

John Schaake

RE: Manh Choh Mine Draft Reclamation Plan
Manh Choh Draft Waste Management Plan

I support approval of both draft plans for the Manh Choh Mine. The plans appear straightforward and entirely adequate for the project and the reclamation bond is more than sufficient for a mining operation this size.

As a nearly forty year Alaskan and retired Federal land manager of a large civil works project in the state, I have taken a keen interest in the Kinross Fort Knox mine from its inception over 25 years ago, to the present. I have been marveled by the Kinross management philosophy of Legacy Mining and their strict adherence on safety and environmental responsibility. Their track record in both areas is truly outstanding and should be a model for mines everywhere. Kinross' compliance with the state's permit stipulations should be routine and non-issue for a company of their caliber.

Kinross Gold Corporation is a successful mining company because they never gamble on safety or environmental stewardship, as evidenced by their Kinross Fort Knox operation. The fact that a small, Alaska native village has partnered an agreement with Kinross to mine on their sacred lands is indicative of their trust in and respect for the Kinross Mining corporation. They know Kinross will treat their land with environmental respect and proper stewardship throughout the lifecycle of the mine.

I strongly support the Manh Choh mining operation in its entirety. Fairbanks has no finer corporate citizen the Kinross Fort Knox and I expect the same for Tetlin and the road side communities along the ore hauling route. I am anxious for the undelayed start up of the Manh Choh Mine and look forward to the significant new economic growth spawned by the mine around Tetlin and in Fairbanks.