



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEC continues to monitor Kensington Mine progress

Inspectors report results of December 2nd site visit

Dec. 6, 2005—Juneau—Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) inspectors are making public results from their re-inspection of the Kensington Mine project. DEC conducted a routine inspection at Coeur Alaska's Kensington Mine on November 3, 2005, and determined that Coeur was in violation of the turbidity standard due to sediment discharges into Johnson Creek from construction activities at the mill site, upper bridge and topsoil stockpile areas. On November 10, DEC issued Coeur Alaska, Inc. a Notice of Violation, requiring them to improve storm water treatment.

DEC re-inspected the site on December 2, to take turbidity measurements of Johnson Creek and review storm water treatment systems and diversions. Turbidity samples were collected at three locations; north of the mill site, downstream from the upper bridge, and just upstream from the lower bridge. The State water quality standards require that turbidity increase no more than 5 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) above natural conditions. Readings taken downstream of all construction activity measured between 1.5 and 3.5 NTU above natural conditions.

Inspectors noted that a number of improvements had been made to the storm water systems since the November 3rd inspection, including diversion ditches and pipes for clean water, the construction of small ponds adjacent to the road to collect and treat muddy water, and the addition of more and larger ponds at the topsoil stockpile area. A significant flow diversion of water from above the mill site had recently been completed and improvements continue with this and other storm water treatment systems and diversions.

The Notice of Violation requires that Coeur Alaska, Inc. submit to DEC a long-term plan for storm water treatment and diversion by December 12, 2005.

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