

# Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



**Field Name: Empire Creek Mining Ltd./Sabo, 1988-1992, 2002**

**Last Update: 09-Feb-2004**

**Status: Active Producer**

**Stream: Empire: a tributary of Francis**

**Map Sheet(s): 105M/5**

**Page 1 of 3**

## Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Dan Sabo	2002/01/01	2003/12/31	
Dan Sabo	1988/01/01	1992/12/31	

## Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Dan Sabo	2002/01/01	2003/12/31	
Empire Creek Mining Ltd.	2002/01/01	2003/12/31	
Dan Sabo	1988/01/01	1992/12/31	

## General Location

The property is located on Empire Creek on the left fork between the right fork confluence and 1500 feet upstream.

## Location Details

Date:	Latitude Deg : Min : Sec	Longitude Deg : Min : Sec	Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
2003/01/01	63 27 0	135 36 0		
2002/01/01	63 27 0	135 36 0		
1991/01/01	63 27 0	135 36 0		
1989/01/01	63 28 0	135 36 0		
1987/09/18	63 27 11	135 35 17		2,420
1987/01/01	63 28 0	135 36 0		

## Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM00-213	
PM88-002	

## Claims

File Date	Number	Name	Status
	P15362		

## Work History

1988- Work continued 650 feet upstream from the 1987 operation. At this point the valley was 35 feet wide with the same steep gradient and deposit profile. Two and a half cuts were mined for a total of 5200 cubic yards sluiced. Mining was done by D. Sabo and a helper working an eight hour shift. The pipe and the wash plant were moved upstream when the mine cut reached the supply end of the pipe. Effluent flowed through the creek bed to a large instream settling pond located 3/4 of a mile below the forks. The pond was equipped with a large metal-lined log spillway. The creek was diverted out of the pond at the end of the season.

1989- Mining continued 600 feet upstream from the previous years workings on the left fork, (i.e., approximately 2,500 feet upstream of the junction between the left and right forks).

1990- Two adjoining cuts were mined for a total of 3,200 cubic yards sluiced.

1991, 1992 - A combined total of 9000 cubic yards were sluiced and 9000 cubic yards stripped in 1991 and 1992.

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Total creek flow was diverted through 250 feet of 36 inch diameter culvert to the spray bar on the wash plant. 2002 - Dan Sabo mined below the confluence of the Empire Creek forks on mining claim P-15362. Two miners worked a single six-hour shift averaging four to five hours of sluicing per day. A single mine cut, measuring 250 feet long by 50 feet wide by 20 feet thick, was processed in 2002. All materials handled were sluiced from the surface to bedrock. The 2002 season of mining was short due to fuel shortages and the lack of ability to access the site with additional fuel.

**Production**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Stripped</b>	<b>Sluiced</b>
1992	4500 cubic yards	4500 cubic yards
1991	4500 cubic yards	4500 cubic yards
1990	Unknown	3200 cubic yards
1988	Unknown	5200 cubic yards

**Equipment**

In 1988, a D65A Komatsu was used for stripping and removing tailings. A H65C Hough rubber tired loader with a 3 cubic yard bucket was used to feed the sluice box. The Hymac 580B backhoe with a 5/8 cubic yard bucket used in 1987 to strip and move pipe, was upgraded to an Hitachi UHO-81 excavator with a 1 cubic yard bucket in 1988. Overburden and tailings were pushed downstream and used to build a road along the right limit of the creek over mined out ground. The wash plant consisted of a dump box and wet grizzly 14 feet long by 10 feet wide and a single run sluice 11 feet long by 21 inches wide. A flat lying grizzly was lifted after every load to eject large rocks. Four feet of grader blade lined the throat of the dump box. The sluice box was lined with 3-inch Hungarian riffles at 3 inch spacing over Coco matting. The grade of the box was 2 inches per foot. A 4-inch Monarch pump powered by a Toyota 1100cc engine supplied water to the spray bar. Water was supplied by gravity to the box by 250 feet of 36-inch diameter riveted steel pipe. This discharged into a manifold equipped with an overflow discharge and rubber flap control gates.

In 1991 and 1992 the processing rate with this same equipment was 20 cubic yards per hour.

2002 - A D-8H Caterpillar bulldozer was used to strip and remove tailings. An H65C Hough loader with a 3-yard bucket fed the sluice box, while an Hitachi UHO-7 excavator with a 1-yard bucket was used for stripping and moving pipe. An 8-foot by 4-foot wide dump box fed a single sluice run 18 inches wide by 11 feet long. The sluice box was lined with 3 inches of Hungarian riffles at 3-inch spacings over cocoa matting. The grade of the box was 2 inches per foot. The processing rate was estimated at 20 cubic yards per hour. Empire Creek supplied the water for sluicing via a 4-inch trash pump and was used as a conduit for the effluent to reach downstream settling ponds. A single out-of-stream settling pond, sectioned into three, provided full stream settling when sluicing. The full settling pond size is 700 feet by 250 feet.

**Surficial Geology**

The valley is only 25 feet wide with a very steep gradient at this point. Deposits consist of 6 feet of large boulders, clay, and gravel. The gravel and 3 feet of bedrock were sluiced. The total width of the valley was mined. Gold distribution was irregular with concentrations occurring around bedrock reefs.

In 2002 six feet of large boulders up to 5 feet in diameter were mixed with clay and coarse gravel. Bedrock was schist and shale in various stages of decomposition. Bedrock was deeper than the mining in 1991 and 1992.

**Bedrock Geology**

Bedrock is schist and shale. Quartz veins crosscut the valley.

**Gold Comments**

Gold recovered is generally coarse-grained (a 10 ounce nugget was found) with a fineness of 910. A meteorite was recovered in 1986 and concentrates contain native silver, jade, magnetite, barite, scheelite, stibnite, native

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**Page 3 of 3**

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bismuth, galena, hematite and asbestos.

In 2002 gold was reported as coarse-grained with a fineness of 915.

**References**

LeBarge, W.P. and Morison, S.R. Yukon Placer Mining and Exploration 1985-1988; Exploration and Geological Services Division, Yukon, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1990.: p. 26-27

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