

Dryden Community Information Session – Springpole Project Updates

NOTES

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

6 – 8PM CT

IN-PERSON: BEST WESTERN HOTEL AND
CONFERENCE CENTRE

ATTENDEES	Municipality of Red Lake: 6 Attendees First Mining Gold (FMG): Shane Hayes (SH), Meghan Bertenshaw (MB), Jennifer Thomas (JT), Michael O'Flaherty (MO), Larid Tomalty (LT), Shila Morin (SM)
NOTE TAKER	FMG (JT)

Introductions

- 6:00pm – FMG hosted a community information session which included presentation display boards detailing the Springpole project, highlighted results of the draft environmental assessment including methodology, mitigation strategies and results. A mine model was displayed replicating the proposed Springpole mine site as well as copies of recent Project newsletters.

Presentation from First Mining Gold

- FMG' gave a presentation on the Springpole Gold Project and Draft Environmental Assessment.
 - Slide 1 – Introduction and agenda
 - Slide 2 – Project location
 - Indigenous communities near the Springpole mine site
 - Municipalities near the Springpole mine sited
 - Slide 3-4 – Springpole Gold Project overview.
 - 10–12-year mine life
 - One of the largest gold deposits in Canada.
 - Slide 5 - Project Benefits
 - Project employment
 - Project contributions to government revenue
 - Project contributions to economic activity.
 - Benefits to the local and regional economy.
 - Slide 6-8 – Optimized Site plan.
 - Small footprint – presented map of site plan.
 - Preliminary Transmission Line Route – presented map of proposed route.

- Slide 9 – Project video
 - Presentation of Project video which provides visualization and details of proposed project.
- Slides 10-14 – Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Work completed to date include baseline environmental studies and alternatives assessment.
 - Valued components Mitigation measures
 - Draft EA Results
 - Comments received to date on the draft EA and how they are shaping the Project.
- Slide 14 – Baseline Studies - Wolverine
 - Presentation of the FMG wolverine video detailing First Mining Gold's on-going Wolverine study.
- Slide 15 – Fish Habitat Offsetting and Compensation
 - Overview of fish offsetting and compensation plan.
 - Seeking input on habitat compensation options
- Slides 16 -18 – Next Steps
 - Regulatory Process
 - Community engagement and consultation.
 - Date for the final submission of the EA.
- Slide 19 – Question, comments and FMG contact information.

Questions and remarks following FMG presentation.

- Question: Is the company (First Mining Gold) Canadian owned?
 - Answer: Yes, FMG is a Canadian owned company with our head office located in Vancouver, BC.
- Question: You mentioned the wastewater is captured and brought back to the treatment plant. Noting that the discharge line is far down into the arm of Springpole. Why did the discharge line end up there?
 - Answer: This location was intentional due to the flow of the water in that location. Once the treated effluent is discharge to that spot it will very rapidly mix with the existing environment, whereas if you were in a bay where the water was very still it would take longer to incorporate.
- Question: Which way does that water run? Is Slate Falls community not right downstream?
 - Answer: Yes, Slate Falls is located downstream. The water that comes out of the pipe will be at a limit that is approved by the province. FMG has implemented 3 water monitoring stations, as part of the engagement process that is otherwise not required, close to the community of Slate Falls to ensure that water quality there is meeting the requirements.

- Question: The solid waste disposal from the operations, the camp and such, you are going to transport this out to where? Do you already have it designed and who is taking it?
 - Answer: It is currently proposed to be the Municipality of Ear Falls.
- Question: Can their facility handle it?
 - Answer: Yes, they do have the capacity to handle this.
- Question: When the mine is closed, in the timeline, is there, and how long will monitoring continue after closing the site?
 - Answer: It will go on for a number of years until you can prove that the area is stable and meets all of the regulatory requirements.
- Question: Is there an anticipated timeline for that?
 - Answer: A fair timeline for this could be up to 50 years. This is where you would have the financial assurance in place with the government and it is usually reviewed in 5-year increments. Once the mine site is revegetated and water quality is at or near background levels, FMG can apply to revert the land back to the Crown.
 - Answer: For active closedown periods it is about 5 years, however, that monitoring will extend longer than this.
- Question: Your environmental assessments, I'm assuming, includes the evolution of the road construction, plus your hydro construction needs and such, is this all included in your EA?
 - Answer: Yes, that is correct, they are all included. This is one of the reasons why we are required to complete both a federal and provincial assessment. There are different requirements, and the road and transmission line are a part of that.
- Question: Is this power coming from the new power line from Thunder Bay? They tell us that there is a line coming from Atikokan, and another to Dryden. Is that power needed for this mine?
 - Answer: It is not required for this mine, but it will be done about the same timeframe. It is very likely that this line will show up at the Dryden Transformer Station and then be distributed from that point. It is likely that this is where it will tie in.
- Question: Exploration people were in Birch Lake around 10 years ago, is it a part of the same program?
 - Answer: Yes, I would say it is likely the same project.
- Question: If you get your approvals by 2025, how long will it take you to get the mine up and running?
 - Answer: Once the environmental assessment is approved, around 2025, then the company (FMG) will start thinking about construction decisions while we are pursuing permits needed to construct the mine. The actual construction will be approximately 3 years.
- Question: Is Mr. Ford making this easier? With what used to be a 15-year assessment on the environment, he has now knocked down to around 5 years.

- Answer: We have been completing this assessment process since 2018 and the new legislation won't be applicable.
- Question: The labour force will this be local, will there be a work camp onsite?
 - Answer: There will be a camp on site. We (FMG) aspire to have enough opportunities for community members of Cat Lake and Slate Falls. There will be a camp on site.
- Question: You are putting in a 230 Kw hydro line? Is there a 115 Kw line already close by, have you completed a cost analysis to see if we could operate the mine off a 115 Kw line?
 - Answer: There is no capacity on that line. The supply runs into Ear Falls who requires electricity. This is why the decision was made to go to the 230Kw line.
- Question: The Wenasaga Road goes all the way up to Springpole Lake, and is there is a winter road after that?
 - Answer: There is no winter road right now. The winter road itself follows the ice roads.
- Participants wished First Mining Gold “good luck” on the project, and the meeting concluded with FMG thanking attendees for their interest and coming out.