

Yukon Placer Database Operations Report



Field Name: Johnson, 1993-2002

Last Update: 15-Apr-2004

Status: Active Producer

Stream: Burwash: a tributary of Kluane River

Map Sheet(s): 115G/6

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Operators

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Brian Drew	1993/01/01	1997/12/31	
Steve L. Johnson	1993/01/01	2002/12/31	

Owners

Name	From (Date)	To (Date)	Comment
Steve L. Johnson	1993/01/01	2003/12/31	
Brian Drew	1993/01/01	1997/12/31	
Steve L. Johnson	1993/01/01	2002/12/31	

General Location

Activity occurred at several locations on each side of Burwash Creek. The operation was located immediately upstream from the "S" canyon on the right limit of Burwash Creek during the 1998 to 2002 seasons.

Location Details

Date:	Latitude			Longitude			Elevation (feet)	Distance from Mouth (feet)
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec		
2002/01/01	61	22	39	139	15	19		
2000/01/01	61	23	0	139	20	0		
1993/01/01	61	22	12	139	19	12	3,500	

Water Licence(s)

Number	Comments
PM99-148	Expires: 2005/06/01
PM94-119	
PM91-094	

Work History

Several locations on each side of Burwash Creek were tested in 1993 and 1994. One cut was mined on the right limit of Burwash Creek opposite the confluence with Tatamagouche Creek. Brian Drew and Steve Johnson worked various locations in 1993 and 1994. Three cuts totaling 30,000 cubic yards were mined in 1993. In 1994, approximately 10,000 cubic yards were sluiced. During the 1995 season, a crew of three miners worked 10-hour days. Eight small cuts were mined with a total of 16000 cubic yards sluiced. One continuous cut 80 feet wide by 200 feet long was processed in 1996. Five cuts 40 feet wide by 150 feet long were sluiced along with one 40 foot by 200 foot long cut in 1997. In 1998 and 1999, a total of three cuts were made, 50 feet wide by 150 feet long by 18 feet deep. Two cuts were made in 2000 measuring 50 feet wide by 150 feet long by 8 feet deep each. In 2001, two cuts were made, 50 feet wide by 200 feet long. In 2002, the cut from 2001 was worked but minimal ground was moved. The presence of ground water in the cuts created additional work.

Production

Year	Stripped	Sluiced
1997	Unknown	38000 square feet
1996	Unknown	16000 square feet
1995	Unknown	16000 cubic yards

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Production

Year	Stripped	Sluiced
1994	Unknown	10000 cubic yards
1993	Unknown	30000 cubic yards

Equipment

A D8H Caterpillar bulldozer was used for stripping and removing tailings in 1993. A 977L Caterpillar track loader removed tailings in 1994. A P&H excavator with a 1.25 yard bucket fed the box in both years. A hydraulically operated dump box fed a hydraulic shaker table, which screened the material to one inch minus. The classified material entered a 3-foot by 16-foot sluice run with a nugget trap at the top, fed by low-pressure water. The top 12 feet was lined with one-inch angle iron riffles followed by four feet of expanded metal, all over nomad matting. This plant processed fifty to sixty loose yards per hour. Water was acquired at a rate of 500 to 600 igpm using a 6-inch Valley pump powered by a Lister engine. Wastewater was treated in out-of-stream settling ponds; the number of ponds varied from location to location.

In 1995 to 1997, a P&H excavator with a 1 1/4-yard bucket fed the wash plant. A 977L Caterpillar track loader was used to remove tailings. A 3/4-yard Drott backhoe dug ditches. A 5-yard dump box hydraulically fed material onto a shaker type-classifying table, which screened 1 inch minus gravels into a 16-foot sluice run. The sluice run was lined with 4 feet of 1 inch riffles, 4 feet of hydraulic riffles, 4 feet of 1 inch riffles and 4 feet of large expanded metal. Water for sluicing was obtained from an instream reservoir before being delivered to the sluice plant. A 6-inch by 6 inch Valley pump powered by a Lister diesel provided the 2000 igpm needed to process 60 loose yards per hour. The effluent was treated in two out of stream settling ponds and one polishing pond before discharge back to Burwash Creek.

During 2000 to 2002, a Caterpillar D-8H was used for stripping, levelling and for the construction of settling ponds, and various excavators with 1½ to 1¼ -cubic yard buckets were used for feeding the sluice box, ditching and removing overburden. In 2000, a 977L wheeled loader was used for removing tailings and in 2001, a Komatsu was used to complete this task. The wash plant used differed somewhat from that employed in previous years. The wash plant consisted of a 5-yard hydraulic dump box, with a fixed push ram that fed a Cassiar-style oscillating 5-foot by 10-foot section of 1-inch punch plate with 12 fixed wash nozzles. The 1-inch minus was fed to the sluice run that was comprised of a slick plate, nugget trap that was fed with low-pressure water, 2 feet of 1-inch riffles spaced 4 inches apart, 4 feet of hydraulic riffles, 4 feet of 1-inch riffles over Nomad mat and 4 feet of expanded metal over Nomad mat. The same pump was used as in 1995 to 1997 and was capable of producing 600 imperial gallons of water per minute. Water was obtained from a stream pond on Burwash Creek between 1998 and 2000. In 2001, water was pumped out of a previous cut that was flooded. Water treatment was out-of-stream and was accomplished through the construction of two settling ponds that were 50 feet wide by 150 long by 6 feet deep.

Environmental Work

Year	Reclamation Work
2003	Some reclamation work was completed.
2002	Restoration was ongoing and the cut worked in 2002 was backfilled.

Surficial Geology

The valley was approximately 75 meters wide with a gentle slope. Two feet of gravel overburden and 3 to 4 feet of pay gravels were found over bedrock in 1993 and 1994 which were sluiced. The area mined between 1995-1997 had very little black muck, with mostly 3 to 6 feet of overburden over a 6-foot average pay zone to bedrock. The creek bottom gravels were mostly thawed.

The 2000-2002 mining was composed of 6 feet of pay channel with approximately 16 feet of unfrozen creek gravel overburden. Some clay and black muck was found and saved for future reclamation.

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Bedrock Geology

The underlying bedrock was decomposed.

Gold Comments

Some mercury was found on the gold and garnets were also recovered in 1994. From 1995 to 1997, a wide variety of gold came out of the ground, from coarse solid gold, to fine, flat and flakey with fineness 850 to 860. Gold recovered from 2000 to 2002 was mostly flat nuggets and flakes that appeared well travelled. The approximate size was 30% 1/4 inch and larger, and 70% 1/4 inch minus with a fineness of 860.

References

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1995, 1996, 1997. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 1998.: p. 162

Mining Inspection Division, Yukon Region. Yukon Placer Mining Industry 1998-2002. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Whitehorse, Yukon, 2003.: p. 189

Thomson, R.F. Placer Mining Year End Summary, 2002. Mining Inspection Division, DIAND, 2003.: p. 20-21
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Pictures

Title: Johnson Operation on Burwash Creek.

Notes:

