



Alaska Gold Company

A NovaGold Subsidiary

May 25, 2006

Luke Boles
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
610 University Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3643

Re: Rock Creek Mine Site
Waste Management Permit Application

Dear Mr. Boles,

Alaska Gold Company (AGC) is requesting a waste management permit from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for the Rock Creek Mine Project near Nome, Alaska. The waste management permit would address the following aspects at the mine:

- a proposed paste tailings storage facility (TSF) at the Rock Creek Mine/Mill Complex,
- potentially acid generating development rock at Big Hurrah mine site,
- a proposed inert waste landfill at the Rock Creek Mine/Mill Complex,
- a proposed inert waste landfill at the Big Hurrah Mine,
- injection wells for intercepted groundwater at the Rock Creek Mine/Mill Complex and at the Big Hurrah Mine Site

In addition;

- information has been provided to ADEC to demonstrate that development rock stockpiles at the Rock Creek Mine/Mill Complex and some of the development rock at

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the Big Hurrah Mine site are not acid-generating or metal-leaching and therefore do not constitute waste,

- pit lake modeling has also been provided to demonstrate that water quality in the pits, as they fill to become lakes, will be similar to natural background levels and will comply with aquatic life standards. The lake water will therefore not constitute waste water and will not require a discharge permit. However,
- the pit lake water at Rock Creek would not meet drinking water standards due to natural conditions at the site. A stream reclassification petition is being filed in a parallel process to this permit application to remove the drinking water standard from Rock Creek and Lindblom Creek. Reclassification of the streams would remove the drinking water criterion from the lake as well, and bring the lake into compliance with all applicable standards to ensure its non-waste status.

AGC has been submitting copies of studies and plans for the Rock Creek Mine project. With this letter, AGC is requesting that the ADEC consider all those documents as part of the waste management permit application. These documents most recently updated as of May 25, 2006 include:

- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 1 Project Description
- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 2 Environmental Information Document and Appendices
- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 3 Waste Management Plans which includes the following:
 - Alaska Gold Draft Solid Waste Management Plan in compliance with 18 AAC 60.205
 - Alaska Gold Draft Landfill Operations Plan in accordance with 18AAC 60
 - Tailings Storage Facility Operations and Maintenance Plan
 - Development Rock Handling Plan
 - Alaska Gold Hazardous Material Plan in compliance with the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), Title Three, Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. This plan has also been submitted to ADEC
- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 4 Reclamation Plan
- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 5 Water Management Reports
- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 6 Thermal and Seepage Evaluation
- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 7 Monitoring Plan

- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 8 Geochemistry and Groundwater Report
- Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Dam Safety Permit Application
- Alaska Gold Company Draft Stream Reclassification Permit Application for Rock Creek and Lindblom Creek
- Alaska Gold Draft Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan in compliance with the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activities.
- Injection Well Permit Application for Rock Creek and Big Hurrah

A general description of the site topography, geology, climate, surface water and groundwater is required to be included in the cover letter attached to a landfill application. Please refer to Sections 7.2 through 7.6 in the Environmental Information Document for this description.

AGC is aware of all applicable local ordinances, zoning requirements, and the Alaska Coastal Project Management Program requirements of 6 AAC 50. A Coastal Project Questionnaire has been submitted. If you have any questions concerning this application, please call me at 907-743-9366.

Sincerely,

Charlotte L. MacCay

Cc Tom Crafford/ADNR-LMT
Doug Nicholson/AGC
Ken Pohle/AGC

I, Ryan Baker, a registered engineer with the State of Alaska have reviewed the above listed documents and verify that:

- The narrative description submitted to meet the requirements of 18AAC 60.210 (b) (1) (B) providing a general narrative description of the site topography, geology, climate, surface hydrology and groundwater hydrology is correct. This information is found within the various documents listed above and in particular is summarized within the Alaska Gold Company Rock Creek Project Plan of Operations Volume 1 Project Description.
- The drawings, documents, and plans submitted to meet the requirements of 18AAC 60.210 (b)(3)(C) operations at the site, (b)(3)(D) monitoring for signs of pollution or other problems and (b)(4) contour drawings and waste disposal volume estimates are complete and accurate as upon the May 25, 2006 revisions.
- Drawings, documents, and plans submitted to meet the requirements of 18AAC 60.210 (b)(3)(A) the location of the landfill (s) are clear and accurate.
- Estimates and calculations submitted to meet the requirements of 18AAC 60.210 (b)(3) (B) facility design features and (b)(5) closure and post-closure cost estimates are complete and accurate.
- The closure plan submitted to meet the requirements of 18AAC 60.210 (b)(3)(E) closing landfills is feasible.

_____ Date _____