STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
610 UNIVERSITY AVE.
FAIRBANKS, AK 99709-3643

WASTE MANAGEMENT PERMIT

for the

Manh Choh Project

Permit 2023DB0001 **Date: May 15, 2023**

This Waste Management Permit is issued to Peak Gold, LLC (Peak Gold), PO Box 73726, Fairbanks, AK 99707-3726, for the disposal of wastes from Manh Choh Project as prescribed herein. The Manh Choh Project is a conventional truck and shovel, open-pit, gold mine located on Native Village of Tetlin (Tetlin) land about ten miles southeast of Tok, Alaska. Ore will be processed offsite while waste rock will be disposed onsite in dumps or as pit backfill. The permit is issued under the provisions of Alaska Statutes (AS) 46.03, and the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC), 18 AAC 15, 18 AAC 60, 18 AAC 70, and 18 AAC 72, as amended or revised, and other applicable state laws and regulations. This permit is effective **May 15, 2023** and expires after **May 14, 2028**. It may be terminated or modified in accordance with AS 46.03.120.

The permit incorporates by reference the following documents: *Manh Choh Project Support Document for the Waste Management Permit and Plan Operations Revision 1* (January 2023), *Manh Choh Project Solid Waste Management Plan Revision 1* (January 2023), *Manh Choh Project Geochemical Characterization Report Revision 1* (November 2022), *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1* (November 2022), and *Manh Choh Project Reclamation and Closure Plan Revision 1* (January 2023). Changes to the documents incorporated herein must be approved by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (department) if they affect this permit. If the department approves the changes, they become part of this permit.

Upon completing reclamation activities and terminating active wastewater treatment, the department requires post-closure maintenance and monitoring. Assessment of post-closure facility conditions shall determine response to and duration of the post-closure period.

Signature	**May 15,2023**
	Date
Gene McCabe	Program Manager
Printed Name	Title

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 PERMIT COVERAGE & ADOPTED REFERENCES

1.1 COVERAGE

The permittee is authorized to store and dispose of potentially acid generating (PAG) rock and potentially metal leaching waste rock associated with mining activities according to the conditions of this permit and adopted reference documents. Under AS 46.06.021, wastewater from dewatering wells and storm water runoff may be repurposed as a dust suppressant applied to mine roads provided that no puddling or runoff occurs.

This permit also covers secondary containment for hazardous substances/fuel and monitoring requirements for waste rock characterization and water quality. This permit prohibits the discharge of wastewater to surface water.

1.1.1 This permit covers the storage and disposal of PAG and potentially metal leaching waste rock, and monitoring at the sites listed under this subheading. See Figures 6.1 and 6.2.

1.1.1.1 North Pit

The North Pit is an open pit located near the mine infrastructure site. It will be mined concurrently with the South Pit, but it will be completed first and backfilled with waste rock concurrent with continued mining in the South Pit. The North Pit is designated as a treatment works and may be used for disposal of wastewater and waste rock and then covered with an impermeable liner after mining terminates.

1.1.1.2 South Pit

The South Pit is located just south of the North Pit. The South Pit is designated as a treatment works and may be used for disposal of wastewater and waste rock after mining terminates.

1.1.1.3 North Waste Rock Dump (NWRD)

The NWRD is north of the North Pit, and it borders the mine infrastructure site. As a treatment works, it will accommodate disposal of waste rock that cannot be backfilled into the pits.

1.1.1.4 Main Waste Rock Dump (MWRD)

The MWRD lies south of the South Pit. It too is a treatment works serving the same function as the NWRD. At closure, it will not be covered with an impermeable cover which will provide submerged disposal of PAG rock.

1.1.1.5 Water Quality Monitoring Sites

The *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1* (November 2022) designates locations, parameters, and frequencies for monitoring water quality and quantity. Those data aid in the managing and preventing any negative impacts on offsite water quality. See Figure 6.3.

1.2 ADOPTED REFERENCES

In addition to the stipulations in this permit, the permittee shall adhere to the applicable requirements of 18 AAC 15 *Administrative Procedures*, 18 AAC 60 *Solid Waste Management,* 18 AAC 70 *Alaska Water Quality Standards* (WQS), and 18 AAC 72

Wastewater Disposal. The permittee shall also adhere to department-approved plans authorized under the permit. When the terms of this permit differ from the terms of department-approved project documents adopted by reference in this section, the most recent term with written department approval is controlling. If there is doubt as to which conflicting term is newer, this permit shall control. Department-approved plans adopted by reference in this section must be updated within 90 days of permit issuance incorporating any changes necessary to be consistent with the terms of this permit, and these plans may be revised provided that written department approval is received. Department-approved plans adopted by reference into this permit include the following documents:

1.2.1 *Manh Choh Project Support Document for the Waste Management Permit and Plan Operations Revision 1* (January 2023),

1.2.2 *Manh Choh Project Solid Waste Management Plan Revision 1* (January 2023),

1.2.3 *Manh Choh Project Geochemical Characterization Report Revision 1* (November 2022),

1.2.4 *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1* (November 2022), and

1.2.5 *Manh Choh Project Reclamation and Closure Plan Revision 1* (January 2023).

