



## Manh Choh Mine Field Inspection Report

<b>Inspection Date:</b>	September 16, 2024
<b>Time:</b>	8:55M to 11:40AM
<b>Weather:</b>	10,000 foot ceiling of overcast clouds with steady winds of 6 knots. The average temperature was 41°F.
<b>Agency Personnel:</b>	DNR: William Groom, Carolyn Curley, and Jesse White
<b>Operator Contact:</b>	Peak Gold: Paige Lambert
<b>Inspection Objectives:</b>	Site Inspection

### **Operations:**

The Manh Choh mine is in interior Alaska approximately 10-miles southeast of Tok and 15-miles west of the Native Village of Tetlin via the Alaska Highway. It is located within the Tanana-Kuskokwim Lowlands at elevations between 2,000 feet and 3,300 feet on land owned by the Native Village of Tetlin. The mine is a conventional truck and shovel hardrock open pit mining operation.<sup>1</sup>

### **Field Inspection Plan, Execution and Summary Schedule:**

Agency personnel met with Peak Gold employees at the camp office in Tok to discuss site conditions and inspection goals. The inspection would focus on the access road material sites and mine facilities for compliance with the Manh Choh Reclamation Plan Approval (RPA), F20232626RPA issued May 15, 2023. Mine facilities include the Ore Loadout pad, Infrastructure Pad, North Pit, South Pit, North Waste Rock Dump (NWRD), Main Waste Rock Dump (MWRD), Wet Stockpile, Dry Stockpile, Explosives Storage Pad, Water Treatment Plant, and ancillary sites. A drone was utilized to video and document mining-related disturbance. Following the initial discussion at the camp office, agency and company employees traveled to Manh Choh Mine.

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<sup>1</sup> SRK Consulting (U.S.), Inc. (2023). Manh Choh Reclamation and Closure Plan Revision 1. Manh Choh A JV with Contango Ore.

## **Findings:**

A summary of findings can be found below with a description of active sites that were visited. Detailed route maps with areas of interest, including photos of all inspected sites with observations notes, are in Appendix A.

### **1. Mine Access Road and Material Sites**

#### **1.1 Mine Access Road**

The company extended the asphalt apron 500 feet to the cattle guards (Photo 1). Additional cattle guards are scheduled to be installed. Agency personnel observed the activities at the driver changeout pad (Photo 2). Berms have been built along sections of the road (Photo 3). Areas along the road noted during DNR's June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 inspection have been addressed with appropriate best management practices to prevent erosion (Photos 3 through 7).

#### **1.2 Material Sites**

Material has been stockpiled for road maintenance and berm construction at various sites along the access road. A representative stockpile location was a gravel area near the driver changeout pad (Photo 8).

### **2. Mine Facilities**

#### **2.1 Ore Loadout Pad**

Agency personal observed activities on the Ore Loadout Pad (Photo 9). Despite wet conditions, the site was maintained, and surface water was managed.

#### **2.2 Infrastructure Pad**

The site offices, warehouse, equipment maintenance, emergency services, generators, wash bay, and fuel depot are located on the Infrastructure Pad (Photo 10). The pad was neat, orderly, and free of debris.

#### **2.3 Pits**

Activities in the North and South Pits were viewed from the Organic Stockpile (Photos 11 through 14). Operational activities observed were focused on the North Pit. The North Pit current elevation is 3080 ft, and the South Pit is at 3160 ft.

#### **2.4 Dumps and Stockpiles**

Waste rock dumps are being constructed with material segregated for future reclamation purposes (Photos 15 and 16). Organic stockpiles were observed between north and south pits.

#### **2.5 Ancillary Activities**

The sites for water management and treatment, along with the explosives pad, were visited (Photos 17 through 21).

## **Violations:**

All observed activities were in compliance with the Manh Choh Reclamation Plan Approval F20232626RPA stipulations, AS 27.19 and 11 AAC 97.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations:**

