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May 15, 2024

Mr. David Khan
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
Submitted via email at david.khan@alaska.gov

Re: Notice of Proposed Reissuance of an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Individual Permit (number AK0050571) to Discharge Waters of the United States at the Kensington Mine

Dear Mr. Khan:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to express support for the reissuance of the APDES permit at the Kensington Mine, permit AK0050571.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

The Kensington Mine has been in production since 2010. They have since become the second largest private employer in Southeast Alaska, providing high paying jobs, and economic diversity to the region. The mine plays a vital role in the Southeast Alaska economic well-being, being the second largest property taxpayer in the City and Borough of Juneau. The Kensington Mine employs approximately 400 miners, operators, geologists, engineers, environmentalists, technicians, safety, and business leaders.

Coeur Alaska is diligent about water treatment, managing storm runoff, tailings, and waste rock storage, and protecting the wildlife around the mine. Kensington holds themselves to a higher standard, always. They have five water treatment facilities on site: Comet Water Treatment Plant, Tailings Treatment Facility (TTF) Water Treatment Plant, Potable Water Treatment Facility, Wastewater Treatment Facility, and the Seep Water Treatment Plant. In addition, Kensington utilizes additional measures to manage water quality underground before it goes to a treatment facility.

Any water that reaches the environment through their various water treatment systems is treated to meet the highest of standards whether it is, Alaska Water Quality Standards, U.S. Drinking Water Standards, or Aquatic Life Standards.



At Kensington, a primary core value is environmental protection, emphasizing how important it is to protect air, water, fish and wildlife, and human health. Since 1998, Coeur Alaska has maintained their APDES permits while being excellent stewards of the land.

AMA believes Coeur Alaska has and will always act in accordance with the highest safety, environmental, and social standards. For these reasons, we urge you to approve the Kensington Mine APDES Permit AK0050571.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DSK", is positioned above the typed name.

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director