2 SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

2.1 SITE-WIDE WASTE DISPOSAL

While this permit is in effect and subject to the limitations in Section 2.1, the permittee is authorized to dispose of solid and liquid wastes in permit-designated treatment works at the Manh Choh Project. Under 18 AAC 70.010(c), WQS do not apply to a treatment works authorized by the department and applicable water quality criteria "must be met in adjacent surface water and groundwater at and beyond the boundary of the treatment works." Treatment works are defined in AS 46.03.900(33) as "a plant, disposal field, lagoon , pumping station, constructed drainage ditch or surface water intercepting ditch, incinerator, area devoted to sanitary landfills, or other works installed for the purpose of treating neutralizing, stabilizing, or disposing of sewage, industrial waste, or other wastes."

2.1.1 All Treatment Works – The MWRD, NWRD, South Pit, and North Pit are approved for disposal of solid and liquid wastes as allowed by this permit and approved as treatment works per 18 AAC 70.990(33) and not subject to WQS in 18 AAC 70.010(c). See Figures 6.1 and 6.2

2.1.2 Limitations

2.1.2.1 Except as otherwise authorized in an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, the permittee shall control and treat onsite surface water, groundwater, and seepage as necessary to prevent offsite water quality exceedances.

2.1.2.2 The permittee shall ensure that all wastewater, PAG rock, and potentially metal leaching waste rock are deposited in a manner that will not damage or otherwise jeopardize the integrity of containment.

2.1.2.3 For characterization and handling of waste rock, the permittee shall adhere to the Appendix C of the *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1*

(November 2022). To manage all other solid waste generated through construction, operation, and closure at the Manh Choh Project, the permittee must implement the *Manh Choh Project Solid Waste Management Plan Revision 1* (January 2023).

2.1.2.4 Activities at the Manh Choh Project, which will cause a significantly greater amount of wastewater, PAG rock, or potentially metal leaching waste rock to be generated and disposed in the permitted facilities, require the prior approval of the department. This condition excludes mining rates which are not considered in this section.

2.1.2.5 The following materials shall not be disposed onsite.

2.1.2.5.1 Acute hazardous wastes, as defined by 18 AAC 60.990(157), including radioactive material, explosives, strong acids, and untreated pathogenic waste; however, this prohibition does not preclude disposal of natural minerals found in mine rock; or

2.1.2.5.2 Contaminated soils, spill booms, and liners used for the containment of spilled hazardous substances, chemicals used in the cleanup of hazardous substance spills, or other hazardous substance spill cleanup wastes.

2.1.2.6 Monitoring, as specified in Section 2.3, must not result in water quality measurements indicating a statistically significant increase, according to 18 AAC 60.830(h), in constituent concentration above WQS. When a statistically significant increase in a concentration of a constituent above its WQS is discovered, corrective action outlined in Section 2.5 must be implemented.

2.1.2.7 The limitations in Section 2.1.1 do not preclude, and authorization is hereby given for, disposal of non-hazardous solid wastes such as settled solids from sumps, ditches, and degritting basins and ash from combustion of scrap wood material.

2.1.2.8 The department may set or modify permit conditions based on monitoring results or changes in facility processes in accordance with permit amendment or modification procedures.

2.2 SITE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, & OPERATION

2.2.1 General

2.2.1.1 Changes that may have a significant impact on surface or groundwater quality; information on engineering changes to the wastewater disposal systems that may affect water quality; new waste treatment processes; changes to ground and surface water interception, conveyance or monitoring systems; or the addition of new waste streams to the discharge that could significantly change the quality or increase the quantity of pollutants in a waste stream must be submitted to the department and approval must be obtained prior to any such changes or discharges.

2.2.1.2 The permittee shall develop the project according to department-approved plans and amendments thereof, which are submitted by the applicant as

required by this permit and referenced in Section 1.2. Pollution prevention concepts shall be incorporated into operations plans for the project.

2.2.1.3 The permittee shall construct and maintain wastewater collection systems and control wastewater in accordance with plans approved by the department.

2.2.1.4 The permittee shall not dispose of waste rock or wastewater in quantities exceeding the design capacity of the containment and disposal facilities.

2.2.1.5 The permittee shall control and treat wastewater as necessary to prevent causing downgradient offsite water quality exceedances in waters of the State.

2.2.1.6 Waste rock and wastewater containment and disposal systems shall be properly operated and maintained.

2.2.2 Secondary Containment

2.2.2.1 Secondary containment of all hazardous substances, as defined at AS 46.03.826(5), must be impermeable to those stored hazardous substances.

