

PREMIER GOLD PRESENTS TERMS OF REFERENCE AT LEGION MEETING

Submitted by:
Jose De Barros

Premier Gold released the draft of the Terms of Reference for the environmental assessment report it will complete for the Hard Rock mine it plans to operate in Geraldton.

In a well-attended meeting held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Geraldton last Tuesday, Premier hosted a presentation to show what the company planned to do in regards to environmental concerns around their open pit mine.

The presentation was carried out by Steve Lines, the technical lead for the Hard Rock gold deposit of Premier Gold. Lines is a recent addition to Premier Gold, having been involved in the project since joining Premier a few months ago. According to Premier Gold, the mining company continues to show confidence the mine will proceed to be built. Lines said at this point in the initial stages it is not in the interest of Premier to stop the development of the project.

The terms of reference was described by Premier as a "work plan" or instructional manual for how they plan to make their mine and facilities around it an environmentally safe a possible. As a document is over a hundred pages long, and describes the environmental effects they will investigate and what they will report to the government in a future environmental assessment report.

Premier held meetings across the Greenstone region last week to show what they did in response to environmental concerns expressed to them.

Some examples of environmental issues given were the effects the open pit mine operation could have on nearby MacLeod Provincial Park, especially involving dust particles and noise resulting from blasting of rock at the site. As well, the effect on moose populations the mine could have with the open pit and the buildings related to it were asked to be looked into.

Noise from haul trucks, the air quality around the site, how water quality will be affected by the mining operation, and how the mine will be supplied with elec-



Fiona Christensen

tricity were more queries asked by the public for further study by Premier.

The potential relocation of a number of buildings around the future site of the mine and its facilities were also discussed. These buildings include the Interpretive Centre, the police station, the HydroOne substation, and the historic headframe landmark at the Highway #11 and Highway #584 junction. This is already added to the discussions Premier continues to have with property owners close to the mining site, such as those at MacLeod Townsite.

"It's a lot of negotiations to be had, and the same applies with the people that live in the current townsites," Lines stated in regards to the relocations. There were also concerns about what kind of tailings

tailings of the MacLeod mines, and it is still unknown whether this is possible. A drilling program is being planned by Premier in a few weeks at the tailings to see what is possible. How Premier will handle its domestic wastes is also to be determined. The Geraldton landfill is nearly full and the closest landfill after that would be in Longlac, which is 30 kilometres away from the mining site. Lines said Premier Gold is studying the potential of having its own garbage landfill close to its facilities.

Creeks flowing into the areas that will make up the open pit and the tailings facility will need to be rerouted. Where the creeks will go depends on the flow of the water and the effect this will have on wildlife habitat.

The use of an open pit mine was also discussed in the presentation. Any wish for Premier to use underground methods was rejected by the company, as the old underground mines from previous decades had extracted most of the high-grade areas.

"Unless we go in and develop it by an open pit and take out everything that remains it wouldn't be economically feasible," Lines said.

The possibility still exists at the end of the mine's potential life to use underground mining if there is more gold under the open pit mine. This would increase the mine's life past 15 years and continue the operation.

The terms of reference and its finding will lead to the completion of the environmental assessment next year. The EA will have more details on the existing environment and the results from all the studies it plans to do as a result of the terms of reference. The baseline programs from



Steve Lines

facility will be built for the mine and where the tailings (the rock waste after the leaching process to free gold from rocks) will end up.

Premier still have other concerns to deal with before the mine can open by its scheduled date. A new route for Highway #11 will need to be planned and created as it lies almost directly above where the open pit mine will be dug, and the mining facilities will be placed on where the highway is now. Moving the road further north closer to town would mean building it on the old mine

INDEX

ARTHUR BLACK 3
OPINION PAGE 4
LIFESTYLE 5
COMMUNITY EVENTS 10
CLASSIFIEDS 12
MARKETPLACE 15



COMING EVENTS

BAKE SALE & CRAFT SALE

NOVEMBER 8th

PICKEREL DINNER

NOVEMBER 8th

REMEMBRANCE DAY

NOVEMBER 11th

Have a community event coming up? Let us know and we will include it here!

info@thetimesstar.ca



GERALDTON Weather Forecast

WEDNESDAY

MAINLY CLOUDY
HIGH: 1°C
LOW: -3°C

THURSDAY

MAINLY CLOUDY
HIGH: -1°C
LOW: -6°C

FRIDAY

MIX OF SUN AND CLOUDS
HIGH: -2°C
LOW: -7°C

SATURDAY

LIGHT SNOW
HIGH: -2°C
LOW: -9°C

SUNDAY

SCATTERED FLURRIES
HIGH: -8°C
LOW: -11°C

MONDAY

SCATTERED FLURRIES
HIGH: -5°C
LOW: -9°C

TUESDAY

A FEW FLURRIES
HIGH: -5°C
LOW: -9°C

FORECAST DATA GATHERED FROM
WWW.THEWEATHERNETWORK.CA