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RUTH-VERMONT PROPERTY
RECLAMATION FOLLOWING THE
1996 UNDERGROUND DRILL PROGRAM

Golden Mining Division

by

Damir Cukor B.Sc.

MineQuest Exploration Associates Ltd.

November 22, 1996

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Introduction

An underground drilling program was conducted by MineQuest Exploration Associates on the Ruth-Vermont Property during the month of October 1996, on permit No. MX-5-358. This report describing the steps taken to close down the operation was prepared at the request of Stephen Wuschke, District Manager/Engineer (Kootenay Region) with the Energy and Minerals Division of the Ministry of Employment & Investment.

Location and Access

The claims lie at 50°57'N 116°58'W in NTS map sheet 82/K/15, in the Golden Mining Division. Access is by way of Highway 95 south from Golden to Parson then along Crestbrook Forest Industry's (CFI) mainline logging road and South Fork mainline to kilometre 49, and up the mining road west along Vermont Creek for 9 kilometers.

History of Property

The property has had a long mining exploration history, and has had several periods of production - during the 1930's, in 1946 and in 1973. The old workings include numerous short adits and shafts as well as the main Ruth-Vermont mine workings at the 6000 ft elevation (two drifts) and at the 5750 level (one drift).

State of Property at Commencement of Program

The old mill and camp were severely damaged in the winter of 1974 by snowslides. Reclamation of the property was completed recently (J. Morrow, 1994) by a previous owner; included in the reclamation program was the removal of all mine buildings, putting in a drainage ditch through the settling ponds, and recontouring the mill and campsites. During the past year the mining road leading from South Fork Mainline to the former Ruth-Vermont campsite has been waterbarred and crossditched by CFI under direction of and in contract with Ministry of Forests.

Current Program, - Equipment Used

Equipment used for the program included a Connors underground electric drill powered by a 125 kva generator set up at the portal, and an Emico 3 yd scoop tram, a compressor and powder truck for support, and a Case 350 backhoe for mobilization and demobilization. Several pickup trucks were used for transportation of personnel and supplies on site; the portal was accessible by 4X4 vehicles.

Current Program, - Disturbance

Above-ground disturbance this year was restricted to rehabilitating the mining road for use by transport trucks and opening the mine portal for access for the underground drilling program. Waterbars and crossditches were replaced by culverts or smoothed slightly. A trailer deck was installed as a temporary bridge over Vermont Creek. The portal was opened by removing the backfill materials and dismantling the iron bars blocking the adit.

During the initial phase of the program, old explosives were discovered in the mine. Safe disposal of the explosives was supervised by Gary McDonnel, Mines Inspector from Fernie. Sixteen cases of old powder were physically carried above-ground and destroyed by burning. All explosives used during this year's drilling program were stored in an explosives truck. Holes used for blasting the second drillsite were inspected for mischarge - no trace of unexploded powder was observed. All unused explosives were returned to the truck and subsequently demobilized off-site.

During the term of the drill program, a 24 foot site trailer was parked in the former mine camp area. Oils and greases were stored within this trailer. A 2000 gallon fuel tank containing Diesel fuel was stored on site, as well as up to 45 gallons of gasoline in a standard metal drum. Plastic pails were used to prevent spillage during fuelling operations. No hazardous chemicals were used during the drill program. Underground, disturbance was restricted to moving approximately 150 m³ of rock debris to level a ramp for construction of the drillsite for hole DDH 96-1 and to drilling and blasting the hangingwall at the drillsite for holes DDH 96-2 and DDH 96-3. Care was taken not to spill greases, oils and hydraulic fluids underground.

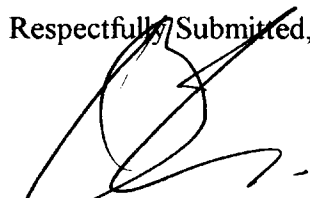
Reclamation

The drilling program was suspended at 1628 feet, - 3000 feet had originally been planned. Steven Wuschke was contacted on October 28th (after an unsuccessful attempt on October 25th), appraising him of pending demobilisation. Budgetary constraints prevented an immediate site visit, and Mr Wuschke requested a report with photographs to document the reclamation.

Demobilization started on the 30th of October; all machinery, equipment and surplus supplies were removed from the site. Pieces of an old abandoned generator found on-site were removed as an improvement to the previous reclamation. The portal was resealed by reconstructing the iron bar grille, using more bars than previously to ensure proper closure. Backfill was replaced; soil was heaped to near the top of the adit and then large boulders were wedged in to seal the top of the portal to further prevent entry. At the bottom of the backfill heap is an empty 500 gal tank used, used for the previous portal sealing operation. All debris was removed from the underground and above and below ground sites. An attempt was made on October 30th to remove the bridge deck, however it was frozen in too solidly and had to be left in place, however fresh snow and dark shale was spread on top of the bridge to hasten thawing in case of subsequent milder weather. On the same date, an attempt was made to install waterbars/crossditches, but frost depth exceeded six inches and re-installation of the waterbars proved impractical. The demobilisation and the reclamation to October 30th was done under supervision of the writer.

A successful attempt was made to remove the bridge deck and to install the waterbars on November 14. The bridge deck proved to be too heavy to drag downhill with the soft snow conditions and had to be left on site, away from and to the north side of the creek. Glen Mason, from Mason's Bachoe performed the deck removal and the waterbar construction.

Respectfully Submitted,



Damir Cukor, B.Sc. (Geol.)
November 22, 1996



Photo 1: Removal of machinery and equipment from site

1



Photo 2: Resealing the portal with iron bars

1



Photo 3: Sealing the portal with soil and boulders

2



Photo 4: The portal completely sealed with soil and boulders

2



Photo 5: The powder
magazine, with
the powder
removed 3



Photo 6: Attempting to put in
waterbars 3