

# PROJECT NEWSLETTER



**The Manh Choh Project is a gold exploration joint venture between subsidiaries of Kinross Gold Corporation and Contango ORE operating under a lease with the Tetlin Village. Kinross is the majority owner and operator.**

## Project Update

We had several major achievements on the Manh Choh Project, which included:

- Hired nine community members for field work
- Hired two community members full-time in Environment and Community Relations
- Spent about \$2 million directly with local businesses
- Conducted more than 2,000 stakeholder engagements regarding the project, including averaging two collaborative meetings per month with the Tetlin Village
- Opened an office in Tok, Alaska
- Continued several environmental baseline studies, such as cultural and wetlands
- Completed over 32,000 ft of drilling, providing more confidence in the deposit
- Commenced engineering/design

In our work over the past year, we learned so much about the Upper Tanana Athabascan culture and the rich history of the people. It has been an honor to work with the community. We hope the worst of the pandemic is behind us and look forward to more in-person discussions with the community in the future. For 2022, we are looking forward to another field drilling program and are planning to initiate construction.

## Environmental Update

On October 31, 2021, we reached a significant milestone in our environmental program by collecting one year of meteorological data. Regulations require 90% of the data be collected in four consecutive quarters for it to be used for air permitting. A third-party is auditing the data. So far, indications are that we met these criteria. Congratulations to Doreen and the other Environmental Technicians for maintaining this equipment in tough conditions to meet this goal! Even though we have the data we need for the air permit, we will continue to run the weather station to generate operations data.

While drafting plans and permit applications, we continue gathering data and information as we go. Specifically, the environmental program is maintaining a sharp focus on building the surface and groundwater baseline database. Although Young's Timber is keeping the roads clear to the wells for us during a very snowy fall, we do a lot of hiking to get to some of the sites without road access.



*Iced weather monitoring station*



*Jeremy Brans and Chief Michael Sam at the Tetlin Community Meeting*



*Doreen hiking to a ground water well*

**For more information, contact  
Tiffany Silas, Community  
Relations Coordinator**

tiffany.silas@kinross.com  
(907) 347-2721

## Employment Opportunities

These are exciting times as we look towards hiring for potential construction in 2022 and the operations phase in late 2023. All jobs will be posted [jobs.kinross.com](https://jobs.kinross.com).

You can build a profile on the website and sign-up for email notifications, we have several options available when new jobs are posted. To ease the process, we will send you an email when we see potential job matches.

If you would like to prepare gaining new skills and experience, we have several options available. To be considered for this program and receive additional information, we will first send you a Skills and Jobs Interest Assessment to help us build programs of interest to you!

We can be contacted in a variety of ways:

- Visit us at Kinross Manh Choh office in Tok, Mon-Fri, 7am-3pm
- Email us at [manhchoh.hr@kinross.com](mailto:manhchoh.hr@kinross.com)
- Call us at 907.490.2241
- Text us at 907.482.7311
- Visit our website at [jobs.kinross.com](https://jobs.kinross.com)

## Engineering Update

As part of the Feasibility Study, we advanced engineering on the project in these four areas:

- Access road design
- Water management plan
- Field geotechnical investigation
- Layouts for camp, ore loadout, and mine infrastructure areas

Bidding and Request-for-Proposals began for the following packages:

- Ore haul contract
- Mining contract
- Early earthworks
- Camp supply/related services

## Community Relations Update

**September:** We met with the Board of the Mendas Cha-ag Native Corporation of Healy Lake. They asked questions regarding employment opportunities and emphasized a desire to be engaged with the project. Unfortunately, the September community meeting in Healy Lake was canceled due to COVID-19.

**October:** We conducted a series of virtual community meetings with Tok, Northway, Tanacross, Delta Junction, Salcha, Harding Lake, and Birch Lake. We hoped to meet in-person, but we updated plans due to COVID-19 cases increasing this fall. Communities actively participated in these meetings, and we engaged in meaningful two-way communication with residents and leaders. People expressed interest in employment, training opportunities, and economic revitalization in the Upper Tanana and Fairbanks areas. Some community members, particularly Harding Lake area residents, had questions and concerns related to Manh Choh trucking plans. At some meetings, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities provided an informative overview of highway safety plans and projects. They

have a project website where residents can see all the planned passing lane and bridge improvements: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/tetlintofortknox>. These are on-going conversations, and public input in the process is essential.

