

John King

From: John King
Sent: 27 November 2007 18:25
To: Fiona McGuinness
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Mr Harry Hughes, dated 21/11/2007, re. a notice in the Connaught Telegraph
Attachments: Harry Hughes 21-11-2007.pdf

Hi Fiona

Could you check with Brindley's and see what the circulation figures are for the papers in Mayo?
Thanks.

John K.

From: Stjohn O'Connor
Sent: 22 November 2007 13:13
To: John King
Cc: Neill Guha; Fiona McGuinness
Subject: FW: Correspondence from Mr Harry Hughes, dated 21/11/2007, re. a notice in the Connaught Telegraph

John,

Can you prepare a response and ask Brindley's to send us the circulation figures for all of the local papers in order for us to re-consider how these notices are issued. As Croagh Patrick is excluded from the prospecting licence it may well be that the appropriate paper is the Connaught Tribune.

Regards,

Stjon

Stjohn O'Connor
Principal
Exploration and Mining Division
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
t: +353-1-678 2513
e: stjohn.oconnor@dcenr.gov.ie
w: www.emd.ie / www.minex.ie
See our spatial data @ www.dcenr.ie/Spatial+Data/DCENR+Spatial+Data.htm

From: Neill Guha
Sent: 22 November 2007 12:18
To: Stjohn O'Connor
Cc: Michael Enright; Brian Breslin
Subject: Correspondence from Mr Harry Hughes, dated 21/11/2007, re. a notice in the Connaught Telegraph

StJohn,

Please see attached for appropriate attention correspondence from Mr Harry Hughes, dated 21/11/2007.

Regards,
Neill

Neill Guha
Minister's Office

14/12/2007

Fiona McGuinness

From: Fiona McGuinness
Sent: 29 November 2007 12:41
To: 'info@brindleyadv.ie'
Subject: File 268/1
Attachments: Ad-MA268-1-pla2641,2397,2398,3975,3976,2306,2226,3972,3973,3974,3977-25102007.dot

Ref: 268/1

29th November 2007

**Mr. Alan Barnewell
Brindley Advertising Ltd.
Brindley House
17, Upper Mount St.
Dublin 2.**

Dear Alan,

I enclose a copy of an advertisement regarding the Minister's intention to grant Prospecting Licences over certain lands in Co. Mayo for insertion in the issue of 4th December 2007 of the following newspapers :-

Western People and Mayo News

It is requested that a copy of the advertisement, if it has appeared correctly in the newspaper, be forwarded to this office within 14 days of it being published.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Mc Guinness
Exploration and Mining Division
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Leeson lane
Dublin 2
Phone: 00 353 1 6782668
Fax 00 3531 6783479

John King

From: Mark Holdstock [mholdstock@aurumexploration.com]
Sent: 31 January 2008 13:17
To: John King
Cc: John Pyne; Fiona McGuinness; psweeneyfs@eircom.net; wsrobb@aurumexploration.com; 'Niall Corrigan'
Subject: Mayo's Gold
Attachments: John King 310108.pdf

Dear John,

Please find attached a letter on behalf of Mayo's Gold in relation to the objections raised to the issue of Prospecting Licences in Co. Mayo.

We are well aware of the strength of feelings from a minority in the area and the genuine concerns related to the environment. However we believe that the Minister should allow us the opportunity to demonstrate that exploration can be carried out without undue impact. The State has many organizations, such as yourselves, who we will be working with to ensure everything is done properly. If we can show that the project Mayo's Gold has conceived is financially viable, then we must demonstrate to the relevant authorities how extraction and processing can also be achieved with minimal disturbance. The size of the area under application has obviously made people suspicious and allowed a lot of misinformed negative sentiment. Mayo's Gold would consider withdrawing applications over the wider area (and focusing on 4-5 PL's) if we could reach some agreement with the Department that other companies or individuals would not be able to lodge applications.

I will ring you tomorrow to discuss this further and find out what time scale we are looking at before the Minister will be in a position to decide on the approval of the applications.

With best regards

Mark Holdstock Ph.D. PGeo EurGeol
Managing Director

Aurum Exploration Services
Unit S-C Kells Business Park
Virginia Road, Kells,
County Meath
Ireland

Tel. +353 46 929 3278
Fax. +353 46 929 3277
Mob. + 353 87 608 5389

We are confident that, given the opportunity, we will be able to show that both exploration and future small scale mining can be carried out in harmony with the environment, leading to a new type of tourist attraction to the area. Clearly the onus will be on Mayo's Gold to show, through their actions, that this is their sole intention.

