

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Miller, 1990-2001

Last Update: 11-Jan-2005

Status: Recent Producer 1978-present

Stream: Little Blanche: a tributary of Quartz

Map Sheet(s): 1150/14

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Harvey Miller	1998/01/01	2001/12/31	
Gary Tatlow	1997/01/01	1997/12/31	
Harvey Miller	1990/01/01	1996/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Harvey Miller	1998/01/01	2001/12/31	
Gary Tatlow	1997/01/01	1997/12/31	
Harvey Miller	1990/01/01	1996/12/31	
Harvey Miller	1990/01/01	2001/12/31	

General Location

The property was located in the middle of the wide valley bottom of Little Blanche, approximately 1.5 kilometres upstream from Quartz Creek.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude Deg : Min : Sec	Longitude Deg : Min : Sec	Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
2003/01/01	63 49 45	139 5 9		
2001/01/01	63 50 0	139 5 0		
1995/01/01	63 48 0	139 5 0		
1993/01/01	63 48 0	139 5 0		
1991/01/01	63 51 0	139 8 0		
1990/01/01	63 51 0	139 8 0		

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM98-026	Expired: 2003/10/01
PM95-044	
PM89-083	
PM92-058	

Work History

From 1990-1996, Miller operated a one person mining operation. One cut approximately 200 by 50 feet was stripped in 1991 and sluiced in 1992. In 1994, the processing rate was increased to 50 cubic yards per hour. After working the same cut for several years, approximately 10,000 square feet of bedrock had been exposed. The following 2 year, Miller mined on a small scale with one helper excavating about 17,000 cubic yards from one cut. Miller leased the land to Gary Tatlow in 1997, who mined one large cut about 200 by 200 by 25 feet. From 1998-2001, Miller mined the property alone, opening up an area approximately 125 by 100 feet. In 1998, only mechanical stripping of this area was done. In 1999 and 2000, approximately 38 hours of sluicing was accomplished out of an area 80 by 60 feet. There was no activity other than equipment maintenance in 2001 and overburden was stacked for later reclamation work.

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Production

Year	Stripped	Sluiced
1997	Unknown	1000000 cubic feet
1996	Unknown	7000 cubic yards
1995	Unknown	10000 cubic yards
1992	Unknown	10000 square feet
1991	10000 square feet	Unknown

Equipment

In 1990, a P & H dragline with a 1.25 cubic yard bucket was used to excavate drains. A Caterpillar D82U bulldozer was used for stripping and pushing the material to the sluice box. The wash plant consisted of a long tom and dump box with punch plate. Sluicing rate was 35 cubic yards per hour. Water was supplied at a rate of 1,200 igpm by a 6 inch GMC Trash pump.

1991/1992- One D8 Cat dozer with a U blade was used for stripping, digging and removing tailings. One P&H dragline with a 1 1/4-yard bucket was used for digging drains and cleaning ponds. A 20 by 8 foot dump box lined with 3/4 inch punch plate fed a single sluice run, 3 feet wide by 25 feet long, with 2 inch angle iron riffles on 1/2 cocoa matting and 1/2 Nomad matting. Around 25 to 30 loose yards per hour were sluiced using 1000 igpm, supplied by a 6-inch Gord pump powered by a GM 252 diesel. Secondary settling on Quartz Creek followed an instream reservoir and an instream-settling pond on Little Blanche Creek.

In 1993, a Caterpillar D8 bulldozer with a U-blade was used for stripping overburden, digging gravel, feeding the wash plant, and removing tailings. One P&H dragline with a 1.25 yard bucket was used to dig drains and clean out settling ponds.

