THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

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Pogo Mine Field Inspection Report

Inspection Date:	June 18, 2026
Time:	9:00AM to 4:30PM
Weather:	Sunny blue skies with increasing cumulous buildup, virga, and sporadic light rain. High clouds by the end of the day with a high temperature of 69°F.
Agency Personnel:	DNR-LMPT: Jesse Garnett White, Carolyn Curley, and Skyler Smith
Operator Contact:	Pogo: Michael Eckert, Russel Gossett, and James Meyers.
Inspection Objectives:	Site Inspection for adherence to Plan of Operations Approval F20249500POOA.1 and associated amendments and Reclamation Plan Approval F20249500A.1.

Operations:

Pogo Mine is an underground gold mine located on land owned by the State of Alaska 38 miles northeast of Delta Junction, Alaska, and 88 miles east-southeast of Fairbanks on the western edge of the Goodpaster Mining District. Mine access is from the Richardson Highway via a 49-mile all-season road. The mine is an underground long-hole open-stope cut-and-fill operation. Gold is processed and recovered using gravity concentration, flotation, and Carbon-in-Pulp (CIP) processes[1].
land owned by the State of Alaska 38 miles northeast

Field Inspection Plan, Execution and Summary Schedule:

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources Large Mines Permitting Teams (DNR – LMPT) primary objectives for the field inspection were to inspect active disturbance, water management, and reclamation. DNR-LMPT staff arrived at 9:00am where we met with Michael Eckert (General Manager of Pogo Operations), Russell Gossett (Environmental Manager) and James Meyers (Sr. Environmental Coordinator) to discuss field inspection objectives. It was decided that the DNR-LMPT inspection of the surface disturbance, water management, and reclamation (Maps 1-5) would begin at the Dry Stack Tailings Facility (DSTF) General Placement Area (GPA), followed by the Recycle Tailings Pond (RTP), RTP Dam, 1380 Portal, Off River Treatment Works (ORTW), drilling exploration pads and active drilling (GP03) on the north side of the Goodpaster River, and end at the Mill Bench to view exploration pads above the 1380 Portal and deposition and storage of growth media from the RTP.

[1] Northern Start Resources. (2023). *Revisions to Documents in Support of Renewal of Northern Star Resources (Pogo) LLC's Plan of Operations*. Northern Star Resources. Section 4.1. Pg. 7

After the DNR-LMPT inspection was completed, a short meeting was held with Mr. Gossett and Mr. Meyers to discuss the inspection and compliance. DNR-LMPT left the site at 3:30pm.

Findings:

A summary of LMPT inspection findings can be found below with a description of sites visited. Detailed route maps including tracks, areas of interest, and photos (drone and ground based) of all inspected sites with observations notes, are in Appendix A.

1. Inspection of Active Areas of Disturbance and Reclamation

1.1. DSTF: The DSTF (Maps 1 and 2, Photos 1 through 7) contains approximately 40% of all mineralized waste rock and dewatered flotation tailings; the remainder is placed underground as a paste backfill. Tailings and mineralized development rock are co-disposed year-round in the general placement area. The mineralized rock is encapsulated in the tailings to minimize oxidation of sulfide minerals. Natural runoff in and around the DSTF downslope from the north and south diversion ditches is focused towards the RTP via a network of flow-through drains. These drains and ditches prevent runoff water from entering the facility. At the time of inspection there was construction and deposition occurring on the DSTF at the GPA and Shells 2 and 3. The DSTF was in good working order and well maintained.

1.2. RTP and RTP Dam: The RTP and RTP Dam (Maps 1 and 2, Photos 7 through 11) are located just downstream from the DSTF to collect potential seepage and active flow-through (Photo 6). At the time of inspection, the water storage level was well beneath the dam crest and spillway. The spillway was free of any major or obvious debris. The area was in good condition and well maintained. There was construction activity occurring above RTP where growth media from GM 14 and 15 was being removed (See Section 1.4).

1.3. 1380 Portal: The portal development progresses with increasing amounts of waste rock being placed on the pad outside of the portal (Maps 1 and 3, Photos 12-18).

1.4. Growth Media removal and placement: Growth media (GM 14 and 15) was being removed below the Dry Stack Toe near the Stilling Basin and placed beneath the Mill Bench at GM 18 (Maps 1, 2, and 3, Photos 6, 7, 8, 10, and 25).

