Kinross Tasiast Gold Mine

ICMI GOLD MINE RECERTIFICATION AUDIT

Summary Audit Report

NOVEMBER 2023

PUBLIC

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CONTENTS

1 SUMMARY AUDIT REPORT FOR GOLD MINING OPERATIONS

Name of Cyanide User Facility:	Tasiast Gold Mine
Name of Cyanide User Facility Owner:	Kinross Gold Corporation
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2 LOCATION DETAIL AND DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION

2.1 MINE LOCATION

The Tasiast Gold Mine is an open-pit operation located in north-western Mauritania, approximately 300 kilometres (km) north of the capital Nouakchott and 250 km southeast of the major city of Nouadhibou.

The mine is located in the arid western Saharan desert where the average annual precipitation is approximately 90 millimetres (mm) and usually occurs during July to September.

The topography of the region is mainly flat, barren plains primarily covered by regolith and locally by sand dunes. The elevation ranges from approximately 130 metres above sea level (masl) to 150 masl.

There are no permanent watercourses in the area; however, there are numerous, non-perennial watercourses or “wadis”, which flow for only a few days per year.

The mine is situated in the Inchiri Region, which has a very low population density. There are no permanent settlements within the vicinity of the Tasiast Mine, although several isolated families have set up structures and reside within 30 km of the site. Residents practice animal husbandry and other subsistence forms of livelihood. There are also nomadic groups that occasionally transit the area.

2.2 BACKGROUND

The Tasiast Gold Mine was acquired by Kinross in September 2010. The mine is currently operating in the West Branch pit with the ore processed through, currently, milling/carbon-in-leach (CIL) and, previously, a dump leach mineral extraction process. Cyanide is received in conventional dry briquette form (nylon supersacks overpacked in plywood boxes in standard steel sea containers) via ocean transport at the Port of Nouakchott, and then trucked to the mine site.

Cyanide facilities include:

- Two dump leach facilities (Piment and West Branch) and associated barren and pregnant solution pipelines, pumping stations and process ponds; and an absorption desorption and recovery (ADR) plant and associated cyanide mix plant and dedicated cyanide warehouse. Both the dump leach facilities are no longer used for mineral extraction, with the last of the operations at the West Branch facility that was stopped in February 2022.
- A grinding circuit consisting of a semi-autogenous grinding (SAG) mill and two ball mills; a CIL plant, elution and electrowinning sections and dedicated cyanide warehouse and cyanide mix plant; a detoxification plant (cyanide destruction system using Ferrous Sulphate prior to discharging tailings to the tailings storage facilities); an active tailings storage facilities (TSFs), currently TSF4 and TSF5; and interconnecting tailings and reclaim water pipelines and pumping systems.

Since the 2020 International Cyanide Management Code (ICMC) re-certification audit, Tasiast Gold Mine completed construction and commissioning of their Phase One expansion project (21K Expansion) that comprised installation of a SAG mill, gyratory crusher and three new leach tanks to the existing CIL plant to increase throughput from 12 000 to 21 000 t/d (tonnes/day). An expansion

is currently underway to increase to 24 000 t/d by January 2024 (24K Expansion). The current life of mine (LoM) is 2035.

The other primary change since 2020 is the TSF5 which is now used for deposition of treated tailings in conjunction with TSF4, although deposition at TSF4 was not taking place at the time of the site assessment. TSF3 has reached capacity and TSF1 and TSF2 are closed and have been capped.

The original cyanide mixing and dosing tanks were replaced with new steel tanks in 2021. The tanks were also constructed in a different area inside the process plant area.

In addition, three new leach tanks were added to the CIL section, the existing Intense Leach Reactor (ILR) was moved to a new area and a second one was added.

3 SUMMARY AUDIT REPORT

3.1 AUDITOR FINDINGS

	☒ **in full compliance with**	
		The International
Kinross Tasiast	☐ in substantial compliance with	**Cyanide Management**
Gold Mine is:		**Code**
	☐ not in compliance with	

Audit Company:	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd
Audit Team Leader:	Marié Schlechter, Lead Auditor and Mine Technical Specialist
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This operation has not experienced any compliance issues during the previous three-year audit cycle.

3.2 NAME OF OTHER AUDITORS

Benjamin Asiedu, WSP Ghana Signature: 

3.3 DATES OF AUDIT

The re-certification audit was undertaken between 15 and 19 May 2023.

I attest that I meet the criteria for knowledge, experience and conflict of interest for International Cyanide Management Code (ICMC or Code) Verification Audit Team Leader and Mine Technical Specialist, established by the International Cyanide Management Institute.

I attest that this Summary Audit Report accurately describes the findings of the verification audit. I further attest that the verification audit was conducted in a professional manner in accordance with the ICMC Mining Operations Verification Protocol and using standard and accepted practices for health, safety and environmental audits.

Signature Lead Auditor: 

PRINCIPLE 1 – PRODUCTION

Encourage Responsible Cyanide Manufacturing by Purchasing from Manufacturers that Operate in a Safe and Environmentally Protective Manner

Standard of Practice 1.1: Purchase cyanide from certified manufacturers employing appropriate practices and procedures to limit exposure of their workforce to cyanide, and to prevent releases of cyanide to the environment.

☒ **in full compliance with**

The operation is ☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 1.1**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 1.1; to purchase cyanide from certified manufacturers employing appropriate practices and procedures to limit exposure of their workforce to cyanide, and to prevent releases of cyanide to the environment.

The cyanide purchased for use at Tasiast Gold Mine is manufactured at a facility certified as being in compliance with the Code. Cyanide was purchased from the following producer during the current recertification period:

The Cyanco International, LLC – Houston Production Facility (located in Alvin Texas, United States of America) is certified as being in full compliance with the Code on 28 April 2023 with initial certification being dated 16 March 2013.

PRINCIPLE 2 – TRANSPORTATION

Protect Communities and the Environment during Cyanide Transport

Standard of Practice 2.1: Require that cyanide is safely managed through the entire transportation and delivery process from the production facility to the mine by use of certified transport with clear lines of responsibility for safety, security, release prevention, training and emergency response.

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 2.1**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 2.1; requiring that cyanide is safely managed through the entire transportation and delivery process from the production facility to the mine by use of certified transport with clear lines of responsibility for safety, security, release prevention, training and emergency response.

The identified transporters are individually certified in compliance under the Code or included in certified supply chains:

- The Cyanco Global Ocean Supply Chain – Product manufactured at the Winnemucca and Alvin (Houston) locations are shipped by truck, rail, barge, and ocean carrier. Shipments from the Port of Houston in the United States to international ports are included in the scope of certification, as is interim storage activities at the Port of Houston and international receiving ports, as applicable. The Cyanco Global Ocean Supply Chain is a certified supply chain under the Code and was recertified on 27 July 2022.
- Alpha Services Limited, Mauritania is a certified transporter under the Code and was recertified on 23 January 2023.

Chain of custody records observed state that solid cyanide was ordered and transported as follows:

- Cyanco Houston Production Facility via the certified Cyanco Global Ocean Supply Chain to the port of Nouakchott, transported by Alpha Services Limited via road to the mine.

PRINCIPLE 3 – HANDLING AND STORAGE

Protect Workers and the Environment during Cyanide Handling and Storage

Standard of Practice 3.1: Design and construct unloading, storage and mixing facilities consistent with sound, accepted engineering practices, quality control/quality assurance procedures, spill prevention and spill containment measures.

☒ **in full compliance with**

The operation is

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 3.1**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 3.1; design and construct unloading, storage and mixing facilities consistent with sound, accepted engineering practices, quality control/quality assurance procedures, spill prevention and spill containment measures.

The facilities for unloading, storing and mixing of cyanide have been professionally designed and constructed in accordance with applicable jurisdictional rules and sound and accepted engineering practices, as detailed in the initial Code certification audit. The cyanide reagent facilities consist of a cyanide mixing tank and a cyanide dosing tank (storage tank), both located inside the process plant area. The original cyanide mixing and dosing tanks were replaced with new steel tanks in 2021. The ring-beams and cyanide tanks were professionally designed and manufactured as detailed in the Quality Control and Quality Assurance documentation observed and detailed in 4.8. A Non-Destructive Examination (NDE) was conducted on the cyanide mixing and dosing tanks by an independent consulting firm. It was observed that the corrective actions identified during the NDE have been implemented.

Unloading and storage areas for solid cyanide are located away from people and surface waters. The cyanide mixing and dosage tanks are located inside the high security and access-controlled area of the process plant.

