



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
Mining Section

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April 4, 2018

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

**Subject: Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval
F20149852POO.11 for Clearing and Grubbing for Subbase Material and Re-
establishing the light duty vehicle spur road for Fish Creek Road**

Dear Ms. Pyecha:

On March 19, 2018, 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 Amendment Approval F20149852POO (POOA)*** for clearing and grubbing to access subbase material for construction of the Walter Creek Heap Leach pad and to re-establish the light duty vehicle spur road for Fish Creek Road.

The DMLW understands this request includes the potential to clear and grub 14.4 acres for subbase material, avoiding areas designated as wetlands, and that FGMI will stockpile all organic material for future reclamation or for use as subbase. DMLW understands that FGMI will re-establish the light duty vehicle spur road for Fish Creek Road previously authorized under ***Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO.5*** issued May 12, 2016.

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

The requested amendment to the POOA as proposed and illustrated in your March 19, 2018 submission is hereby approved as ***Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO.11 (POOA)***. Nothing in this decision changes the conditions of the original POOA Approval dated March 28, 2014. These changes 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© 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. 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 March 19, 2018 amendment request

Cc via email: Mark Huffington, FGMI
Brent Martellaro, ADNR
Carolyn Curley, ADNR
David Schade, ADNR
Tim Pilon, ADEC
Ellen Lyons, USACE

Bartly Kleven, FGMI
Kindra Geis, FGMI
Kyle Moselle, ADNR
Charles Cobb, ADNR
Audra Brase, ADF&G



Fort Knox Mine

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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A subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corp.
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Fairbanks, AK 99707-3726

Phone: (907) 488-4653
Fax: (907) 490-2290
www.kinross.com

March 12, 2018

Brent Martellaro
Division Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources
3700 Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699

Subject: 2018 WCHL Clearing and Grubbing for Subbase

Dear Mr. Martellaro,

Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (FGMI) is requesting a modification to our Plan of Operations for the Fort Knox Gold Mine. This modification includes clearing and grubbing 14.4 acres to access subbase material for construction of the Walter Creek Heap Leach pad.

In 2016 FGMI requested to install a temporary spur road. It was subsequently approved (FGMI F20149852POO.5), installed and then reclaimed. We would like to install this road again and eventually submit a plan to integrate it permanently with the Fish Creek road alignment. As of now the spur road will not impact the Fish Creek road. The benefit of this road is to keep as much traffic off the Walter Creek Heap Leach ultimate perimeter road as possible. The fewer vehicles on this road will help mitigate potential damage of the liner system.

Please reference the attached figure.

All organic material will be stockpiled for future reclamation.

There are no wetlands identified in this area.