2. Water Management

2.1. ORTW: At the northern end of the mine is the ORTW consisting of two ponds (Maps 1 and 4, Photos 19 through 22). The inlet pond has connectivity with the Goodpaster River, which pumps fresh water into the mixing pond via a pump station. The ORTW pump station has a mixing chamber where effluent water from the treatment plant mixes with fresh water before discharging into the mixing pond. The mixing pond serves as a final zone where larger suspended particles from treated waters may precipitate out before reaching the outfall. Water from the outfall discharges back into the Goodpaster River. At the time of inspection, the ORTW was operating normally.

3. Miscellaneous Sites

3.1. Exploration Drilling: We visited Ruen exploration drilling rig GP03 (Maps 1 and 5, Photos 23 and 24) after reviewing the ORTW and before inspecting the active deposition of growth media near the Mill Bench (GM 18). A brief safety meeting was conducted on site and the drone was deployed. We also viewed exploration drilling pads (Photo 26) above the 1380 Portal and below the Mill Bench.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

All observed activities followed Northern Star Resources Ltd. Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan Approvals (F20249500POOA.1 and F20249500RPA.1. The operator facilitates activities in a manner which prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of State land and water resources and is responsive to requests made by the department.

Report prepared by: Jesse Garnett White

Cc:

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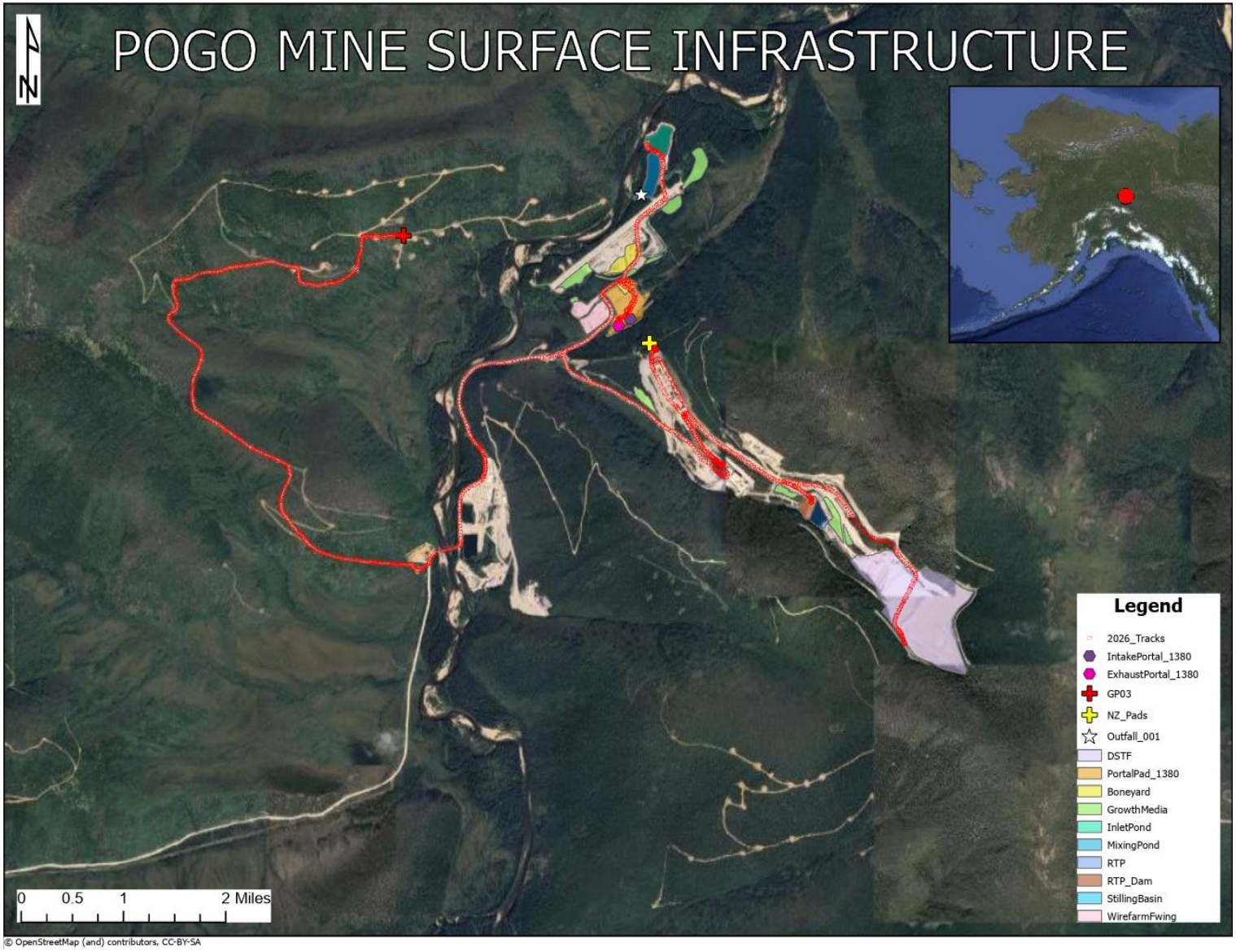
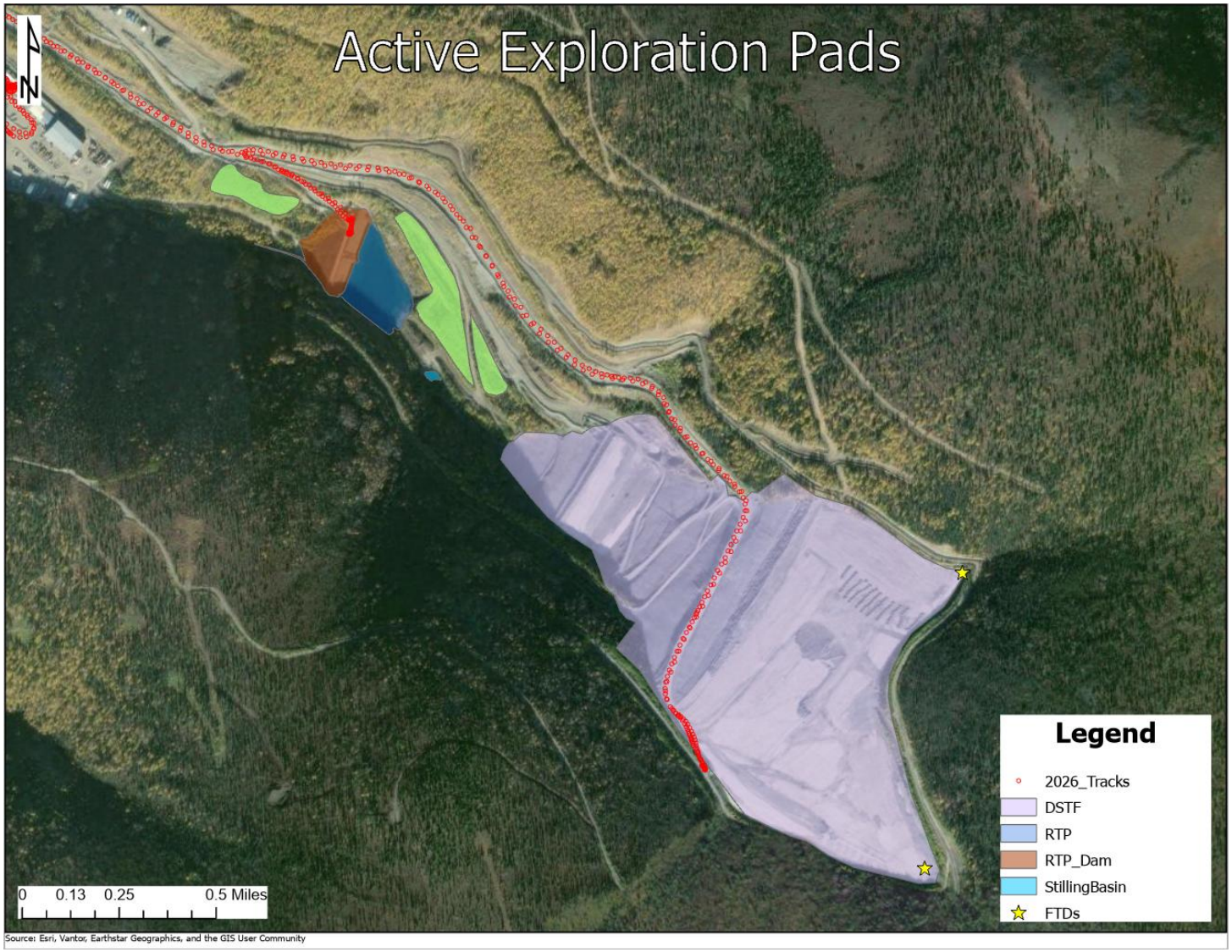
Jonathan Kummer (DNR)
Carolyn Curley (DNR),
Aaron Kruse (DNR),
Nick Waldo (DEC),
Tim Pilon (DEC),
Audra Brase (ADF&G)

