



INSPECTION REPORT

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
 Division of Water
 410 Willoughby Ave, Juneau, AK 99811

ADEC Inspection Form
 Last updated (4/08)

Inspector:
 Allan Nakanishi
 907-269-4028

Section A: General Data

Inspection Date	Permit #	Borough	Receiving Waters	Weather	Facility Type
October 22, 2009	AK-005057	N/A	E. Fork Slate Creek	Current Conditions: Temp: 40's. Light rainfall.	Tailings Disposal Facility

Discharges to: Surface Water Ground Water

ANNOUNCED Inspection

Section B: Facility Data

Name and Location of Site/ Facility Inspected		Entry Time	Permit Effective Date
Kensington Lower Slate Lake (LSL) Dam construction and Acid Rock Drainage Area adjacent to LSL.		08:00	September 1, 2005
		Exit Time 12:00	Permit Expiration Date August 31, 2010
Loc: Lat: 58d 49' 58"N Long: 134d 57' 58"W Source: NPDES permit			
On-Site Representative		Additional Participants:	
Clyde Gillespie (Surface Ops Mgr), Kevin Eppers, (Env. Tech.)		Chad Hood, USFS	
Responsible Official(s):			
Clyde Gillespie			
x Contacted			
Clyde: 523-3309 Kevin: 523-3328			
		Yes No	
		Samples Taken?	X
		Photos Taken?	X
		Analytical Results?	X

Section C: Findings/Comments

BACKGROUND

Coeur Alaska is constructing a dam to retain tailings to be placed in a Tailings Disposal Facility (TDF), previously Lower Slate Lake (LSL), now classified by ADEC as a Treatment Works. Adjacent to the dam downstream of the left abutment, material with an acid rock discharge (ARD) was encountered and has been covered by Coeur to minimize metals leaching. The lake is being dewatered to enable dam construction. The purpose of regular DEC inspections is primarily to observe activities associated with the construction of the dam and ARD seepage collection system and water treatment plant.

Regulatory Status/ Compliance History

Coeur received an NOV on August 26, 2008 to resolve issues with seeps and discharges from the ARD material to LSL.

FIELD INSPECTION

Construction status:

Excavation of the Phase 1 dam construction is nearly completed with much of the bedrock exposed for the Phase 1 foundation of the dam. Graphitic phyllite (ARD material) had been removed from the "Big Hole" and transported to the temporary storage pad. Other unsuitable material (soils) had been removed from the dam foundation area and transported to the head of the lake. A crusher was actively crushing rock for the dam construction.

Tailings Disposal Facility / Lower Slate Lake:

The water in the lake remains brown and turbid. The sediment bags had been newly replaced during the inspection and water was not being pumped from the lake at the time of this inspection. Prior to the sediment bag replacement, pumping had been reduced to approximately 1000 gpm to reduce turbidity impacts to East Fork Slate Creek.

SAMPLING ACTIVITIES – None conducted.

RECORDS REVIEW– None conducted.

SUMMARY

Any issues requiring action by Coeur or the state agencies?

1. Preventing and ensuring no additional treated seep water flows directly to East Fork Slate Creek.
2. Submittal by Coeur of a plan for the disposal of treated ARD seep water to the land around and adjacent to the TDF.

Section D: Compliance/Recommendations

ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS

None observed during this inspection.

POTENTIAL WATER QUALITY VIOLATIONS

None observed during this inspection.

Section E: Appendices

- 1: Photographic record.

Signature	Signature only acknowledges receipt of this report. Inspection report given to:
Inspector Division of Water	Date
Date	Company (if applicable):
Date	Date



Photograph 1. Snow Slide Gulch. Note: silt fence (barely visible in photo) was partially damaged from a small material slide. Fence was ordered to be repaired the same day as the inspection.



Photograph 2. Snow Slide Gulch Road – Road construction – drilling and blasting.



Photograph 3. Lower Slate Lake looking towards the Water Treatment Plant and TDF dam excavation.



Photograph 4. Lower Slate Lake looking towards Upper Slate Lake.



