

Correnso vibration testing 12/13 October 2011

Our Correnso blast vibration testing will take place on Wednesday and Thursday 12/13 October.

Why do you need to do blast trials?

As part of our Correnso exploration activities we need to verify the specific relationship between blast vibration, charge weight and distance. The testing is a component of the feasibility work presently being undertaken and will confirm that we can stay within reasonable vibration consent limits when mining the ore body.

How many holes will be blasted and how many blasts per hole?

The blasts will take place within two existing exploration drill holes. There will be approximately five blasts per hole at different depths, starting from the deepest and working up to the shallowest.

Where will the blasts occur?

The blasts will take place within previously drilled steel-cased exploration holes. The collars of the holes are in Slevin Park and the holes angle downwards towards the Correnso ore body in Waihi East.

When will these blasts occur?

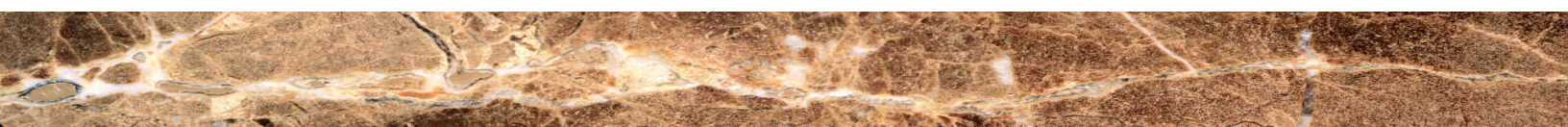
The blasts are planned for Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October starting around 9.00am and finishing no later than 7.00pm. If there are any hitches we will complete the trials between the same hours on Friday 14 October.

How deep are the blast trials?

The blasts will occur at the same depth as the Correnso ore body, between 150 and 350 metres directly below the surface. As the holes have been drilled at an angle this will be between 200 and 450 metres down the hole.

What will I see on the surface during the trials?

There will be nothing to see on the surface. The blast is confined to the drill hole.



Can I watch the blast trials happening?

A viewing area will be set aside in Slevin Street during the trials. Due to the presence of packaged explosives and detonators (to be used within the existing exploration drill holes) you will be expected to remain outside a taped off area and follow the directions of the shot-firer who is legally responsible for your safety. There will be little to see as the blasts will take place below the ground. However, you will be able to talk with staff about the blast trial programme.

Who will carry out the tests?

Our blast and vibration consultant has designed and will oversee the trials. Qualified shot-firers will carry out the work.

How can I find out the results of the trials?

The results will be available in the Golden Link information office, Seddon Street, hopefully by the end of the following week. We will also post the results on our website.

How can I find out more?

Visit the Golden Link information office, check our web site www.marthamine.co.nz, read our weekly Update page in the Waihi Leader or contact us on 0800 NEWMONT (0800 639 6668).

What will happen after the tests?

Afterwards the drill holes will be filled with sand and concrete. Once the results are in and our data is more complete we will consult with residents on a range of options relating to vibration magnitude, duration and frequency.

Ten times more

To get good data the vibration levels in the blast trials need to be close to the possible consent limit. This means that the effects we expect you may feel will be at the upper end of what would be allowed by any future consent. The blast trials will require five blasts each day for the two days, while an operating mine would typically have only one or perhaps two blasts of a similar or lesser magnitude every two to three days.

Put simply, we will be blasting ten times as much during the trials as we would in an operating mine. The trial is designed to produce vibration at the high end of the effects scale likely to be experienced for Correnso. Actual operations would have less effect. Our experience at Favona shows that production blasts there create around half the vibration allowed by our consent limits.

The blast trials are testing for production blasting (used to mine ore). Should the proposed Correnso mine go ahead, there will also be much smaller development blasts (used to construct access tunnels) occurring more frequently.

For further information please phone our free phone 0800 NEWMONT (0800 639 6668)