2.2.2.2 The permittee shall provide and maintain secondary containment for all tanks containing hazardous or toxic materials and piping associated with that tankage. For a given containment area, secondary containment must provide a storage volume greater than or equal to 110 percent of the largest tank or the total volume of permanently manifolded tanks.

2.2.2.3 The permittee must design and install secondary containment structures in a manner that ensures that hazardous substances/fuel will not escape from the structures. To prevent such discharges, facilities shall be maintained in good working condition at all times by the permittee.

2.2.2.4 The permittee shall maintain fuel handling and storage facilities in a manner that will minimize the discharge of hazardous substances.

2.2.3 Notification

2.2.3.1 The permittee shall notify the department in writing at least 15 days before the introduction of a new chemical into the process or wastewater treatment streams that could significantly change the quality or increase the quantity of pollutants in a wastewater stream(s). Safety Data Sheets on such new chemicals must be forwarded to the department at time of notification and maintained onsite. Introduction of the new chemical into the process requires written department approval.

2.2.3.2 Under 18 AAC 72.600, the permittee shall submit engineering plans to the department at least 60 days before construction or modification of an applicable system and receive department approval of any changes that will significantly modify the quality or quantity of a waste stream or operation of a wastewater treatment component covered under this permit.

2.2.3.3 With respect to any department-approved change as described in Section 2.4.2.2, the permittee must submit to the department within 90 days after completing construction:

2.2.3.3.1 As-built drawings of the process components showing changes potentially affecting performance as required in 18 AAC 72.600,

2.2.3.3.2 A summary of the quality control activities that were carried out during construction, and

2.2.3.3.3 The revised operating plans that reflect modifications made during construction.

2.3 MONITORING

The *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1* (November 2022) was submitted by Peak Gold, approved by the department, and incorporated into this permit. Future department-approved changes to project monitoring will be included as modifications to *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1 (November 2022)* and do not require re-issuance or modification of this permit. The *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1* (November 2022) shall contain monitoring procedures to include the following and must be updated within 90 days of permit issuance, as needed, to conform to the permit.

2.3.1 Visually monitor the all facilities for signs of damage or potential damage from settlement, ponding, leakage, instability, frost action, erosion, thawing of the waste, or operations at the site. Also, check for signs of stress to vegetation and wildlife at the facility, the presence of aufeis, and sheen on discharged water. Visual monitoring shall be at least weekly and documented monthly.

2.3.2 Monitor surface and groundwater near the site to ensure that WQS or natural water quality conditions are protected as confirmed by representative sample results.

2.3.3 Water chemistry analytical methods employed must be sufficiently sensitive to determine compliance with applicable WQS.

2.3.4 The permittee shall adhere to the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) contained in *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1* (November 2022) and approved by the department. The permittee shall update and maintain the QAPP to include the following:

2.3.4.1 The QAPP shall ensure water quality samples are analyzed by a laboratory that follows EPA-approved procedures, quality control requirements, reporting and documentation procedures.

2.3.4.2 The QAPP must be designed to assist in planning for the collection and analysis of water samples in support of the permit and in explaining data anomalies when they occur.

2.3.4.3 Throughout all sample collection and analysis activities, the permittee must use chain-of-custody procedures described in the QAPP.

2.3.4.4 The permittee must amend the QAPP whenever there is a modification in sample collection, sample analysis, or other procedure addressed by the QAPP.

2.3.4.5 A copy or copies of the QAPP must be made available to the department upon request.

2.3.4.6 Maintenance of inspection and sampling logs and procedures for

processing, consolidating, and reporting inspection and sampling data shall be in conformance with the most recent QAPP.

2.3.5 Groundwater and surface water monitoring and corrective action monitoring shall be according to Section 2.3, 18 AAC 60 Solid Waste Management Regulations, the most recent monitoring plan and QAPP.

2.3.6 The department may modify monitoring requirements, including the establishment of additional compliance points in response to trends showing changes in the concentration of parameters being monitored.

2.3.7 If the permittee monitors any influent, effluent, receiving water, or solid waste characteristic in addition to those identified in this permit, or more frequently than required, the permittee shall notify the department that the additional monitoring has occurred in the next quarterly report after the monitoring has occurred. The results of such monitoring shall be available for inspection by the department at the project site, or other location proposed by the permittee and agreed upon by the department. The permittee shall provide copies of the results to the department upon request.

2.3.8 Groundwater, surface water, and corrective action monitoring shall be in accordance with Section 2.3, Article 7 of 18 AAC 60 Solid Waste Management Regulations, *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1* (November 2022), and the QAPP.

2.3.9 The department may modify monitoring requirements, including the establishment of additional compliance points in response to trends showing changes in the concentration or load of parameters being monitored.

