

September 2017

Dear Resident,

I would like to provide you with an update on the planning application for the Curraghinalt Gold Mine.

Dalradian has spent the last seven years performing detailed exploration, engineering and environmental studies at Curraghinalt. Now we are ready to lodge a planning application with the Department for Infrastructure in the coming weeks, to build an underground mine at the proposed site off the Crockanboy Rd. This is an important step in the process of ensuring that our project complies with all environmental and regulatory requirements.

As you may know already, the project will create over 350 new jobs for our area. We're looking forward to continuing to engage with the local community throughout the planning process.

Late last year a feasibility study on Curraghinalt was published by JDS Energy & Mining Inc., an international engineering firm with extensive experience in both the construction and operation of mining projects. The feasibility study outlined the amount of gold to be included in the initial mine plan, the methods and processes to be used to extract and purify the gold, the costs involved and the economic benefits of the project.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been underway for several years to examine in detail how the project should be carried out in harmony with the local environment. The Environmental Statement, based on the EIA, and the Project Description, based on the feasibility study, are both central to our Planning Application.

The EIA is based on thousands of hours of measurement, monitoring and study across a wide range of disciplines to establish existing baselines for water, air quality, noise, traffic levels and other aspects of the environment local to the project. The EIA also assesses potential impacts on the baseline situation and demonstrates how they can be reduced or mitigated. Statistics from environmental agencies and others have been built upon by independent consultants in order to determine how the mine should best be operated.

In addition, we have listened to residents and stakeholders over a period of eighteen months, including at tunnel and site tours attended by more than 700 people and at the consultation events last November, attended by 274 people. All of this information has informed our proposed methods for mining, processing and environmental protection. The Environmental Statement will provide detailed information on this process and will address the questions asked during the consultation events.

While the idea of a gold mine in our area has worried some people, equally there is enthusiastic support from many others. We hope that through the application process, as people become familiar with the details of the proposal, they will be reassured about our plans.

Dalradian are keenly aware that our project will co-exist with the agricultural community and the local population in a beautiful part of the world. We want to make sure the project protects the landscape we all care so much about.

We will build a world class mine that this community can be proud of. In order to do that, we have designed our plant, processes and equipment to ensure:

- The water being discharged from the water treatment plant will meet the same standards used for drinking water for the elements controlled under the site discharge consent to be issued by the regulators.
- There are no proposed hazardous mine waste storage facilities.
- All mineralized material having come into contact with cyanide will be contained and treated to achieve safe regulatory levels. Then, as a further level of protection, the treated material will be mixed with cement and stored safely and permanently underground. **All processing plant activities will be strictly regulated by both the Health and Safety Executive of Northern Ireland (HSENI) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) under a Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) permit.** Beyond that, we will also be monitored by The International Cyanide Management Institute, who will perform regular, independent audits of our transport, storage, use and treatment of cyanide that will be publicly available.
- Our operations will have minimal effects on our neighbours or their farm animals in terms of noise, dust, air quality or other effects.
- There will a site bond or financial guarantee in place from the outset that will provide for the proper closure of the mine in a way that is in keeping with the landscape and environment of the local area.
- The mine will use shift timings and office working hours to prevent any traffic build up on the Crockanboy Road.
- We will build a new road around part of the site to maintain access around the Mullydoo Road.
- We will undertake a project with Ballinderry Hatchery to monitor and protect the Fresh Water Pearl Mussels found in the Owenkillew and Owenreagh Rivers.

We are delighted that our project presents an opportunity to make a positive difference to the local and wider community. **By the time the proposed mine is fully operational, we will be paying £21m per year in salaries**, with our workforce exceeding 350 men and women. We will build upon our practice of employing as many people as possible from the local communities by implementing an extensive training program in collaboration with South West College, while complying fully with Northern Ireland equality legislation. We also will look to maximize use of local services and goods, which will support an even larger number of indirect jobs.

This is a huge economic stimulus to the local area, to West Tyrone and to the region. The direct employment, supply chain benefits and resulting social and economic activity will bring benefits across the county and beyond. All of these benefits will be delivered with appropriate environmental safeguards.

We also have an opportunity to benefit the locality in a unique way. We will continue to grow and develop our community funding, helping environmental, sporting, social and community groups in neighbouring parishes and villages.

As one of our neighbours and stakeholders we want to keep you informed of our plans. Following the submission and validation of the application to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) the planning application documentation will be made available on-line via the planning portal at <http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/publicaccess/>. The public advertisement will confirm the locations whereby the planning application can be viewed and copies of the Environmental Statement can be purchased. This information will be available in the coming weeks.

Of course, our Community Relations Team are always available in Gortin and if you have queries as a result of this letter or anything else we can be contacted on 2881 648012. Members of our team are also happy to call on you at your home, if you prefer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter McKenna', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter McKenna
Community Relations Manager