

Golden band clears hurdle with tailing facility

BY CASSANDRA KYLE, THE STARPHOENIX JUNE 19, 2010

Golden Band Resources Inc. has announced Fisheries and Oceans Canada approved this month its federal environmental assessment screening report on the use of the Mallard tailings management facility (TMF) at its Jolu mill.

The report's approval allows Golden Band to proceed to the regulatory approval stage so the Mallard facility can be classified as a tailings improvement area, the Saskatoon company says. Environment Canada has told the company the process will take about eight months, with an anticipated completion date of February 2011. Meanwhile, Golden Band says it will be able to start gold production using a provincially approved above-ground tailings management facility.

"With the achievement of this federal regulatory milestone, Golden Band is looking toward a longer-term sustainability plan that will provide growth for the company within the La Ronge gold belt," said Ron Netolitzky, the company's executive chair. "Long-term tailings storage in the existing Mallard TMF will allow the company to move forward with plans to develop a number of deposits such as Golden Heart, Tower East and Birch Crossing."

The company added the refurbishment of the Jolu mill is expected to begin by the end of June. Development progress at the Bingo deposit, meanwhile, is on track to commence commercial production in the fourth quarter.