2.3.10 If the permittee monitors any surface or groundwater identified in the *Manh Choh Project Monitoring Plan Revision 1* (November 2022), more frequently than required, the permittee shall notify the department that the additional monitoring has occurred in the next quarterly report after the monitoring has occurred. The results of such monitoring shall be available for inspection by the department, and the permittee shall provide copies of the results to the department upon request.

2.4 REPORTING

2.4.1 When a statistically significant increase in the concentration of a constituent above a WQS is discovered at a groundwater or surface water monitoring station., or if noncompliance with a permit requirement is discovered, the permittee shall verbally notify the department no later than the end of the next working day after discovery and shall conduct corrective actions according to Section 2.5.

2.4.2 The permittee shall provide the department with quarterly monitoring reports summarizing inspection and monitoring results required in Section 2.3. The reports shall satisfy the following conditions.

2.4.2.1 Due Dates - Reports for the first three calendar quarters are due within 60 days after the quarter ends, and the report for the fourth calendar quarter shall be submitted by March 1st of the following year.

2.4.2.2 Form – Reports shall be provided in electronic form using commercially available software or according to other electronic reporting requirements

approved by the department. Paper copies of the reports are not required unless specifically requested.

2.4.2.3 Content - Reports shall contain a narrative portion discussing data and information collected during the preceding quarter.

2.4.2.4 Graphing - Reports shall present water quality data in graphical form indicating trends as well as the margin of compliance with limits.

2.4.2.4.1 Graphs of concentration measurement versus time must include the past five years of data, if available, and may contain all historic data.

2.4.2.4.2 The graphs must also include the parameter, units, and applicable permit limit or WQS.

2.4.2.4.3 Multiple stations, identified using symbols in a legend, may be included in the same graph.

2.4.2.4.4 Scales shall be proportioned to display the limit or WQS, as indicated by a highlighted line, near the top of the graph or when data exceeds the limit, the maximum value shall be near the top of the graph.

2.4.2.4.5 Formatting shall allow addition of new data to each graph's cumulative data when producing the next quarterly report.

2.4.2.4.6 For graphical purposes, non-detect values shall be plotted at one half the method detection limit (MDL), and values between the minimum level of quantification (ML) and MDL shall be plotted at the value of the qualified measurement.

2.4.3 Annual Report - In addition to satisfying the requirements of Section 2.4.2, the fourth calendar quarter report serves as the annual report. The annual report shall:

2.4.3.1 Be submitted to the department by March 1st of the following year;

2.4.3.2 Contain an electronic copy (preferably Excel) of the water quality data for the reporting year, including the past five years' data, if available, and may contain all historic data in spreadsheet form. When a value is less than the ML, it must be identified as less than the ML, and the ML must be provided. Non-detect values must be identified as less than the MDL or non-detect and the MDL must be provided in the electronic water quality data spreadsheets; and

2.4.3.3 Address the adequacy of the financial responsibility including, but not limited to, significant changes in reclamation activity costs, concurrent reclamation, expansion or other changes to the operation of the facility.

2.4.4 The permittee shall provide the department with copies of any amendments to the Reclamation Plan Approval (RPA) issued by Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), when they affect the waste disposal operations authorized by the permit.

2.4.5 All records, information, and reports resulting from the monitoring activities required by this permit, including but not limited to all records of analyses performed, calibration and maintenance of instrumentation, and recordings from

continuous monitoring instrumentation, shall be retained in Alaska for observation by the department for a minimum of five years. Upon request from the department, the permittee shall submit certified copies of such records.

2.4.6 Any onsite wildlife casualties associated with facility activities shall be reported to appropriate State agencies, including the department, within one working day of discovery.

2.4.7 All mailed reports submitted under the requirements of this permit shall be sent to:

Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Division of Water
610 University Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 451-2136

2.4.8 Knowingly making a false statement, by the permittee, the operator or other employees, including contractors, on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided under AS 46.03.790.

2.5 CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

2.5.1 The permittee shall comply with 18 AAC 60.815 if the visual monitoring program in Section 2.3.1 discovers damage or potential damage to the waste disposal-related facility that could lead to water quality violations.

2.5.2 When a statistically significant increase in a constituent concentration above a WQS is discovered in any of the water sampling locations, the permittee shall comply with 18 AAC 60.820-860. Statistical significance shall be determined using one of the methods outlined in 18 AAC 60.830(h). The permittee shall comply with the notification requirements in 18 AAC 60.850(c) upon determining a statistically significant increase in a constituent concentration.

