

Golden Band



RESOURCES INC

Community Consultations Brabant Lake Wednesday July 16, 2008, 12 noon

Golden Band Resources Inc:

- Gary Haywood, Vice-President, Operations & COO
- Richard Snider, Environment, Health & Safety Manager

SRK Consulting:

- Don Hovdebo, Principal Consultant (Environmental Assessment)

Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (MOE):

- Malcolm Ross, Project Manager, Environmental Assessment

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency: Peter Boothroyd, Senior Project Officer, Prairies Region, Winnipeg

Recorder:

- Gill Gracie, Aurora Communications Ltd.

Public: 9 (including one from La Ronge).

MOE Presentation: Malcolm Ross

PowerPoint Presentation

Golden Band Presentation: Gary Haywood/Richard Snider.

PowerPoint Presentation with handout.

Questions/Comments

What is the actual size? Has the rock been tested for selenium?

R. Snider: Both the rock and the water were tested for selenium. It's included in the water quality parameters we have to test for. The levels were quite low. Cyanide will be our main focus.

What method did they use to remove the fish when the lake was converted to a TMF?

R. Snider: They used test netting and electrofishing. They moved them to the next lake downstream (Yew Lake).

A trapper approached G. Haywood personally to ask about compensation for working on his trapline.

G: Haywood: As we go along we will talk to those with a vested interest in the area. We will deal with each of the trappers on an individual basis and determine, with the trapper, exactly what the impacts would mean, and depending on what they are we'll come to some sort of agreement. I don't know what that is at this stage, whether it's compensation or whatever it might be. We'll be more than happy to talk to you. We would prefer to deal with trappers on an individual basis at this stage.

What about for people like me? This is on my trapline. I don't come here all the time; I don't have a trapper's license, but when I do come I have a cabin, and I trap. It affects my kids because I grew up on the trapline, and I come here and I find it all cleared out. It's part of my culture, part of teaching my kids. I have no trapper's license. We were killing moose yesterday, and sometimes I feel I'm ___ somebody else's trapping (more – inaudible). I want my kids to come here so they learn their culture.

G: Haywood: We have to commit to restoring the land back to a similar state. In this day and age you can't get away with not doing that; in the past the regulations weren't there. Certainly the environmental responsibility is much more in the forefront and we cannot get away with things – it's much more heavily regulated. We've already planted 5000 trees on the Komis site.

How many of the locals usually get jobs? I was working as the cook at Komis and there were only four or five of us working.

G: Haywood: It depends on what skills people have – we like to try to hire locally. It makes more sense than bringing workers from Prince Albert and Saskatoon to work up here.

What do you do when the school only goes to grade 9, and people want to study but also want to stay here because of the culture?

G: Haywood: There will be onsite training as well. There's been a lot of federal funds made available in Saskatchewan – about \$30 million for training. That includes not just Golden Band, although Golden Band was part of the submission. We committed to a number of jobs for which training would be required, so training opportunities like geological technician and truck driver will be available. We recognize there is a shortage of a skilled workforce out there. There is an opportunity.

George Jackson, Sask. FNMR: *You were just referring to that federal money, called the Careers Quest . You can find their offices in La Ronge across from Mistasinik Place. It's apprenticeship trades programming.*

G: Haywood: That's just part of it. The program goes right across the country, and that's the first time Saskatchewan's been approved. We've been turned down in the past. When we put that submission to the federal government, we specified every position that Golden Band seeks. We did it in conjunction with Kitsaki. All those jobs were identified in the Career Quest plan as requiring training. You don't just go out and find a workforce. There were mill operators, truck drivers, geological technicians, etc.

Some people have degrees but can't come home because there's no work. (More - inaudible) Even the mine road makes me sad – it's all cleared out and it used to be just a bush trail. But it does make it easier to get to the trapline.

G: Haywood: It's been a question in the past, what we are going to do with the access roads. Some want them left open for access, others don't like it. We have to find a balance.

Some guys want a gate on it, some don't. We've (community leaders) been struggling on that too.

Will you guys block the road so locals can't go in? Can I go and see how the mine is doing?

