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Press Release

WOLVERINE MINE NOT MEETING ITS LICENSING CONDITIONS

The Yukon Conservation Society is concerned over the situation developing at the Wolverine Mine located in southeast Yukon. Recent media reports have stated that the current owner is in the process of selling the mine to another company. However, the owner has failed to meet the requirements of the site's Quartz Mining Licence and Water Licence.

These failures include not being able to provide adequate financial security of \$35,548,650, as determined under provisions of the Quartz Mining Licence. A mining company provides financial security to the Yukon Government to cover the risk of significant adverse environmental effects due to the mining operation. According to information on the Yukon Government website, only \$10,588,966 has been submitted. If the owner of the site abandons it, the financial security pays for the ongoing maintenance and site remediation. If the financial security is not adequate, taxpayers have to step in to pay the outstanding cost – in this case, an estimated \$24,959,684.

Of equal concern is the lack of reports being submitted to satisfy some of the requirements contained within the mine site's Water Licence. Monthly reporting from the site ceased being publicly available after March 2018. These reports detail surface and ground water results. The site's environmental ground and surface water situation is now unknown to the public.

Lewis Rifkind, the YCS Mining Analyst, commented "YCS urges the Yukon Government to ensure the owner of the Wolverine Mine site meets its Quartz Mining Licence and Water Licence conditions. If these are not met, the environmental and financial consequences will be extremely serious."

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For more information:

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