

Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Reclamation Practices

Judy St. Amand¹

Mining Lands, Energy Mines and Resources

St. Amand, J., 2008. Robert E. Leckie Awards for Outstanding Reclamation Practices. *In: Yukon Exploration and Geology 2007*, D.S. Emond, L.R. Blackburn, R.P. Hill and L.H. Weston (eds.), Yukon Geological Survey, p. 85-88.

QUARTZ RECLAMATION

YUKON NEVADA GOLD CORPORATION

Yukon Nevada Gold Corporation is the recipient of the 2007 Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Quartz Reclamation Practices. They are conducting a large drill program in the Ketzra River area near Ross River.

The company has worked hard to design a vigorous cleanup program for this previously abandoned site. Their reclamation efforts include removing waste petroleum, contaminants and chemicals from the site; disposing of 600 empty barrels, removing 100 truckloads of trash, and eliminating scrap metal from waste sites (Fig. 1).

In addition to this waste-removal program, Yukon Nevada Gold has resloped and seeded three waste dump areas, as well as cleaned up the mill, and removed several old buildings. An incinerator now replaces the landfill, and the company has taken an assertive stance with their operators to ensure that sumps are in place for every drill site.

This award recognizes Yukon Nevada Gold's progressive policies and unwavering efforts to reclaim this mine site.



Figure 1. Overview of the Yukon Nevada Gold Corp. site at Ketzra River after removal of tonnes of debris and much reclamation.

¹judy.stamand@gov.yk.ca

HONOURABLE MENTION: Selwyn Resources Ltd. has received an honourable mention for their project at Howard's Pass which straddles the border of Yukon and Northwest Territories. The company carried out an aggressive exploration drilling program in this area to aid in their feasibility study. The majority of the work was done in the Yukon.

This award recognizes this company's commitment to integrate progressive environmental and socio-economic practices into its operations.

Selwyn Resources used very modern equipment and sampling techniques to collect high-quality data for 18 environmental baseline studies, and they also have involved the Kaska Tribal Council in their 'hands-on' environmental fieldwork (Fig. 2). Selwyn Resources has also made significant contributions to Dechen la Camp in order to develop environmental awareness for over 20 young people within the Territory. The company's well rounded programs and 'best practices' are undoubtedly an asset to the mining industry.



Figure 2. Selwyn Resources Ltd.'s site has been bio-engineered using willows collected from the property. This is one of several areas where these methods have been used for site stability.

PLACER RECLAMATION

NO NAME RESOURCES INC.

No Name Resources Inc. is the 2007 recipient of the 2007 Robert E. Leckie Award for Outstanding Placer Reclamation Practices. The company has been placer mining at Ten Mile and Thirteen Mile creeks in the Dawson mining district since 2003.

Brent and Rosemary Pasareno took over several properties, which had been mined by previous operators

since the 1970s, when no legislation existed to encourage reclamation practices.

They have cleaned both areas, and removed abandoned equipment, tanks and debris to a single storage yard for each site. They have sloped and contoured old mining works and camp areas, rehabilitating the two sites so they can now revegetate naturally (Fig. 3). They are considered exemplary operators.



Figure 3. This is one of the sites where No Name Resources Inc. has removed the abandoned debris remaining from many years of placer operations. The site has been resloped and contoured in preparation for natural revegetation.

HONOURABLE MENTION: Ross Mining Ltd. received an honourable mention for the work they are doing on Dominion Creek near Dawson City. Jon Rudolph has continued this company's tradition of responsible and exemplary reclamation works since becoming president.

At this site, stripping, mining and reclamation occur concurrently. The disturbed area is carefully contoured and topsoil is spread to encourage rapid revegetation (Fig. 4). There are extensive areas that are reclaimed with healthy regrowth. Reclaimed areas are aesthetically pleasing and complement the natural valley landscape.

In a pilot project with other private sector partners, Ross Mining is working to establish and market Yukon placer gold as a 'green' product; gold that is mined and produced using the highest environmental and human rights standards. This additional incentive could effect change in the placer industry as a whole and demonstrates the exemplary practices of Ross Mining Ltd.



Figure 4. Ross Mining Ltd. have dumped topsoil for spreading on this sloped and contoured previously mined site.