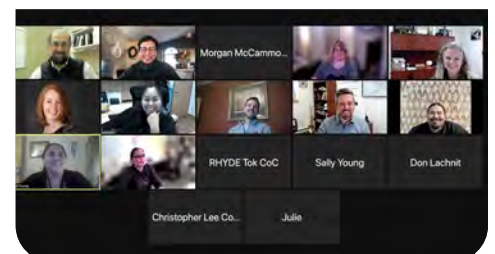
**November:** We met virtually with the Tanacross Tribal Council. Leadership expressed excitement about employment opportunities and want to ensure people are trained in advance. Tribal Administrator Jerry Isaac emphasized the need to protect environmental and subsistence resources residents depend on for food, cultural, and spiritual activities. We shared that because the ore would be trucked to the Fort Knox mine, and we would not be constructing a new tailings facility, the environmental footprint would be greatly reduced. We also brought educators from Alaska Resource Education to the Tetlin School. Teachers and students were excited to learn more about responsible mining through hands-on, engaging activities. They will return in February to provide training for local area teachers.

**December:** We gave a virtual presentation to leadership from

Dot Lake Tribal Council and Village Corporation. It was great to connect with this community. On December 13, at an in-person community meeting in Tetlin, we gave a project update, handed out special project hoodies, and provided employment and hiring support. After, we held a subsistence meeting – a major step towards subsistence resource protection and collaboration.



Healy Lake Community Meeting



Tok Community Meeting

## Exploration & Drilling Update

We received the assay results from the recent drilling program at the Manh Choh pits and used them to develop the updated geological model. We are also starting to receive results from the other prospect sites. Based on these findings, we will develop the 2022 exploration drilling program.

## Local Procurement

Local procurement and employment are priorities for Manh Choh. Earlier in 2021, we awarded many contracts related to the drilling, exploration, and field work campaign to local companies. In addition to these companies, the project and drilling contractors obtained consumables and services from local stores and stations.

As we plan for project execution, we are developing the following strategies to encourage local procurement:

- Specifying that local procurement and employment is an objective and criteria for selection in Request-for-Proposals
- Carving out smaller scopes of work for local vendors from larger packages
- Discussing with local vendors their capabilities and interests
- Creating and updating a local vendor registry

We started planning for the construction phase and anticipate to be in production in 2024. We also intend to perform some preliminary construction during 2022. This will largely focus on earthworks, civil, and camp. We will provide more details as plans are developed.

## Cultural Share

by Tiffany Silas



Lt. Allen (center) and expedition team, Alaska 1885 [Online image]. Retrieved November 17, 2021, from <https://armyhistory.org/5102-2/>

In June 1885, United States Army Lieutenant Henry T. Allen was guided into Alaska's interior region by natives from Batzulneta camp. The party was welcomed at Nandell camp, also known as Last Tetlin (Nahk'adn), with a "great firing of guns." From Nandell, they continued their journey to Tetlin Village (Teełay), spelled Tetling in that era. Lt. Allen recorded his expedition in his journal, that was later published as "Report of an

Expedition to the Copper, Tananá, and Kóyukuk Rivers in the Territory of Alaska in the Year 1885."

When Lt. Allen came to Tetlin, he wrote in his journal that the Tetlin people expected him and advised him how to navigate the Tanana River. The Upper Tanana Athabascan people migrated seasonally between several hunting areas, fishing camps, and trap lines. Village residents of Last Tetlin traveled to trading posts on the Yukon River and throughout the region regularly. By the 1920s, residents from Last Tetlin moved to the current site of Tetlin Village when additional trading posts opened.

Shortly after the trading posts opened, a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) representative visited the Tetlin Village to determine whether to establish a school there. Before his arrival, village leaders constructed a school to show their willingness to host a schoolteacher. The BIA representative was impressed with the village, the people's lifestyle, and the initiative. The BIA representative agreed with the village leaders, and the Tetlin School was opened. The school opening meant families would remain anchored in Tetlin throughout the year, and the merging of two cultures and ways of life began.

### Sources

Allen, Henry T. (1887) *Report of an Expedition to the Copper, Tananá, and Kóyukuk Rivers in the Territory of Alaska in the Year 1885*, Washington: Government Printing Office.

Tanana Chiefs Conference (November 2021), Tetlin, <https://www.tananachiefs.org/>.