Appendix A

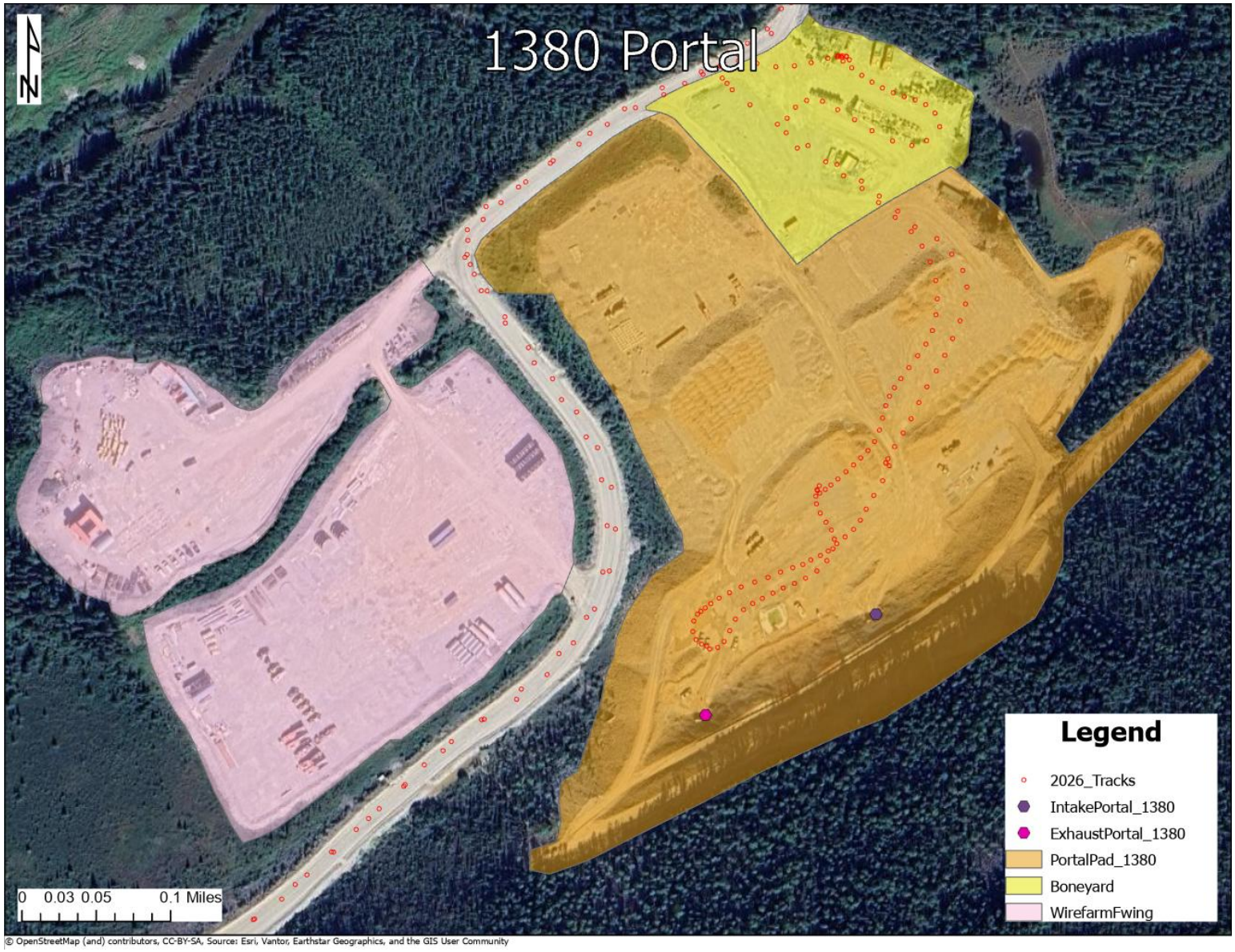
Inspection Maps and Observations of Note



