

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Nafziger, 1989-2003

Last Update: 23-Feb-2005

Status: Active Producer

Stream: Little Blanche: a tributary of Quartz

Map Sheet(s): 1150/14

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Irvin D. Nafziger	1990/01/01	2003/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Irvin D. Nafziger	1990/01/01	2003/12/31	

General Location

In 1989, the operation was the upper most mine on the creek. In 1994, the operation was located below the forks, approximately six kilometres upstream from Quartz Creek. In 1998, Irvin Nafziger mined approximately 2 miles upstream from the confluence of Little Blanche with Quartz Creek.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation	Distance from Mouth
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec	(feet)	(feet)
2003/01/01	63	50	50	139	5	40		
2003/01/01	63	50	0	139	10	0		
1995/01/01	63	49	0	139	6	0		
1993/01/01	63	49	0	139	6	0		
1991/01/01	63	51	0	139	8	0		
1989/01/01	63	51	0	139	8	0		

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
LP00157	
PM98-055	
PM90-066	
PM87-079	
PM94-004	

Work History

Mr. Nafziger and one other miner began work on the property in 1990. The following year they worked single shifts excavating a cut 300 by 250 feet. In 1992, a cut 500 by 300 feet was excavated, and in 1993-1994, a cut 200 feet wide by 500 feet long was mined each year. Between 1995-1997, Nafziger continued his 3 person operation mining a cut approximately 200 by 500 feet each year. The operation was reduced to 2 persons in 1998, working one 8 hour shift daily. One cut measuring approximately 500 by 150 feet was mined each year over the period of 1998, 1999 and 2000. In 2001, three separate pits were excavated, measuring 150 by 90 feet; 230 by 40 feet; and, 300 by 70 feet. The operation remained active throughout the 2002 and 2003 seasons.

Equipment

In 1989, two Caterpillar D8 bulldozers were used for stripping and pushing up pay gravels and a Caterpillar 225 hoe was used for feeding the wash plant. A Derocker wash plant with 2 three foot wide by 20-foot long sluice runs were used for processing 75 cubic yards per hour. A 6 by 8 inch pump powered by a 371 Jimmy diesel supplied water.

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In 1993, two D8 Caterpillar bulldozers were used to strip overburden, dig and push pay gravel, and remove tailings. A Caterpillar 225 excavator with a two cubic yard bucket fed the wash plant. The wash plant was a Super Sluice IV. Materials were fed into a 10-foot by 10-foot hopper through a one-inch grizzly. Two sluice runs 3 feet wide by 6 feet long were lined with angle iron riffles. These were followed by four feet of slick plate and two more sluice runs, 6 feet wide by 12 feet long, lined with expanded metal riffles over Nomad matting. About 85 cubic yards per hour were sluiced using 1500 igpm of water supplied by an 8-inch pump, powered by a GM 371 diesel engine.

In 1995, two Caterpillar D8 bulldozers were used to strip overburden, excavate and push gravel as to remove and spread tailings. A backhoe excavator was used to feed the wash plant. A 10-foot by 10-foot hopper with a grizzly fed a Super Sluice IV screen deck followed by 2 sluice runs 3 feet wide by 6 feet long, lined with angle iron riffles. This was followed by 4 feet of slick plate leading to 2 more sluice runs 4 feet by 12 feet, lined with expanded metal over Nomad matting. An 8-inch pump, powered by a GM 371 diesel engine, delivered approximately 1500 igpm of water, which was used to process about 85 cubic yards per hour. Water was sorted in an instream reservoir on Little Blanche Creek and was recycled from settling ponds in old mining cuts.

In 1998, using alternatively a D8H and a D8L Caterpillar bulldozers and an O & K 2 yard bucket excavator, Mr. Nafziger employed conventional placer methods in strip thawing and monitoring black muck to uncover the pay gravels. The wash plant remained the same as previous years. Water was acquired by way of a reservoir pond excavated on upper Little Blanche. Treatment of effluent was instream, with settling ponds created by damming old mine cuts on the property.

Environmental Work

Year Reclamation Work

2001 Some reclamation work was accomplished near the camp. Improved settling facilities were constructed and further contouring and spreading of overburden were done in the mined out areas.

Landforms

Landform	Comments
Alluvial Valley	

Surficial Geology

Black muck 10 feet deep covered 4 to 6 feet of gravel. Some muck seams were mixed in with the gravel layer. All gravel plus 2 feet of bedrock were sluiced. The valley bottom was 200 to 300 feet wide and the sides were not steep. In 1995, frozen organic overburden, up to 10 feet deep, was stripped from on top of gravel layers about 6 feet deep. Some overburden was mixed in with the gravel layers. All gravel plus about 2 feet of bedrock were sluiced.

In 1998, frozen organic overburden reached a depth of 20 feet and was mixed in with gravel layers. Bedrock was quite wavy and there was little evidence of old workings or bones. Four feet of gravels were sluiced. The waste sections were stockpiled where possible for use in road work, water structures and/or reclamation.

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock was quite wavy. Bedrock is varied from blocky brown schist to decomposed grey clay with some yellow, unconsolidated schist.

Gold Comments

Gold recovered in 1989-1991 had a fineness of 650. In 1993-1995, it was flat and fine; 80% was minus 20 mesh and fineness was 630. The gold in 1998 was flat and angular ranging from +30 to +50 in particle size. The gold had a dull appearance and only about 3% recovery were nuggets with a fineness around 640.

References

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1995, 1996, 1997. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 1998.: p. 77

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Nowosad, M. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2003. Client Services and Inspections Division, Yukon Energy Mines and Resources, 2004.: p. 89-90

Thomson, R.F. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2002. Mining Inspection Division, DIAND, 2003.: p. 76

Thomson, R.F. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1991-1992. Whitehorse: DIAND, 1993.: p. 72-73

van Kalsbeek L.P. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1989-1990. Whitehorse: DIAND, 1991.: p. 38

van Kalsbeek L.P. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1993-1994. Whitehorse: DIAND, 1996.: p. 65-66

Pictures

Title: Nafziger's sluice plant on Little Blanche Creek

Notes:

