer header.

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