The cyanide unloading, mixing and storage areas are away from people and surface waters. The cyanide unloading and solid cyanide storage areas are located in access control areas. The cyanide mixing and dosage tanks are located inside the high security and access-controlled area of the process plant.

The operation receives only solid cyanide in wooden crates.

There is a method to prevent the overfilling of the cyanide mixing and dosage tanks, such as a level indicator, alarms and automated cut off on the pumps. Automatic level indicators and alarms are installed on the cyanide mixing and dosing tanks. The levels of these two tanks and alarm levels are visible to the control room operator on the SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system as well as to operators working in the area, at the tank level indicators located at the top of the cyanide mixing tank. The level detection instrumentation, alarms and cut-off valves are inspected and maintained through the planned maintenance system. The level indicators on the cyanide mixing and dosing tanks are inspected and tested monthly as part of the system.

The cyanide mixing and dosage tanks are positioned on ring beams, with a HDPE membrane on top of a sand bed and within a reinforced concrete bunded area, providing a competent barrier to leakage and prevent seepage to the subsurface.

The solid cyanide crates are stored under roofs and on concrete floors. The wooden crates have built-in pallets, thereby lifting the crates of the ground to minimise the potential for contact with water. The floors of the respective warehouses are sloped towards a trench to direct rainwater away.

The cyanide storage areas are roofed to prevent direct exposure to sunlight and rain, and the front section, being open, provides adequate ventilation to prevent the build-up of hydrogen cyanide gas. The cyanide mixing and storage tanks are located outdoors.

Both the cyanide crate storage areas as well as the cyanide mixing and storage tanks are located in locked and access-controlled areas.

The solid and liquid cyanide is stored separate from incompatible materials.

Standard of Practice 3.2: **Operate unloading, storage and mixing facilities using inspections, preventive maintenance and contingency plans to prevent or contain releases and control and respond to worker exposures.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 3.2**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 3.2; operate unloading, storage and mixing facilities using inspections, preventive maintenance and contingency plans to prevent or contain releases and control and respond to worker exposures.

Cyanide containers are not returned to the supplier. During a mixing event, the empty cyanide crates are stored temporarily inside the cyanide mixing building located within the security area of the processing plant. After cyanide mixing, the plastic bags, liners and any associated labelling papers are placed inside the wooden crates and the crates are transferred to the cyanide burning area and burnt completely. The crates are transported by truck and accompanied by the Process Supervisor. The burning pit area is fenced, gated and away from people and any water bodies. It is used to burn only cyanide boxes, and its associated liners, and bags. Waste arrives daily on a load-bed truck in the morning. Typically, two persons arrive (i.e., truck driver and a buddy who also doubles as a spotter). The burning pit is sloped at one end to allow the truck to reverse. The Process Supervisor ensures boxes are burnt completely and the necessary paperwork is completed.

Procedures are in place that detail:

- The operation of valves during the cyanide mixing process and transfer to the cyanide storage tank.
- The handling of cyanide boxes during removal and storage to minimize the risk of rupturing or puncturing by the forklift.
- Limiting the height of stacking of cyanide boxes in the reagent storage area.
- Timely clean-up of any spills of cyanide during mixing.
- The requirement for a second individual to observe the mixing event from a safe distance.
- The requirement to wear the appropriate level of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- The addition of colorant dye during the cyanide mixing process.

PRINCIPLE 4 – OPERATIONS

Manage Cyanide Process Solutions and Waste Streams to Protect Human Health and the Environment

Standard of Practice 4.1: **Implement management and operating systems designed to protect human health and the environment including contingency planning and inspection and preventive maintenance procedures.**

☒ **in full compliance with**

The operation is

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.1**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 4.1; to implement management and operating systems designed to protect human health and the environment including contingency planning and inspection and preventive maintenance procedures.

Tasiast Gold Mine has developed written procedures for the operation of cyanide facilities including unloading, mixing and storage facilities, CIL plant operation, dump leach operations, TSF and associated pond management and cyanide destruction.

The operation has plans and procedures that identify the assumptions and parameters on which the facility design is based and any applicable regulatory requirements as necessary to prevent or control cyanide releases and exposures consistent with applicable requirements.

Critical parameters include:

- The concentration of Weak Acid Dissociable (WAD) cyanide at the TSF spigot.
- pH in the slurry in the CIL section
- The design storm event and required freeboard for the plant and TSF ponds and impoundments.

The operation has plans and procedures that describe the standard practices necessary for the safe and environmentally sound operation of the facility including the specific measures needed for compliance with the Code, such as water management, inspection and preventative maintenance activities.

The Operating Manuals for TSF4 and TSF5 details the requirements for the operation of the required TSF freeboard, decant pond control, underdrain pond and Return Water Pond (RWP) to ensure the safe and environmentally sound operation of the facilities. The water levels of the process, return water ponds and seepage ponds are available in real time on the SCADA system.

Inspections are conducted at the following areas and frequencies:

- Process Plant Inspections:
  - Daily cyanide storage inspections
  - Monthly CIL Plant and Process Water Pond inspections
  - Daily work area inspections at the reagent, thickener, CIL, crusher, ball mill, elution areas.
- Dump Leach Inspections:

- Daily ADR and pond inspections

- TSF Inspections:
  - Daily pipelines and event ponds inspection
  - Daily TSF, seepage and return pond inspections.
  - TSF monthly environmental inspections
  - Monthly tailing conveyance corridor inspections
  - Quarterly TSF inspections
  - Annual TSF Inspections

Tasiast Gold Mine has implemented the computer-based Oracle JD Edwards planned maintenance system to plan and schedule inspection and maintenance activities at varying frequencies.

Tasiast Gold Mine has implemented an online management of change (MOC) system, available on the internal *Kinross Connected* intranet. The system is available to all sections and operational areas of the mine. The MOC owner will initiate the MOC process using the online portal. The system requires that all the details of the project, a risk assessment, financials of the project, etc are completed and that the necessary project related documentation is uploaded. Once completed, the MOC request is circulated to the relevant departments, including the Safety, Health, Environmental Departments, for approval.

The operation has cyanide management contingency procedures for situations where there is an upset in the facility's water balance, when inspections and monitoring identify a deviation from design or standard operating procedures, and/or when a temporary closure or cessation of the operation may be necessary. Tasiast Gold Mine has developed a number of procedures for contingencies and non-standard operating conditions, including upset in water balance, corrective action, and ether planned or emergency shutdowns, both long and short-term. In the event of a long-term shutdown or cessation of the operations, solid and liquid cyanide will be managed in accordance with existing operational procedures, area inspections, surface- and groundwater and wildlife monitoring programmes and the preventative maintenance programme, while the operations are under care-and-maintenance, to ensure that the cyanide stored remains secure and does not present a risk to environment or communities.

In addition, the JD Edwards system records the corrective actions and corrective maintenance that is being undertaken when inspections or monitoring identifies a problem.

The operation inspects the following at unloading, storage, mixing and process areas, as applicable to the site:

- Tanks holding cyanide solution for structural integrity and signs of corrosion.
- Secondary containments provided for tanks and pipelines for physical integrity, the presence of fluids and available capacity, and to ensure that any drains are closed and, if necessary, locked, to prevent accidental releases to the environment.
- Leak detection and collection systems at leach pads and ponds, as required in the design documents.
- Pipelines, pumps and valves for deterioration and leakage.
- Ponds and impoundments for the parameters identified in their design documents as critical to their containment of cyanide and solutions and maintenance of the water balance, such as available freeboard and integrity of surface water diversions.

The operation inspects cyanide facilities on an established frequency sufficient to ensure and document that they are functioning within design parameters. Operational inspections are carried out on a daily basis at the reagent area, thickener area, CIL area, mill area, TSFs and associated ponds and along the pipeline corridor, while additional monthly, quarterly and annual inspections are done by the Environmental Department and independent consultants. Preventative and planned maintenance inspections are conducted on frequencies varying between daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually, dependent on the equipment, task and area, dependent on risk.

Inspections are documented, listing specific items to be observed, includes the date, name of the inspector and any deficiencies observed. The nature and date of corrective actions are documented in the planned maintenance system. Inspection records are retained.

Preventative maintenance programmes are implemented, and activities documented to ensure that equipment and devices function as necessary for safe cyanide management. Tasiast Gold Mine uses the Oracle JD Edwards preventative maintenance planning system to manage maintenance tasks including those identified during inspections and ad hoc observations. The system is used to plan and schedule inspections and maintenance activities at varying frequencies. The system schedules all preventative maintenance activities for the mine and prioritises in three different priority order namely high, medium and low, depending on the urgency. The schedules include daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually. Work orders are raised to implement corrective actions for issues identified during scheduled inspections as well as where ad hoc maintenance is required as a result of observations by operational personnel.

