

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Wheelton, 1983, 1989-1994, 1998, 2000, 2002

Last Update: 29-Dec-2004

Status: Recent Producer 1978-present

Stream: Minnie Bell: a tributary of Flat

Map Sheet(s): 1150/15

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
John M. Wheelton	1994/01/01	2002/12/31	
Wheelton's Exploration	1989/01/01	1994/12/31	
John M. Wheelton	1983/01/01	1983/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
John M. Wheelton	1994/01/01	2002/12/31	
Wheelton's Exploration	1989/01/01	1994/12/31	
John M. Wheelton	1983/01/01	1983/12/31	

General Location

In 1983, the property was located approximately 1,000 feet upstream from the mouth of Minnie Bell Creek. The drill holes in 1998 were all done within the first kilometre of the mouth of the creek.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation	Distance from Mouth
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec	(feet)	(feet)
2003/01/01	63	53	41	138	35	28		
2002/01/01	63	54	0	138	35	0		
1998/01/01	63	54	0	138	35	0	1,700	3,280
1993/01/01	63	53	24	138	34	48	1,700	
1991/01/01	63	54	0	138	35	0	1,600	
1989/01/01	63	54	0	138	34	0	1,600	
1983/01/01	63	55	0	138	33	0	1,600	1,000

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM99-091	Expires: 2005/04/30
PM90-070	
PM87-036	
PM93-083	

Work History

Wheelton mainly did preparatory mining in 1983; a drain approximately 1,000 feet long and 15 feet deep at the upstream end was dug from the cut to the Flat Creek Valley. A cut 400 feet square was also stripped to a depth of 15 to 20 feet. Additional stripping was done upstream of the cut, and a water reservoir was prepared. In 1989, Wheelton worked alone on the property, but no sluicing was done. The following year, he hired an assistant part way through the season. A large cut was stripped, but no sluicing took place. Wheelton continued work by himself for the following seasons, stripping a large area on Minnie Bell Creek, along with a left limit tributary of Minnie Bell Creek. Some test sluicing was done on the upper gravels in the main creek in 1993. During 1998, 2000 and 2002, Wheelton continued drilling upstream from the mouth of Minnie Bell Creek, but no mining cuts were made during.

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Equipment

A Cat D8 bulldozer and a 46A bulldozer were used to strip the ground. Settling facilities were constructed for effluent generated by hydraulic stripping in a swamp adjacent to Flat Creek. Drilling was performed using a 6-inch auger drill mounted on a Bombardier Muskeg Carrier. The bedrock drain was kept on the property. A single run sluice box was brought on site but was not used. Minnie Bell Creek was diverted into a drain to a series of out of stream swamps along the left limit of Flat Creek. Outflow back to Flat Creek occurred by seepage only, through several points.

Landforms

Landform	Comments
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Alluvial Valley	
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Surficial Geology

Between 15 and 20 feet of black muck overlaid 10 feet of thawed gravels in 1983. The gravels were layered with silt and muck, and Klondike schist appeared in the few small areas that were stripped to bedrock. In 1998, one downstream drillhole revealed thawed gravels with some black muck and sand encountered at 10 feet and bedrock at 18 feet. A second drillhole was 25 feet to a purple-coloured bedrock overlain by wet and thawed gravels and muck, some of which was frozen. The third drillhole contained no gravels, just 18 feet of muck.

The 2000 drill program consisted of seven drill holes moving upstream; one hole was drilled on the left limit bench at the location of a small tributary, which encountered 8 feet of gravel over 4 feet of thawed muck covering a further 6 feet of gravel. Bedrock was soft enough at this point to drill a further 5 feet. Depths to bedrock ranged from 13 to 28 feet at the other locations and there was an "indefinite" combination of gravels, soft clay and black muck which varied in thickness. During 2002, in a series of six drill holes, depths of up to 40 feet of black muck, 3 feet of unconsolidated slide bedrock and 5 feet of soft bedrock were encountered.

Bedrock Geology

Bedrock consisted of mostly Klondike Schist, but reportedly varied considerably.

Gold Comments

Drilling did not obtain a sufficient quantity of gold to describe.

References

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