

Spring 2023

MANH CHOH NEWSLETTER

Recruiting and Training for the 2023 Season



Tetlin student Danisha Paul at the recent job fair.

Enthusiasm in the region builds as recruitment efforts for the 2023

season begin. In preparation for Manh Choh-related projects, which range from constructing roads and ancillary buildings to camp hospitality, Manh Choh hosted two rounds of job fairs in six stakeholder communities to kick off hiring efforts. Over 200 potential candidates met directly with representatives from key business partners Black Gold Transport, Afognak, ESS and Kiewit in February and March.

Participation in career training opportunities has also increased. Enrollment in MAPTS training for April and June is filled, and career

presentations for high school seniors began in April.

Interested candidates are encouraged to visit manhchoh.com/careers/ to view current openings with Manh Choh and project business partners.

"I think this is a great opportunity to have these people come out and do a job fair in our village because students can see what kind of jobs there are. There's a lot we can do and learn from these and not very many people come down here and do this," said Danisha Paul, 11th grade at Tetlin School.

Employee Spotlight: Peter Onoszko



Welcome Peter Onoszko, the new Health and Safety Manager for Manh Choh. Pete joined the project in February and moved to Tok from Columbus, MT, with his wife Sandy in March. Although he is new to the project, he is a veteran in the mining industry with 24 years of experience across his portfolio.

Career sustainability led Pete to switch trajectory from a career in the automotive industry, where he completed Master Technician School. Once involved in mining, Pete was exposed to various

career paths, eventually leading him to Health and Safety.

In his role as manager, he brings an approachable leadership style and years of business improvement insight, which allows him to work with diverse teams to ensure safe, sustainable decisions are made on projects. During his time with Manh Choh, he looks forward to working with our business partners to create a safe work culture and to supporting our stakeholders and their communities.

Tanacross Dog Race Returns



This year's Tanacross Dog Race was the first series since the pandemic. The community was eager to hold the race series again and families lined the streets to watch the teams pass by. We were excited to partner with the organization to help bring back this local event.

Tok Wolverine Trap



The Tok Wolverine Trap Club received an investment to continue working with youth to teach them how to handle firearms safely. Hunting is common in the region and not all youth have the opportunity to learn about safe firearm practices, making the trap club a useful and educational team for all.

Spring Subsistence in the Upper Tanana Valley

Mid-February, daylight increases by about three minutes per day, and though temperatures remain below freezing, the longer days and warm rays of March energize all to head back outdoors.

As all Alaskans begin to embrace sunnier days, there is renewed liveliness in the communities and villages within the Upper Tanana Valley. Neighbors are out walking with children, the sounds of snow machines drone through the air and uniquely there is an uptick in requests to go ice fishing.

Ice fishing and hunting for waterfowl in the spring stitch the circle of subsistence together. Recreationally, ice fishing is an activity that brings friends and families together tailgate style, with the catch of whitefish as a bonus. For the Upper Athabascan people – especially those with a subsistence lifestyle – it is an integral practice filled with over 10,000 years of ancestral knowledge.

Northway Basketball Tournament Scores

Manh Choh and Fort Knox both invested \$5,000 to support interior schools of the Golden Heart Conference at the Regional Basketball Tournament on March 2-4. "Northway was this year's host of this tournament and was able to

provide a much better experience for participants and their families as a result of the donation," said Joe Krause, Principal of Walter Northway School.



Tok Dog Mushers Association

One of the last mushing events for the season, the 2023 Tok Race of Champions, is hosted by the Tok Dog Mushers Association. Mushers from as far away as Canada and Germany travel west to participate. This race is part of a large list of well-known races that folks from around the interior travel to compete in.



A team of sled dogs traverses a road crossing during the 2023 Tok Race of Champions

Alaska Resource Education Visits Alaska Gateway School District

What's underground?

K-12 students in the Alaska Gateway School District, specifically Tok, Tetlin and Mentasta Lake-Katie John Schools, took a geological-focused break from their typical coursework sponsored by the Manh Choh Project.



Manh Choh Community Relations Coordinator Tiffany Silas of Tetlin describes career paths available in the mining industry

In partnership with Alaska Resource Education (ARE), Interior program coordinator Naomi Mitchell (Fairbanks) and STEM Educator and Geologist Elizabeth Freeman (Anchorage) spent part of a week in March sharing their hands-on, science-based curriculum and inspiring students.

