

Summer 2023

MANH CHOH NEWSLETTER

Breaking ground at Manh Choh are, left to right, Shane Parrow, Manh Choh Operations Director; Kathleen Grandy, Kinross Senior VP, Human Resources; Geoff Gold, Kinross Executive VP, Corporate Development, External Relations & Chief Legal Officer; Claude Schimper, Kinross Executive VP and COO; Governor Michael Dunleavy; Paul Rollinson, Kinross President and CEO; Chief Michael Sam, Tetlin; Terence Watungwa, Kinross Alaska VP and GM; Rick Van Nieuwenhuysse, Contango President, CEO and Director and Tyler Bruce, Manh Choh Project Director.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Marks Beginning of Mining Operations



Paul Rollinson, President and CEO of Kinross, and Alaska small miner Roger Burggraf.

"Now that the mine is a reality, this project is a model example to others."

"There were a lot of positives that made this the right decision," said Tetlin Chief Michael Sam. "Local hire and a chance for

Trust, collaboration, responsible development. These were the words used repeatedly August 29 when about 100 guests gathered at Manh Choh for a groundbreaking ceremony that officially marked the beginning of mining operations at Alaska's newest mine.

"You've created a model here that others can follow," said Gov. Mike Dunleavy.

generational change will allow us to keep our traditions alive and provide much needed revenue."

"We promised local hire, we made contributions to the university and we are building an elder care center. It's part of that listening to the Elders that directed that project," said Paul Rollinson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Kinross, which is the mine operator and 70% owner.

"We met, we listened, we followed through with our commitments," said Rick Van Nieuwenhuysse, President and CEO of Contango ORE, which owns 30% of the project.

Festivities began at 11 a.m. when participants met in Tok for a motorcoach trip to the mine. The governor joined the group at the mine and everyone returned to Tok for an all-Alaska lunch. A celebration with the Tetlin tribal council is scheduled for later this month.

A celebration with the entire village took place later in September.

Community Member Elder Spotlight: Ida Joe



Ms. Ida Joe

Although she now resides in Tok, Ms. Ida Joe was born and raised in the Native Village of Tetlin. Now an Elder, Ms. Ida has witnessed the transformation of Tetlin even if, to some, not much has changed. Ms. Ida recalls as a young girl growing up, the only way into the village was by boat (late spring-early fall) or sled dog (in the winter). "There were no roads or snow-gos. We didn't leave Tetlin often, and when we did, we had to load up the sleds." Life then was tougher, she said, but with a big smile, she recalls the fun times of summers spent with her grandmother at Big John Hill (named after her grandfather), learning to snare rabbits and running around the lake.

Ms. Ida was married to former Tetlin Chief Donald Joe until his passing in 1992. Together they gave many years of service to their community through her husband's leadership as Chief and multiple businesses, including a clothing store, grocery store and repair shop. As an Elder who has experienced great change in her lifetime, such as the building of the road into Tetlin, she is pragmatic yet hopeful for the next generation. "I don't know what change will come with Manh Choh; we can't know the future. I do hope in the future, Tetlin will have new housing and running water for those who live there. But the kids now should learn our language and skills from the Elders no matter what, that should live on."

Maasee (thank you), Ms. Ida Joe, for sharing your story.



Employee Spotlight: Manh Choh Team Grows Larger

The HR team is growing by one! Jill Yrjana has been working for Manh Choh since September of last year in Admin Services and is transitioning into HR. She will be your local go-to person. Her husband also works for the project in the security department. The duo are lifelong Alaskans. Mike was born in Sitka and Jill was born in Glennallen when her family was living in Northway. Due to Mike's career in the U.S. Coast Guard, they have enjoyed spending the last 30 years living in Tok, Valdez, Kodiak and Cordova.

In her spare time, Jill loves spending time outdoors picking berries and fishing.

She is the youngest of nine children born in rural Alaska. They wanted 12 children but stopped at perfection. After living on the rainy Alaska coast, Jill loves the sunny days with sudden thunderstorms of the Interior.

Community Advisory Committee Kick Off

The goal of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is to help act as a sounding board and to be a direct channel of communication to the local communities and the project.

