Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> 1:30-4:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Shoppers Plaza

### Attendees:

YTG: Julia Ahlgren, Bill Leary, Russell McDiarmid, Bruce Milligan, Heather Barnfield, Andrea Mainer, Julie Stinson, Rebecca Jansen, Robert Holmes, Erin Dowd, Julie Houle, Dale Eftoda

Na-cho Nyak Dun: Don Hutton, Bill Slater

Victoria Gold: Todd Goodsell, Hugh Coyle, Steve Wilbur

### Agenda:

- 1. Technical Working Group (TWG) Overview
  - o The TWG will be engaged to assist and provide advice on the project
  - o There will be regular correspondence through e-mail and meetings as needed
  - Can be engaged to review license applications before they're submitted and plans and reports required as a result of the licenses
  - o All plans and reports received in support of the TWG and Quartz Mining License (QML) will be available online at <a href="http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/mining/eagle\_gold.html">http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/mining/eagle\_gold.html</a>
  - Members of the TWG will vary depending on the topic being discussed; generally the TWG will be comprised of First Nation, Federal and Territorial governments and consultants where necessary.

#### 2. Overview of Phase I Plans

- QML Part I Plans have been submitted for review and approval by Energy Mines and Resources, a Reclamation and Closure Plan and Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will be submitted in 2-3 weeks
- The plans submitted may require amendments to current Water Licenses (WL) or application for new Type B licenses
- Phase I activities include general site prep, bulk earth works, foundations, pad construction, embankment foundation prep, excavation of Dublin Gulch Diversion Channel, open pit prestripping for construction material
- Due to delays in construction activities, Phase I will be undertaken throughout 2013 and 2014 construction seasons
- Summer 2013 activities potentially include: staging area preparation, vegetation clearing for sections of Dublin Gulch channel and heap leach facility embankment areas, mobilize equipment, mobilize camp infrastructure, access road upgrades and placer mining work
- Access road upgrades are on public roads and do not fall under the authority of the QML, work will require a Work in Right-of-Way permit and a Notice of Water Use (Schedule 3). If water use for the road upgrade exceeds 300 m<sup>3</sup>/day, Type B WL will be required.
- o Phase II QML and Type A WL target submission is the 3rd quarter of 2013, timelines have considered a 10-12 month review period before issuance of the Type A WL.

### 3. Concerns and Questions on Phase I Application

- o Ann Gulch: concerns raised that a WL may be required for clearing activities
  - No activities are planned for this year that would impact Ann Gulch.
  - May need to divert the watercourse before foundation prep for heap embankment

Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> 1:30-4:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Shoppers Plaza

- The Waters Act allows for streams under 2 m width (during ordinary high water) to be rerouted without a WL. Ann Gulch is a perennial watercourse less that 2 m wide at the diversion.
- o Quartz and Placer Activities: more clarification was sought on timing and overlap
  - Plans are to re-work existing tailings and unworked areas upstream
  - Will sort material while placer mining (for future foundation and construction material)
  - There may be an overlap in timing of quartz and placer activities
  - StrataGold is contemplating an amendment to the existing Placer Authorization to allow for placer mining in additional locations within the Dublin Gulch valley which would alter the currently permitted placer diversion locations.
  - The Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan will address how erosion from placer works will be mitigated if areas are not closed due to future quartz activities
- Quality Control Plan for heap leach embankment foundation: concerns raised about when this plan will be completed, and if foundation prep would take place before its development
  - Quality Assurance/ Quality Control plan will be completed before foundation construction as required by conditions of the QML
  - QA/QC manual will be submitted for review and approval prior to construction as a condition of the QML
  - Scope of Stage 1I construction includes foundation preparation but not embankment construction
- Using Placer WL for Quartz Activities: concerns raised about using a WL for unauthorized activities
  - Placer WL will only be used for placer activities
  - No intentions to divert creeks over 2 m width purely for quartz activities
  - The placer tailings will be screened while placer mining to enable their use for foundation and construction materials for the quartz project
- Stability of embankment: concerns about having perched water diversion
  - Dublin Gulch Diversion Channel design has been refined and the diversion will be in lowest part of the valley once heap is built
  - Interim closure of embankment will be addressed in reclamation and closure plan
  - Detailed engineering design will be submitted as part of WL and Phase II QML applications
- o Deep dynamic compaction: concerns about compacting frozen ground
  - Frozen material will be removed prior to compaction
- Geotechnical work for Ice Rich Overburden area: question as to when work would be undertaken and available for review
  - Field program to be undertaken summer 2013

Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> 1:30-4:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Shoppers Plaza

- Construction quality assurance manual and detailed designs will be sent for review and approval prior to construction of facility
- Geochemical characterization report: concerns about blending materials from pit for construction purposes
  - StrataGold will follow industry best practices to mitigate potential ARD and/or metal leaching from construction materials. Due to the small volumes, potentially acid generating rock from the pit will be identified by visual inspection and stockpiled within the pit for disposal within the waste rock storage areas once they are available to receive material. Rock which is not acid generating would be used for construction purposes.
- Road Construction Plan: concerns about chipping timber instead of leaving for salvage
  - A Timber Salvage Plan was a proponent commitment during the assessment; however has not been developed to date due to lack of regulatory requirement and local interest from previous clearing work on access road
  - StrataGold will work with NND and Village of Mayo to determine if salvage is desired; if so a timber salvage plan will be developed
- o Dust Management Plan: clarification on sampling procedures and locations
  - Will not collect baseline data for PM2.5 and TSP prior to issuance of QML
  - Will have a sequential sampler (PM2.5 and/or TSP) and 4 dustfall samplers
  - Will meet Yukon and National standards
  - StrataGold to work with Department of Environment to understand the requirements
- o Wildlife Management Plan: clarification on bear safety procedures
  - All attractant areas of camp will be fenced
  - StrataGold has been operating on the Dublin Gulch property for several years without incident at camp
  - Will update Wildlife Management Plan to be consistent with recent bear safety guidelines developed by Department of Environment
- Heritage Resources Plan: concerns regarding worker and contractor training
  - Training and education procedures will be sent to Heritage Resources and NND for review
  - StrataGold to follow up with Heritage Resources regarding the Taylor's House
- 4. Potential Topics for the Technical Working Group in future
  - o Dublin Gulch Diversion Channel
  - Final Heap Leach Facility design
  - Environmental Monitoring Plan & Adaptive Management Plan
  - Water Management Strategies
  - o Failure Modes Effects Assessment
  - o Reclamation and Closure Planning

Monday June 17<sup>th</sup> 1:30-4:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Shoppers Plaza

- 5. Type A Water License Application
  - o Will be submitted in multiple parts to help Water Board Secretariat with their adequacy review
  - The first part will include existing environmental information, baseline data, and a general project description
  - The second part will be the engineered design, predicted performance, and requisite management plans