The operation has the necessary emergency power resources to operate pumps and other equipment to prevent unintentional releases and exposures in the event of power interruption. Four generators are available for use in the processing plant to prevent unintentional releases and exposures in the event of a power failure. Additional emergency back-up power is available at the TSFs for use at the Seepage Pond to continue pumping water from the pond to the supernatant pond and to power the pumps that pump to the return water pond (RWP).

Weekly inspections are conducted on the standby generators to ensure it functions optimal when required. During the inspections the oil, water and alternator are inspected, and the generators are started and run for a short period.

Standard of Practice 4.2: Introduce management and operating systems to minimize cyanide use, thereby limiting concentrations of cyanide in mill tailings.

	☒ **in full compliance with**	
The operation is	☐ in substantial compliance with	**Standard of Practice 4.2**
	☐ not in compliance with	

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 4.2; To introduce management and operating systems to minimize cyanide use, thereby limiting concentrations of cyanide in mill tailings.

The operation conducts a program to determine appropriate cyanide addition rates in the CIL and evaluate and adjust addition rates as necessary when ore type or processing practices change cyanide requirements.

The cyanide control programme, implemented at Tasiast Gold Mine, consists of having a cyanide setpoint, monitoring cyanide content and undertaking cyanide addition control via the automatic Cynoprobe analysers.

Ad hoc optimisation test work that was done in 2022 during a period when the ore was very sulphate rich and the optimal cyanide setpoint and possible use of additional chemicals in the process had to be determined. Such ad hoc test work is conducted when a change in the ore source occurs.

In addition, internal bottle roll analysis is conducted at the process plant laboratory when a change in the process occurs.

Extended leach and bottle roll test are performed weekly on a composite sample from the tailings CIL feed to check recoveries and cyanide consumption. The objective of the test work is to investigate the optimum cyanide concentration to achieve optimal gold recovery.

Online cyanide analysers, Cynoprobe, are installed in the 12K leach tank and in the 21/24K leach tank to control cyanide addition in accordance with the cyanide setpoint.

Manual titrations are done from samples taken at CIL tanks 202, 102/CIL 3 and CIL 6, every 2 hours. The results from the manual titrations are used to ensure that the online Cynoprobes are performing optimally and correct.

Standard of Practice 4.3: Implement a comprehensive water management program to protect against unintentional releases.

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.3**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 4.3; To implement a comprehensive water management program to protect against unintentional releases.

Tasiast Gold Mine has implemented a comprehensive and probabilistic (Stochastic) water balance model was developed by consultants using the GoldSim software platform. Weather related and operational data is collected on site and used to update the model.

The water balance considers the following in a reasonable manner and as appropriate for the facility and the environment:

- The tailings deposition rates to TSF4 and TSF5, as well as the barren solution that was applied at the Piment and West Branch dump leach facilities.
- The design criteria of the TSFs and associated ponds which is a 30-day duration, 100-year storm event (which is approximately 1 305 m^3), while maintaining the respective freeboard requirements.
- Rainfall and evaporation data, collected from the five onsite weather stations.
- Rainfall entering ponds and impoundments. However, the TSF and dump leach facilities are located on flat, low-relief terrain and there are no up-gradient sources of run-off except for rainwater that will fall on the beach areas.
- Mauritania is situated in the desert and is therefore not affected by freezing and thawing conditions.
- The capacity of decant and the water returned by underdrain and seepage collection systems.
- Sufficient emergency standby power is available at the TSFs and process plant to pump water during emergency situations.
- There are no surface water bodies in close proximity to the mine. Solutions are not discharge from the mine.
- The water entrained in TSF 4 and TSF 5 as well as the dump leach facilities.

The required operational freeboard for the TSFs is 1 m, after storage of the probable maximum flood (PMF). The levels of the RWPs, Underdrain Ponds and Process Water Pond are measured with online level detectors, visible on the SCADA system in the control room. The sensors are linked to automatic high-level alarms. The Dump Leach, TSF and Process Water Pond levels are checked / confirmed daily during operational inspections.

The operation measures precipitation on a daily basis and compares the results to design assumptions and revise operating practices as necessary. Rainfall is measured and recorded on-site and included in the data sheets used for updating the water balance.

Standard of Practice 4.4: **Implement measures to protect birds, other wildlife and livestock from adverse effects of cyanide process solutions.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.4**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 4.4; to implement measures to protect birds, other wildlife and livestock from adverse effects of cyanide process solutions.

The operation has implemented measures to restrict access by wildlife and livestock to open waters where WAD cyanide exceeds 50 mg/l. Tasiast Gold Mine has operated two dump leach facilities, Piment and West Branch, and associated barren and pregnant solution pipelines, pumping stations and process ponds; and an absorption desorption and recovery (ADR) plant and associated cyanide mix plant and dedicated cyanide warehouse. Both the dump leach facilities are no longer used for mineral extraction, with the last of the operations at the West Branch facility that was stopped in February 2022. During the time of use, the operation implemented netting over the dump leach facility ponds to restrict access by wildlife and birds as the WAD cyanide levels exceeded 50 mg/l. Bird balls are used on the Process Water Pond to prevent evaporation and restrict birds from drinking from the pond. The Process Water Pond is located within the fenced and access-controlled area of the process plant.

Daily samples are collected at the West Branch Dump Leach ponds, the TSF spigots and the RWP to analyse for WAD cyanide. The auditor observed the results and graphs illustrating the WAD cyanide results for the daily sampling conducted at the spigots and West Branch Dump Leach ponds for the current audit period. The results observed revealed the WAD levels at the spigots are below 50 WAD ppm, with the exception of isolated exceedance as follows:

- Four exceedances in 2022.
- Nine exceedances in 2023

The WAD levels at the West Branch Dump Leach Facility have, since the decommissioning and subsequent rinsing of the facility, decrease to an average of 0.7 ppm.

A WAD level above 50 ppm trigger the requirement to complete an incident report. The incident report includes the details of the exceedance such as the date, time, area, incident description and the immediate actions taken to secure the area, protect people, environment or equipment.

The water from the RWP is pumped to the Process Water Pond, located at the process plant, where it is blended with raw water and water from the thickener, before it is used in the SAG mill.

Maintaining a WAD cyanide concentration of 50 mg/l or less in open water is effective in preventing significant wildlife mortality as the site reported three potential cyanide related bird mortalities since the previous recertification audit:

- A dead bird in the West Branch Intermediate Pond on 2 April 2022.
- Two small dead birds found on top of the cyanide mixing tank on 26 December 2022.

The three potential cyanide related bird mortalities are not deemed significant.

Wildlife observations are conducted as part of the daily inspections conducted at the TSF and associated ponds and dump leach areas. Daily visual inspections are conducted at the process water pond in the processing plant.

At the time of the current recertification audit, barren solution was not being applied to the dump leach facilities anymore. The site is currently rinsing the West Branch dump leach facility with raw water in preparation for closure. No ponding was observed during the site assessment.

Standard of Practice 4.5: **Implement measures to protect fish and wildlife from direct and indirect discharges of cyanide process solutions to surface water.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.5**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 4.5; to implement measures to protect fish and wildlife from direct and indirect discharges of cyanide process solutions to surface water.

Tasiast Gold Mine is in a dry desert region of the African Sahara and there are no permanent surface water bodies located near to the mine. The nearest surface water body, the Senegal River, is between the Senegal and Mauritania border and approximately 600km away from the mine.

There are ephemeral channels, known as wadis, that form after intense rainfall but only flow up to a few days per year. The closest wadi is approximately 30km to the west of the mine.

Tasiast Gold Mine does not have a direct discharge to surface water.

Standard of Practice 4.6: **Implement measures designed to manage seepage from cyanide facilities to protect the beneficial uses of groundwater.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.6**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 4.6; to implement measures designed to manage seepage from cyanide facilities to protect the beneficial uses of groundwater.

The operation implements specific water management and other measures to manage seepage to protect the beneficial use of groundwater beneath and/or immediately down-gradient of the operation.

