

STATE OF ALASKA/

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF AIR AND WATER QUALITY

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Site Visit Report Petigrew Placer Mine, Nome, AK

Facility: Placer Mine on Anvil Creek, near Nome, AK, operated by Bert Pettigrew

Date of Site Visit: 7/6/2002 and 7/7/2002

Permit Number: APMA # F026008, NPDES Permit # AKG-37-0480

File Number: 900.60.001

Purpose of Site Visit: To examine a placer mine that has received complaints regarding possible water quality violations during the past year.

People Present: Luke Boles (ADEC), Mitch Erickson (AK Gold Co., landowner on 7/6/02) and operator (Bert Pettigrew)

Facility Contact(s): Bert Pettigrew

Samples Taken: Turbidity sample taken from runoff crossing Glacier Creek Rd.

Weather: 48°F, cloudy skies and slight drizzle, 10 MPH wind out of the west.

Summary: On 7/6/02 Mitch and I arrived at the mine site at about 3:30pm. From the road we observed a culvert that was embedded into the bank of the settling/recycle pond. At high water levels in the settling/recycle pond water would drain from the pond to a depression near the road and through another culvert under the road, continuing in a swale to Anvil Creek. At the time of the inspection the end of the culvert facing the settling/recycle pond was capped with the remnants of a steel bucket and the water level in the pond was one to two feet below the level of the culvert. There was a small amount of seepage (<1gpm) emanating from the settling/recycle pond bank, flowing through the culvert under the road and into the swale toward Anvil Creek, that, when tested for turbidity on 7/7, registered greater than 1000 NTU. However, at approximately 1500 feet downstream of the road the turbidity of the water in the swale measured 5.71 NTU.

After observing the settling/recycle pond we proceeded into the mine and met with Mr. Pettigrew near the sluice box. The mine was operating at the time of inspection. Mr. Pettigrew indicated that the culvert in the settling/recycle pond remained plugged except during breakup when the plug was removed and the excess meltwater in the pond is drained. I indicated to Mr. Pettigrew that I would be back on 7/7 to more closely examine the seepage emanating from the settling/recycle pond. Mitch and I left the site at approximately 5:30pm.

On 7/7/02 I returned to the site to examine the seepage from the settling/recycle pond at approximately 4:00pm. As stated earlier, a water sample was collected of the seepage emanating from the settling/recycle pond and analyzed for turbidity using a Hach 2100P turbidimeter. The turbidity of the sample of the seepage collected was greater than the turbidimeter could measure (>1000 NTU). I continued down the swale and collected water samples to be analyzed for turbidity at intervals of approximately 500 feet. The turbidity readings at approximately 500, 1000 and 1500 feet downstream of the road were 17.0, 6.79 and 5.73 NTU respectively. I left the area near the site at about 5:00pm on 7/7/02.

Pictures:

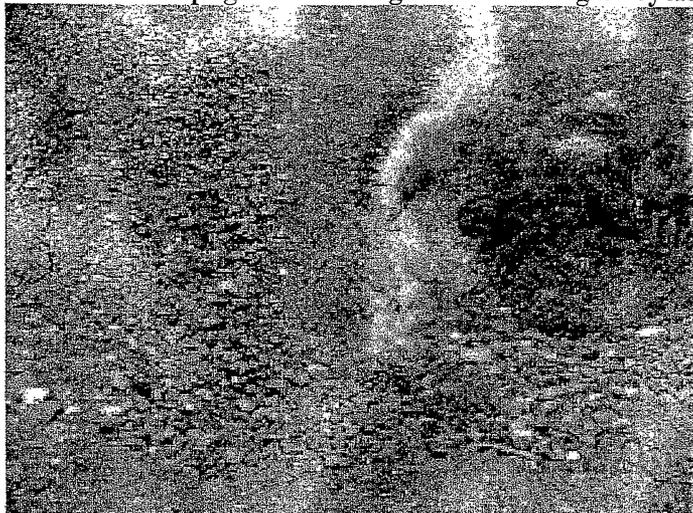
Picture 1. End of Culvert Facing Glacier Creek Road.



Picture 2. End of Culvert Facing the Settling/Recycle Pond.



