



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
Mining Section

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 900B
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3577
Minerals Property Management Main: 907.269.8642
Fax: 907.269.8649
Coal Regulatory/Abandoned Mine Lands Main: 907.269.8631
Fax: 907.269.8930
TDD: 907.269.8411

January 26, 2017

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

Subject: Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO.6 for Heap Leach Expressway

Dear Ms. Pyecha,

On January 19, 2017 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 6.1 acres for the construction of the Heap Leach Expressway, and recovering subbase material.

The DMLW understands this request includes the construction of a second multiplate tunnel on the mine access road to increase safety between mine equipment and local traffic; the subbase will be utilized in the construction of the northern part of the Walter Creek Heap Leach (WCHL) pad; the Barnes Creek growth media pad will be relocated to the west; and the powerline will be relocated this spring to allow for construction of the expressway.

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 POOA as proposed and illustrated in your January 19, 2017 submission is hereby approved as *Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO.6*. Nothing in this decision changes the conditions of the original POOA Approval dated March 28, 2014. The associated disturbance and reclamation for these activities must be accounted for in the next update to the Reclamation and Closure Plan and associated 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. 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,



Marty Lentz
Mining Section Chief

cc via email: Bartly Kleven, FGMI Mark Huffington, FGMI
 Brent Martellaro, ADNR Stephanie Lovell, ADNR
 Carolyn Curley, ADNR Kyle Moselle, ADNR
 Charlie Cobb, ADNR Tim Pilon, ADEC
 Audra Brase, ADF&G Ellen Lyons, USACE