

INSPECTION REPORT: GREENS CREEK MINE

Tongass National Forest Minerals Group
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Date of Inspection: Wednesday, August 30, 2023
Date of Report: Monday, September 25, 2023.
USDA Forest Service Inspector: Richard Dudek

Ranger District: Admiralty National Monument, Juneau Ranger District
Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy and light rain. Temperature: Low 60's (°F).

Exploration in accordance with the operating plan	Not Applicable
Timber removal following timber sale contract	Not Applicable
BMP for erosion control	Satisfactory
Water Quality BMP	Satisfactory
Public safety fire prevention	Satisfactory
Reclamation work is adequate and timely.	Satisfactory
Road maintenance is adequate and current.	Satisfactory
Tails placement is in accordance with the approved plan	Satisfactory
Waste Rock placement in compliance	Satisfactory
Company supervision of the operation	Satisfactory
Operating in a clean and orderly manner	Satisfactory

Any conditions noted as UNSATISFACTORY will require follow-up action by the Mine Inspector and a written memorandum outlining the necessary work to the operator.

Any conditions noted as Requires Action will require attention from the operator, and suggestions for necessary work are listed below

Alaska Seaplanes provided as transportation to and from the mine site.

Dave Landes (Senior Environmental Engineer, HGCMC) accompanied Richard Dudek (Geologist, USFS).

The site inspection included the B access road, 920 area, 7.4-mile B-Road Bridge (Killer Creek Bridge), Site E, 3.4-mile B-Road bridge (Falls Creek Bridge), 3.0-mile B-Road bridge (Zinc Creek Bridge), and the Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF).

NEW ACTION ITEMS: No new action items were found during this inspection.

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS INSPECTIONS:

There are no pending action items.

New Action Items:

No further action items to report.

ACCESS ROADS

The B access road appeared to be in adequate condition. HGCMC Surface Operations personnel operated the vacuum truck to clean out the sediment sumps along the 3.3-mile marker B Road (Photo 1).

920 AREA

The Greens Creek weir discharge was 41 cfs (Photo 2), and 1.5 cfs was being withdrawn for the 920 facilities.

HGCMC will be installing an active carbon filter system next to the 920 pump house to help improve potable water quality for the 920 area (Photo 3).

The 920 bridge was in good condition, and the splash guards functioned as designed (Photo 4).

Good housekeeping practices were observed at the 920 warehouse (Appendix 5 BMP Plan, page 39). All petroleum/chemicals were stored adequately within secondary containment (Photo 5).

7.4-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (KILLER CREEK BRIDGE)

The Killer Creek Bridge decking was in good condition, and the associated BMPs were functioning as intended (Photo 5).

SITE E

FY 2023, HGCMC has removed 32,695 tons (24,399 CY) of waste rock from this location and disposed of it in the TDF (Photo 6).

3.4-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (FALLS CREEK BRIDGE)

The bridge surface or wear layer was in good condition, and the splash guards worked as intended (Photo 7). The associated BMPs for the bridge were working as designed.

3.0-MILE B-ROAD BRIDGE (ZINC CREEK BRIDGE)

The Zinc Creek bridge was in good condition (Photo 8).

Over the summer, HGCMC installed several flocculant logs at the inlet of the Gnome pond. Since then, HGCMC personnel have observed that turbidity and sediment accumulation have decreased in the other connected ponds, including the Gnome Pond (Photo 9).

TAILINGS DISPOSAL FACILITY (TDF) AREA

The current active tailings placement location was in the western section of the TDF's S3P1 area (Photo 10). HGCMC personnel plans to install new portable/adjustable dust screens at the TDF.

Pond 7 was receiving mine site water, and the dredge was not operating during the site visit. The perimeter of the pond's liner was also inspected to ensure vegetation was not growing through the 80 mm HDPE liner (Photos 11-12). Some small alders and small conifers are growing on top of the liner. However, their roots were not penetrating through the liner. HGCMC will contact the Forest Service to discuss ways to remove the vegetation safely.

Seven dewatering bags are staged in Pond 10 (Photo 13). Two of the seven bags are currently collecting sediments from the Pond 7 dredging activities. Once the 2023 dredging operations have ceased, a contractor will be on-site to dispose of the sediments in the TDF.

The water treatment plant was discharging approximately 640 gpm to Outfall 002. The turbidity and pH were 1.67 ntu and 8.1, respectively.

The new degrit basin in the TDF's S3P1 southwest area was collecting sediment-laden water from the tailings pile (Photo 14).

PHOTOS (Image files available upon request)



Photo 1. Surface Operations personnel cleaning sumps at the 3.3 Mile B Road.



Photo 2. 920 Greens Creek Wier.



Photo 3. The foundation blocks for the active carbon filtration system.



Photo 4. The 920 Bridge.



Photo 5. The 920 warehouse.



Photo 5. 7.4 B-Road Bridge (Killer Creek Bridge).



Photo 6. Waste Site E (4.7 mile B-road).



Photo 7. 3.4 B-Road Bridge (Falls Creek Bridge).



Photo 8. 3.0 B-Road Bridge (Zinc Creek Bridge).



Photo 9. Zinc Creek Bridge abutment sediment ponds with Flocculant logs stage at the inlet of the first pond.



Photo 10. Max haul depositing tailings in the western section of the S3P1 TDF.



Photo 11. The vegetation is seen growing around the perimeter of Pond 7, has a shallow root system, and is not growing through the liner.



Photo 12. A pulled alder from the soil on top of the Pond 7 liner.



Photo 13. Pond 10.



Photo 14. TDF de grit basin.

Thanks to HGCMC for a safe visit. /s/ Richard Dudek