The Manh Choh CAC is the first to have been created in the project phase. The group is made up of diverse community members from different backgrounds which will allow many different perspectives to be brought to light. The 10-person group – which represents the communities of Mentasta, Tanacross, Tok, Tetlin, Northway and Delta Junction – will meet six times a year to touch on new project development and to help share community feedback with the Manh Choh team. Some items that will be brought up at the next meeting include local employment and training opportunities to help local job seekers. This is a very important objective for the Manh Choh team, which aims to hire as many local personnel as possible and to encourage youth to participate in training that will boost their skills for when they join the workforce.



Meet the Newest Member of the Manh Choh Community Relations Team

Lisa is a longtime Alaska resident who has lived in Tok since 1970. She has been an active member in the community serving on the Alaska Gateway School District School Board, Fire Department Board, Tok Community Umbrella Corporation and the Tok Lions Club of which she is still a member. She has one son who was born and raised in Glennallen, who is now a sergeant for the Alaska State Troopers and currently stationed in Bethel.

Lisa says her favorite thing about Tok is that as a small community, everyone helps one another. Her favorite pastime is being in the garden tending her flowers.

Tok Community Library

This year Manh Choh was able to partner with the Tok Community Library to help support the 2023 summer reading program. The Tok Community Library is operated by the Tok Community Library Association, a nonprofit corporation that holds public board meetings once per quarter.

The Tok Community Library supplies free public library services for the community and contains all types of information as it attempts to meet recreational, cultural, educational, commercial and informational reading needs.

Manh Choh not only donated financially but also purchased a laptop to be raffled off as the children finish the reading challenge. The library will have three summer events to promote reading. During these 2023 events, themed "Find Your Voice," each participant is encouraged to log their reading time in hours which enters each participant into a raffle drawing for prizes.

Good Turnout at Summer Job Fairs

Some 50-60 residents from Tok, Tetlin, Mentasta, Tanacross and Northway attended one of the five job fairs Manh Choh hosted in June with business partner Conam.

HR was able to sit down with attendees and help them walk through business partner employment options.

If you are interested in a job, go to ManhChoh.com and look under Careers.



May and June MAPTS Local Graduates

This group of MAPTS graduates participated in a pilot project at the Delta Mine Training Center to train area residents for good-paying jobs at Manh Choh. Funded by a \$300,000 grant from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the training covered skills necessary for employment at the mine, as well as employability skills that can be transferable over a participant's career not only in mining but in any career path they choose to pursue in the future. Pictured here with their graduation certificates are Tiffany Silas, Tetlin; Michael Thompson, Peter McManus, Riley Young and Martin Peet, Tok; and Rocky Pitka, Albert Sam and Val Craig, Northway.



Governor Visit

Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy visited Tok on June 21, along with Tok area Representative Mike Cronk. Much of the governor's time was spent chatting with community members and visiting local businesses, including the Kinross Manh Choh campus.

Operations Director Shane Parrow and Projects Director Tyler Bruce welcomed the governor and led the Manh Choh campus tour. The campus, a renovated hotel, now houses a main building with offices, meeting rooms, a gym, a dining hall and sleeping quarters on a separate part of the campus's footprint. During the tour, Dunleavy briefly met with a group of five local hires from each project department.

We appreciate the governor's attendance and the opportunity to learn more about Manh Choh's investments in community partnership and local employability and training. Our representatives talked about the MAPTS grant, which has graduated two classes, including eight students from the Tetlin, Tok and Northway areas who are now employed through the project, and reported on our trucking progress. To conclude the visit, we invited Dunleavy to future events, including Community BBQs in Tok and Delta Junction in late July.



Governor Dunleavy and Representative Cronk visit with Kinross Alaska staff in Tok.

Trucks Beginning to Arrive at Black Gold Transport

Preparations for the transportation of Manh Choh ore to Fort Knox are advancing well. Progress on building the access road from the Alaska highway to the mine site is expected to be completed near the end of the third quarter of this year. Construction at the mine site commenced at the end of May, beginning with tree clearing and stockpiling of topsoil, then moving towards the development of water management systems and pads for the site infrastructure and loadout areas. With pad construction complete, shops, scales, offices, communications and other infrastructure needed to operate the mine will be finished.