The design of the TSFs, associated ponds and pipelines include the following to minimise and manage seepage:

- TSF 4 and 5 are both lined with HDPE (high-density polyethylene) geomembrane placed over a prepared subgrade, with the embankments lined with HDPE geomembrane overlying a non-woven needle punched geotextile that provides a cushion between the geomembrane and the prepared subgrade.
- TSF 4 and 5 are both fitted with an underdrain collection system that is located at the base of the TSF, above the geomembrane and conveys fluids collected above the line system to the Underdrain Pond, located near the TSF.
- The Underdrain and RWP Ponds are double geomembrane lined system with a leak collection and recovery system and receives fluids via gravity and pressure gradient flow from the underdrain collection system. Collected fluids are pumped back into the TSF and the RWP respectively.
- Tailings slurry and return water pipelines located in a dedicated geomembrane-lined pipe conveyance channel. Nine emergency event ponds are located between the mill and TSF4 to provide containment in the event of an upset condition. The event ponds are also geomembrane lined.
- The size and volume of the supernatant pond is managed by pumping water to the Sedimentation Pond, that overflows via a spillway to the RWP, before returned to the Process Water Pond in the process plant.
- The Process Water Pond is HDPE lined and fitted with leak detection.

The dump leach facilities and associated ponds are constructed with HDPE lines and leach detection systems have been installed on the Settling ponds, Barren ponds, Pregnant ponds and Intermediate ponds.

The process tanks and pipelines in the process plant are contained in concrete secondary containment.

A numerical standard has not been established by the Mauritanian Government for WAD or Free cyanide in groundwater. Groundwater is monitoring is conducted quarterly at 18 boreholes located across the site, including two boreholes located downgradient of the facility. All results were below the detection limit of 0.005 mg/L WAD except for two groundwater monitoring points.

It was reported in the previous recertification audit that cyanide contamination resulted from seepage beneath TSF2 which had been constructed prior to Kinross's ownership of the site. It is understood that that TSF2 was not constructed with a basal liner and boreholes within the footprint had not been fully abandoned prior to the facility construction. Tasiast Gold Mine ceased use of TSF2 in December 2012. The implementation of remediation measures such as capping of TSF2 and the construction of remediation abstraction boreholes resulted in the stabilisation of WAD cyanide in MBH 1 to below 1.8 mg/l. Boreholes in the vicinity of TSF2 is now only monitored and abstraction is taking place only when needed.

Tasiast Gold Mine has implemented remediation measures such as the capping of TSF2 and construction of remediation abstraction boreholes, to pump as needed, to mitigate and manage to prevent further degradation of the groundwater quality in the vicinity of TSF2.

The groundwater analysis conducted by Tasiast Gold Mine from the boreholes at the site indicates that the water is saline with total dissolved solids (TDS) averaging 50 g/l and is therefore not suitable for potable use. The groundwater beneath the site is therefore not considered to have no beneficial use.

Tasiast Gold Mine is an opencast mining operation and therefore does not use mill tailings as underground backfill.

Standard of Practice 4.7: Provide spill prevention or containment measures for process tanks and pipelines.

The operation is

- ☒ **in full compliance with**
- ☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.7**
- ☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 4.7; to provide spill prevention or containment measures for process tanks and pipelines.

Spill prevention or containment measures are provided for the cyanide unloading area, mixing and dosing tanks, CIL tanks, ILR and mill area.

Unloading of the cyanide crates is done on a concrete area that will facilitate the clean-up of any spilled dry cyanide.

The cyanide mixing and dosing tanks are positioned on ring beams within the concrete bund area.

The process solution tanks are located on solid concrete bases within the concrete bunded area, except for the CIL tanks that have been constructed for the 12K and 24K upgrade projects that located on ring beams within the concrete bund area.

The ring-beam foundations, for both the new cyanide mixing and dosing tanks and CIL tanks, are infilled with compacted oil impregnated sand overlain with a 1 mm HDPE membrane. The membrane is overlain a sand bed with drain ports to monitor for potential leakage. The leak detection systems at the CIL, Pre-Leach and Cyanide Mixing and Storage tanks are checked during the CIL Area Housekeeping Inspection.

The ILR and SAG mill are located in concrete bunds.

Secondary containment for cyanide mixing, storage and process tanks are sized to hold a volume greater than that of the largest tank within the containment and any piping draining back to the tank, and with additional capacity for the design storm event.

All secondary containment for the cyanide mixing and dosing tanks, ILR as well as the cyanide containing process tanks are equipped with sumps, pumps and associated pipelines to return the content to the process. The sump pumps are automated and can be started manually, if required. No sump pump piping system are directed to the environment.

Spillage in the cyanide dosing and mixing tanks bund will be pumped to cyanide dosing tank. Any overflow in the CIL bund area will divert to the emergency pond. The overflow system that connects the CIL bund area to the Emergency Pond is a channel constructed of concrete and connected with a pipe flowing into the emergency pond. The emergency pond is lined with a HDPE geomembrane.

Spill prevention or containment measures have been provided for all cyanide process solution pipelines. The reagent strength pipelines, and cyanide process solution pipelines are inside the plant area and runs over concreted areas with sump pumps. The TSF pipelines are in an HDPE lined pipeline corridor with HDPE lined event ponds to assist with any clean-up of spillage.

There are no permanent surface water bodies located near the mine. Therefore, cyanide pipelines do not cross over or near any surface water feature and does not pose a risk.

The cyanide tanks and pipelines are constructed of material compatible with cyanide and high pH solutions. The process plant tanks are constructed of mild steel. The process plant pipelines are constructed of stainless steel. The TSF pipelines are constructed of HDPE (slurry) and steel (return water).

Standard of Practice 4.8: **Implement quality control/quality assurance procedures to confirm that cyanide facilities are constructed according to accepted engineering standards and specifications.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.8**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in Full Compliance with Standard of Practice 4.8; to implement quality control/quality assurance (QCQA) procedures to confirm that cyanide facilities are constructed according to accepted engineering standards and specifications.

QCQA programs have been implemented during the construction of all new cyanide facilities and modifications to existing facilities, including cyanide unloading, storage, mixing facilities and other cyanide facilities. The QCQA for the operation's cyanide facilities were addressed in the original ICMC certification audit and the subsequent recertification audits, including the current audit.

Since the 2019 recertification audit, the following construction and modification to cyanide facilities have been undertaken:

- TSFs
  - Raise 1 for TSF 4 was completed in December 2021.
  - Starter wall for TSF 5 was completed in 2022. Raise 1 for the TSF 5 is currently underway and will be completed in the last quarter of 2023.
- Installation of new Cyanide Mixing and Dosing Tanks.
- Installation of three new CIL leach tanks
- Relocation of the existing ILR and installation of a second ILR.

QCQA programs were implemented for the above-mentioned projects.

QCQA documentation observed during the current audit addressed the suitability of materials and adequacy of soil compaction for earth works, the installation of the liner and the construction of the tanks. The QCQA for the operation's cyanide facilities were addressed in the original ICMC certification audit and previous recertification audits.

QCQA records for cyanide facilities have been retained and this was addressed in the original ICMC certification and subsequent recertification audits, including the current audit.

The review of cyanide facility construction by appropriate qualified personnel was addressed in the original ICMC certification audit and subsequent recertification audits.

Standard of Practice 4.9: **Implement monitoring programs to evaluate the effects of cyanide use on wildlife, and surface and groundwater quality.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 4.9**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 4.9; to implement monitoring programs to evaluate the effects of cyanide use on wildlife, and surface and groundwater quality.

The operation has developed written standard operating procedures for monitoring activities, including:

- The *Environmental Monitoring Plan* describes the requirements for environmental monitoring at Tasiast Gold Mine, including ground- and surface water monitoring and avian and terrestrial wildlife monitoring.
- The *Environmental Monitoring Boreholes Sampling* procedure stipulates the sampling protocol for groundwater sampling.
- The *Water Management Plan* provides a broader overview to the water management at Tasiast Gold Mine and is supplementary to the Environmental Monitoring Plan.

The sampling and analytical protocols was developed and updated by appropriately qualified persons.

The *Environmental Monitoring Plan* contains an annual monitoring and sampling schedule. Groundwater sampling is conducted quarterly. Section 12 *Quality Assurance and Quality Control* (QAQC) details requirements for ensuring samples are delivered to the laboratory in accordance with QAQC requirements.

The *Environmental Monitoring Borehole Sampling* procedure includes a map and table indicating the location and details of the groundwater monitoring boreholes. The procedure further provides information and requirements on preparation for and taking the samples, including sample preservation. Section 5 *Post Site Visit* describes how to store the collected samples and the need to prepare a chain of custody to serve as a written record of sample handling.

The *Packaging and Shipping of Environmental Samples* procedure provides guidance on the packing and shipping of water samples to an external laboratory, including the necessary forms and documentation that must be completed and accompany the shipment.

The *Chain of Custody* forms contains all the necessary information regarding the requirement for sample preservation, shipping instructions and chain of custody procedures and reference to the baseline suite sheet, informing the laboratory of the cyanide species to be analysed for.