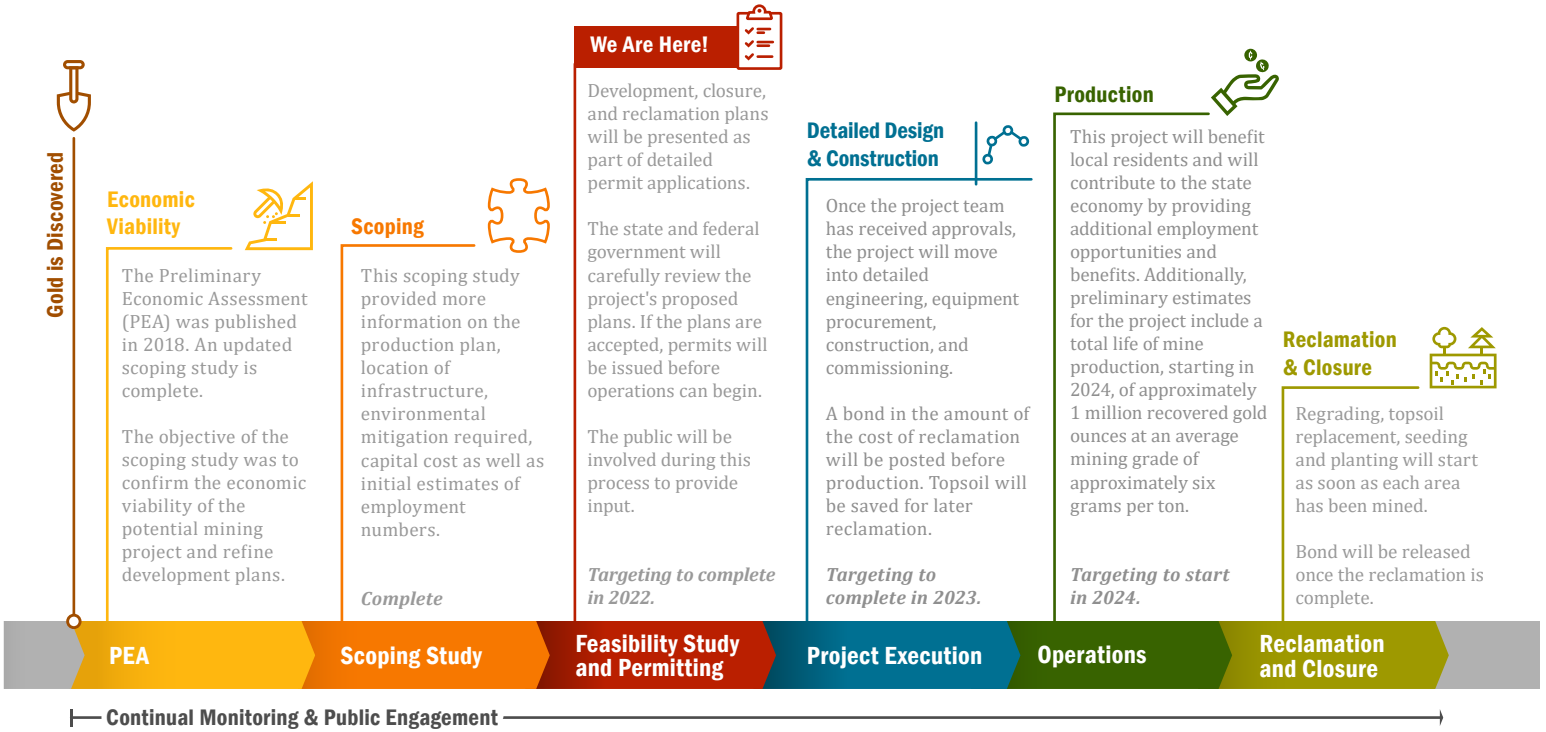
Tetlin Village Elder Evelyn Paul (November 2021) Personal communication.

Tetlin Village Resident Patricia Young (November 2021) Personal communication.

# PROJECT TIMELINE

## Manh Choh Project

Community engagement, environmental baseline studies, and exploration field work like drilling are on-going and consistent through the project's timeline.



*Tiffany Silas and Tetlin Councilmember Ariel Miller at the Tetlin Community Meeting*



For more information visit: [www.cdcc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdcc.gov/COVID19)

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw it in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

**Stop the Spread**  
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

**Kinross Manh Choh**  
a JV with Contango ORE  
PO Box 74194  
Fairbanks, AK 99707