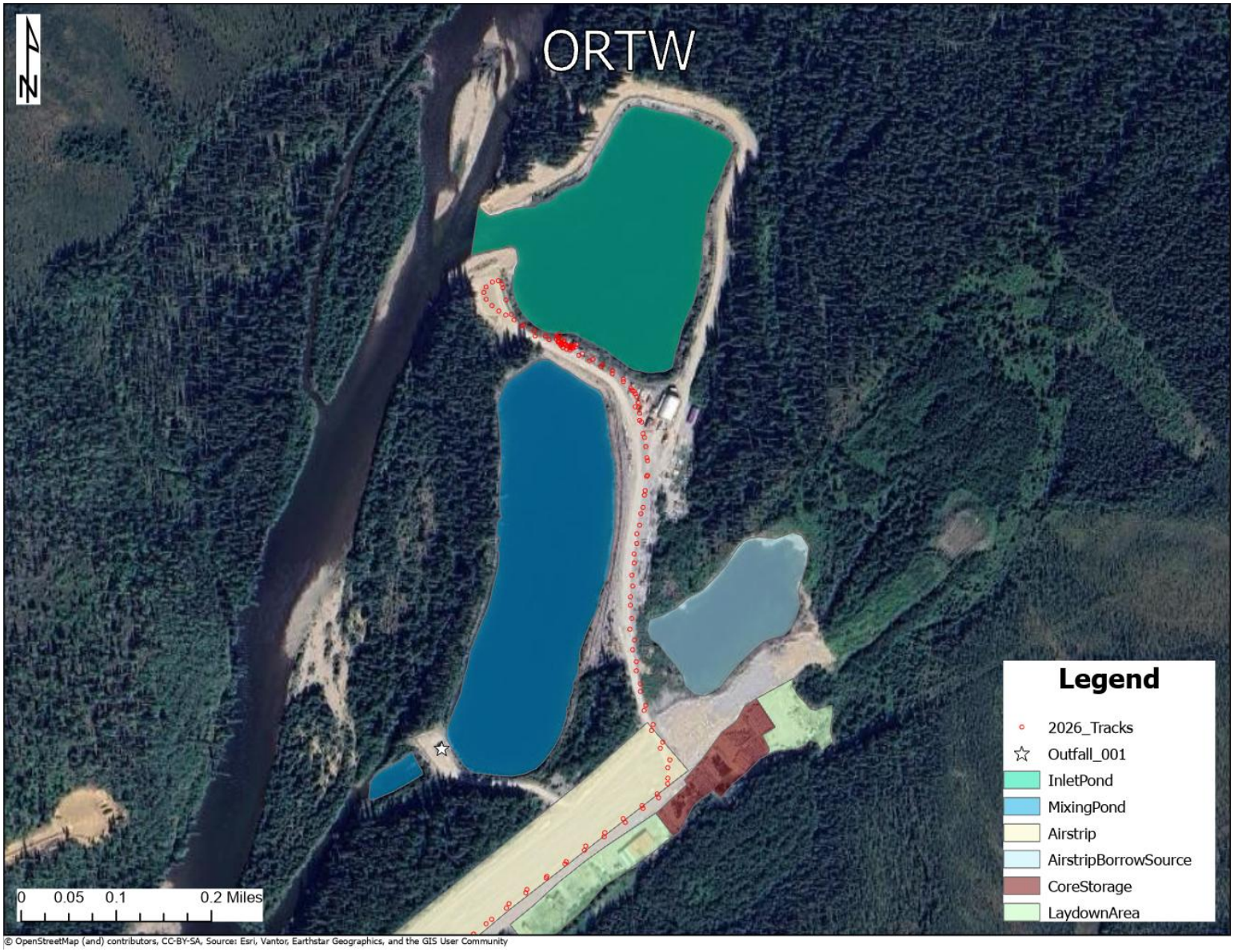
Map 1: Pogo Mine 06/2026 Surface infrastructure, inspection tracks, and locations.