Sampling information and conditions are recorded during sample collection and recorded manually in the *Groundwater Monitoring and Sampling Form.*

Monitoring is conducted at frequencies adequate to characterise the medium being monitored and to identify changes in a timely manner. Groundwater monitoring is done quarterly at groundwater monitoring boreholes located across the mine site. Wildlife monitoring is conducted as part of the daily inspections conducted at the TSF and associated ponds and dump leach areas and monthly during

the inspections conducted by Environmental Department. Surface water is not monitored as there are no surface water bodies in close proximity to the mine.

PRINCIPLE 5 – DECOMMISSIONING

Protect Communities and the Environment from Cyanide Through Development and Implementation of Decommissioning Plans for Cyanide Facilities

Standard of Practice 5.1: Plan and implement procedures for effective decommissioning of cyanide facilities to protect human health, wildlife, livestock, and the environment.

☒ **in full compliance with**

The operation is

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 5.1**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 5.1; to plan and implement procedures for effective decommissioning of cyanide facilities to protect human health, wildlife, livestock, and the environment.

Tasiast Gold Mine has developed written procedures to decommission cyanide facilities at the cessation of operations. The mine has developed the *Tasiast Gold Mine Project Life of Mine Preliminary Rehabilitation & Closure Plan*.

Tasiast Gold Mine has compiled a closure schedule illustrating the closure tasks / activities to be undertaken over several years during the decommissioning and prior to the closure of the mine. The closure schedule corresponds to the financial provision for decommissioning and closure of the mine. The tasks / activities include the cyanide facilities, TSFs and Dump Leach facilities.

The final Closure Plan must be submitted to the Government of Mauritania (GoM), 3 years before final closure.

It is stated in the Preliminary Rehabilitation and Closure Plan that the implementation of the approved definitive Rehabilitation Closure Plan is anticipated to take approximately three years to complete, noting that leach pads are rinsed during the operational period. The CIL process plant will take approximately 12 months from the cessation of ore processing through the plant.

The closure plan is revised during the life of the operation and revised as changes to the operation are implemented, minimum every three years.

Standard of Practice 5.2: Establish a financial assurance mechanism capable of fully funding cyanide-related decommissioning activities.

The operation is

- ☒ **in full compliance with**
- ☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 5.2**
- ☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 5.2; to establish a financial assurance mechanism capable of fully funding cyanide-related decommissioning activities.

Tasiast Gold Mine has developed an estimate of the cost to fully fund third party implementation of the cyanide-related decommissioning measures as identified in its site decommissioning and closure plan.

Tasiast Gold Mine has compiled and Financial Assurance Estimate in accordance with international engineering and environmental management best practice. The reclamation and closure costs utilise the most recent data available and align with the preliminary reclamation and closure sections of the various Environmental and Social Impact Assessment documents approved by the Mauritania Government Ministries.

The closure and liability costing is updated at the same frequency as the closure plan, every 3 years, and is aligned with the content of the closure plan.

Mauritanian law requires a financial guarantee for mine closure and rehabilitation. However, the Government has not specified the nature of an acceptable financial mechanism.

Tasiast Gold Mine has established self-insurance as a financial assurance mechanism in accordance with the Kinross *Internal Code for Self-insurance of Decommissioning and Closure Liabilities*, dated 29 May 2012. This internal code is specifically used in response to the requirements of the ICMC for self-insurance in situations where host countries have not fully developed a financial assurance mechanism for funding decommissioning and closure of cyanide facilities.

The auditor observed a statement from the independent accounting firm KPMG LLP, confirming that an assessment was conducted to determine whether Kinross Gold Mine has the appropriate ratios of net worth to liabilities. Kinross Gold Corporation satisfied all the agreed-upon procedures as set out in the internal code. It was concluded that the Kinross Gold Corporation has sufficient financial strength to fulfil its obligation to cover the estimated costs for cyanide-related decommissioning activities.

PRINCIPLE 6 – WORKER SAFETY

Protect Workers' Health and Safety from Exposure to Cyanide

Standard of Practice 6.1: Identify potential cyanide exposure scenarios and take measures as necessary to eliminate, reduce and control them.

The operation is

- ☒ **in full compliance with**
- ☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 6.1**
- ☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 6.1; to identify potential cyanide exposure scenarios and take measures as necessary to eliminate, reduce and control them.

Tasiast Gold Mine has developed procedures describing how cyanide related tasks such as unloading, mixing, plant operations, entry into confined spaces, and equipment decontamination prior to maintenance should be conducted to minimise worker exposure. The operational procedures include the PPE required and address pre-work inspections as well as the procedural steps to follow.

Various forums and processes are used to communicate with employees and contractors on safety procedures and to provide them with an opportunity to provide their input in developing and evaluating health and safety procedures. These include:

- Post incident consultation and feedback are done with the workforce to gain insight and understanding after a specific incident to feedback into procedure updates. The workforce can provide insight and feedback that will feed into update of procedures, if required.
- The Job Safety Analysis (JSA) (team based) process for routine tasks is performed where no procedure is in place. If a JSA is done multiple times for the same task, the information from the JSA is used to compile a Safe Operating Procedure. The workforce conducting the specific task will review and sign the procedure. Both the JSA team and the committee compiling the procedure will consist of a group of employees involved in the task.
- Planned Task Observations (PTO) (also refer to as a Field Engagement Form) – during PTO's, the opportunity exists for the employee and supervisor to make comments and remarks that will feed into the update of a procedure, if required.
- Weekly safety meetings are held by the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Department and HSE representatives from various business partners. An additional weekly safety meeting is held by the General Manager and Site Supervisors.

Standard of Practice 6.2: **Operate and monitor cyanide facilities to protect worker health and safety and periodically evaluate the effectiveness of health and safety measures.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 6.2**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 6.2; to operate and monitor cyanide facilities to protect worker health and safety and periodically evaluate the effectiveness of health and safety measures.

The operation has determined that the optimal pH control for process solutions is greater than 9.5 to prevent the evolution of HCN gas. The *CIL Standard Operating Procedure* stated that the pH in the slurry in the CIL section must be maintained between 10.5 and 11.

The operation has identified areas and activities where workers may be exposed to cyanide in excess of 10 ppm on an instantaneous basis and 4.7 ppm continuously over an 8-hour period and require use of PPE in these areas or when performing these activities. The operation has identified the following areas and has installed fixed HCN monitors in these areas:

- Cyanide Mixing Tank
- Cyanide Dosing Tank
- Elution
- Pre-leach
- CIL Tanks
- Old Elution
- Acid Wash
- Electrowinning
- Pregnant Tank
- Mills
- ILR

PPE requirements are indicated on safety signs in the areas and are stipulated in operational procedures relating to specific cyanide related activities.

Where the potential exists for significant cyanide exposure, the operation uses ambient and personal devices to confirm that controls are adequate to limit worker exposure to hydrogen cyanide gas to 10 ppm on an instantaneous basis and 4.7 ppm continuously over an 8-hour period.

Personal HCN monitors are available for use at the cyanide reagent area, for use by the Emergency Response Team (ERT), in the Gold Room, at the top of the CIL tanks, for entry into confined spaces. The personal HCN monitors are issued from the two *Permit to Work* offices in the plant. Ten personal monitors available for the plant. The person taking the HCN monitor signs in the Gas Detection Register when the monitor is taken and returned.

It is communicated in the Cyanide Awareness Induction presentation that the personal and fixed HCN monitor alarm levels are set at 4.7 ppm and 10 ppm. Fixed or personal detector's high alarm

level is set at 4.7 ppm with the audible alarm being a beeping sound. The high-high alarm limit is set at 10 ppm with the audible alarm being a continuous sound. It is stated that personnel can safely work in the range of 4.7 but not to be exposed for a consecutive 8 hours. It is required to:

- Notify the supervisor and control room operator (CRO).
- Constant monitoring to track personal time spent in an affected area (not exceed 8 hours of constant exposure).
- Keep constant communication with supervisor and CRO until level below 4.7 ppm.

Personnel must evacuate the area where HCN level is higher than 10 ppm as per the following requirements:

- Evacuate the area immediately.
- Notify supervisor and control room operator.
- Do not return to area until authorised by the supervisor.
- Confirm level is below 10 ppm.

The personal and fixed hydrogen cyanide gas monitors are calibrated by the onsite instrument technicians every 6 months. The manufacturer, Dräger, provided equipment calibration training to the Maintenance and Instrumentation Department.

The personal HCN monitors are calibrated as per the specifications of the manufacturer, Drager. The calibration records for the current recertification period did initially not indicate the actual calibration information. However, this has been rectified and the most recent records presented to the auditor did conform to the requirements.

