



December 9, 2020

Matthew Reece
Project Manager, Juneau Ranger District
8510 Mendenhall Loop Rd
Juneau, AK 99801

via email: sm.fs.kensington@usda.gov

Re: Draft SEIS for Kensington Mine

Dear Mr. Reece,

Coeur Alaska Inc. has submitted an application to amend its 2005 Plan of Operations for the Kensington Mine. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) evaluates Coeur's Proposed Action (Plan of Operations Amendment 1 – POA 1), along with other alternatives.

I have been a resident of Juneau (with the exception of a couple of years spent in Anchorage) since first grade. As the president of Alaska Electric Light and Power Company (AELP), I recommend approval of POA 1 for the following reasons:

1. Coeur has been operating the Kensington Mine in an environmentally responsible manner for over ten years. Their Proposed Action will use existing infrastructure to expand the current tailings treatment facility and waste rock storage sites (adding one more waste rock site) and will have the least environmental impact of any of the alternatives considered.
2. Operation of the Kensington Mine provides a significant economic benefit to Juneau and Southeast Alaska. That economic benefit is multi-faceted: the mine is the second-largest property taxpayer and the second-largest private employer in the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ); the jobs provide high-paying wages; the mine hires local workers whenever possible; many of the local employees are also homeowners (property taxpayers); the mining operations provide revenue to local businesses and generate sales tax revenue for the CBJ; and the Kensington Mine is a strong proponent of community giving. In fact, I was previously involved in the elementary school tutoring program which Coeur developed in conjunction with United Way.
3. The economic benefits of the mine are even more critical during the economic downturn faced by Juneau and Southeast Alaska during the unfortunate convergence of the State's fiscal shortfalls, the disastrous fisheries in 2020, the general hit to the local economy related to COVID, and the extreme reduction in revenues to local businesses due to the lack of tourism this year. The construction program associated with POA 1, with planned direct employment of about 65 workers earning close to \$14 million in total over two years, couldn't come at a more opportune time for Juneau.
4. The Other Action Alternatives are less environmentally responsible and do not provide the same economic benefits as POA 1.

Sincerely,

Constance Hulbert
President and General Manager