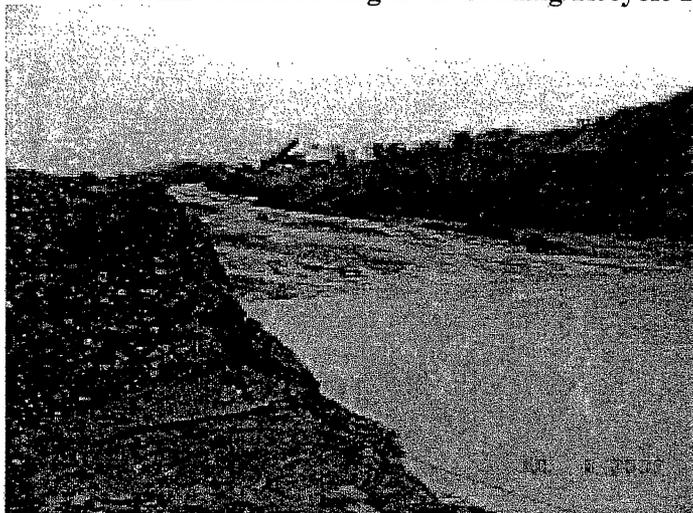
Picture 3. Seepage Emanating From Settling/Recycle Pond and Flowing Under the Road.



Picture 4. Seepage and Runoff Water Flowing in Swale Toward Anvil Creek.



Picture 5. Mine Site Looking Over Settling/Recycle Pond.



Action Items: In the event of a discharge from the facility due to precipitation, including during breakup, the operator shall collect and analyze water samples of the effluent as required under section II.A.4 of AKG-37-000 and comply with the notification requirements in section III.G and III.H of the permit.

CC (via email): Justin Ireys, ADNR, Anchorage
Sharmon Stambaugh, ADEC, Anchorage
Bert Pettigrew (operator), APP Mining
Mac McLean, AF&G, Fairbanks
Mitch Erickson, AK Gold Co., Nome
Cindi Godsey, EPA, Anchorage

To: Drew Graaf
 465 - 5274
 From: Lee Johnson 461-2179

Nome Nugget
 February 3, 2000

new school." Once a bond issue is passed on a statewide level, the people of Nome would also have to vote on a bond to pay for the other 30% of the cost of a new school. "If we can get a vote from the citizens both locally and statewide," said Rasmussen, "we have a good chance of getting a new school." The delegation was very pleased with the outcome of this meeting and they look forward to further discussions with the education director.

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Moonlight Springs Summit planned

gist for Bristol Environmental and Engineering Services Corporation, it is inconclusive the effect the mining activity in and around Anvil Mountain may have on Moonlight Springs. Leedy feels very strongly that the city administration should comply with the current city code that states there must be conclusive evidence that activity in the watershed will not impact Moonlight Springs, Leedy, as well as other citizens, feels the city ordinance that requires mining companies to apply for watershed permits has not been closely adhered to and that the interests of the mining companies have outweighed the concern over keeping Nome's water supply safe. "I take personal offense to people digging only a few feet from the side of my cup," said Leedy, "and adding condiments to my coffee that I did not ask for."

Leedy has found a state law which he says should protect

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bets of the delegation had an opportunity to meet with various State department heads as well as several representatives. One of the best meetings was between members of the Nome delegation and the Commissioner of Education. The discussion centered around a new high school for Nome. The types of schools mentioned were a regional school that would also serve surrounding villages or a new combination middle and high school. Since the current Nome-Beltz High School has facilities such as apart-

By Michele Vasquez

City leaders and officials are paving the way for what is being called a "Moonlight Springs Summit" to allow concerned Nomesites to come together in a public forum to discuss the safety issues and concerns relating to Nome's only water supply. The summit is going to take place this month, however a specific date has not yet been set.

Although many locals are concerned about possible contamination by mining companies operating near Moonlight Springs, Dr. Derrick Leedy has by far been the most vocal on the issue. In the past several weeks in particular, Leedy has written several letters of concern to and has publicly addressed both the Nome Common Council and Njus Board.

According to a letter written to City Engineer Randy Romenesko dated October 26, 1999 by Jim Munter, former principal hydrolo-

e-mail: nugget@nomenugget.com



photo by KJ Grakam

DOESN'T HURT A BIT—A brave four year old Dorothy Pushruck, held by her mother Marifrose, let WIC Coordinator Karen Smith take a hemoglobin sample to test for anemia. During the regular client visit Smith also checks height and weight. (See story page 12.)

