

# Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Gritzka & Last Chance Placers, 1998-2003

Last Update: 14-Feb-2005

Status: Active Producer

Stream: 5 Above Pup: a tributary of Last Chance

Map Sheet(s): 1150/14

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## Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Peter Erickson	2003/01/01	2003/12/31	
Last Chance Placers	1998/01/01	2002/12/31	
Dietmar Gritzka	1998/01/01	2003/12/31	

## Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Peter Erickson	2003/01/01	2003/12/31	
Last Chance Placers	1998/01/01	2002/12/31	
Dietmar Gritzka	1998/01/01	2003/12/31	

## General Location

This operation was located at the mouth of 5 Above Pup which is a left limit tributary to Last Chance Creek.

## Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
	Deg	: Min	: Sec	Deg	: Min	: Sec		
2003/01/01	63	59	20	139	6	58		
1998/01/01	63	59	0	139	7	0		

## Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM01-251	Expires: 2005/04/30, an amendment to PM97-042

## Work History

Dietmar Gritzka started mining on claims 5 and 6 Above Discovery in 1998. In the first two years, all earth moving was done by Mr. Gritzka working on a part-time basis. Starting in the fall of the 2000 mining season, Last Chance Placers Ltd. took over the project with Mr. Gritzka working for them in 2001. In 2001 and 2002, the crew consisted of 3 miners who worked 10 to 10½ hours per day. No sluicing was performed in 1998 or 1999. One cut was mined in 2000. The cut was 400 feet long by 180 feet wide by 11 feet deep. In 2001, the cut mined was 400 feet long by 90 feet wide by 9 feet deep. In 2002, the cut was 275 feet by 400 feet and had an average depth of 35 feet.

2003 - Mechanical stripping occurred upstream from 5 Above Pup on the left limit edge of the creek. A small cut on Gumbo Hill was also processed in August.

## Equipment

In 1998 and 1999, two Caterpillar bulldozers, models D8K and D9H, both equipped with a ripper and a U-blade, and a Poclair excavator with a ¾ cubic yard bucket were used to strip overburden. In 2000, a D9G Caterpillar bulldozer was used to rip and push overburden, pay and tailings. A Caterpillar 235 excavator was used to strip frozen muck and feed the plant. In the fall of 2001 and part of March and April of 2002, an Hitachi twin engine excavator with a 7-yard bucket and two Terex 55-ton rock trucks were contracted from Max Fuerstner to strip muck overburden that was too wet to strip using conventional methods. After the trucks and the Hitachi excavator left the site, the 235 Caterpillar excavator and the D9 and D8 Caterpillar bulldozers were used. All 3 machines ripped frost. The 235 cast material to the bulldozers, which ramped the muck out of the cut. The wash plant consisted of a 5-foot by 11-foot single deck oscillating screen deck with ¾ -inch punch plate. Undersize material

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flowed to a static 4-foot by 6-foot tray with 1-inch angle iron riffles over Nomad matting, then to two 4-foot by 8-foot oscillating trays with large expanded metal over Nomad matting. The screen deck was modified from a Clinton Creek asbestos screener. The pump used was an 8 by 6-inch Allis Chalmers, powered by a 6-cylinder John Deere diesel engine. The plant processed 80 to 100 loose yards of material per hour using 2000 igpm of water. In 2002, the process rate slowed down to 60 to 80 loose yards per hour due to the gummy nature of the material. Process water was recirculated at a rate of approximately 75% using a 200-foot by 200-foot pond. Additional water was pumped from Last Chance Creek. No water was provided by 5 Above Pup. In 2002, Last Chance Creek was used as a conduit to transfer sluice effluent to two settling ponds located 1000 feet downstream on the left limit of the creek. Water was recirculated from the ponds back up to the sluice plant with overflows discharging into Last Chance Creek. During freshet and high water event, Last Chance Creek did not flow through the settling ponds but was turned back into its primary channel.

2003 - Approximately 2 litres per minute flow out of settling pond. Recirculation water to plant.

### **Landforms**

<b>Landform</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Alluvial Valley	

### **Surficial Geology**

In 1998 and 1999, Mr. Gritzka started stripping material that was mostly thawed and dry with some sections of partially frozen black muck in preparation for future mining. Based on drilling performed by a previous owner, Mr. Gritzka was anticipating that there would be up to 50 feet of muck to remove. The stratigraphic section encountered in 2000 consisted of 5 feet of thawed muck over 1 foot of gravel and cobbles on cube-shaped bedrock. The cut mined in 2000 was at the mouth of 5 Above Pup. The sluice section was 1 foot of gravel and 5 feet of bedrock. The cut mined in 2001 was further upstream in 5 Above Pup. The ground consisted of 4 feet of thawed muck directly over blocky bedrock. The sluice section was 5 feet of bedrock. In 2002, there were 35 feet of muck over 5 feet of gravel on bedrock. The top half of the material was thawed and wet while the bottom was lightly frozen. The operation sluiced 5 feet of material. The area had been heavily worked by oldtimers. The cut floor had been 85% worked out. The bedrock in this area was slate.

### **Gold Comments**

The gold was described as rough with some dendritic pieces. It had a purity of 680 to 690 fine.

### **References**

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1998-2002. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 2003.: p. 70-71

Nowosad, M. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2003. Client Services and Inspections Division, Yukon Energy Mines and Resources, 2004.: p. 34-35

Thomson, R.F. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2002. Mining Inspection Division, DIAND, 2003.: p. 27

Yukon Placer Atlas Website. 2005. <http://maps.yukon.gov.yk.ca/webmaps/mining/placer/viewer.htm>. Bedrock Geology- Regional Unit Layer.:

### **Pictures**

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**Notes:**

Gritzka & Last Chance Placers operating on 5 Above Pup in 2002.

