



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of Natural Resources**

Division of Mining, Land & Water  
Mining Resources Section

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April 29, 2014

Jennifer Pyecha  
Environmental Engineer  
Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.  
PO Box 73726  
Fairbanks, AK 99707-3726

**Subject: Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval - F20149852POO.1  
2014 TSF Dam Raise Clearing and Borrow Material Access Road Construction**

Dear Ms. Pyecha,

The Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) received correspondence on April 16, 2014 from Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (FGMI), requesting approval to amend the *Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO* for the clearing of 63 acres for the TSF dam raise filter and seal material borrow sources, and the construction of a borrow material access road. Additional details regarding control measures for preventing water migration below the tailings dam were provided in an updated correspondence on April 23, 2014.

Along with stockpiling growth media, DMLW understands FGMI will stockpile cleared trees and vegetation for future reclamation. DMLW also understands that FGMI intends to divert water towards the TSF South pond by implementing earthen berms as the primary control measure to prevent water migration below the tailings dam, and installing culverts and/or underdrains as a secondary control measure.

The DMLW has reviewed the proposed amendment and consulted with Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and Fish & Game (ADF&G).

The requested amendment to the Plan of Operations, as proposed and illustrated in your April 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 submittals, is hereby approved as *Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO.1*.

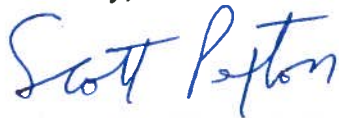
Nothing in this decision changes the conditions of the original Plan of Operations Approval dated March 28, 2014. The associated disturbance of the borrow sites and access road should be depicted in the annual set of maps illustrating the current development of all facilities within the millsite lease boundary, described in the 2014 annual report, and accounted for in the next update to the Reclamation and Closure Plan (and the closure cost estimate unless approved reclamation of these areas has been completed).

Please be advised that this authorization does not eliminate the potential need for authorization of your activity from other federal, state, and local 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 .2.040(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). 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,



Scott Pexton  
Mining Section Chief

cc via email: Delbert Parr, FGMI  
Brent Martellaro, ADNR  
Carolyn Curley, ADNR  
David Schade, ADNR  
Tim Pilon, ADEC  
Bill Morris, ADF&G  
Jennifer Pyecha, FGMI  
Stephanie Lovell, ADNR  
Jack DiMarchi, ADNR  
Charlie Cobb, ADNR  
Pete McGee, ADEC  
Jack Winters, ADF&G