The transportation team is also growing, and planned operations readiness activities are progressing on schedule. Longtime Tok resident Johnny Grafft recently joined the team as the Ore Transportation General Foreman and will help Ore Transportation Superintendent Derek Lakey to oversee the transportation and site access road operations at the Manh Choh end of the route. Anna McCarthy also joined the operations team in March in the role of operations contract analyst. In her short time with the team, Anna has been instrumental in helping to establish our systems for managing our contracts, beginning with our transportation business partner, all while learning the nuances of the mining industry and operating practices.

Fabrication of the new Kenworth T880 trucks and side dump trailers is progressing well. Most of the trucks have already arrived in Alaska, and the rest are on schedule to be delivered over the coming months. Trailer fabrication is also progressing well. Extensive testing of the first set of trailers was completed at the manufacturer's facility to ensure it met all specifications, and the set has now been delivered to Black Gold Transport (BGT). The fabrication and testing of the remaining sets of trailers is moving forward according to plan. Trailer deliveries will be spread out into the first half of 2024 but are on schedule to be ready for service ahead of the scheduled production ramp-up.

BGT, our transportation business partner, has been expanding its team and facilities as it moves toward operations. BGT's community relations, human relations, safety, operations and maintenance teams have all been adding new staff, building their respective work plans and ramping up their readiness activities. BGT has added a new office facility to house the expanded operation, brought in a small housing facility that will allow drivers time to find suitable permanent housing in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and are working to relocate their existing Black Gold Express operation to a new location down the road.

BGT is also beginning orientation runs using the new truck/trailer combination now that a complete set has arrived. Prior to the orientation runs commencing, extensive pre-operational setup and inspection has taken place to ensure the trucks are fully outfitted and ready for operations. Plans currently call for the trips to begin with empty trailers, then cargo will be added as the runs progress. These trips will help familiarize drivers with the route, fine-tune schedules, confirm cycle time estimates and provide operational data such as fuel consumption, as well as identify any adjustments needed and allow the new trucks an easier break-in period.



Black Gold Transport's new Kenworth T880 trucks.

Production transportation will commence once a few key components are in place. These include the installation and commissioning of the scale facility at Manh Choh, completion of driver preparation and training, stockpiling of mined ore for transport and completion of the delivery site at Fort Knox. Specific dates are yet to be defined as the schedule is subject to construction progress, but transportation of ore is expected to begin by the end of 2023 at a low rate and steadily increase until full production is achieved in the second half of 2024.

TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY

- Plan for an average of 60 round trips per day; a truck either direction every 10-15 minutes
- Highway trucks will pull two covered side-dump trailers; they are purpose-built to maximize safety and efficiency
- Total vehicle length is 95' similar to double fuel and cargo trailers used in Alaska today
- Trucks will use new, high-efficiency, low-emissions engines that meet latest EPA 2021 (Tier 4 comparable) emissions standards
 - Using engines meeting this standard reduces PM 2.5 emissions by 90% compared to the prior standard
- Payload of about 50 tons and total gross vehicle weight will be about 80 tons per vehicle
- Truck/trailer combinations have 16 axles and 36 tires
- We continue to work closely with Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT) from the beginning to make sure we conform to safe and legal loads
- DOT is planning up to 10 new passing lanes along the transport route

Graduation Celebration

The village of Tetlin had six high school graduates this year and the Manh Choh team was excited to see their next steps. Manh Choh values the community members and all their achievements. The graduates were invited to a special luncheon up at the campus, where they each were awarded a new laptop and a gold pan award to mark their achievements. Congratulations to Cody Charlie, Daniel Maynard, Jr., Illona (Illy) Debler, Peter Mark, Raymond Titus and Christian Albert.

*Shane Parrow, Manh Choh Operations Director,
with Christian Albert and Brenna Schaake.*



Tok Fourth of July Festivities



Every Fourth of July, the Tok community comes together for a day full of activities, starting with a parade, BBQ contest and an outhouse race, all while live music and carnival games keep the festival lively. During the parade this year, Manh Choh workers passed out cold popsicles to children and adults alike, on the nearly 80-degree day.

Manh Choh was able to provide food for the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge Committee fundraiser at the annual Fourth of July BBQ. The partnership raised nearly \$2,000 for next year's festivities. The leadership team grilled up lunch and served over 300 people. Each community member helped themselves to a hamburger or hotdog, chips, drink and cold watermelon while enjoying the celebrations.