On behalf of Mayo's Gold Limited
Yours sincerely,



Dr. Mark P. Holdstock

cc. Mr Tom O'Gorman, Mr. Paul Sweeney

individual landowners REPS plans. There will be a number of regulatory bodies overseeing all the work that we propose and undertake to ensure that we carry it out in an environmentally responsible manner. Any issues relating to potential water pollution related to exploration drilling we will address with EMD and, if required, the Department of Fisheries.

The vast majority of issues raised objecting to the granting of the Prospecting Licences refers to situations and activities which are not part of the exploration programme and would only become a factor should a mining operation be given planning permission by Mayo County Council. For this to happen would require approval of an Integrated Pollution Control Licence from the EPA which would safeguard the environment from all the potential impacts of alleged "toxic chemicals" or "wind-borne poisonous rock residue". Issues such as local infrastructure, roads, visual impact would also be fully addressed in any planning application. It is intended to work closely with the local people, local authorities and the EPA from the project design stage to ensure we have a robust programme in place. The draft County Development Plan 2007 makes detailed provisions for "Extractive Industries, section 4.10.4."

Clearly the Minister's statement "Granting a licence carries an implicit policy agreement permitting extraction should a viable prospect be discovered" is being taken out of context and we fully understand that any future mining operation would only be possible once all the proper approvals were obtained.

The size of the area to be explored has obviously caused some concern but as we have previously stated in our submission to the Department our interest is focused but we wish to protect the concept of what we hope to do and from others who might want to try to develop a more traditional mining operation in the area. We are also determined that the project should be sustainable, which ties in with one of the Economic Development Aims of the Mayo County Development plan which states: "To ensure the county's natural resources are managed and developed in a sustainable manner that will ensure they can be enjoyed by future generations".

We trust that the Minister will accept that the vast majority of responses have raised issues that are not relevant to the issuing of a Prospecting Licence and will allow Mayo's Gold to proceed with their proposed exploration work. When the time comes to discuss extraction of the gold and the handling of waste rock, we will have had the opportunity to examine all the options and present a considered plan on how this can be achieved in balance with the environment. We believe that there are ample and effective State bodies to monitor the exploration work we will be doing and ensure compliance to best industry practice and principles of any future mining operation that successfully obtains planning permission.



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Unit S/C, Kells Business Park,
Virginia Road,
Kells,
Co. Meath, Ireland.

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Fax: +353 (0) 46 929 3277
eml: info@aurumexploration.com

31st January 2008

Mr John King
Assistant Principal
Exploration & Mining Division
Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
Beggars Bush
Haddington Road
Dublin 2

Re: Mayo's Gold Prospecting Licence Applications

Dear John,

On behalf of Mayo's Gold Limited I have reviewed the letters forwarded to the Minister in regard to the issuing of Prospecting Licences in Mayo.

The main objections to the granting of Prospecting Licences appear to fall under the potential environmental impact of a new mining operation and the Minister's recent statement on the granting of Prospecting Licences carrying "an implicit policy agreement permitting extraction".

Mayo's Gold Limited believes that none of the objections raised by members of the public should impact on the granting of the Prospecting Licences that are currently under application.

The exploration work that will be carried out will be principally drilling and sampling. As responsible explorers, Mayo's Gold will follow all the guidelines and regulations laid down by the Exploration & Mining Division. Any work that is proposed within an SAC / NHA must first be approved by the National Parks and Wildlife Department and will be subject to an area specific EIS to ensure that even exploration work will cause no impact and mitigate against any potential risks. We will also be working with the Department of Agriculture to ensure that we work within the guidelines of the REPS scheme and

We are confident that, given the opportunity, we will be able to show that both exploration and future small scale mining can be carried out in harmony with the environment, leading to a new type of tourist attraction to the area. Clearly the onus will be on Mayo's Gold to show, through their actions, that this is their sole intention.

On behalf of Mayo's Gold Limited
Yours sincerely,

M.P. Holdstock

Dr. Mark P. Holdstock

cc. Mr Tom O'Gorman, Mr. Paul Sweeney

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31st January 2008

Mr John King
Assistant Principal
Exploration & Mining Division
Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
Beggars Bush
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* denotes specific rather than "generalised" points, to be addressed by the applicant company.

No.	Name & Address	Positive	"No adverse environmental effects"	"Good for tourism/ employment"
114	Patrick McDonnell Mullagh Louisburgh Westport	Yes		
115	Malone family Kinvarry? Killavalla Westport	Yes		
116 117	Harry M Byrne & Maureen Byrne Allimore Louisburgh	Yes	Yes	
118	Cian O Moráin c.moran14@ nuigalway.ie	Yes	Yes	Yes
119	Marc Heine 39 Montgomery Rd London W4 5LZ	Yes	Yes	Yes
120	Eithne Larkin Chairperson Westport Tidy Town Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes
121	Robert Kilkelly Chairman Westport RFC Carrowholly Westport (on behalf of members)	Yes	Yes	Yes