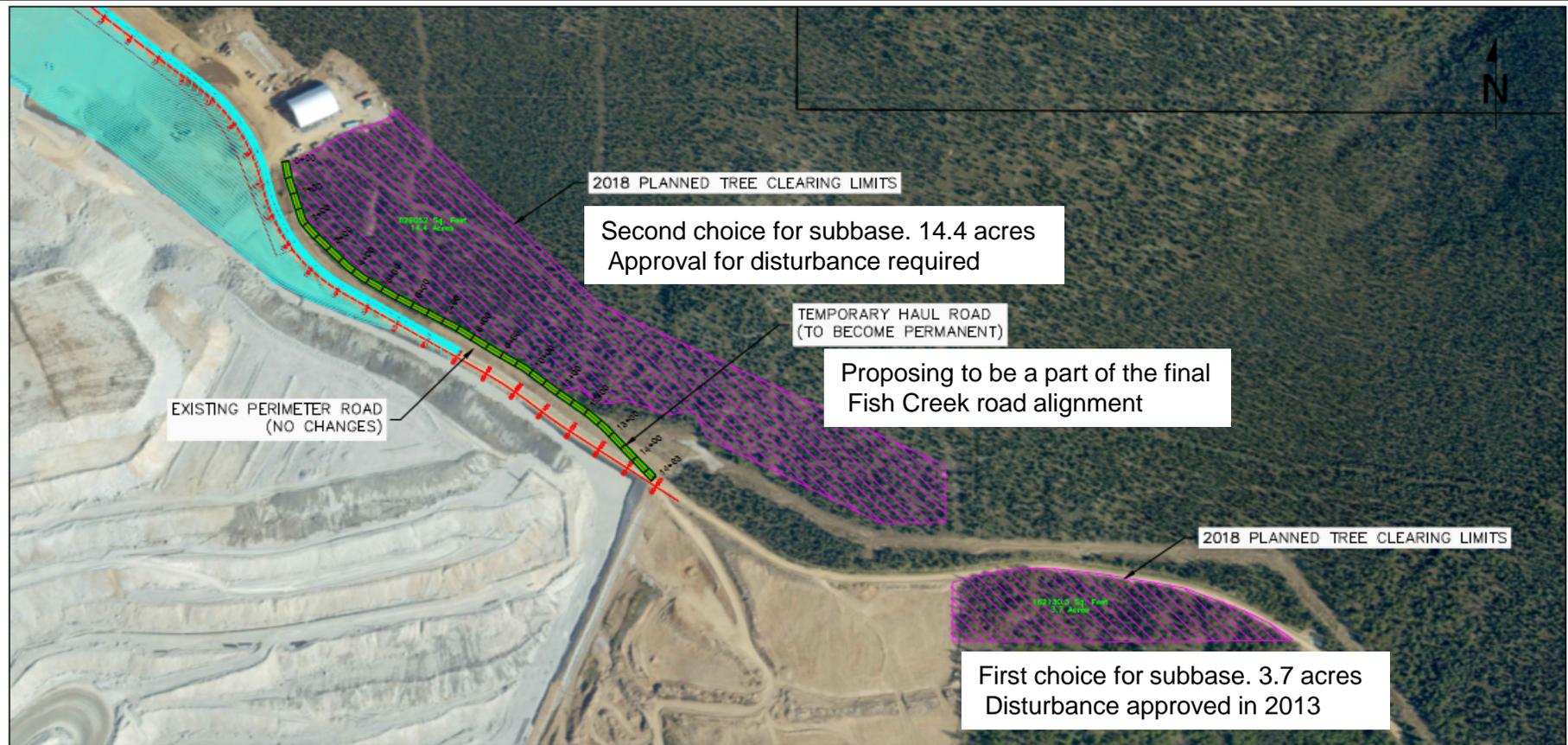
Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions at 907-490-6184 or email Jennifer.pyecha@kinross.com

Regards,

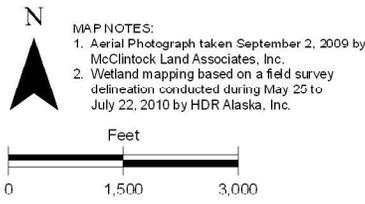
Jennifer Pyecha
Senior Environmental Engineer

cc: Bartly Kleven, FGMI
Ellen Lyons, ACOE
Kyle Moselle, ADNR

BORROW AREAS/TEMPORARY HAUL ROAD



-  - 2018 SECONDARY SUBBASE BORROW LOCATION WITH TREE CLEARING
-  - 2017 HEAP LEACH CONSTRUCTION



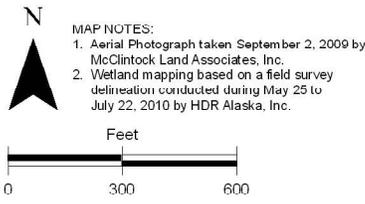
**Wetland Delineation
Overview Map
Fort Knox Mine
Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination
Figure 3**



Fish Creek
Detour/Spur

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LEGEND	
	Mapping Area Boundary
	Wetland Boundaries
	Stream
	GPS Data Collection Sites
	Photo Point - Upland
	Photo Point - Wetland
	Data Form Site - Upland
	Data Form Site - Wetland

Wetland Delineation
Fort Knox Mine
Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination
Figure 5