



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### DEC inspection nets Kensington a Notice of Violation

**Nov. 10, 2005-Juneau**—The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued a notice of violation to Kensington Mine for exceeding water quality standards from activities inspected at the site on November 3, 2005.

“DEC’s authorization for Kensington construction activities requires that the water quality be protected,” said DEC’s Director of Water Lynn Kent. “We inspected a number of sites, and it was apparent that there were problems at two sites where sediment from construction activity was reaching nearby Johnson Creek. In such cases, the permit requires that operations contributing sediments be suspended and the problem fixed.”

Kent said that the violations stemmed from two direct discharges of sediment into Johnson Creek from an area around the northern bridge and the southern end of Top Soil Pit 1. DEC took four water samples, two upstream of construction and two downstream, and found the downstream samples exceeded water quality standards due to erosion and sediment runoff from mine construction activity. Because Southeast Alaska gets a lot of rain, significant erosion and sediment control measures are necessary to control storm water runoff and to protect surface waters.

Kent, along with the Department of Natural Resources, contacted Coeur Alaska to make sure they were taking steps to control the problem. Coeur was aware of the problem and told Kent that corrective actions had already begun in response to DEC’s onsite inspection. Coeur has until November 25 to come into compliance. Kent said DEC staff will be onsite to monitor the corrective actions taken to protect water quality.

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