

SINOVA GLOBAL – COMMUNITY Q & A

May 6, 2025

- **What is the timeframe to begin extracting silica? When will operations begin?**

Currently there is some construction activity around our sites, which is generally related to work to upgrade our roads so as to enhance safety. The very limited extraction operating activities at the Horse Creek Quarry are planned to commence on or about July 1, 2025, and be completed within 30 days.

- **How much silica will be removed on a daily, weekly, or annual basis? (I am asking this because I would like to know the volume of truck traffic near my home, as well as traffic on the highway).**

The extraction operating activities at the Horse Creek Quarry for 2025 is a very limited operation, lasting likely less than 30 days. While long term production will vary over time, and be dependent upon our operational plans and volume needs, at this stage we are only conducting quality testing through a very small production run (approx. 10,000 tonnes). As we share a portion of access road with existing operators in the area such as Golden Concrete, it is important to differentiate our operation from others. However, given the relative scale of the respective operations, residents should not notice a significant change in activity in the area.

- **How often to they anticipate using explosives? How do they plan to mitigate the effects of blasting near residential areas?**

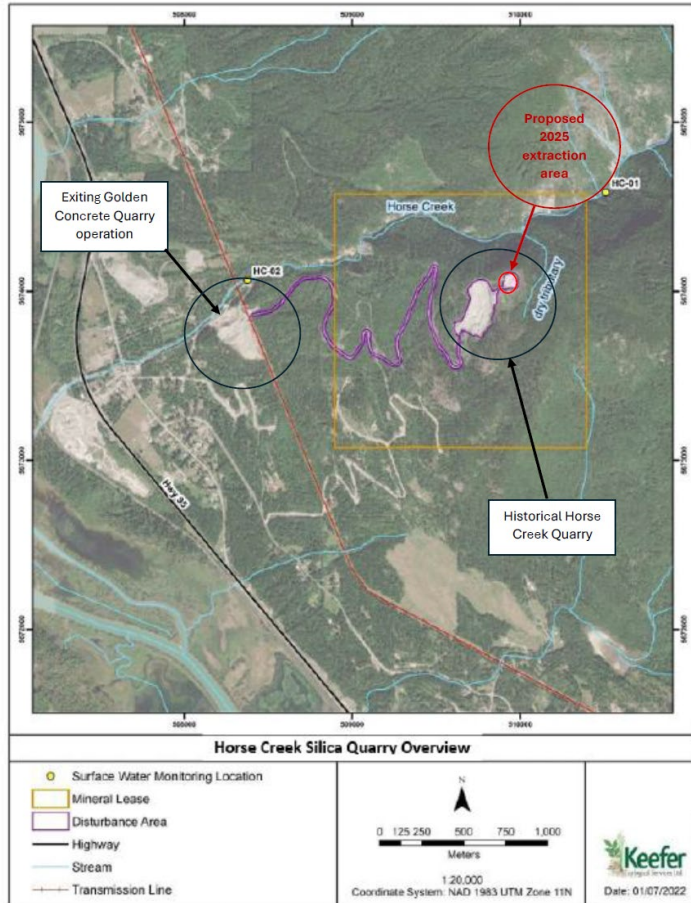
This will depend on our production schedule and the volume of material to be produced, which will vary over time. However, in 2025 we only anticipate a single blast for the production run. Pursuant to provincial OH&S guidelines, no residences are located within the required area for notifications prior to blasting. However, we do intend to and will endeavor to notify residences in proximity of any blasting activity 48 hours in advance, which notices should include: a description of the work to be done; the date and approximate time of blasting; duration of the operation; an explanation of the blasting signals to be used and the meaning of those signals; and contact details for the person in charge of the operation.