Warning signs, in areas where cyanide is used, advising workers that cyanide is present, have been placed at the solid cyanide off-loading and storage area, ADR plant and West Branch Dump Leach area, cyanide storage and mixing tanks, CIL tanks, ILR, Process Water Pond, TSFs and associated ponds. The signs advise of the presence of cyanide and warn against eating, drinking, smoking, and the use of open flames, as applicable. The signs further instruct that the appropriate PPE should be worn, where applicable.

It is communicated in the Cyanide Awareness Induction module that eating and smoking is not allowed in the plant. It was observed during the site assessment that food may only be consumed in the canteens. It was observed during the site assessment that designated smoking areas are provided in the plant and employees may only smoke at these places.

Carmoisine dye will be added to the cyanide solution during cyanide mixing if the particular shipment of solid cyanide has not been dyed by the supplier. The *CIL Sodium Cyanide Mixing* procedure describes the amount of dye to be added and the process to be followed.

Showers, low-pressure eyewash stations and dry powder or non-acidic sodium bi-carbonate fire extinguishers are located at strategic locations throughout the operation, and they are maintained, inspected and tested on a regular basis. The safety showers and eyewash stations are inspected and tested daily during the process plant area inspections.

Fire extinguishers are inspected monthly by the ERT, and the completed inspection is indicated on a card on the extinguisher.

Storage, mixing and process tanks and piping are colour coded in accordance with the plant's colour coding system, with some structure having additional labelling.

It was observed during the site inspection that the content and the flow direction of the reagent strength cyanide pipelines and process pipelines are indicted.

The sodium cyanide Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is available at the areas where cyanide is managed in the process plant and at the solid cyanide storage areas. Safety signs are available in both English and Arabic.

Procedures are in place and being implemented to investigate and evaluate cyanide exposure incidents to determine if the operation's programs and procedures to protect worker health and safety, and to respond to cyanide exposure, are adequate or need revising. Tasiast Gold Mine has implemented the *Incident Reporting and Investigation Procedure* to ensure that all non-conformances and incidents are reported, investigated and corrective / preventative actions are communicated and implemented to prevent future occurrence. It is required that all events shall be managed via the *Incident Management Workflow* process. The *Incident Management Workflow* process describes the steps to follow in the event of an incident and what information to gather leading to the incident investigation:

- Initial response
- Classification
- Accountability
- Recording
- Investigation
- Communicate and report.
- Share and learn.
- Effectiveness review.

Standard of Practice 6.3: Develop and implement emergency response plans and procedures to respond to worker exposure to cyanide.

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 6.3**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 6.3; to develop and implement emergency response plans and procedures to respond to worker exposure to cyanide.

The operation has oxygen and resuscitators, antidote kits, radios and telephones readily available for use at the cyanide unloading and solid cyanide storage, cyanide mixing and dosing tank, top of the CIL.

The employees use two-way radio or cell phones to communicate in the event of an emergency.

Oxy-Viva 3 resuscitator kits are available at the cyanide mixing and storage area and at the top of the CIL tanks inside the processing plant, at the ADR Plant clinic and at the solid cyanide off-loading and storage area.

Antidote kits are stored at the mine clinic and will only be administered by a medical officer only. The antidote kit available at Tasiast Gold Mine is the Cyanokit.

The operation inspects its first aid equipment regularly to ensure that it is available when needed, and materials such as cyanide antidotes are stored as directed by the manufacturer and replaced on a schedule to ensure that it will be effective when needed. The OxyViva 3 equipment is inspected by the plant operators weekly. At the clinic, the cyanide antidote kits, respirators and cyanide PPE are inspected daily by the clinic personnel.

It was confirmed during the site inspection that materials such as cyanide antidotes are in date and are stored as directed by the manufacturer.

Tasiast Gold Mine has developed cyanide exposure emergency response procedures to respond to cyanide exposures. These include the *Emergency Response Plan Tailings Storage Facilities*, the *First Aid Treatment of cyanide poisoning*, the *Tasiast Gold Mine Cyanide Emergency Response Procedure*, and the *Emergency Response Plan (ERP)* for Tasiast Gold Mine.

Tasiast Gold Mine has its own on-site capability to provide first aid or medical assistance to workers exposed to cyanide. The ERT will respond in the event of a cyanide exposure or spill. Selected process plant employees have been trained as “First Responders” to assist in the event of a worker exposure. The onsite ERT will respond and if needed, transport the patient with the mine’s ambulance to the onsite clinic. The on-site paramedic and clinic will provide medical assistance if needed. The ERT and clinic personnel are available 24hr a day and are situated approximately 1.5 km from the processing plant entrance.

Tasiast Gold Mine has a fully equipped onsite clinic to which patients requiring medical treatment, as a result of cyanide exposure, will be transported and treated. Exposed workers will be transported by the onsite paramedic with the onsite ambulance to the clinic for medical care. It was confirmed

during the site assessment that the onsite clinic personnel are fully aware of their responsibility to treat cyanide exposure patients.

Tasiast Gold Mine has, through their association with International SOS (ISOS), agreements in place with both Chiva Private Hospital and Medipol Private Hospital in Nouakchott. These facilities can both be used as an interim stabilisation facility prior to the patient being evacuated internationally to the most appropriate centre of excellence for further and continued treatment.

If subsequently the patient(s) require specialist treatment, they will either be transferred by road to either Chiva Private Hospital or Medipol Private Hospital in Nouakchott or airlifted to an international facility with the assistance of ISOS and in accordance with the ISO Escalation Protocol. The medical personnel from the onsite clinic will be critically involved in the continued treatment until the time that the patient is airlifted to definitive care.

PRINCIPLE 7 – EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Protect Communities and the Environment through the Development of Emergency Response Strategies and Capabilities

Standard of Practice 7.1: Prepare detailed emergency response plans for potential cyanide releases.

The operation is

- ☒ **in full compliance with**
- ☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.1**
- ☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 7.1; to prepare detailed emergency response plans for potential cyanide releases.

Tasiast Gold Mine has developed emergency response procedures and plans to address accidental release of cyanide and cyanide exposure. These include:

- *Emergency Response Plan Tailings Storage Facilities* -this procedure describes measures that will be taken to prepare for and respond to an emergency involving the TSFs.
- *First Aid Treatment of cyanide poisoning* – the procedure stipulates the first aid steps to follow in the event of cyanide poisoning.
- *Tasiast Gold Mine Cyanide Emergency Response Procedure* – the procedure provides guidance for all staff at Tasiast Gold Mine with respect to emergency response for cyanide related incidents. This procedure is intended to be used in conjunction with the overall *Emergency Response Plan (ERP)* for Tasiast Gold Mine.
- *Emergency Response Plan* – The ERP has been prepared to align with the *Kinross Crisis Management Plan* (KCMP) and the associated *Kinross Crisis Management System* (KCMS). Provides guidance on emergency preparedness and response. The plan covers activities at the Tasiast Gold Mine site, Sondage, exploration areas and project areas within Imkebdene and Tmeimichat, and the access routes between them.

Tasiast Gold Mine has implemented emergency response plans and procedures that list the various credible events scenarios for the site inclusive of cyanide indents. The plans account for the following events:

a) Catastrophic release of hydrogen cyanide from storage, process or regeneration facilities.

b) Transportation accidents occurring on site or in close proximity to the operation.

c) Cyanide releases during unloading and mixing.

d) Cyanide releases during fires and explosions.

e) Pipe, valve and tank ruptures.

f) Overtopping of ponds and impoundments.

g) Power outages and pump failures.

h) Uncontrolled seepage.

i) Failure of cyanide treatment, destruction or recovery systems.

j) Failure of tailings impoundments, dump leach facilities and other cyanide facilities.

Transported related emergencies outside the mine are the responsibility of the cyanide transporter, Alpha Services Limited, and will be handled in accordance with their transportation emergency response plan. Alpha Services Limited has developed an Emergency Response Plan for the transportation of solid cyanide from the port of Nouakchott to Tasiast Gold Mine.

The emergency plans and procedures describe the following:

- The emergency response plans and procedures individually describe the requirements and steps to evacuate site personnel at the processing plant, TSFs and ponds. The Security Response Team has the responsibility to facilitate the evacuation of site personnel. There are no communities in close proximity to the operations (refer to 9.1).
- The *Safe Operating Procedure First Aid Treatment of Cyanide Poisoning* procedure describes the first aid provisions available and persons responsible in the event of a cyanide poisoning. The same procedure states that the medical team (at the onsite clinic) will administer the antidote kit (Cyanokit), if required.
- The *Response to a Cyanide Spill* and *Cyanide Emergency Response Procedure* address the control of releases at their source, containment, assessment, mitigation and future prevention of release.