Elementary students in Tetlin and Tok "drilled" into cupcakes and mined pies for a delicious lesson on core drilling and reclamation. Middle and high school students, including those in

Mentasta, participated in a battleship-style activity, "What's Underground," to learn the basics of geology by drilling into a covered box to examine the rocks and minerals hiding beneath. To conclude their visit, upper-level students participated in a discussion on careers in geology led by Freeman. Manh Choh Community Relations Specialist Karol Amorim and Manh Choh Community Relations Coordinator Tiffany Silas of Tetlin shared their insights into careers in mining and encouraged students to strive for their dreams.

"The science-based curriculum ARE staff provided to students helps them understand the world around them and how natural resources and associated industries impact their everyday lives."

— Naomi Mitchell
Alaska Resource Education

The second iteration of this partnership program garnered the attendance of 115 students across the small district. Community investment with Alaska Gateway Schools continues to deepen with opportunities that open the world of geology to young children and energize high school seniors, especially those in Tetlin Village, to sign up for formal Manh Choh-sponsored training to work towards a career within the mining industry.



"The Alaska Gateway School District has welcomed these rich opportunities that Manh Choh and Alaska Resource Education have provided to bring to life the careers available in the interior of Alaska and enhance knowledge."

— Jane Teague
AGSD's Gap Coordinator

Local Business Spotlight: Johnny Graff, Vitus Energy



Johnny Graff has been a "Tokite" for 30 years, leaving briefly to build his career in the petroleum industry. In 2020 Johnny returned home with a new title: Terminal Manager for Vitus Energy, serving Tok and the surrounding communities.

Vitus Energy is one of two fueling and oil delivery stations in Tok. When asked about the Manh Choh Project, Johnny says, "with change comes an opportunity for us all. Manh Choh comes to town at a good time and will bring more people."

Local vendor partnership is an essential socio-economic pillar of the project. Johnny has anecdotal evidence of its impact. "We are busy keeping up with their facilities in the area and gaining new customers through satellite companies that are a part of this project."

Johnny advises local businesses to do their research and reach out to partner with Manh Choh. "There are new sophisticated ways of mining that benefit the community, and their [representatives] are available to answer questions."

Community Member Elder Spotlight: Yvonne John



Like many rural Alaska villages, Tetlin's environment and culture are protected in large part by its elders. Yvonne John does just that for Tetlin. She has vast knowledge about cultural practices in the community and knows how to make intricate crafts. She learned

from an early age how to look for the materials she needed in nature. Yvonne learned how to make birch baskets and how to cook in them using hot stones.

As a cultural pillar of knowledge, she knows the secrets of traditional cooking and takes on the responsibility of passing these skills down to young members of the community. Some key skills she teaches are how to cut up moose meat, and how

to cut and preserve fish to ensure that once it is smoked it will last the whole winter.

Yvonne grew up in the valley between the hill and Big Lake and was not allowed to go to another camp or tent. There was a lot of green grass in those days that elders would cut to clear.

Born and raised in Tetlin, she loved growing up in the village. Five houses existed when she was a little girl. She spent her summers harvesting berries, fishing in Long Creek or by their Big Lake fishing trap and trapping, hunting and camping out on the land.

She has five children who carry on the Chichilew Clan.

The lessons passed on by elders like Yvonne are fundamental for future generations to be able to keep the cultural traditions of interior indigenous communities alive.

Community Outreach

During the first quarter, we held community meetings in the villages of Tok, Tanacross, Northway, Tetlin and Delta to address the project's benefit footprint area and share information on training and employment opportunities, construction and design, community relations investments and environmental actions. We were able to connect with 120 community members across these meetings.



Mine Training Coordinator Samuel Reves addresses the graduates during the MAPTS Graduation in the Mining and Petroleum Training Service Underground Mine Training Center off of the Alaska Highway outside Delta Junction. (Photo courtesy of MAPTS)

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development provides \$300,000 grant to prepare local residents for jobs with Manh Choh

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) recently provided a \$300,000 grant to the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Mining and Training Petroleum Service program (MAPTS) in a new partnership.

The grant aims to provide local people with the skills and training needed to fulfill job openings at the Manh Choh project in Tetlin, which is expected to generate over 250 construction and approximately 300-600 mining and trucking jobs.