- **How do they plan to mitigate air pollution, noise pollution, and other impacts on local residents, as well as on the Columbia Wetlands?**

We have established extensive environmental management plans that address air quality, noise, and broader environmental impacts. All of these plans meet or exceed the requirements set by the BC Ministry of Mining, Critical Minerals and Low Carbon Innovation. They are designed to protect both local residents and sensitive ecosystems such as the Columbia Wetlands. These plans have been submitted to and accepted by the Ministry, and we are in process of adding the plans and/or summaries thereof to our website.

- **What area will be encompassed within their tenure for mining operations? (In one article, I saw a map showing that their claim extends above our property, almost to**

Golden. If I read the map correctly, the mine would border on our property, and that of other land owners in the near vicinity).



While there are numerous Mineral Claims stretching across Mount Wilson and the greater Mount Wilson Formation above Golden and Nicholson, our Mineral Lease is limited to the lease area shown in outlined in yellow on the attached map. In addition, our permit area for operation, is a smaller area within the Mineral Lease area (outlined in purple in the attached map). Lastly, the area of our 2025 extraction activity is shown in red in the attached map.

As a result, our extraction activities will be located well away from existing residences. Other existing quarry operations and extraction activities throughout the valley are located much closer to existing residences.

- **Can you provide a detailed map outlining their claim boundaries? (The map I was able to access was difficult to read, as the roads and topographical contour lines were blurred and unreadable).**

Please see the map and explanation provided above.

- **What is the anticipated timeline (in years) that the plant will operate?**

At this time, we cannot predict the number of years that rock may be extracted from the quarry site. For now, our plans involve only operating in the summer months, but long term this may expand due to need or demand.

- **Can you tell me if there was ever any public forums or information sessions available for local residents, prior to this project being approved?**

The Horse Creek Quarry was previously in operation from 1980 to 2005 under various owners and operators, and operating under the same permit. While in operation from 1980 to 1997, there was an estimated 861,192 tonnes of rock extracted. Production estimates from 1997 onward are not available. The current Mines Act Permit was issued in 1980, and amended in 2013. The current Mineral Lease was issued in 2000, and both the Mines Act Permit and Mineral Lease were acquired by the current owner in 2012.

While we do not have record of the public consultation at the time of the permit issuance in 1980, pursuant to the permitting requirements of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, the application dated June 2013 to amend and re-issue the existing permit was advertised both in the B.C. Gazette (The British Columbia Gazette -- July 18, 2013 (gov.bc.ca)) and the Golden Star (July 17, 2013), in each case inviting any person affected by or interested in the application to make written representation to the Chief Inspector of Mines, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Kootenay Boundary Region. In addition, a copy of the permit application, including supporting documentation, was made available for public viewing at the Golden Area Initiatives Community Economic Development Office at the BC Visitor's Centre @ Golden, 111 Golden Donald Upper Rd. Golden, BC. V0A 1H0, notice of which was included within the Golden Star publication dated July 17, 2013. Pursuant to the Mines Act and regulations, affected or interested parties were able to make written representation to the Chief Inspector of Mines within 30 days from the date of publication.

Public input was also part of the process during our 2021 permit amendment, which resulted in the increase of permitted annual production from 800,000 tonnes to 1,400,000 tonnes. Public comment was available through the Ministry of Mining's official engagement portal. While that specific portal is now closed, we'll be adding more information to the Ministry's public engagement site once our updated Notice of Work is submitted. In the meantime, our management plans can be accessed:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/permitting/mines-public-engagement>

<https://mines.nrs.gov.bc.ca/mines>

- **Can you tell me anything about the approval process? (I recall that under previous ownership, the proposed expansion of this mine was declined due to impacts on the wetlands. I am curious to understand how the new ownership has mitigated all concerns that prevented the original expansion from proceeding).**

Please refer to the permitting history and consultation process addressed above.

As we have never had any application denied, this question appears to be for another operation and is not related to Sinova. For our operation we are grounded in environmental responsibility, including developing comprehensive management plans that prioritize protection of the Columbia Wetlands and surrounding areas. Our project has undergone a rigorous approval process, and we are committed to transparency and ongoing dialogue with the community.