Alaska Airlines Flight 261 crashes

By Michele Vasquez
 As of Tuesday morning, 12:13 a.m., this was the latest information on the tragic crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 enroute from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico to San Francisco, CA with the flight continuing on to Seattle, WA.

The aircraft was an MD-83 carrying 88 persons on board. Before

and crashing into the Pacific Ocean at 4:36 p.m. PST just 11 1/2 miles off the coast of California near Pt. Mugu. Almost immediately, Coast Guard and Naval rescue teams were assembled and headed for the crash site. Several fishermen and others with boats joined in the search and rescue efforts. According to a

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• Juneau —

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When meeting with various representatives of the state, Rasmussen said the delegates were prepared to answer the question that was certain to follow Nome's request for funds; "so, where are you going to get the money to pay for these things?" Rasmussen said the group had already decided to answer the question by telling the representatives that "we are in favor of a state sales tax to pay for the things that are so desperately needed." According to Rasmussen, some representatives were positive and appreciative of their speaking for the sales tax while other representatives merely winced at the mention of it. "We tried to explain the good side of a uniform state sales tax," said Rasmussen, "such as adding the tax to catalog sales."

The delegates met with representative Gail Phillips of Homer who, according to Rasmussen, is very concerned about the future of Alaska and general developments throughout the state. They also met with representative Harris from Valdez who expressed a great deal of caring and understanding of the issues and requests brought to Juneau by the delegation.

Of course, no trip to Juneau by delegation from Nome would be complete without meeting with representative Richard Foster. Rasmussen said that Foster is one of the only two remaining legislators that represent the Bush area of Alaska. "Mr. Foster made us feel at home," said Rasmussen, and they freely discussed the many projects we are hoping to make happen in Nome. He always has his office up to people from the area whenever they are in town."

Rasmussen said he felt this trip to Juneau had opened a lot of doors for future discussions with state legislators and other state officials. "I believe a few more meetings in Juneau," said Rasmussen, "will help solidify the funds Nome is seeking." A detailed report of the visit to Juneau will be available at the regular Council meeting.

• Moonlight Summit

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Nome's water supply. Under Alaska State law, the Municipal Powers and Duties Section 29.35.020 regarding Extraterritorial Jurisdiction in the statute under which city officials can act to protect Nome's watershed. The law states in part that "a municipality may adopt an ordinance to exercise a power authorized by this subsection and may enforce the ordinance outside its boundaries in order to protect its water supply and watershed." Leedy has been urging city officials to adopt such an ordinance to protect Nome's water supply. "If the aquifer that holds in our water is breached," said Leedy, "we (the city) won't be able to fix it so the risks are far too great for all of us in the City of Nome."

Leedy has hammered home his concerns about the safety of Moonlight Springs thus being the major force behind the city's decision to hold the summit. City Manager Mike Yanez is working with Romnesko to contact various engineers and the City Attorney to invite them to attend the summit. Both the Nome Citizens Council and NUIS Board have added their voice of concern over the protection of Moonlight Springs and both bodies thoroughly support and plan to participate in the upcoming summit.

When addressing the NUIS board last week, Leedy asked that employees and board members of NUIS be allowed to speak at the summit as private citizens. The board concurred that it was a good idea for anyone to speak out and voice any concerns they may have over the safety of Nome's water supply. Leedy also asked the NUIS board to aid in inviting past engineers employed by NUIS to participate in the summit and NUIS General Manager John Handeland said he would assist in making the summit schedule available to anyone who may be interested in attending. "As soon as the dates are set for the summit, the Nome Nugget will

• Crash

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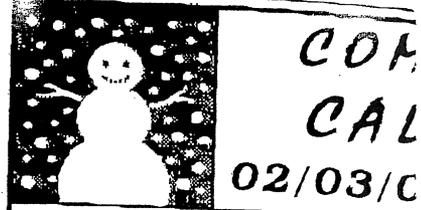
Coast Guard spokesperson, several bodies of crash victims have already been recovered. Other officials close to the rescue effort said there was a slim chance that anyone survived the crash.

Of the 88 persons on board, five were members of the crew including two pilots and three flight attendants. There were also 30 non-revenue travelers on board Flight 261. Non-revenue flying is a benefit given to airline employees on a space available basis. Included in the 30 were three Alaska Airline employees, four Horizon Airline employees and twenty-three family or friends of the five crew members or the seven airline employees.