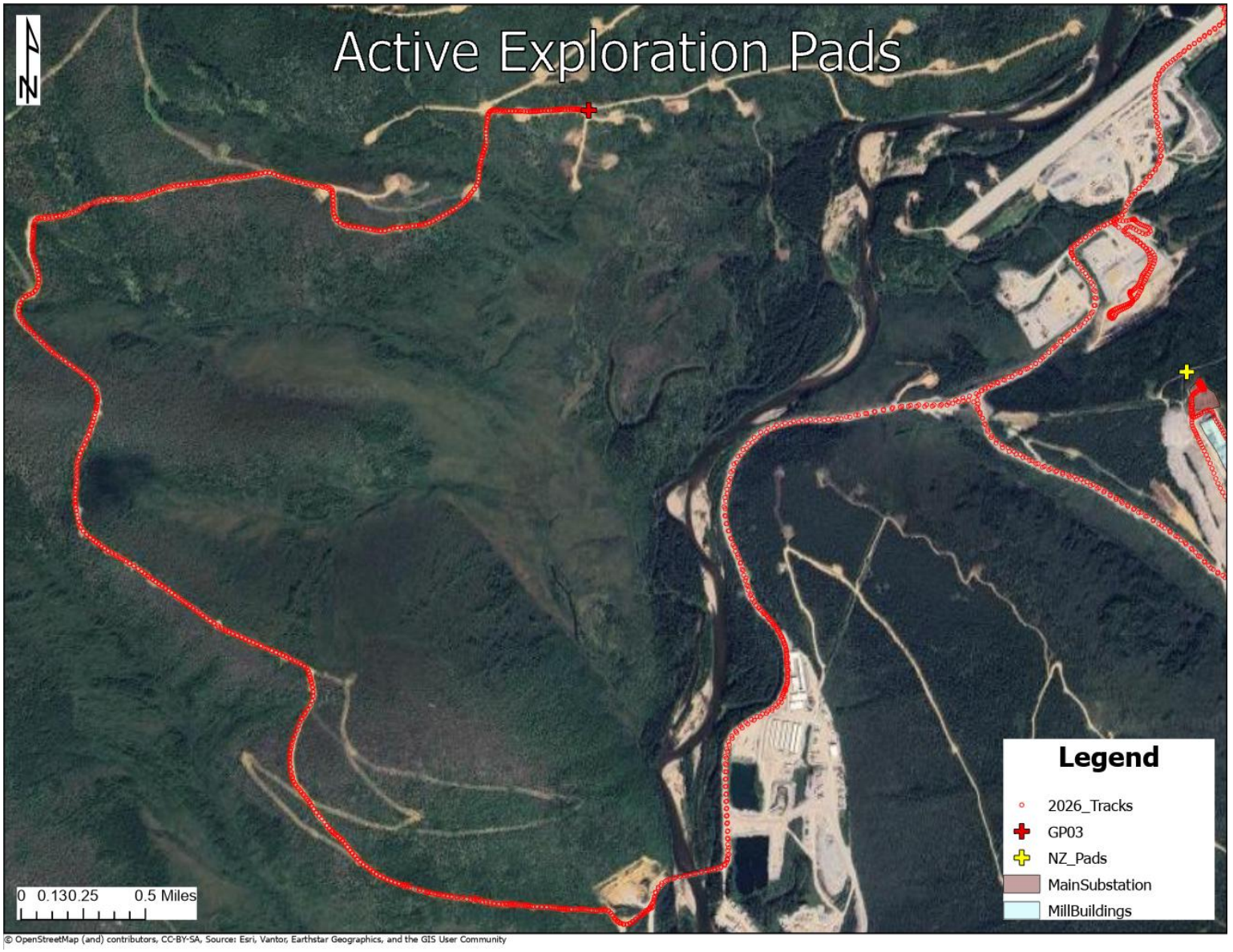
Map 2: Pogo Mine 06/2026 DSTF, RTP, Flow Through Drain (FTD) surface location, and inspection tracks.



Map 3: Pogo Mine 06/2026 1380 Portal and inspection tracks.



Map 4: Pogo Mine 06/2026 ORTW and inspection tracks.



Map 5: Pogo Mine 06/2026 Active exploration drilling and inspection tracks.

Field Inspection Observations of Note with Photos in Sequence of Inspection

Photo 1:

Surface Tailings Treatment Facility

Dry Stack General Placement Area

North-northwest view of the upper reaches of the Dry Stack General Placement Area including deposition of new material and locations of diversion ditches and entrance to the southeast flow-through drain.

Note the locations of Shell #1 and RTP Dam.

Photo 2:

Surface Tailings Treatment Facility

Dry Stack General Placement Area

Easterly view of the upper Dry Stack General Placement Area including deposition of new material and locations of diversion ditches and northeast flow-through drain.

Note the locations of Shell #1.

Photo 3: Surface Tailings Treatment Facility Dry Stack General Placement Area Southern view of the upper Dry Stack including deposition of new material and location of diversion ditches, southeast flow-through drain. Note the location of Shell #1.	
Photo 4: Surface Tailings Treatment Facility Dry Stack General Placement Area and Shell #1 Southeast view of the upper Dry Stack and Shell #1 including deposition of new material and location of diversion ditches and flow-through drains. Note the location of the Old South Diversion Ditch.	

