

**From:** [Wendel, Jon \(DEC\)](#)  
**To:** [Dan Bleidorn](#)  
**Cc:** [Katie Koester](#)  
**Subject:** DEC A.J. Mine NPDES Inspection Report  
**Date:** Thursday, March 21, 2024 4:55:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[AK0049514 Inspection Report.pdf](#)  
[RE EPA AJ Mine Inspection from 2018.msg](#)

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Dan,

Thank you again for making yourself available last month (February 28<sup>th</sup>) to discuss the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Alaska Juneau (A.J.) Mine Individual Permit AK0049514 and the discharges from the historic mine workings of the A.J. Mine into Gold Creek. During the onsite portion of the inspection (in your office), you answered site specific questions regarding monitoring, sampling, and reporting that CBJ undertakes as a function of your permit compliance. As the subject matter expert regarding the previous, current, and future compliance activities at the A.J. Mine, your insight into the history of the site contributed greatly to the inspection report. I took you up on your 'offer' to go look at the site myself today, but as expected, and expressly communicated to us, it was still incased in snow and ice from winter and the avalanches that have occurred. Not a shocker, but I got some good photos for future reference of where the mine outfalls *generally* would be on a particularly beautiful spring day, win-win.

The outcome of the inspection could not have gone better from a regulatory perspective, and I would like to congratulate you on another successful inspection under your belt! There were no violations identified during the inspection either onsite (from what was visible) or in a deep, **deep**, dive into your monitoring, reporting, or records both onsite and provided electronically. That is unusual for me, and you are one of only a handful of people I have inspected in my many years who has come away with a clean bill of health.

A copy of the report is attached for your reference and no additional follow-up is required unless you have questions for me. Again, you did an exemplary job and thank you for your assistance in completing this regulatory inspection.

PS: I checked with the EPA about their 2018 inspection, apparently a report wasn't written, so I don't have anything to offer you there (see attached EPA Region 10 Headquarters email).

**Jon Wendel**

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

[Jon.Wendel@alaska.gov](mailto:Jon.Wendel@alaska.gov)

**From:** Dan Bleidorn <Dan.Bleidorn@juneau.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 9:25 AM  
**To:** Wendel, Jon (DEC) <jon.wendel@alaska.gov>  
**Cc:** Landes, David J (DEC) <david.landes@alaska.gov>; OBrien, Kenneth R (DEC) <kenneth.obrien@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: AJ Mine Inspection

You don't often get email from [dan.bleidorn@juneau.gov](mailto:dan.bleidorn@juneau.gov). [Learn why this is important](#)

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Jon,

Thank you for speaking with me over the phone. On Wednesday at 1pm please meet me at my office which is located at 105 Municipal Way on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Besides BMPs and the QAPP, is there anything else you know you want to review?

Dan Bleidorn

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Dan Bleidorn | Division of Lands and Resources Manager | ph 907.586.5252  
[Lands and Resources](#) | [Dan.Bleidorn@Juneau.org](mailto:Dan.Bleidorn@Juneau.org) |

**From:** Wendel, Jon (DEC) <[jon.wendel@alaska.gov](mailto:jon.wendel@alaska.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 8:13 AM

**To:** Dan Bleidorn <[Dan.Bleidorn@juneau.gov](mailto:Dan.Bleidorn@juneau.gov)>

**Cc:** Landes, David J (DEC) <[david.landes@alaska.gov](mailto:david.landes@alaska.gov)>; OBrien, Kenneth R (DEC) <[kenneth.obrien@alaska.gov](mailto:kenneth.obrien@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** AJ Mine Inspection

Good morning,

The City and Borough of Juneau is authorization to discharge water from the Alaska Juneau (A.J.) Mine per the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Individual Permit AK0049514.

The permit was initially issued by the EPA on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005, and became effective on April 1, 2005. The permit expired on March 31, 2010, and was subsequently administratively extended pending the reissuance of the permit. In 2017, the permit was modified (attached) to comply with the EPA Electronic Reporting Rule which requires reporting of discharge monitoring reports through NetDMR. In 2010, regulatory oversight of the permit was transferred to DEC as part of the Departments assumption of the NPDES program, as outlined in the EPA approval of the APDES program which included:

“Upon EPA’s approval of the APDES Program and in accordance with the schedule in Appendix B, the DEPARTMENT will assume authority [subject to EPA’s oversight and enforcement authority pursuant to the CWA §§402(d) and (i)] for permitting, compliance, and enforcement activities of the APDES Program....”

As a regulatory agency, DEC routinely conducts announced (and unannounced) inspections at authorized facilities to evaluate compliance with various permit requirements. The A.J. Mine was last inspected in 2018 by the EPA (August 30, 2018). Typically, the Department inspects facilities at least once every five years. As such, the A.J. Mine is due for another regulatory inspection.

Please use this email as your written notice that the Department intends to conduct an announced

inspection of the A.J. Mine on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm. Inspections typically take between 2 to 3 hours. Please make yourself, or another knowledgeable CBJ employee, available Wednesday afternoon. The inspection will include a visual examination of the site, along with a review of onsite records (such as the QAPP and BMP Plan).

Please confirm your receipt of this notice and let us know if there is any specific personal protective equipment that is required. Additionally, please let us know where the best meeting spot is.

Thank you,

**Jon Wendel**

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Water

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