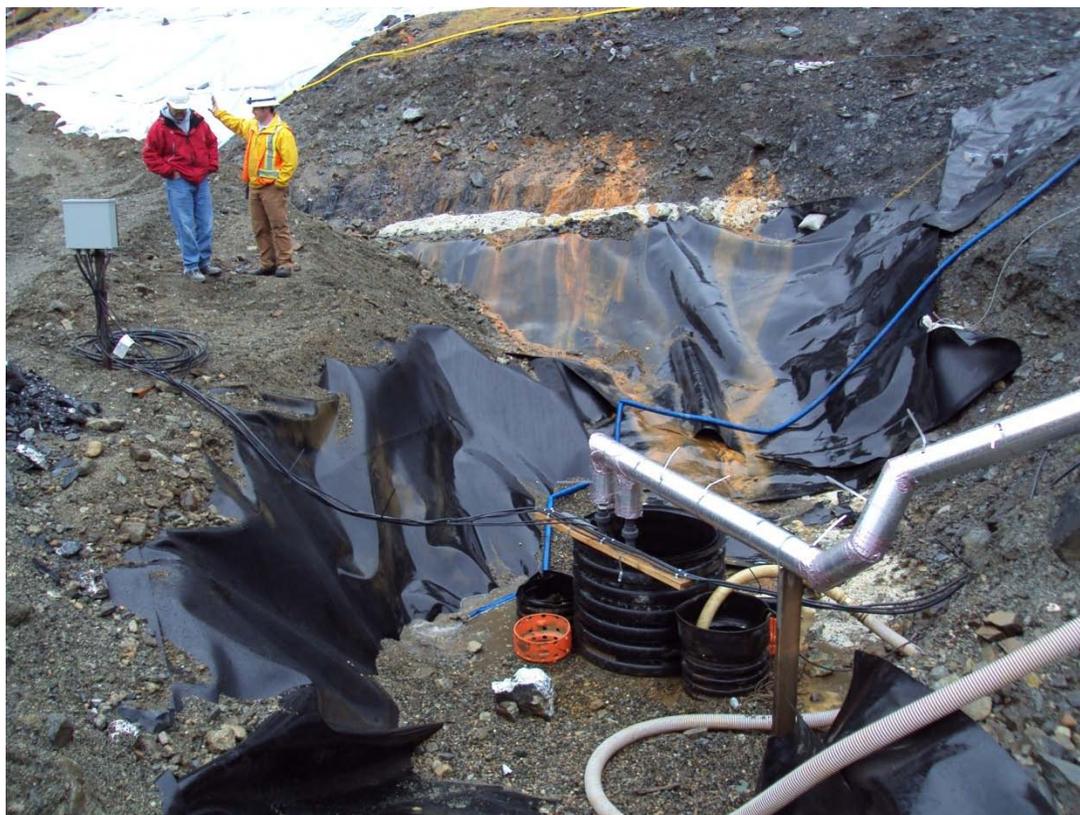
Photograph 5. Lower Slate Lake. TDF dam excavation to bedrock. Pond in foreground is the remnant of the former "Big Hole". Smaller pond in back ground, called "Storm Water Pond" collects treated WTP effluent and is pumped back into LSL.



Photograph 6. TDF dam excavation, looking towards LSL.



Photograph 7. Water Treatment Plant near head waters of East Fork Slate Creek.



Photograph 8. ARD seepage collection system. Seepage is piped into a storage tank and is treated in the WTP.



Photograph 9. Second seepage collection system below the WTP. Collected seepage is pumped into the primary seepage collection system (shown in photo 8).



Photograph 10. WTP looking toward LSL.



Photograph 11. WTP, treated water storage tank. Water is pumped from this tank to supply road watering trucks.



Photograph 12. Bypass outfall at headwater of East Fork Slate Creek.



Photograph 13. Bypass outfall at headwater of East Fork Slate Creek.



Photograph 14. Bypass outfall at headwater of East Fork Slate Creek. Rip rap used for energy dissipation prior to entering East Fork Slate Creek.



Photograph 15. Shoreline above LSL. Possible location for temporary land application.



Photograph 16. Cofferdam at LSL and dewatering pumps. Note the reduction of water level in LSL. Turbidity in LSL believed to be caused by runoff of exposed lake sediments.



Photograph 17. Upper portion of LSL.



Photograph 18. Graphitic Phyllite temporary storage area at Site 3. Note sump in foreground.