*Billy Whalen, Shane Parrow, Pete Onoszko
and Shane Hanninen on the grill at the
annual Fourth of July celebration.*

JUST THE Facts

We've worked hard to optimize our trucking operation to an average of 60 trips per day – or 2.5 trips per hour. Our trucking partner, Black Gold Transport, is headquartered in the Fairbanks/North Pole area and has 36 years of experience and an outstanding safety record driving under extreme conditions. For more project facts, visit JustTheFactsAK.com.



Manh Choh Update

Mine access road continues to progress.

Road Update

The Tetlin Twin Road, completed late last year, is now open and being used as the primary access point from the Alaska Highway to the mine site as the approach from the highway onto the new road is now complete. The security checkpoint is installed and functional, and the crossing of the Tetlin road is now controlled and in place. This has allowed us to remove mine traffic from the Tetlin Road and repair and improve the village road from Mile 0 to Mile 1, where the intersection with the mine road exists.

The mine access road is now substantially complete.

Mine Construction Update

Project business partner Kiewit is on-site and has been busy completing the main mine road, water catchment systems and the infrastructure and ore load-out pads.

Campus Update

The campus is fully functional and is up and running with both Manh Choh and business partners personnel staying on campus. So far, there have been many good reviews about the gym facility and dining experience. The personnel administration offices are fully functioning as well. Afognak, the campus catering services business partner, manages and maintains the catering services contract at the campus with responsibilities that include providing meals, cleaning services and room preparation for the 175 rooms.



Early brush clearing in preparation for road construction.



Mine equipment mobilization to the Manh Choh construction laydown area.

Environmental Update

It was a busy summer for the Kinross Manh Choh environmental team.



A Manh Choh environmental team member scouts an old burn area for new nest activity.

service to scout the area before the crew and equipment can begin brush cutting or doing dirt work. A grid pattern is developed for each area, then rain or shine, the team heads out and hiking begins. Lots of hours and miles on foot are put into navigating the boreal forests, old burn areas with blown-down trees and marshy lowlands in any bird activity to ensure the nests and birds are protected.



Clearing crews are always looking for an extra hand (or paw) checking each grid.



In addition to the many year-round, site-specific inspections of the mine project, May 1-July 15 is the annual window for bird nesting observations. Originating from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the federal U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service established this policy to protect all migratory songbirds, raptors and any endangered or threatened species.

Annually, the environmental team assists a third-party contractor/consulting

While in the field during spring and summer months, there are more frequent wildlife sightings and encounters. Awareness is especially important for the personnel who are the front runners (environmental, surveying, exploration) to the remote areas because they have boots on the ground before other employees and equipment arrive.

Bears, moose and porcupine have also been encountered when in the field, all with a positive interaction.

With views like these, there are nothing but happy days hiking the beautiful Tetlin Hills in search of feathered friends that sing.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Gold is Discovered



Economic Viability



The Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) was published in 2018. An updated scoping study is complete.

The objective of the scoping study was to confirm the economic viability of the potential mining project and refine development plans.

Complete

Scoping



This scoping study provided more information on the production plan, location of infrastructure, environmental mitigation requirement, capital cost as well as initial estimates of employment numbers.

Complete

Feasibility and permitting



Development, closure and reclamation plans will be presented as part of detailed permit applications.

The state and federal government will carefully review the project's proposed plans. If the plans are accepted, permits will be issued before operations can begin.

The public will be involved during this process to provide input.

The access road construction begins, with a target to complete mid-2023.

We Are Here!



Detailed Design & Construction

Once the project team has received approvals, the project will move into detailed engineering, equipment procurement, construction and commissioning.

A bond in the amount of the cost of reclamation will be posted before production. Topsoil will be saved for later reclamation.

Targeting to complete in 2023.

Production



This project will benefit local residents and will contribute to the state economy by providing additional employment opportunities and benefits. Additionally, preliminary estimates for the project include a total life of mine production, starting in 2024, of approximately 1 million recovered gold ounces at an average mining grade of approximately six grams per ton.

Targeting to start in 2024.

Reclamation & Closure



Regrading, topsoil replacement, seeding and planting will start as soon as each area has been mined.

Bond will be released once the reclamation is complete.

PEA

Scoping Study

Feasibility Study and Permitting

Project Execution

Operations

Reclamation and Closure

Continual Monitoring & Public Engagement

KINROSS

Manh Choh

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