2.5.3 For a single constituent, when a statistically significant increase in concentration above its WQS is discovered at a water monitoring station or if noncompliance with a permit requirement is discovered, the permittee shall:

2.5.3.1 Orally notify the department no later than the end of the next working day;

2.5.3.2 Determine the extent of the exceedance or noncompliance;

2.5.3.3 In consultation with the department and documented in writing, implement a plan to restore compliance and determine the cause of the exceedance or noncompliance;

2.5.3.4 Submit to the department, within seven working days after an exceedance or noncompliance is verified by the permittee, a plan for corrective actions to prevent adverse environmental impacts and avoid future exceedances of a similar nature; and

2.5.3.5 Implement the corrective actions as approved by the department.

2.6 SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS

2.6.1 Suspension of operations is defined as a suspension of mining activities for more than one year but less than three years. The length of time for the period of

suspension may be extended beyond three years by written authorization from the department. The permittee shall submit a conceptual suspension of operations plan to the department within 90 days of permit issuance.

2.6.2 The permittee must notify the department within three days of suspending operations. The notice shall provide the nature of and reason for the suspension and its anticipated duration.

2.6.3 No later than ten days after operations have been suspended, the permittee shall submit a detailed and updated suspension of operations plan that supersedes the suspension of operations conceptual plan required by Section 2.6.1 with current information and specific details. The suspension plan shall address the following:

2.6.3.1 Explain what would reasonably result in resuming or permanently terminating mining activities;

2.6.3.2 Reclamation or construction activities during the period of temporary suspension;

2.6.3.3 Procedures, methods, and schedule to be implemented for the treatment, disposal, or storage of wastewater;

2.6.3.4 The control of surface and groundwater drainage to and from the facility and the surrounding area;

2.6.3.5 The control of erosion from the waste rock disposal areas and any other disturbed areas within the facility boundary;

2.6.3.6 The storage of hazardous materials during the period of suspended operations; and

2.6.4 The department shall have 15 days to review and approve or request modifications to the suspension plan.

2.6.5 Once a suspension of operations plan has been approved, it becomes enforceable under the conditions of this permit and full implementation of the approved suspension plan is required. The plan can be amended by submitting a revised plan to the department for approval.

2.6.6 During suspension of operations, the permittee shall:

2.6.6.1 Continue pollution control activities associated with waste disposal and management, including but not limited to dust control, maintenance of the drainage diversion structures, maintenance of all discharge and leakage control structures and processes, as specified by the suspension plan.

2.6.6.2 Continue monitoring and reporting activities of all active portions of the site as specified by this permit or the suspension plan.

2.6.7 Written department approval is required before resuming mining after a period of temporary closure.

2.7 TERMINATION OF MINING ACTIVITIES

2.7.1 Termination of mining activities is defined as the permanent cessation of those activities. Updated reclamation and monitoring plans must be submitted for approval within 90 days after initiating termination of mining. The updated plans

must address current conditions at the facility. Updates and changes to those plans must be approved in writing by the department.

2.7.2 Termination of mining at the site must be implemented and completed according to the conditions of this permit and the *Manh Choh Project Reclamation and Closure Plan Revision 1* (January 2023) as approved by the department and incorporated by reference into this permit.

2.7.3 Closure of the waste disposal facilities will be complete when the following criteria are met:

2.7.3.1 Department-approved covers are installed on the waste rock dumps and pits and that drainage channels are constructed and stable;

2.7.3.2 A stable vegetative cover is established on the waste rock, re-contoured areas, and other infrastructure or other facilities as prescribed in the *Manh Choh Project Reclamation and Closure Plan Revision 1* (January 2023); and

2.7.3.3 The department determines that active water treatment is not required for any water discharged from the project.

2.7.4 The permittee shall maintain the facility correcting any erosion or settlement that may impair water quality or otherwise threaten the environment, up until the time that this permit, or any successor permit, is transferred to another entity or terminated by the department.

2.7.5 Post-closure monitoring of surface water quality and visual monitoring for settlement, seeps, and erosion is required annually for at least 60 months after termination of wastewater discharge.

2.7.6 The permittee shall assess the conditions at the facility and respond accordingly throughout the reclamation and post-closure care periods. At the end of the post-closure monitoring period, the department will determine whether post-closure care and monitoring should be extended beyond the initial 60-month period, based on the information collected by that time.

3 GENERAL CONDITIONS

3.1 ACCESS AND INSPECTION

The permittee shall allow the Commissioner or designated representative access to the permitted facility at reasonable times to conduct scheduled or unscheduled inspections or tests to determine compliance with this permit, state laws, and regulations.

3.2 INFORMATION ACCESS

Except where protected from disclosure by applicable State or Federal law, all records and reports submitted in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation, Fairbanks, Alaska.

3.3 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY

Nothing in this permit shall relieve the permittee from any potential civil or criminal liability for noncompliance with the permit or with applicable laws.

3.4 AVAILABILITY

The permittee shall post or maintain a copy of this permit available to the public at the facility.

3.5 ADVERSE IMPACT

The permittee shall take all necessary means to minimize any adverse impacts to the receiving waters or lands resulting from noncompliance with any limitation specified in this permit, including any additional monitoring needed to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying activity. The permittee shall cleanup and restore all areas adversely impacted by the noncompliance.