Photo 5: Surface Tailings Treatment Facility Southeast view of the middle Dry Stack Shell #1 and active construction and deposition. Note: Shell #2 (buried/covered) and #3 are being raised together monolithically.	
Photo 6: Surface Tailings Treatment Facility Southeast view of the lower Dry Stack (Dry Toe). Active construction and deposition associated with Shells #2 and #3. Observed removal of growth media is associated with Dry Stack expansion. Note the location of the Stilling Basin.	

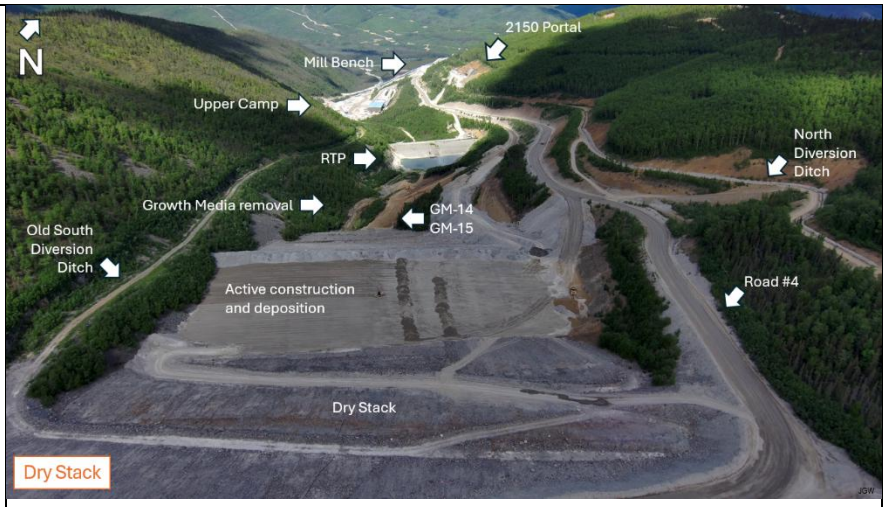
Photo 7: Surface Tailings Treatment Facility North northwest view of the middle to lower Dry Stack including diversion ditches, active construction and deposition, and removal of growth media. Note the location of RTP. Goodpaster exploration drilling pads in the far distance.	
Photo 8: RTP North-northwest view of the RTP and RTP Dam down valley from the Dry Stack. Observed removal of growth media is associated with Dry Stack expansion. Note the locations of the South Diversion Ditch and active growth media removal.	

Photo 9: RTP North-northwest view of the RTP and RTP Dam down valley from the Dry Stack. Note the location of the South Diversion Ditch and Spillway Chute.	
Photo 10: RTP Observed removal of Growth Media from GM 14 and 15 between the Dry Stack and RTP. Note the location of the Stilling Basin	

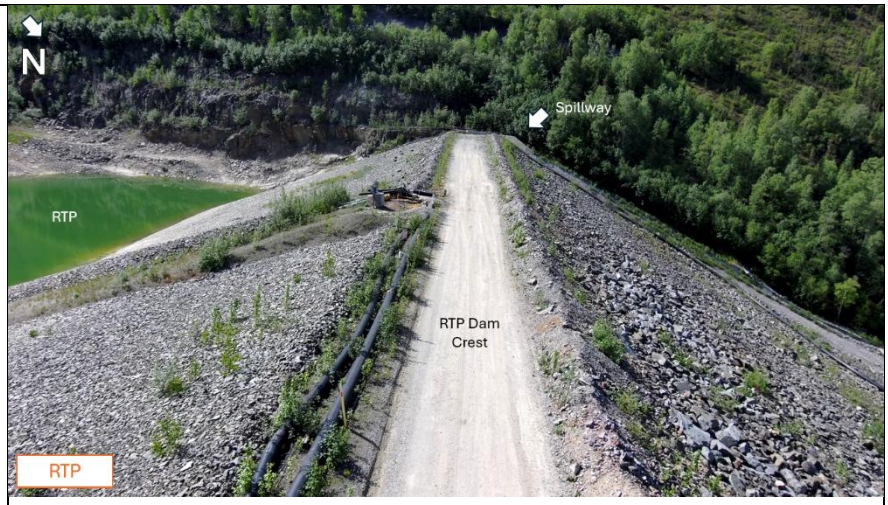
Photo 11: RTP View of the RTP and RTP Dam crest. Note the water depth versus height of dam crest and spillway.	
Photo 12: 1380 Portal Southeast view of the 1380 Portal including intake and exhaust portals and portal pad. Note the location of the Boneyard and Temporary Boneyard.	

