



The Gold Links Mine above Ohio City, east of Gunnison, is pictured here.

Courtesy

Mining companies targeting rich resource near Ohio City

Drilling proposed at Gold Links Mine

Will Shoemaker
Times Editor

Exploratory drilling is planned at a historic gold mine east of Gunnison which in recent years has caught the attention of an Australian company. CRG Mining has filed a minor land-use change application for drilling above the Gold Links Mine near Ohio City.

The Gold Links, tucked along a hillside east of Gold Creek, was once owned by Colorado mining kingpin Albert E. Reynolds but for the last few decades has been operated by Gunnison's Bob Gydesen and his company, CRG. In recent years, Dateline Resources Limited of Sydney, Australia has entered the picture, acquiring the Gold Links as well as historic Raymond and Carter mines just downstream on Gold Creek.

Dateline and CRG have entered a partnership to extract the valuable resource.

"Dateline was attracted to the Gold Links project because it has the characteristics of an overlooked large regional gold system," the company's website states. "Dateline views the Gold Links, Raymond and Carter mines as being a part of a single large mineralized system and believes there is considerable value to be unlocked by approaching future exploration from this perspective."

According to the "Hills Gulch Exploration Project" description, drilling would take place on approximately 150 acres of private land at 20 separate

locations. CRG plans to drill as many as 40 drill holes four inches in diameter. Actual total surface disturbance is estimated to be approximately 1.7 acres.

"The pads would accommodate multiple drill sites," attorney Jacob With told Gunnison County Planning Commission on Friday, Jan. 4, noting a web of roads that already exist in the area. "They would be spurs essentially off of those roads."

The drilling is intended to extract cores for analysis in determining the location of gold which would then be mined underground.

"The purpose of this application is really about proving the resume of the mine," With said. "They're trying to find where that gold is at. ... Really, the purpose of it is to allow the owner to mine in a very targeted way."

Dateline notes that technology has advanced to a point in which "high-grade targets" can be identified much more easily and quickly than what was possible a few decades ago. CRG estimates waste associated with each drill hole would equate to "dirt and rock that looks about like what you would expect if someone dumped a small wheelbarrow of dirt," the application states.

Afterward, the drill sites would be reclaimed. CRG is simultaneously pursuing required state permits for the exploration work.

"If we do 20 holes, we're probably looking at 40 days," said CRG Manager Jake Wilkinson, adding that the work would start as early as this coming June if conditions allow.

Dateline draws contrast between the Gold Links and "typical" gold mines.

"Many gold mines are open

pit mines that process substantial amounts of raw materials in order to realize a small percentage of gold," according to the company. "The Gold Links Mine has a small ore body that is very high quality."

Dateline notes that two known veins at the Gold Links have been mined intermittently since 1885.

The project produced \$600,000 worth of gold and silver from the "Sacramento Zone" by the end of 1904, valued today at about \$60 million, according to Dateline. Additionally, the separate Gold Links vein produced \$53 million by today's value of gold and silver by the end of 1912. At one time, there were 250 miners working at the Gold Links.

Since acquiring the Gold Links in 2016, Dateline has developed an 850-foot "decline" — or tunnel to expose the vein.

"Exploration from within the Reynolds decline has been successful," Dateline states. "Numerous drill holes have intersected gold mineralization grades of over 60 grams per tonne and the channel sampling has returned similar grades."

CRG's Wilkinson indicated that mining at the Gold Links has been at a standstill since this past June — leading the partners to instead pursue the exploration project to get a better handle on the exact location of the resource underground.

"It's got potential," Wilkinson said. "But you've got to go about it the right way."

A public hearing on CRG's application is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 1.

(Will Shoemaker can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or at editor@gunnisontimes.com.)



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