3.6 CULTURAL OR PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Should cultural or paleontological resources be discovered as a result of this activity or work which would disturb such resources, is to be stopped, and the State Historic Preservation Office, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, DNR is to be notified promptly at (907) 465-4563.

3.7 APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL

In accordance with 18 AAC 15.100(d), an application for renewal or amendment of this permit must be made no later than 120 days before the expiration date of the permit or the planned effective date of the amendment.

3.8 OTHER LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

This permit does not relieve the permittee from the duty to obtain any other necessary permits from the department or from other local, state, or federal agencies, and to comply with the requirements contained in any such permits. All activities conducted and all plans implemented by the permittee pursuant to the terms of this permit shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

3.9 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

In the event of any change in control or ownership of the permitted facility, the permittee shall notify the succeeding owner or controller of the existence of this permit by letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Water. The original permittee remains responsible for permit compliance unless and until the succeeding owner or controller agrees in writing to assume such responsibility, and the department approves assignment of the permit. The department will not unreasonably withhold such approval.

As between the State and the permittee, no transfer of this permit shall relieve the permittee of any liability arising out of operations conducted prior to such transfer, regardless of whether such liability accrues before or after such transfer.

3.10 TOXIC POLLUTANTS

If during the life of this permit a new or revised toxic pollutant (including oil, grease, or solvents) concentration standard is established in accordance with 18 AAC 70 for a pollutant managed at this facility and that standard is more stringent than previously, then upon the effective date of the new rule, this permit automatically adopts the new toxic pollutant concentration standard and applies it to management of facility wastes going forward from the date of adoption. Authorized discharges made prior to any standards change or adoption will not be subject to ex post facto clean up requirements.

3.11 POLLUTION PREVENTION

In order to prevent and minimize present and future pollution, when making management decisions that affect waste generation, the permittee shall consider the following order of priority options as outlined in AS 46.06.021:

1st waste source reduction,

2nd recycling of waste,

3rd waste treatment, and

4th waste disposal.

4 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

4.1 AUTHORITY

Under AS 46.03.100(f), 18 AAC 15.090, and 18 AAC 60.265, the department is required to secure proof of financial responsibility for reclamation and long term care and maintenance, including wastewater treatment and monitoring at the facility.

4.1.1 The permittee shall provide the department with proof of financial responsibility for reclamation and closure of the facilities and post-closure monitoring. The proof of financial responsibility shall cover costs incurred for suspension of operations, reclamation and closure, and monitoring of all project facilities. An overview of the areas covered by the financial responsibility for reclamation and closure is shown in Figure 6.1.

4.1.2 The department will review and modify if necessary, the financial responsibility requirements including adjustments for concurrent reclamation, expansion, or other changes to the operation of the facility. The permittee shall address the adequacy of the financial responsibility in the annual report required in Section 2.6.3.

4.1.3 The proof of financial responsibility may be in the form of a trust fund, surety bond, letter of credit, insurance, or another department-approved mechanism.

4.1.4 Approved proof of financial responsibility must remain available through the post-closure period and may not be released in its entirety until the department certifies in writing that closure of the facility and the required post-closure monitoring have been successfully concluded or that another entity has assumed responsibility for permit compliance, reclamation and closure activities, and post-closure monitoring.

4.1.5 The permittee must provide acceptable proof of financial responsibility within 60 days of the permit's effective date. The department will accept or reject the financial surety as expeditiously as possible but in no event later than 30 days after its receipt.

4.1.6 If the permittee is unable to provide acceptable proof of financial responsibility to the department within the time period stated above, this permit will expire automatically at that time, notwithstanding any other approvals to the contrary, unless the department's failure to act is responsible for the delay in accepting or rejecting this proof.

4.1.7 If the permittee fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit and if

the department concludes that such failure may prevent, inhibit or delay satisfactory reclamation and closure or post-closure monitoring of the facility, then the department may exercise its rights, under an approved mechanism, to access financial responsibility funds and use them for reclamation and closure and post-closure activities.

4.1.8 The permittee can apply to have the amount of the financial responsibility adjusted during the life of the permit if, for example, concurrent reclamation has been completed or if annual adjustment for inflation is needed.

