



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

## Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER

Mining Section

Northern Office

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### Pogo Mine Inspection Report

**Inspection Date:** June 9, 2021

**Weather:** Mostly Sunny, 70 F

**Time of Inspection:** Arrival at Mine Approx 10:00 AM, Depart Mine at Approx 3:00 PM

**Operator Contact:** Wendie MacNaughton (Pogo)

**Agency Personnel:** William Groom, Brent Martellaro, Carolyn Curley, Jeff Rogers (ADNR – Mining), Jenny March, Kindra Geis (ADNR – Water), Jaclyn Cheek (ADNR – Lands), McKenzie Johnson (ADNR – SHPO), Kate Harper (ADNR – OPMP), Justin Burrows (ADF&G)

**Inspection Objectives:** This mine site inspection was to perform an annual inspection of the Pogo Mine. Focus of this inspection was placed on the dry stack tailings facility, the RTP Dam and the Off-River Water Treatment works. While on site, DNR – Mining was accompanied by staff from Pogo to conduct Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) data collection using a Skydio 2 system.



UAS imagery from the inlet to the ORWT from the Goodpasture River



UAS imagery of the pump house and discharge from ORWT to Goodpaster River



UAS imagery of the RTP Dam and diversion ditch below dry stack tailings





UAS imagery looking at the RTP Dam and dry stack tailings facility.



Top of the dry stack tailings facility looking down drainage to mill site.



Top of dry stack tailings facility.

In addition to the UAS photos, approximately 1-hour of UAS video was captured in these locations.

**Conclusion:** The Pogo Mine Road was in a dry condition with very limited visibility and slick surface to due to fine dust being disturbed while in convoy. Conditions out on the mine site were also dry due to minimal precipitation having been received with the Goodpaster River at a low flow condition. Water exiting the ORWT did not appear to be causing any issues downstream on the Goodpaster River. Northern Star was keeping the RTP at a low water stage to help with water management and there did not appear to be much water in the diversion ditches located above the Dry Stack Tailings Facility. While piloting the UAS from a position above the dry stack, a lone caribou was observed meandering on top of the placed tailings. Tailings placement appear to be continuing at an increased pace and Northern Star is in the process of evaluating potential future expansions of the current facility.

**Action Items:** DNR – Mining did not observe any actions on the mine site property that required immediate actions. It is recommendable though that Northern Star evaluate dust suppression of the Pogo Mine Access Road to help improve driving conditions to and from the mine site.

### **End of Report**

Cc: Kyle Moselle (ADNR)  
Kate Harper (ADNR)

Steve Buckley (ADNR)  
Brent Martellaro (ADNR)  
Allan Nakanishi (ADEC)  
Tim Pilon (ADEC)  
Charlie Cobb (ADNR)  
Adam Daniels (ADNR)  
Kindra Geis (ADNR)  
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Audra Brase (ADF&G)  
Russell Gossett (Northern Star)