



Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company  
P.O. Box 32199  
Juneau, AK 99803-2199

March 21, 2020

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Mayor Weldon and members of the CBJ Assembly,

As an integral part of the City and Borough of Juneau, the Hecla Greens Creek Mine would like to thank you for your calm and measured actions over the past few weeks in response to the threat of COVID-19 to our city.

Like you, the Hecla Greens Creek Mine has been aggressively engaged in the fight to stop the spread of COVID-19. Protection of our employees and their families has been our utmost priority and since the declaration of the global pandemic by the World Health Organization we have taken extreme measures to protect them and the communities where they live.

Complicating this effort is that many of our workforce do not live in Juneau. Our families live throughout Alaska as well as Outside and in order to protect everyone, we have implemented the following precautions.

No one is allowed to travel to site if they:

- Have visited a Level 3 country (China, South Korea, or most of Europe) in the last 14 days.
- Have a fever >100.3 Fahrenheit or any respiratory illness symptoms.
- Have been in known contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19.

To encourage not coming to work, we have significantly liberalized our wage continuance, leave without pay, and short notice vacation policies. Employees are held harmless if they stay home and in most cases still get paid. As a final check, we screen employees for fever before they come to site. Telework has also been implemented for those who are able.

To protect those on site, this week we implemented a detailed procedure for responding to employees who may be symptomatic. If they are symptomatic or high risk they have a duty to report. The employee is then isolated in our medical facility for evaluation before placement in our designated quarantine facility in Hawk Inlet. Any transport off-island would be under the direction of medical and civil authorities.

With the issuance of Alaska Public Health Mandates [003](#) and [004](#) and [Health Alert 009](#) by the State of Alaska, we have made additional significant changes on site. Required service restrictions and social distancing rules have been implemented in the cafeteria and we have closed our recreational facilities. We have stopped group safety and operational meetings and any gathering of people must maintain six foot social distance. We are currently performing an expedited review of our site transportation needs and will roll out changes to our boat and bus schedule shortly.

It is important to note that both Public Health Mandate 004 and Health Alert 009 do not require mandatory quarantine of our employees traveling to Juneau to work. Mandate 004 allows for

employees to come to work without quarantine if they can be safely distanced from others. We believe our actions accomplish that.

Health Alert 009 is a “strong advisory” to quarantine but is not yet a mandate. The “strong advisory” also exempts workers for critical infrastructure operations. The State of Alaska, following the guidance of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on essential critical infrastructure workforce has declared mining a critical industry. This exemption only applies if we are taking appropriate steps “to protect workers, the public and spread of COVID-19.” We take that responsibility seriously and we believe our actions accomplish that.

We understand that you will be taking actions on Sunday, March 22, to consider Resolution 2885 to mandate a “Hunker Down” and business closure order and Resolution 2886 to mandate a quarantine on all travelers to Juneau. Unfortunately the text of these resolutions are not available to the public as we write this letter.

As you consider these resolutions, we would urge you to follow the direction of both CISA and the State of Alaska and recognize that mining is a critical industry.

Given our proven actions to fight the spread of COVID-19 we would ask for exemptions to both resolutions.

This will afford proper protections to the residents of Juneau and all 440 of our workers and their families. It will also provide some much needed certainty for our workers and community business partners as we strive for operational continuity in these challenging times.

All of us at Hecla Greens Creek stand ready to work with you to protect our community against the threat of COVID-19.

Please contact me at any time with your questions or concerns,

***Mike Satre***

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