Photo 13: 1380 Portal Southeast view of the 1380 intake and exhaust portals.	
Photo 14: 1380 Portal Intake Portal as seen from ground level.	

Photo 15: 1380 Portal Exhaust Portal as seen from ground level.	
Photo 16: 1380 Portal and Surrounding Areas New facility observed at the Wire Farm that Pogo employees are calling the *Thunderdome* (used for heavy and light duty vehicle and miscellaneous equipment maintenance).	

Photo 17: 1380 Portal and Surrounding Areas Note the locations of Exploration Drill Pad GP03 across the Goodpaster River and the ORTW.	
Photo 18: 1380 Portal and Surrounding areas Note the location of the 1380 Portal and Exploration Pads above the portal near the Main Substation.	

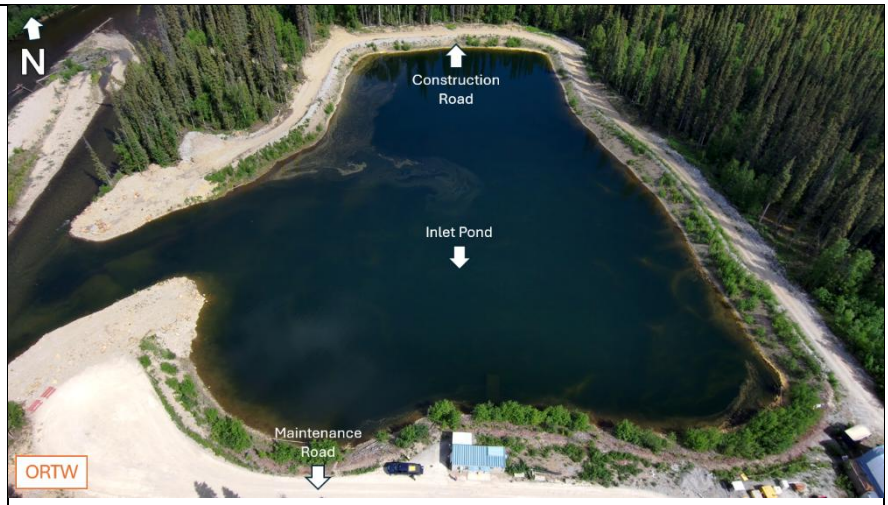
Photo 19: ORTW View of the Inlet Pond.	
Photo 20: ORTW View of the Inlet and Mixing Zone ponds.	

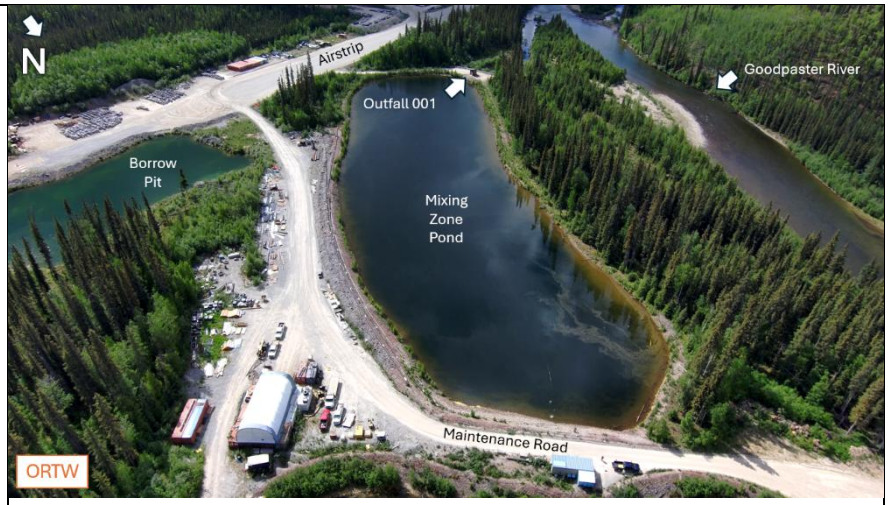
Photo 21: ORTW View of the Mixing Zone Pond and Outfall 001.	
Photo 22: Outfall 001	

Photo 23: Goodpaster Exploration Prospects Roads and Pads Note the location of drill pad GP03.	
Photo 24: Goodpaster Exploration Prospects Roads and Pads Active Drilling at GP03.	

Photo 25: Growth Media Stockpile (GM18) The material being placed in this stockpile comes from GM 14 and 15 below the Dry Stack Toe.	
Photo 26: Exploration Pads above the 1380 Portal NZ_A, B, C, and D. Note the location of the Mill Bench.