



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER

Mining Section

Northern Office

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September 14, 2020

Will Collingwood  
Senior Environmental Engineer  
Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.  
PO Box 73726  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3726

**Subject: Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Approval Amendment 1  
F20209852POOA.1 for Construction of a Decant Tower System**

Dear Mr. Collingwood:

On August 18, 2020, the Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW) received correspondence from Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (FGMI) requesting approval to amend the *Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations (POO)* for construction of a decant water system in the North Pond of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF). DMLW received subsequent correspondence from FGMI on August 20, 2020 modifying the proposed layout of the decant water system.

The DMLW understands this request includes the construction of a decant jetty in the North Pond, a tank platform on the seepage reduction berm and an access ramp from the Fish Creek Dump to the Pearl Creek Causeway.

The DMLW Mining section has reviewed the proposed amendment. DMLW Dam Safety, the Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and Fish & Game (ADF&G) have been notified and no objections to the proposed amendment have been received.

The requested amendment to the POO as proposed and illustrated in the submission dated August 20, 2020 is hereby approved as *Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20209852POOA.1 (POOA)*. Nothing in this decision changes the conditions of the original POO Approval dated March 25, 2020. This change should be accounted for in the next update to the Plan of Operations, the Reclamation and Closure Plan, and the closure cost estimate.

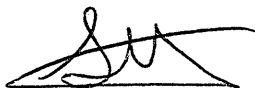
Please be advised that this authorization does not eliminate the potential need for authorization of your activity from other Federal, State, or local divisions or agencies.

A person affected by this decision may appeal it, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any appeal must be received within 20 calendar days after the date of "issuance" of this decision, as defined in 11 AAC 02.040(c) and (d) and may be mailed or delivered to the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to [dnr.appeals@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.appeals@alaska.gov). Under 11 AAC 02.030, appeals and requests for reconsideration filed under 11 AAC 02 must be accompanied by the fee established in 11 AAC 05.160(d)(1)(F), which has been set at \$200 under the provisions of 11 AAC 05.160 (a) and (b).

This decision takes effect immediately. If no appeal is filed by the appeal deadline, this decision becomes a final administrative order and decision of the department on the 31st calendar day after issuance. An eligible person must first appeal this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.

If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact Brent Martellaro at 907-451-2788

Sincerely,



Steve Buckley  
Mining Section Chief

Enclosure: Copy of FGMI's August 20, 2020 amendment request

Cc via email: Mark Huffington, FGMI  
Brent Martellaro, ADNR  
Carolyn Curley, ADNR  
Kyle Moselle, ADNR  
Charles Cobb, ADNR  
Audra Brase, ADF&G  
Ashlee Adoko, ADNR

Bartly Kleven, FGMI  
Kindra Geis, ADNR  
William Groom, DNR  
Tom Barrett, ADNR  
Tim Pilon, ADEC  
Ellen Lyons, USACE  
Jenny March, ADNR