Standard of Practice 7.2: Involve site personnel and stakeholders in the planning process.

The operation is

- ☒ **in full compliance with**
- ☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.2**
- ☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 7.2; to involve site personnel and stakeholders in the planning process.

The operation has involved its workforce and where applicable, stakeholders, in the cyanide emergency response planning. The requirements of the emergency response plans are shared with employees during induction and refresher training as well as emergency drills and any deficiencies identified are shared during the feedback sessions after the drills. The workforce provide input to the emergency response planning via the feedback sessions after an emergency drill. The drill scenarios and lessons learned, communicated and discussed after a drill, provide input into any possible required changes. Meetings are held with the various section heads to discuss any required changes to the ERP or new incident scenarios.

There are no communities located in close proximity to the operations and are therefore not involved in the emergency response planning process (refer to 9.1).

Due to the Tasist Gold Mine's remote location, external stakeholders are not involved in the planning as the site has the capability to respond to onsite emergencies.

The operation has made potentially affected communities, along the transportation route, aware of the nature of the risks associated with accidental cyanide releases and consulted with them directly regarding appropriate communication and response actions. The mine engages with the villages along the N2 road which is used for the transportation of the solid cyanide from the Port of Nouackchott to the mine. The village includes Aghnowdert, Tiweilit, Mhaijratt, Akweijatt, Ghreid Goumyat, Bouammatou, Chami, Virage Tasiast. Two smaller villages, Imkebdene and Ntawe, are located on a radius of 30 km from the mine site. Refer to 9.1.

The operation engages in consultation and communication with relevant on-site stakeholders to keep the Emergency Response Plan current. The HSE Department is responsible for the reviewing and updating of the ERP and gathers input from the different mine departments to finalise the document. The ERP was compiled by the HSE Manager, reviewed by the HSE Superintendent, reviewed by Security Manager and approved by the General Manager. Since external stakeholders and local communities have no involvement in the emergency response planning process, Tasiast Gold Mine does not consult or communicate with these parties.

Standard of Practice 7.3: Designate appropriate personnel and commit necessary equipment and resources for emergency response.

	☒ **in full compliance with**	
The operation is	☐ in substantial compliance with	**Standard of Practice 7.3**
	☐ not in compliance with	

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 7.3; to designate appropriate personnel and commit necessary equipment and resources for emergency response.

The cyanide-related elements of the ERP detail the following:

- *Section 3. General Roles and Responsibilities* designate primary and alternate emergency response coordinators. The General Manager is the primary responsible person to commitment resources, with the various Department Managers and Superintendents having various responsibilities, as detailed in the Plan.
- *Section 3.0 General Roles and Responsibilities* states that the General Manager must ensure that the site has a trained ERT.
- *Appendix A – Emergency Contracts Lists* provides the contact information for the coordinators and ERT. The updated list is kept on the sites Intranet and communicated via email to Heads of Departments when updated.
- *Section 2.1 Initial Emergency Response & Communication Procedures* provides the information for initial emergency notification, the site wide emergency number for cell phones / land line / two-way radio and the list of information that must be communicated regarding the emergency.
- *Section 5. Specific Emergency Response Procedures* specifies the duties and responsibilities of the coordinators and team members.
- *Appendix B – Emergency Equipment Inventories* lists the emergency response equipment available on site.

A list identifying the ERT is compiled for the mine. The ERT consists of nine team members and two ERT training officers. The ERT works on a three-shift system, with one shift on break at any given time.

Emergency equipment is inspected daily (previously weekly).

No external responders have responsibilities in the ERP.

Tasiast Gold Mine has an on-site clinic that are aware of the potential need to treat patients for cyanide exposure and an ERT that will respond to emergency situations at the mine. The mine management has assured that the medical facility and ERT team have adequate, qualified staff and equipment and expertise to respond to cyanide and other emergencies. The clinic and ERT are involved in full chain mock drills.

The local communities and external stakeholders do not have designated responsibilities in the mine emergency response plan and are therefore not included in mock drills.

Standard of Practice 7.4: Develop procedures for internal and external emergency notification and reporting.

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.4**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in full compliance with Standard of Practice 7.4; to develop procedures for internal and external emergency notification and reporting.

The Emergency Response Plan includes procedures and contact information for notifying management, regulatory agencies, external response providers and medical facilities of a cyanide emergency. The ERP contains the contact details of the Tasiast Gold Mine management, on-site Government Officials, the Tasiast Emergency Medical Team (who will notify the off-site medical facilities, if needed) and key personnel. The onsite Government Officials will communicate further with the relevant Government Departments in the event of an emergency. The updated list is kept on the sites Intranet and communicated via email to Heads of Departments when updated.

Notifying potentially affected communities of a cyanide related incident and any necessary response measures will be Tasiast Gold Mine Community Relations Department. The Department maintains up to date contact information for the communities. There are however no communities in close proximity of the operations.

The External Relations Coordinator have the responsibility to communicate with the media and respond to media inquiries.

At the time of the site assessment, Tasiast Gold Mine did not have a written procedure for notifying the International Cyanide Management Institute (ICMI) of any significant cyanide incidents.

Prior to the submission of this report, Tasiast Gold Mine compiled a procedure detailing the process to be followed to notify the ICMI of any significant cyanide incident.

The procedures requires that the ICMI is notified within 24 hours of the occurrence of such an incident. It is required that the notification message should include essential information such as the description of the incident, severity, nature and potential consequences. Further collaboration with the ICMI is required to provide additional information and updates.

No significant cyanide incidents, as defined in the ICMI's *Definitions and Acronyms* document, have occurred during the current recertification audit period.

Standard of Practice 7.5: **Incorporate remediation measures and monitoring elements into response plans and account for the additional hazards of using cyanide treatment chemicals.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.5**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 7.5; to incorporate remediation measures and monitoring elements into response plans and account for the additional hazards of using cyanide treatment chemicals.

The Cyanide Spill Response procedure describes the actions to take to neutralise or recover spilled solid or liquid cyanide.
In addition, the Cyanide Emergency Response Procedure contains Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) pertaining to the recovery or neutralisation of solid or liquid cyanide spillage (wet and dry spills).
The Cyanide Spill Response procedure describes the actions to take to neutralise soils in the event of a cyanide spill. The procedure requires that the neutralised soils are collected and moved to the mill sump area to be washed. The soil should be tested to confirm the absence of cyanide analytically (below the detection limit)

Soil sampling should be conducted in accordance with the *Environmental Soil Sampling* procedure. The procedure describes the sampling protocol and chain of custody process to following when soil sampling is required in events such as, *inter alia*, ad hoc soil sampling post spillage incidents. The procedure states that, in the event of a cyanide spillage, the soil should be tested for Total and WAD cyanide and that the results should be below 0.5 mg/kg.

The *ERP* stipulates that contaminated soil or other spill debris should be placed in an appropriate part of the process stream.

There are no communities or rivers in close proximity to the mine. The groundwater is not suitable for potable use due to the salinity of the water. Water supply at the mine is by bottled water and therefore the provision of an alternate drinking water supply is not necessary in the event of a cyanide spill.

There are no surface water sources in close proximity to the mine. Therefore, the prohibition on the use of chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite, ferrous sulphate and hydrogen peroxide to treat cyanide that has been released into the surface water is not necessary.

The *Emergency Response Plan* contains the *Environmental Soils Sampling Procedure* and the *Environmental Monitoring Borehole Sampling Procedure*, pertaining to emergency soils and groundwater sampling.

Standard of Practice 7.6: Periodically evaluate response procedures and capabilities and revise them as needed.

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 7.6**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 7.6; to periodically evaluate response procedures and capabilities and revise them as needed.

Tasiast Gold Mine reviews and evaluates the cyanide related elements of the *Emergency Response Plan* for adequacy on a regular basis.

It is stated in the ERP that the plan will be reviewed on a periodic basis and updated as necessary according to the following:

- Change of personnel / contact details.
- Significant change to site operations.
- An emergency drill that has identified changes to the ERP.
- An audit or other internal or external review has identified updates are required.

The *Emergency Response Plan* and supplementary plans are updated at least every 3 years, as a minimum.

Cyanide related scenario mock drills are performed periodically and includes participation by the First Responder(s), clinic and ERT personnel. Scenarios for the mock drills includes chemical spill and cyanide exposure.

There are provisions in place to evaluate and revise the Emergency Response Plan following mock drills or after a cyanide-related emergency requiring its implementation.

Each mock drill is evaluated and positive points and areas / actions for improvement are recorded. The actions are transferred to the action plan for follow up and close out. Should any actions require the update of the ERP, this will be actioned.