"Our department created a pilot project following Gov. Mike Dunleavy's tour of the Delta Mine Training Center last year," said Acting Commissioner Cathy Muñoz. "The pilot project will support the training of up to 28 residents from the Tok area and bring high-paying jobs to the rural community. This is a win-win for all involved."

The grant includes unique surface mining training skills necessary for employment at Manh Choh, as well as employability skills that can be transferrable over participants' careers not only in mining, but any career path they choose to pursue in the future.

"Kinross Alaska is truly committed to hiring locally, developing tomorrow's workforce and supporting new initiatives that provide sustainable skill development in the communities where we operate," said Terence Watungwa, Vice-President and General Manager, Kinross Alaska. "We are excited about this training partnership and the opportunities it will provide to rural Alaska as we move towards the operations phase of Manh Choh."

The Manh Choh project is located approximately 250 miles southeast of Kinross' Fort Knox mine near Fairbanks. The average wage of a Manh Choh employee will be more than \$130,000, well above the average local wage.

The project is expected to commence production in the second half of 2024, with an expected production of approximately 914,000 attributable Au eq. oz. over the life of mine. As a 70% owner, Kinross' share is estimated at 640,000 attributable Au eq. oz.

Regional Alaska Native Leaders Meet at the 2023 TCC Meeting



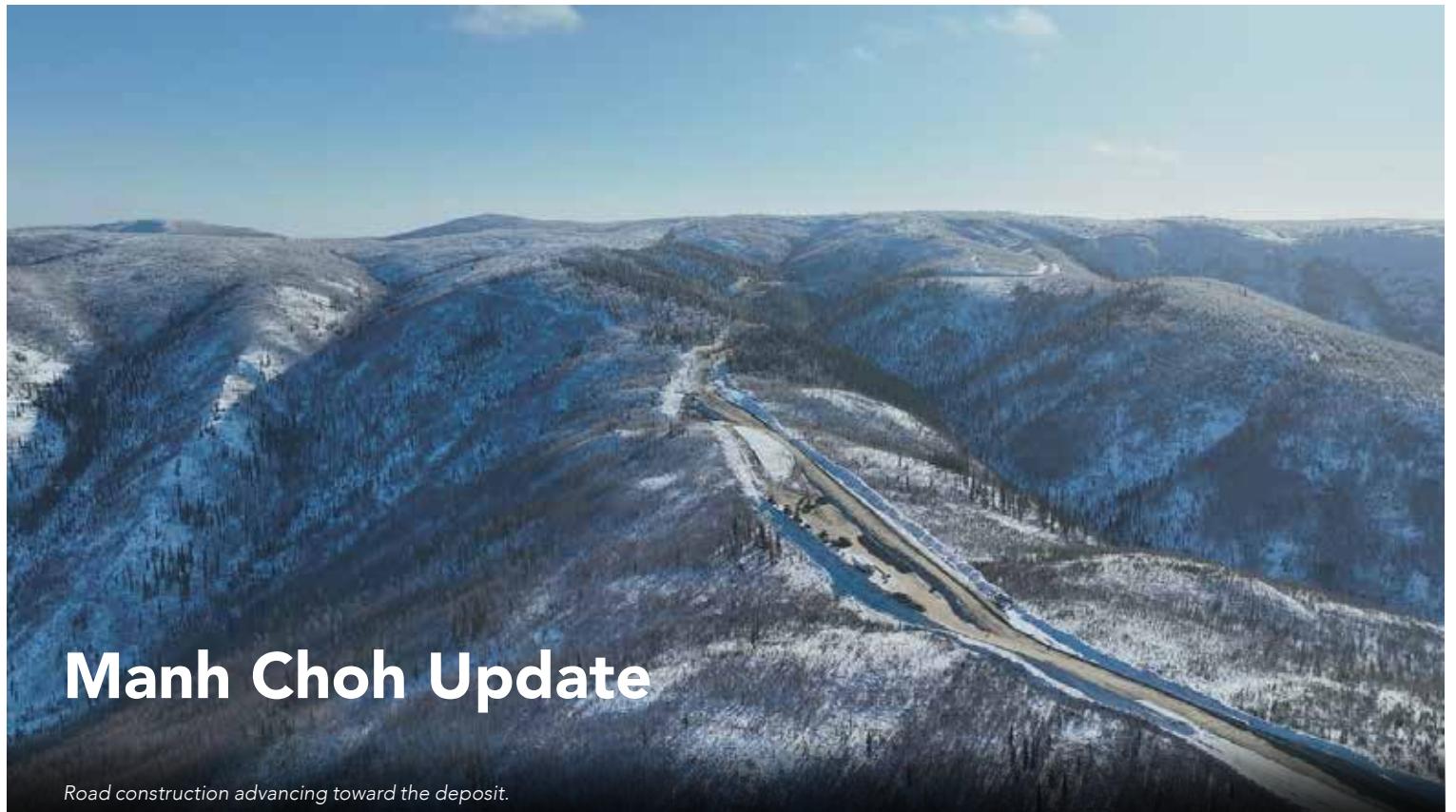
During the week of March 13-16, the 2023 Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) was held in Fairbanks. The annual event in Fairbanks hosts over 250 delegates from across interior Alaska to work on policy and the future vision for the

