



# Kensington Mine

## Key Message

Coeur Alaska has completed the construction of Phase I of the Tailings Treatment Facility Dam, and has been issued a temporary Certificate of Authorization to Operate a dam by the State of Alaska. Kensington has commissioned the mill, and has begun the limited production of concentrate from the mine. Kensington is expected to provide approximately 180 direct jobs to the community of Juneau once full production is underway.



## Background

The Kensington Mine is a historic underground gold mine located 45 miles north of Juneau, discovered in the late 1800s and operated into the early 1900s. In December 2004, the Forest Service (lead agency), and cooperating agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Army Corps of Engineers (COE), and Alaska Department of Natural Resources, released the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD approved the use of Lower Slate Lake for tailings disposal. Coeur began construction of the Kensington Gold Mine in 2005. Southeast Alaska Conservation Council brought a lawsuit alleging violations of the Clean Water Act against the COE and the Forest Service. The project was enjoined by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals pending a ruling by the Supreme Court. On June 22, 2009, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Coeur Alaska, Inc. v. Southeast Alaska Conservation Council*, which allowed Coeur to complete development of the Kensington Gold Mine. During pre-injunction construction activities at Lower Slate Lake, Acid Rock Drainage (ARD) was discovered near the planned location of the tailings dam embankment. This resulted in a notice of violation issued to Coeur by the State of Alaska. Coeur continues to work with the State of Alaska and the Forest Service to protect water quality at that site.

## Current Situation

Coeur plans to continue development of the Kensington Gold Mine in accordance with its approved Plan of Operation. Construction on the Tailings Treatment Facility Water Treatment Plant is expected to be complete by September 2010. Coeur continues to mitigate the ARD site at Lower Slate Lake with a water treatment plant and reducing rainfall infiltration at the source.



Photo from South end of Lower Slate Lake looking North on site of dam construction, 11/09/2009.

## More Information

Marti Marshall, Juneau District Ranger, Tongass National Forest, (907) 789-6244, or John Kato, Regional Geologist, Alaska Region, (907) 586-7869