G: Haywood: It's not a private road, but we don't want anyone coming to the mine site and getting hurt. There will probably be a gate at some point. I'm quite sure we would offer tours once the mine is in operation. I assume there will be a lot of interest from this community on what we're doing up there. We would like to be in a position to show off that site.

There's that Golden Band campsite not that far up – there's an old shack there. Will it be cleaned up or is it going to be left like that? Maybe they could fix up the cabins.

G: Haywood: That's the old exploration camp. I think it's still being used.

George Jackson, FNMR: *What's the potential problem with selenium?*

G: Haywood: Selenium is identified in uranium mines as having a potential impact on fish health.

D. Hovdebo: It has a mass impact because it affects the eggs so they don't hatch properly. You don't really see dead fish, but it affects the populations. There's been a lot of research in northern Saskatchewan, particularly around uranium mines because uranium tailings does contain elevated levels of selenium in the water discharge, and it's difficult to remove selenium in a water treatment plant. *Don offered to pull up the selenium numbers on computer once this discussion was over.*

R. Snider: One of the reasons for using reverse osmosis (RO) water treatment is for selenium treatment. It's one of the best options for removing selenium. We don't have high selenium numbers, but we're also going with one of best treatment methods out there. Selenium will be fairly low for us; our issues are copper and cyanide and making sure we meet those criteria. If we meet those criteria, a lot of the other metals will be quite low.

Last week we (our EQC group) talked quite a bit about selenium – there’s no method that can lock up selenium.

R. Snider: It’s very difficult to remove, but I think RO will help. I haven’t seen the updated data, but that’s why they’re moving in that direction.

G: Haywood: There was a pilot plant put in at Rabbit Lake last year or the year before, and they were testing for selenium and molybdenum. There was high expectation that they would be able to do it.

When you do your environmental testing, do you look for medicine plants? A lot of people use those plants as part of their culture.

R. Snider: In the assessment process we consider heritage usage of plants and focus on rare plant surveys. There hasn’t been a specific program for medicinal plants.

Do you do your testing from the air or on foot?

R. Snider: From the air first to see where we need to focus; then on the ground.

D. Hovdebo: It depends what specific plant you’re interested in. You know where it grows, so the first thing is you look in the most likely places where certain plants grow – for example, rat root will not grow on the top of hills. If there’s a rare and important plant you go there, look at how they built the mine and if it will impact that area. If so, you identify it in the EIS and try to move the operation.

Do you ask the people themselves what they use?

D. Hovdebo: Not usually.

R. Snider: That’s one of the reasons why we hold hearings. It’s part of the purpose of consultation.

D. Hovdebo: one of the important things about doing the environmental assessment is, when we do the document that will be out here, it will be in the community. It will discuss the different types of environment and where the activity’s going to take place. That’s an important opportunity to come in and look at the map - the map will be in the school here I’m sure – and identify to Saskatchewan Environment in your comments that this is an important area. Likely it’s not going to be where the previous mines were, because they’re already covered with rock. If you provide that kind of input to Saskatchewan Environment in the EIS, then they know it’s there and they try to avoid it. Saskatchewan Environment may require the company to move the operation if they have to – that’s what the assessment process is about. We encourage people once you get the document, to read it – there’s this big technical volume, but there’s also a less technical discussion and a summary written in plain language.

Some plants are rare, and we have to get them when we need them. If you pick it and store it, it won’t last, and they won’t transplant.

D. Hovdebo: That’s why we characterize the vegetation in the EIS, and ask for public involvement. That’s why having these discussions is important.

R. Snider: We are looking at submitting the EIS at the end of August – one will be sent to Brabant, to the town office.

Are the reports available in La Ronge?

G: Haywood: They are available in all the impacted communities.

M. Ross: I send them to Town of La Ronge and the La Ronge Indian Band.

You mentioned you're putting power into the mill site – do you need power in the other minesites?

G: Haywood: We do, but we will just go with gensets. Komis is 14 km from the highway and it's a very small power user with a short life. Bingo is only 3 km from the highway. The cost of diesel may be high, but there's no advantage to running high-line power for such a short time – it would be very expensive to do that.