organization. TCC is an Alaska Native non-profit that is focused on unity, health and social services for tribal members in the region. TCC has a range of services that includes

everything from healthcare and natural resource management to transportation.

The Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce hosts the welcome reception, complete with music, prizes and scrumptious food. Many visitors from out of the area come not only for the meetings but to connect with friends and family whose villages may be separated by hundreds of miles. These reunions are most welcomed, and after the pandemic, tend to be joyous.

We invest in this night of comradery to make this event happen year after year. We are already looking forward to learning some new dances from the elders next year!



Manh Choh Update

Road construction advancing toward the deposit.



Equipment moving up the mine access road toward the deposit.

Construction and Road Update

The Tetlin Twin Road has continued to progress throughout the winter, and the team is now at mile 11 out of 18 miles. Work has continued on a 24/7 basis without injury or incident.

The project expects to use this road once the security checkpoint is installed in late spring/early summer, which will then avoid additional traffic on the Tetlin Road. Once open, this will move all project traffic onto their own road, no longer sharing the Tetlin Village Road.

Camp Update

Camp refurbishment work was completed in late December 2022, and now many of the Manh Choh personnel are stationed in the camp.

The operations contract has been awarded to Afognak, the Native Village Corporation of Afognak, an island community north of Kodiak. Their responsibilities include providing meals, cleaning services and room preparation for the 175 rooms. While the camp is utilized, there will be zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs and no guests will be permitted to stay.

Contract Mining and Rock Haul

Both the contract mining & ore haul contracts have been awarded to Kiewit and Black Gold Transport (BGT), respectively. These groups will be mobilizing to the site this summer to complete their construction and prepare for the mining and hauling to commence.

Once on site, Kiewit will be building a road and pad for their infrastructure, followed by preparing water catchment systems around the pits and development rock.

BGT is advancing the ordering and delivery of the haul trucks and trailers, and preparing for the first delivery in May/June.

Day in the Life of an Environmental Technician



A Manh Choh environmental technician collects nearby stream water for testing.

The great thing about being an Environmental Technician is that every day looks a little different. We perform many different types of job functions. Our scope of work entails a large variety of tasks, all of which require a different kind of training. Collecting samples for our various monitoring programs and data capture points for ground and surface water samples is a primary task, however, we also perform weekly inspections of the Manh Choh Camp, as well as the rest of the entire permitted mine site and activities associated within that boundary.

This boundary starts from the Alaska Highway and extends the nearly 20 miles of road to the mine site. Some inspections are more informal, and others fall under state and federal regulations and requirements. Different certifications become required to fill out these inspections, such as certificates for Storm Water Pollution and Prevention.

We also conduct dust surveys on a regular basis to make sure we are meeting air quality standards. Environmental Technicians perform routine inspections of laydown yards and drill pads to check not only drill pad quality but cleanliness and housekeeping, safety and security of any potential hazards associated with equipment or materials used on site. There are a lot of fine details that need to be reviewed for almost every task we perform. But the best part of our job is that we get to spend most of our time out of the office and in the field.

When we are in the office, we are working on reports for the inspections we conducted in the field or completing data entry for our wide variety of monitoring tasks. Different types of training opportunities include helicopter safety, so that we can work both safely and efficiently around the aircraft while accessing our most remote sample points. Bear awareness and firearms certifications are important to work in the field safely around potentially hazardous wildlife. There are also opportunities for Wilderness First Aid and Delayed Care certifications to help any of our fellow team members should an accident occur. This year we will also be conducting classes and certifications on Extreme Cold Weather Survival regarding vehicle breakdown or accidents in remote areas and Swiftwater Rescue and Safety certificates for working around rivers and streams.