No cyanide related incidents occurred during the current recertification period and therefore no review and revision of the emergency response procedures where required as a result thereof.

PRINCIPLE 8 – TRAINING

Train Workers and Emergency Response Personnel to Manage Cyanide in a Safe and Environmentally Protective Manner

Standard of Practice 8.1: Train workers to understand the hazards associated with cyanide use.

The operation is

- ☒ **in full compliance with**
- ☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 8.1**
- ☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 8.1; to train workers to understand the hazards associated with cyanide use.

The operation trains all plant employees and contractors who may encounter cyanide, in cyanide hazard recognition. The *Cyanide Awareness* module is mandatory for all employees working in the process plant, ADR plant and Dump Leach areas, or at the TSFs. The *Cyanide Awareness* training module is presented as part of the induction training that must be completed prior to an employee is allowed to work in either the process plant, ADR plant and Dump Leach area or at the TSFs.

The *Cyanide Awareness* training module is also presented to visitors and contractors prior to gaining access to the plant and outside areas.

The induction training, inclusive of the *Cyanide Awareness* module, is refreshed annually, after the employee returns from annual leave.

Training records are retained for the duration of the employment after which it will be archived.

Standard of Practice 8.2: **Train appropriate personnel to operate the facility according to systems and procedures that protect human health, the community and the environment.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 8.2**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 8.2; to train appropriate personnel to operate the facility according to systems and procedures that protect human health, the community and the environment.

The operation trains workers to perform their normal production tasks, including unloading, mixing, production and maintenance, with minimum risk to worker health and safety, in a manner that prevents unplanned cyanide releases.

The Reagent Area Training Matrix details the names of employees working in the reagent area that receive training on cyanide mixing operations and cyanide spill response. The training is received initially when starting to work in the section.

The Training Matrix details the names of employees requiring specific training for the area that they will work in and well as for the tasks that they will perform. It includes areas where unloading, mixing, production and maintenance activities are performed.

The training module and tests are done on the Kinross computer-based training system.

The training elements necessary for each job involving cyanide management is identified in the operational area specific training materials, referred to as Area Presentations. Employees are trained on the elements of the area that they will work in as well as on specific SOPs pertaining to the work that they perform.

The training is conducted by appropriately qualified trainers providing training related to cyanide management activities.

Workers are trained prior to working with cyanide. Employees receive the area specific training prior to working in the process plant. An employee's access card for the process plant is only issued once all training has been completed and signed off by the Training Department.

Refresher training is conducted if any changes are made to a specific SOP or if change occurs in the operational area, after an incident or if evaluation has indicated insufficient understanding / knowledge.

The operation evaluates the effectiveness of cyanide training. After each training module is presented to an employee, theoretical evaluation is conducted as well as a field evaluation. The process trainer conducts the field evaluation on the employee. The aim of the evaluation is to ensure that the employee know and understands the hygiene, safety and environmental requirements of the particular task, know and understand the work environment, tasks to be performed and the risks associated with the tasks.

Training records are retained for the duration of the employment after which it will be archived. The records contain the names of the employees and the trainer, the date of training, the topics covered and if the employee demonstrated and understanding of the training materials.

Standard of Practice 8.3: **Train appropriate workers and personnel to respond to worker exposures and environmental releases of cyanide.**

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 8.3**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 8.3; to train appropriate workers and personnel to respond to worker exposures and environmental releases of cyanide.

Selected employees (First Responders) from the ADR Plant, Dump Leach areas, Laboratory, Metallurgical Department, Mill Department, Mechanical Department and Training Department receive first aid training on decontamination and the use of the OxiViva resuscitator equipment.

The procedure for responding to a cyanide release is included in the Cyanide Awareness module presented as part of the induction training programme. Regular refresher training is presented to employees on the cyanide spill procedure.

The ERT are trained on the procedures included in the ERP, including the use of necessary response equipment (refer to 7.3). The First Responders, the ERT and clinic personnel participate in the mock drills.

External responders do not have designated responsibilities in the mine emergency response plan. For all cyanide related emergencies, the mine emergency response and clinic personnel will provide the necessary response and assistance.

Refresher training on the decontamination and the use of the OxiViva resuscitator equipment is conducted annually. Regular refresher training is presented to employees on the cyanide spill procedure.

Training records are retained for the duration of the employment after which it will be archived. The records include the names of the employee and the trainer, the date of training and topics covered, and if the employee demonstrated an understanding of the training.

PRINCIPLE 9 – DIALOGUE

Engage in Public Consultation and Disclosure

Standard of Practice 9.1: Promote dialogue with stakeholders regarding cyanide management and responsibly address identified concerns.

The operation is

- ☒ **in full compliance with**
- ☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 9.1**
- ☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 9.1; to promote dialogue with stakeholders regarding cyanide management and responsibly address identified concerns.

There are no permanent communities in close vicinity of the mine. There are only nomadic groups that would move through the area.

It was communicated to the auditor that, after the establishment of the mine, the mine started providing potable water and animal feed to the nomads that caused some settlement in the areas. Dawass is the closest community to mine, which is approximately 12 km to the north. Two smaller villages, Imkebdene and Ntawe, are located on a radius of 30 km from the mine site.

Cyanide awareness communication is conducted approximately every two years at the villages along the N2 road which is used for the transportation of the solid cyanide from the Port of Nouackchott to the mine. The village includes Aghnowdert, Tiweilit, Mhaijratt, Akweijatt, Ghreid Goumyat, Bouammatou, Chami, Virage Tasiast.

A presentation on cyanide management is presented in Arabic to these villages on the road as well as the three village closer to the mine. The main message to the communities is to stay away in the event of a road accident, as well as to communicate the measures in place for safe transport and handling of cyanide by Tasiast GM.

A stakeholder engagement report is compiled after the engagement campaign and contains the details of discussion and feedback from the communities encountered, the names of villages and people from the villages as well as photographs.

It is communicated to the Governor of the two regions where the communities are situated that the communities will be visited, and that cyanide awareness refresher communication will be conducted. The same presentation is presented to the local Governors.

Tasiast Gold Mine has implemented a Grievance policy and procedure providing the opportunity to communities and stakeholders to report any grievance directly to the Community Relations Officers either by phone or in writing at the Tasiast Gold Mine main gate.

Standard of Practice 9.2: Make appropriate operational and environmental information regarding cyanide available to stakeholders.

The operation is

☒ **in full compliance with**

☐ in substantial compliance with **Standard of Practice 9.2**

☐ not in compliance with

Summarise the basis for this Finding/Deficiencies Identified:

The operation is in FULL COMPLIANCE with Standard of Practice 9.2; to make appropriate operational and environmental information regarding cyanide available to stakeholders.

Tasist Gold Mine has developed a presentation on how cyanide is managed during transportation and when used at the mine.

The presentation covers:

- What is cyanide.
- What is sodium cyanide.
- Risks of cyanide.
- Cyanide in Tasiast – Facts.
- Cyanide – Mandatory PPE.
- The supply chain of cyanide.
- Tasiast Gold Mine is certified and a signatory of ICMC.

The above-mentioned presentation is provided in Arabic (also available in English) in verbally and in hard copy (A3) to stakeholders during the engagement sessions. Additional hard copies are available to communities and stakeholders should they request it.

The operation will make information publicly available on confirmed cyanide releases or exposure incidents.

Incident must be reported immediately, by most rapid means of communication, i.e., phone, to the on-site Government Representative from the Mauritania Mine Ministry. An incident report should then follow once more information is available. This will include any of the cyanide related incident. The representative will communicate the incident and details to the Government and other relevant stakeholders.

Any cyanide release of exposure incident will be reported in the Quarterly Report to the Government.

Tasiast Gold Mine submits an annual report to the International Finance Corporation World Bank Group (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) Report). It is required that any significant environmental incidents are reported and therefore any cyanide release or exposure incidents, as per the following list, will be reported in this section, if occurred:

- Cyanide exposure resulting in hospitalization or fatality.
- Cyanide releases off the mine site requiring response or remediation.
- Cyanide releases on or off the mine site resulting in significant adverse effects to health or the environment.
- Cyanide releases on or off the mine site requiring reporting under applicable regulations
- Releases that cause applicable limits for cyanide to be exceeded.

Cyanide release or exposure incidents will be reported in the Annual Kinross Sustainability and Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) Report that is available to the public on the Kinross Gold Corporation website. Incident reporting is site specific and provides information on the nature and location of the incident.

It was confirmed to the auditor during interviews with various operational and ERT personnel that Tasiast Gold Mine has not experienced any cyanide releases or exposure incidents in the period since the last recertification audit.

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