4.2 AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

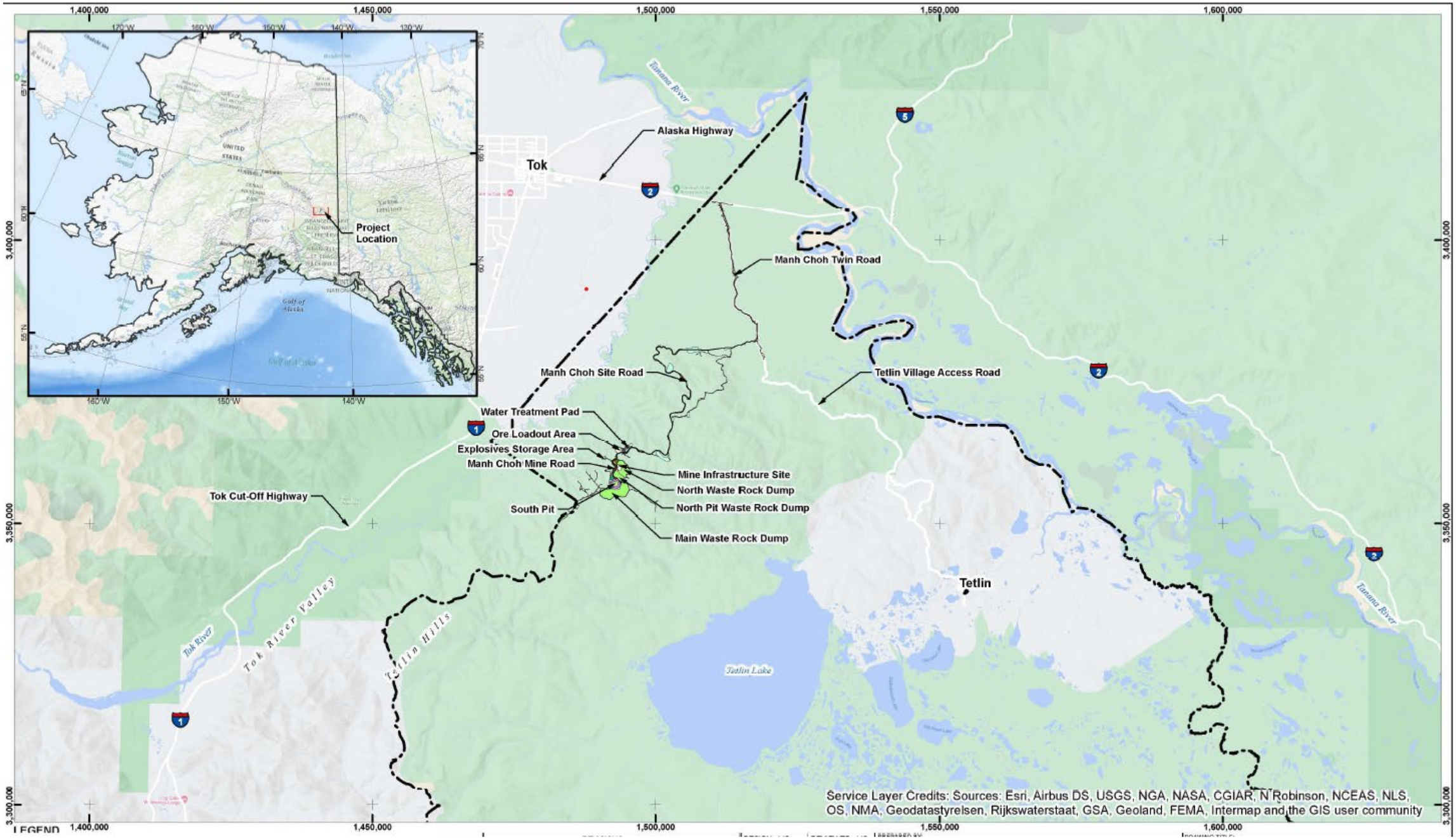
DNR issued a RPA #F20232626RPA to Peak Gold for the Manh Choh Project. Review of the reclamation plan and associated costs, *Manh Choh Project Reclamation and Closure Plan Revision 1* (January 2023), was conducted in consultation and agreement between DNR and the department. The amount of financial responsibility, satisfying AS 46.03.100(f), 18 AAC 15.090, and 18 AAC 60.265, established in the *Manh Choh Project Reclamation and Closure Plan Revision 1* (January 2023) is $63,507,000.