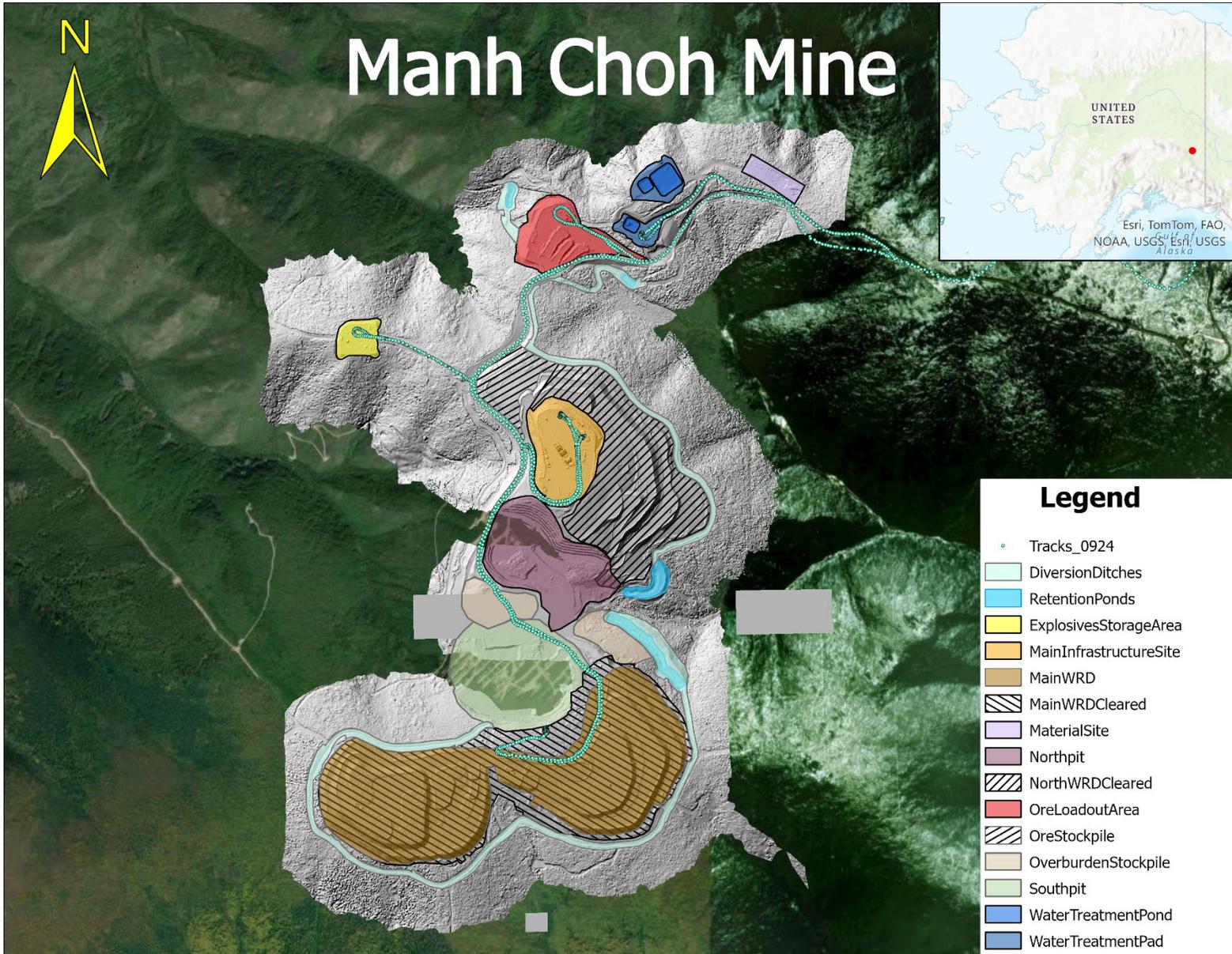
DNR finds Peak Gold's Manh Choh Mine operation is in good condition and is consistent with industry standards. The operation facilitates activities in a manner which prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of private and State resources.

Report prepared by: C. Curley

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                 Jesse White (DNR)  
                 Steven Penshorn (DNR)  
                 Jenny March (DNR)  
                 Jonathan Kummer (DNR)  
                 Tim Pilon (DEC)  
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# **Appendix A**

## **Inspection Maps and Observations of Note**



Map 1: Manh Choh Mine Facilities and Inspection Tracks

# Field Inspection Observations of Note

Photo 1: Access Road

The asphalt apron has been extended 500 feet on the access road at the intersection of access road and Alaska Highway.



Photo 2: Access Road

Incoming and outgoing trucks were observed at the driver changeout pad. Questions were asked regarding the tarps covering the ore. The tarps are replaced on a regular basis or when damage is noted.



Photo 3: Access Road

Berms have been placed along sections of the access road, conforming to MSHA requirements.



Photo 4: Access Road

Sections of the access road between Mile 8 and Mile 9 have been armored.



Photo 5: Access Road

Sections of the access road between Mile 8 and Mile 9 have been armored with rocks to prevent erosion.



Photo 6: Access Road

The cut bank near MP 10 had previously been covered with jute matting to prevent erosion. This material has been removed and the bank regraded and seeded.



Photo 7: Access Road

Vegetation is growing on regraded sites.



Photo 8: Material Sites

Gravel stockpiles for berm construction and road maintenance are readily available at this site near the driver changeout area.



Photo 9: Ore Loadout Pad

Activities and conditions were observed at the Ore Loadout Pad.



Photo 10: Infrastructure Pad

Operations support activities are located on the Infrastructure Pad.



Photo 11: Pits

North Pit with infrastructure pad and NWRD.



Photo 12: Pits

The North Pit (foreground) and South Pit (background) as viewed from drone flight over infrastructure pad.



Photo 13: Pits

Activities in the South Pit as viewed via drone flight imaging.



Photo 14: Dumps

South Waste Rock Dump with Wet & Dry stockpiles



Photo 15: Dumps

South Waste Rock Dump as viewed from the north. The water diversion channel collects contact water from the dump and channels the flow to treatment facilities.



Photo 16: Dumps

North Waste Rock Dump as viewed looking north.



Photo 17: Ancillary Facilities

West retention basin for water management.



Photo 18: Ancillary Facilities

Water Treatment Ponds with the Untreated Water Pond in the foreground with the smaller Brine Pond. The Treated Water Pond is in the background by the RO facility.



Photo 19: Ancillary  
Facilities

Explosives Pad