In 1994 an International loader with a three-yard bucket fed the wash plant. A dump box 18 foot long by 8 feet wide was washed with a monitor nozzle and fed a single sluice run 36 inches wide by 25 feet long. The top three feet were lined with 1.5-inch angle iron riffles. The next four feet were lined with 0.75-inch punch plate. Six feet of punch plate, three feet of riffles, and finally five feet of punch plate followed another four feet of angle iron riffles. The entire run was lined with cocoa matting. Thirty cubic yards per hour were processed using 1,000 igpm of water supplied by a 6 by 6 inch Gould trash pump, powered by a GM 252 diesel. Water was pumped from an instream reservoir on Little Blanche Creek and was settled in two out-of-stream ponds. Effluent was discharged into Little Blanche Creek. The settling ponds were 200 feet long by 20 feet wide.

In 1995, one Caterpillar D8 bulldozer with a U-blade was used for stripping and excavating gravel. One International front-end loader, with a 3 cubic yard bucket was used to feed the wash plant and remove tailings. One P&H dragline, with a 1 1/4 cubic yard bucket was used to clean out settling ponds and drains. An 18 foot by 8 foot dump box fed a single sluice run, 3 feet by 25 feet long, with 1 1/2 inch Hungarian riffles. A 6 inch Gould pump, powered by a 271 GM diesel engine, provided about 1200 igpm, which was used to process around 40 cubic yards per hour. A small instream dam and out of stream settling pond were used by Mr. Miller in 1995 and 1996. In 1997 the Tatlows used their own wash plant and settling facilities on Quartz Creek to process the pay gravels from Little Blanche Creek.

In 1998, a D824 Caterpillar bulldozer with a straight blade and no ripper was used for all stripping and sluicing. A P&H 1-1/4 yard bucket dragline was used to dig reservoirs and drains and to bail out settling ponds. An 18 by 8 foot dump box fed a single, long tom type sluice run measuring 3 by 25 feet long. The sluice run contained 1-1/2 inch Hungarian riffles. Water was acquired with a 6 inch Gould pump powered by a 271 General Motors diesel engine, providing around 1200 igpm. Mr. Miller's processing rate was about 30 cubic yards per hour. Prior to the temporary closure of the Tatlow Little Blanche operation in 2000, Mr. Miller was able to settle effluent in the ponds at the mouth of Quartz Creek. He now has to construct sufficiently stable settling ponds on his own claims and not pass effluent downstream of his boundary which may account for the lack of activity in 2001.

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Landforms

Landform

Comments

Alluvial Valley

Surficial Geology

In 1990, the ground varied from 6 to 12 feet of black muck covering 1 to 4 feet of pay gravels. All gravels plus 2 feet of bedrock were sluiced. In 1991, the depth of the ground varied from 8 feet of gravel above the pup to 20 feet of muck on top of gravel below the pup. The bottom 4 feet of gravel was sluiced. In 1993, the gravel was 1 to 4 feet deep, and all gravel plus up to three feet of bedrock were sluiced. The following year, frozen overburden was encountered from 10 to 15 feet deep on top of pay gravel layers which averaged between 12 and 18 feet deep. In 1998, overburden averaged between 10 and 14 feet deep. Pay gravels were anywhere from 12 to 18 feet below the frozen black muck. The sluice section was composed of 12 foot of gravel and 1-1/2 feet of broken up bedrock.

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock varied from blocky brown schist to fractured, decomposed grey clay.

Gold Comments

In 1990, gold recovered was 95% coarse with a fineness of 710. In 1993, it was coarse, angular, and contaminated with mercury from previous miners. Fineness ranged from 690 to 714. Throughout 1995, gold encountered was rough and chunky with 40% larger than 20 mesh and fineness around 700. In 1998 gold ranged from fine to coarse with 20% from -14 to +10 mesh and 80% between -16 and +60 mesh. The fineness was usually between 700 and 720.

References

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- Thomson, R.F. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2002. Mining Inspection Division, DIAND, 2003.: p. 70-71
- Thomson, R.F. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1991-1992. Whitehorse: DIAND, 1993.: p. 76
- van Kalsbeek L.P. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1989-1990. Whitehorse: DIAND, 1991.: p. 40
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Pictures

Title: Harvey Miller Operation, Little Blanche Creek

Notes:

This operation is located on Little Blanche Creek approximately one mile upstream from its confluence with Quartz Creek.

