

History of the A-J Mine

1880 Joe Juneau and Richard Harris created Juneau as a “prospector’s settlement” near their claims on Gold Creek. Ore was extracted from open pits and by hydrologic placer mining.

1897 The Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company was formed.

1911 Major underground tunnels are driven into the ore body under Mount Roberts eventually going all the way to Sheep Creek Canyon to the south.

1917 Large mill built dedicated to processing A-J ore.

1930’s Peak production reached with annual profits up to \$2.3 million.

1942 Mine production dwindled to half what it was in the 1930’s.

1944 Mine closed due to shrinking production and high costs.

1965 Old mill burns down.

1973 Alaska Electric Light and Power (AEL&P) bought the A-J properties

1984 BPC Alaska signs a lease for mineral rights to the A-J with AEL&P and the city.

1985 BPC turns the leases over to Echo Bay Exploration Inc.

1993 City approves a permit for operations. The Alaska Supreme Court eventually rules the permit invalid.

1994 EPA investigates allegations that the mine exploration activities discharged old sewage, grease, ammonia and urine into Gold Creek at night to avoid detection.

1997 After investing \$110 million into the re-opening of the A-J Mine, Echo Bay drops the project citing a smaller than expected ore body and high operating costs.

1997 USEPA criminal investigations unit declines to prosecute after Echo Bay agrees to pay significant penalties to the State of Alaska.