



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
Mining Section

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April 4, 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.7 for 2017 Drill Pad Construction for Monitoring Wells

Dear Ms. Pyecha,

On March 30, 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 the construction of drill pads and access roads to install seven new 8" steel monitoring wells with 12" steel conductor casings.

The DMLW understands this request is timely due to the importance of installation prior to freshet for safer access, and to minimize ground disturbance. DMLW understands FGMI will utilize a dual rotary casing advance with air to minimize water requirements. Drilling mud will not be utilized. Best Management Practices (BMP's) will be implemented to prevent sediment migration to open bodies of water. DMLW also understands wetland disturbance will be avoided.

The DMLW has reviewed the proposed amendment and consulted with Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and Fish & Game (ADF&G). Upon completion of the seven wells, contact ADEC to update the ***Fort Knox Gold Mine Monitoring Plan October 2012*** adding monitoring parameters and frequencies for the new wells.

The requested amendment to the POOA as proposed and illustrated in your March 30, 2017 submission is hereby approved as ***Fort Knox Mine Plan of Operations Amendment Approval F20149852POO.7***. 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,



for:

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