

Where are we at? April 2010

Frequently-Asked Questions

1. Will the east layback cause vibration effects on my property?

Vibration levels are set as for operations on the south wall stability cutback over the last three years. These are 5mm/s during hours Mon – Fri 10.00am – 3.00pm and Saturday 10.00am to midday. At all other times and all day Sunday no blasting takes place in the open pit.

New Zealand building standards state that building damage begins when vibrations exceed 21mm/s. Our vibration limits are well below this and designed to reduce annoyance of vibration effects for residents.

If residents believe that vibration is causing damage NWG will arrange for a BRANZ (Building Research Association of New Zealand) study to be undertaken at the property. A copy of the report will be sent to you.

Newmont has developed a process for complaints that will be provided to the resident so they can follow progress on the management of the complaint. As part of the resource consent process the Hauraki District Council is responsible for establishing a mediation service in the event that the company and residents cannot find agreeable solutions to issues.

2. How do I let you know if I am not satisfied about mining activities or issues?

In the first instance contact the Company Liaison Officer on 0800 NEWMONT (0800 639 6668).

We also have documents outlining the complaints process which we will send you or are available on the website www.marthamine.co.nz

3. Where else in Waihi are you going to mine?

Current proposal is Trio, an extension of Favona underground. Exploration continues both regionally and throughout the Waihi township but no other viable ore bodies have been located at this stage.

4. If the gold price goes down will you leave town?

Not necessarily – projects are determined by taking a three year rolling average of the gold price to protect against the highs and lows of the gold price fluctuation. If, however, the gold price was to drop dramatically whereby costs exceed income then, like any business our future would be examined.

5. Will mining the east layback affect the unstable “Milking Cow” area?

Mining the east layback gives us the opportunity to stabilize the old “Milking Cow” mining block, providing a long-term solution to the potential for subsidence.

6. Will the east layback and Trio mean more employment?

Yes – it will extend the duration of employment for current workers and also for staff at the processing plant and Favona.

7. Will the value of my property be affected?

Property valuation reports show that property values in Waihi have tracked above trends when compared to similar towns such as Paeroa and Te Aroha during the life of modern mining in Waihi.



8. How will I know when you are blasting?

Newmont has a call register for any residents who wish to be notified by phone that a blast will occur on that day. In addition Newmont is about to trial the use of text messaging to alert residents within 5 minutes of a blast occurring so the “surprise factor” is reduced.

9. What are the noise limits for the operation?

Noise limits are set at district plan limits at a resident’s boundary. The operational noise limits are 50dBA for areas at the top of Seddon St and the CBD, and 55dBA to the east of the pit.

10. What will happen to plans to carry out rehabilitation and lake-filling?

We are still looking at the scheduling of rehabilitation works as one of our ongoing studies. A number of factors may influence timing. For example, if we need to undertake additional earthworks on the pit walls to meet our mining licence obligations, the planned rehabilitation activities may be delayed.

11. Are there some opportunities now for variations to the rehabilitation plans since the pit configuration will be altered?

Yes. Waihi people are always open to consideration of new opportunities. That is why the WCV process has been so successful. There is the opportunity to work towards a design that will take into account other areas.

12. How deep under residential properties are the Trio tunnels?

Our current proposal is to mine between the top of ore body which is 130m below surface and the bottom of ore body at 350m.

13. How do you measure vibration?

Fixed vibration monitors are placed around the town. Mobile monitors can be placed at your residence so we can measure the effect at your home if you request this. The monitors are connected to a website-based measuring tool which emails results to the company within 30 minutes of the blast.

14. Will you be blasting at night at Trio?

Yes - however at Favona from 9pm until 7am vibration levels are set at below 1mm/s which are generally not detectable by humans. Higher level blasting is planned to occur once between 1pm and 2pm. Occasionally at Favona, due to delays or equipment issues, blasts might occur once between 7am and 8am or 4pm and 5pm.

15. Where will the entrance to Trio be situated?

The existing Favona portal would be used for Trio as well as Favona.

16. What if I want to object to the Trio proposal?

The Resource Consents for the Trio project will require a publically notified process whereby hearings will be held by the Hauraki District Council and residents are able to make submission and present to the Hearings Panel their objections and reasons for objection. For more information on the RMA process visit www.legislation.govt.nz.

17. Will you need to build another tailings dam to accommodate the east layback and Trio?

No. For the east layback the current consents apply. For Trio, if a crest raise is required a full resource consenting process will be initiated.

