PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE HAILE GOLD MINE FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-1992-24122 August 24, 2022

Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, Regulatory Division (USACE), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has completed and is making available to the public, a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the proposed project expansion at the Haile Gold Mine. Pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), an application for modification has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

Haile Gold Mine, Inc. 6911 Snowy Owl Rd Kershaw, South Carolina 29067

for a permit modification to expand an existing gold mining operation in

Haile Gold Mine Creek and other tributaries to the Little Lynches River

at a location near the intersection of U.S. Route 601 and Snowy Owl Road, Kershaw, Lancaster County, South Carolina (Latitude: 34.5942°, Longitude: -80.5415°), Kershaw USGS Quadrangle.

The Corps is announcing the initiation of a public comment period on a FINAL Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that assesses the impacts of the proposed permit modification for the Haile Gold Mine. The comment period will run until **September 19, 2022**. The FINAL SEIS is available for review online at http://hailegoldmineseis.com/. Hard copies are available for review at the Kershaw County Library – Camden branch [address: 1304 Broad St, Camden, SC 29020 phone: (803) 425-1508] and the Kershaw Depot [address: 106 N. Cleveland Street, Kershaw, SC 29067, phone: (803) 475-3201]. There may be COVID measures in place at the library and Kershaw Depot for public safety; for any questions or if you prefer to make an appointment to review the FINAL SEIS, please call ahead.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the FSEIS was published in the *Federal Register* on August 19, 2022. In accordance with NEPA regulations, the USACE will not issue a Record of Decision (ROD) on the proposed action until at least 30 days after the NOA publication date. The ROD will state the decision of USACE on whether to authorize the modification, the conditions under which the activities would be allowed to occur, and the factors considered in the decisions.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue a modification to the existing permit, condition or deny a permit modification for this project. To make

this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, at the project website (http://hailegoldmineseis.com/) or to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Shawn Boone, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8158, toll free at 1-866-329-8187, or by email at Shawn.A.Boone@usace.army.mil.