

Waihi North Project

NOISE EFFECTS

OVERVIEW

Since 1987, when modern mining began in Waihi, a range of controls has been implemented to minimise the impact of noise. If the Waihi North Project is approved, we will be required to manage our activities to comply with strict noise limits set through the regulatory approval process. They will be designed so that we cause minimal impact to our neighbours.

KEY EFFECTS

There are a number of activities associated with the Waihi North Project that may generate noise:

- Excavation, conveying, and transportation of rock and ore.
- Drilling and blasting operations.
- Construction activities associated with the project, e.g. the construction of noise bunds, amenities, and buildings.
- Construction of the tunnels to access and transport rock and ore.
- Site works and run-of-mine activities.
- Rock Stack creation and removal.
- Construction of Tailings Storage Facility 3, including associated temporary quarrying activities.
- Construction of noise screening.

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The level of operational noise experienced in the community will depend on the following factors:

- Type, size, and operational duration of equipment.
- The location of the equipment.
- The amount of natural screening provided.
- The amount of additional noise screening constructed.
- Weather factors such as wind speed and direction.

Construction activities associated with the Waihi North Project will be of a temporary nature. They will be subject to different conditions to our mining activity. Where construction noise limits apply, we would be expected to meet requirements set out in our conditions, which apply to other similar construction activities, e.g. road works.

This will include the hours we are able to work. We expect noise limits will follow the Hauraki District Plan of 75dB during construction for the majority of operational hours. Once construction has been completed and mining commences, we expect noise limits of 50dB for the majority of day-time operational hours and 40 dB for any night-time operations.



MONITORING

In Waihi, baseline noise monitoring began prior to the commencement of the mining operation in 1987. A substantial database has been produced and monitoring is ongoing. Regular and systematic monitoring takes place at a number of locations approved by the Hauraki District Council. These monitoring locations have varied as mining activities have moved around the operation.

We expect strict regulatory noise limits to be implemented should the Waihi North Project be approved.

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

If the Waihi North Project is approved, there is a range of noise management measures we could utilise to ensure we meet any proposed consent conditions for noise.

These may include:

- Localised screening, including shrouds for drills.
- Acoustic cladding around potentially noisy plant or machinery.
- Equipment selection.
- Noise mitigation, such as mufflers, fitted to equipment.
- Regular checks and maintenance of equipment.
- The construction of noise screening, such as noise bunds, closed board fencing, or acoustic noise wall.
- Limiting the height of stockpiles.
- Management of activities undertaken at night.

Construction noise from activities such as building infrastructure and plant, noise bund earthworks, and other construction activities will be managed in accordance with the applicable construction noise standards that are widely applied throughout New Zealand.

NOISE COMPLAINT

OceanaGold Waihi has an established noise complaint management procedure that would also incorporate the Waihi North Project, if approved.

If a noise complaint is made to our 24/7, 0800 924 444 number, it will be followed up by a trained noise technician to ensure we are meeting our construction and mining noise consent requirements. If noise from a complaint is found to be excessive, the procedures outlined in our Noise Management Plan will be followed. If necessary, that activity will be stopped until appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place to resolve the noise issue.

CONCLUSION

The noise assessment for the Waihi North Project is part of our application.

This assessment uses recognised New Zealand experts to identify the best measures to effectively monitor and manage noise impacts.

The assessment indicates that with appropriate noise management measures being applied, the construction and operational noise levels would comply with parameters set out in the Hauraki District Plan.

INFORMATION ACCURATE AS AT NOVEMBER 2024

IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA, CONCERN OR QUESTION, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

You can contact us via our website; waihinorth.info or visit our Project Information Office; **86 Seddon Street, Waihi.**

Our Free Community Engagement Line **0800 924 444** is available 7 days.