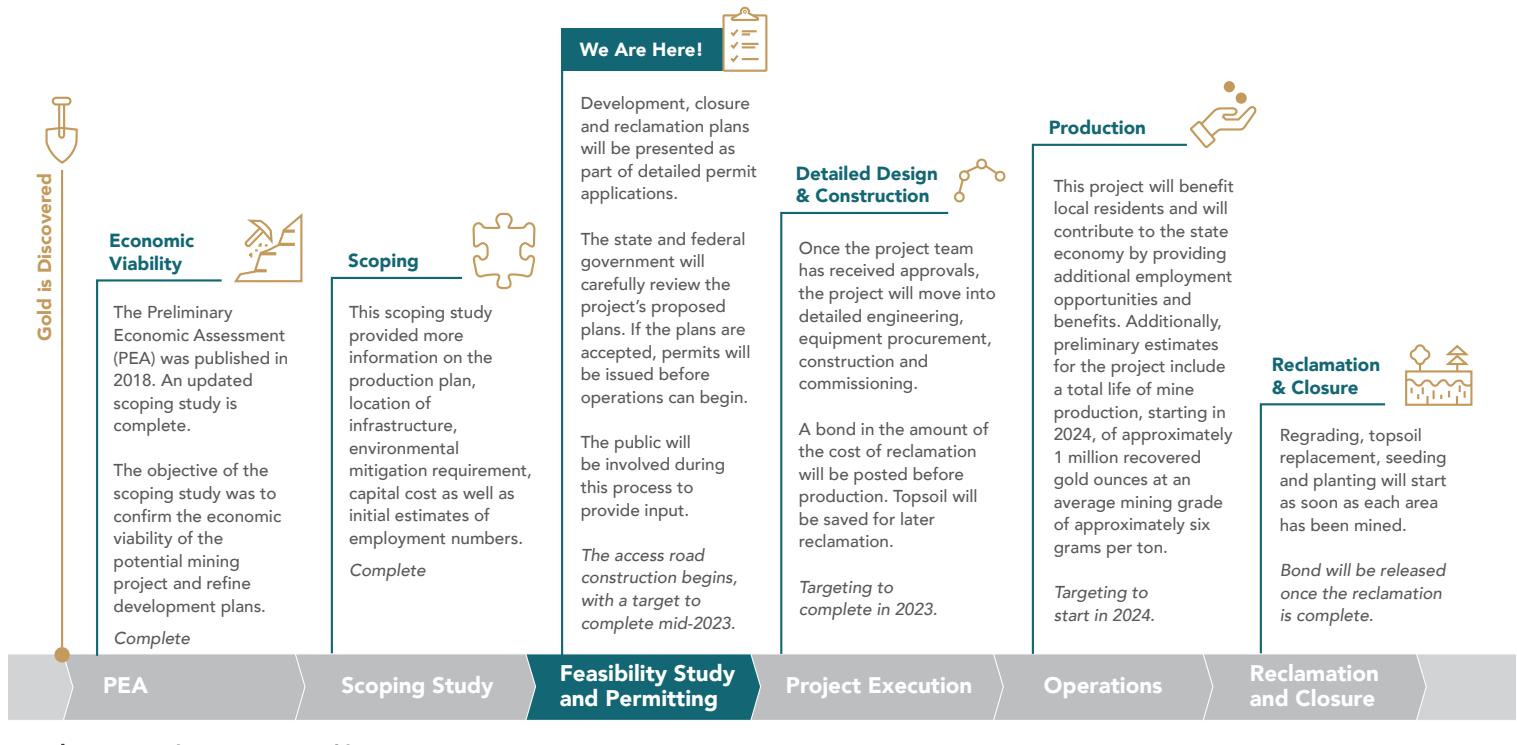
A team of environmental technicians travels via helicopter to remote sample points.

JUST THE Facts

There are a lot of wild numbers flying around about our rock-hauling plan – like how many trucks will be on the road. We've been able to optimize our trucking operation to an average of 60 trips per day – or 2.5 trips per hour.

Spring 2023

PROJECT TIMELINE



KINROSS

Manh Choh

A JV with Contango ORE

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