

## **TULSEQUAH CHIEF MINE PROJECT APPROVED**

### **Conditions of certificate**

A project approval certificate for the Tulsequah Chief mine has been issued on the basis of clear requirements of Redfern Resources Ltd., the project proponent, in combination with the commitments of the province made to address the concerns of the Taku River Tlingits.

A central issue around the proposed project has been an access road required by the company to access the mine site and its possible impact on wildlife, traditional use and a heritage trail. The northern part runs through an area known as the Spruce-Wilson, which currently has a number of access roads for placer mining. The southern part of the road will be through an area where there is currently no road.

The conditions on Redfern to address concerns are legally binding and include:

- Finalize a detailed plan for the construction and operational phases of the project.
- Limit use of the road, including gates to control authorized vehicles and prohibit unauthorized vehicles.
- Align the road to minimize impacts on the heritage trail, fisheries and wildlife.

The government of B.C. will also put specific regulatory controls in place:

- To restrict road access to minimize impacts of the road on wildlife.
- To prohibit hunting and shooting within the mining access right of way.
- Further control the harvest of particular wildlife such as needed.

As well, the government will contribute a reasonable level of resources – financial and staff – as needed to support the strategy for wildlife protection and management. It will provide reasonable support to train members of the First Nation to assist in wildlife management and to seek work in the mining industry.

### **Land use plan**

The province aims to develop a land use plan in the Atlin area for the future. Developing the plan is not a precondition to the mine approval. The province will work with all First Nations with claims in the region, and will involve participation of other parties including the Yukon, Alaska, U.S., and federal governments, the community of Atlin and interested organizations from the region.

The region included in the proposed plan covers three million hectares centred around the Taku River watershed. It is rich in mineral, fish, wildlife and forest resources. The land use plan will allow for sustainable economic opportunities and benefits to be maximized for all with an interest in the region including the First Nations, and will allow for further consultations with First Nations about their interests.

The province's goal is that the land use plan would provide a broad strategy for regional economic opportunities, social benefits and environmental protection for future decisions involving resources, so that these decisions would not be controversial and would support accepted objectives.

## **Background**

In November 1994, Redfern Resources Ltd. applied for approval to re-open the inactive Tulsequah Chief mine in the Tulsequah River Valley, at the base of Mount Eaton, which is 100 kilometres south of Atlin in northwestern British Columbia and 64 km northeast of Juneau, Alaska. The former Cominco-Tulsequah Chief underground mine had operated in the 1950s.

A project approval certificate was issued in 1998, but was overturned in 2000 by the British Columbia Supreme Court, which directed the province to consider the concerns of the Taku River Tlingits. On Jan. 31, 2002, the British Columbia Court of Appeal directed that the matter should be given directly to the ministers for decision.

Further information on the project and the full certificate and reasons for decision are on the Web at <http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/project/mining/tulsequa/home.htm>

Visit the province's Web site at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/> for online information and services.

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