

Mining at Project Martha



Left: Modern underground mining. In 'virgin ground' the ore body is mined 'bottom up'. As each layer of ore bearing rock is blasted and removed it is replaced by waste rock and the void where the ore was mined from is filled. Backfilling of the stopes is a consent requirement.

Consents

OceanaGold Waihi will soon apply for Resource Consent for Project Martha. The Consent Conditions will outline the various activities that can be undertaken by OceanaGold and will require the company as the consent holder to adhere to limits for noise and vibration, monitor all activities, and produce a range of regular reports. The consents will also specify activities such as backfilling and blast times.

Mining ore

Once the development drives have been constructed (see the information sheet *Project Martha Underground Development*) mining can begin. In virgin ground, this starts at the bottom of the ore body and works upwards. For Project Martha this means starting at around 300m deep and finishing no closer than about 100m below the surface. The ore is removed by blasting. A panel of ore up to 15m deep is drilled and blasted. As each layer of ore is removed the void is backfilled with surplus rock. 50 tonne mining machines drive over the backfill as they work upwards, so that by the time all of the ore is removed the stope has been filled and the ore replaced with rock by heavy machinery. This mining is known as stoping.

What if I own a property directly above the Project Martha ore body?

We will be applying for the same consent conditions as we currently work under at Correnso. At Correnso, at least three months before we start blasting beneath any part of a property above a stope (production blasting) we must offer to purchase the property at market value or, if the owner prefers, we will provide a payment equal to 5% of the market value of the property. If you, as a property owner above the Project Martha ore body elect to sell at market value you would also receive an inconvenience payment and assistance with legal and moving costs. We would also pay any financial institution mortgage break penalty fees associated with the property. Selling does not mean that you would need to move. If you wished to remain in the property you would be able to rent it back. If you decided to take the 5% ex gratia payment you could still choose at any time to have your house purchased by OceanaGold while mining was happening. These options were designed to provide flexibility for people who preferred to stay in their home but wanted the ability to move with a minimum of fuss if they wished to do so at a later date.

As a property owner, you would not have to accept either of these offers, but, if the same consent conditions are carried across, provided we have made these offers we would be allowed to commence mining activities beneath residential properties. Under the current consent conditions an independent third party is required to manage the property process. You would not be liaising with OceanaGold staff.