5 GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

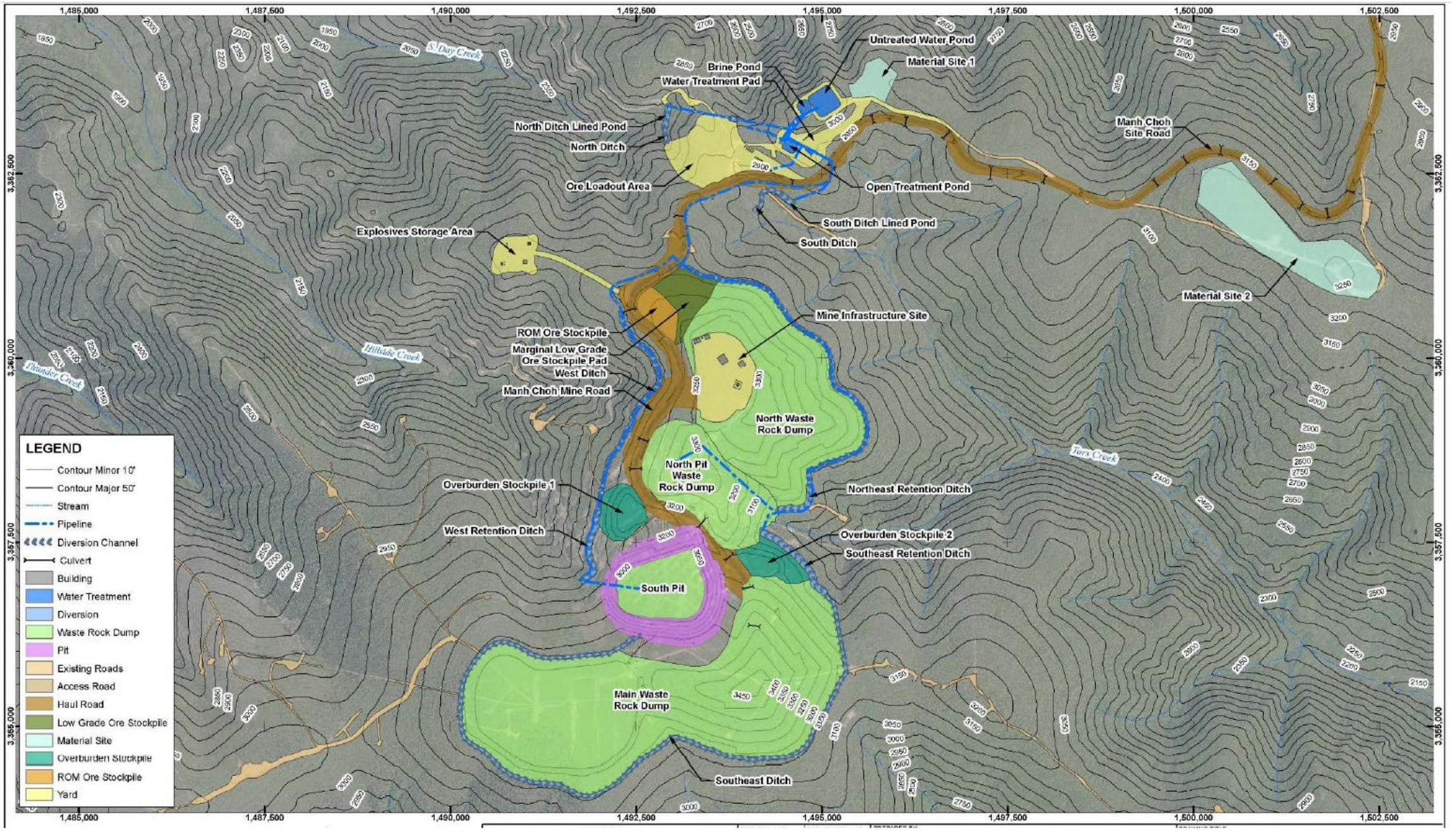
AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
AS	Alaska Statutes
DNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
MDL	Method Detection Limit
ML	Minimum Level of Quantification
NAG	Non Acid Generating
PAG	Potentially Acid Generating
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RPA	Reclamation Plan Approval
WQS	Alaska Water Quality Standards (18 AAC 70)

6 FIGURES

6.1 PROJECT LOCATION



6.2 MINE AREA


Untreated Water Pond
Material Site 1
Brine Pond
Water Treatment Pad
North Ditch Lined Pond
North Ditch
Ore Loadout Area
Manh Choh Site Road
Open Treatment Pond
South Ditch Lined Pond
South Ditch
Explosives Storage Area
Material Site 2
Mine Infrastructure Site
ROM Ore Stockpile
Marginal Low Grade Ore Stockpile Pad
West Ditch
Manh Choh Mine Road
North Waste Rock Dump
North Pit Waste Rock Dump
Overburden Stockpile 1
Northeast Retention Ditch
West Retention Ditch
Overburden Stockpile 2
Southeast Retention Ditch
South Pit
Main Waste Rock Dump
Southeast Ditch
S Day Creek
Hillside Creek
Thunder Creek
Tors Creek
LEGEND
Contour Minor 10'
Contour Major 50'
Stream
Pipeline
Diversion Channel
Culvert
Building
Water Treatment
Diversion
Waste Rock Dump
Pit
Existing Roads
Access Road
Haul Road
Low Grade Ore Stockpile
Material Site
Overburden Stockpile
ROM Ore Stockpile
Yard
1,485,000
1,487,500
1,490,000
1,492,500
1,495,000
1,497,500
1,500,000
1,502,500
3,362,500
3,360,000
3,357,500
3,355,000

6.3 GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS AND SURFACE WATER MONITORING