Morris Thompson, 61, of Fairbanks, his wife Thelma, and daughter Sheryl were the only Alaska-bound passengers on board the plane. They were returning from vacation. Thompson had recently retired as the CEO of Doyon Ltd., was a former Bureau of Indian Affairs Commissioner and Special Assistant to the Interior Secretary under the Nixon Administration.

Search and rescue efforts continued into the night on Monday with parts of the wreckage being picked up for investigation purposes. A National Transportation Safety Board team arrived in Los Angeles early Tuesday morning to begin the investigation. All efforts are being made to find survivors if there are any and to recover the flight recorder and voice tape recorder.

A press conference was held by Alaska Airlines CEO John Kelly Monday night at 10:15 p.m. AST and he said that Alaska Airlines will do anything and everything to get to the bottom of what happened. "Our focus at this time is with the family and friends of those on board the plane," said Kelly, "and we are making sure they get the care and attention they need at this time." Kelly went on to say, "it (the crash) is numbing. I have never been through anything like this in my life because the crew and employees are like family to me."



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EVENT

PL

Thursday, Feb. 03:
Early Release for Students
 *Nome Rec Center Hours
 *Story Hour (ages 3-5)
Chamber of Commerce
 *Museum Hours
 *Library Hours
 *Lap Swim
 *Family Swim
 *Soup Kitchen
 *AA (closed meeting)

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 Nome Beltz
 Nome Beltz
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 AMCC

Friday, Feb. 04:
Basketball vs Unalakleet
 *Nome Rec Center Hours
 *Pick Up Basketball
 *A.M. Laps
 *Domestic Violence Group
 *Kindergym
 *Home School Hour
 *Library Hours
 *Museum Hours
 *Aerobics Class
 *NA (open)
 *Soup Kitchen
 *Soccer for teens/adults
 *AA Open Candlelight Meeting

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 Carrie McL
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 Covenant C
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Saturday, Feb. 05:
Women's Prayer Breakfast
Reading Achievement for Everyone OPEN HOUSE
 *Library Hours
 *Museum Hours
 *Nome Rec Center Hours
 *VFW B-B-Q
 *Wallyball
 *AA Talking Circle
 *AA Open Meeting

Java Hut
 Nome Elem
 Kagoayah Li
 Carrie McL
 Nome Rec C
 VFW Hall
 Nome Rec C
 Methodist Ch
 Catholic Chu

Sunday, Feb. 06:
 *Nome Rec Center Hours
 *Open Swim
 *Family Swim
 *Lap Swim
 *Library Hours
 *Museum Hours
 *Soup Kitchen

Nome Rec Cen
 Nome Beltz P
 Nome Beltz P
 Nome Beltz P
 Kegoayah Libr
 Carrie McLain
 Community B.

Monday, Feb. 07:
ASVAB Test
Wear Pajamas Day
 *Nome Rec Center
 *A.M. Laps
 *Pick-Up Basketball
 *Library Hours
 *Museum Hours
 *Kicks for Kids
 *Youth Community Science Class
 *Aerobics Class
 *PTAA Spelling Bee
 *Women's Talking Circle
 *Al-Anon
 *AA Closed Meeting

Nome Beltz
 Nome Element
 Nome Rec Cen
 Nome Beltz P
 Nome Rec Cen
 Kegoayah Libr
 Carrie McLain
 Nome Rec Cen
 Teen Center
 Nome Rec Cen
 Nome Element
 BSWG
 Bible Baptist C
 Seaside Halfway

Tuesday, Feb. 08
Mismatched Clothes Day
 *Nome Rec Center Hours
 *Parenting Classes
 *Museum Hours
 *Library Hours
 *Lap Swim
 *OA & EDA (open)
 *Youth Activities Meeting
 *City League Basketball
 *AA Teleconference

Nome Elementa
 Nome Rec Cent
 BSWG
 Carrie McLain
 Kegoayah Librat
 Nome Beltz Pool
 Old Fed/2nd Fl
 XYZ Center
 Nome Rec Cent
 1-877-751-8040
 Access Code 118

Wednesday, Feb. 09:
Kuspuq Day & Backward Dress

Nome Elementar

