

Text of Carl Poch's presentation to the Teller County Commissioners March 13, 2008.

I'm Carl Poch and I live at the Far East side of Cripple Creek on Aspen and Golden – ironically Golden Aspens is why I'm here.

By nature, I'm an extremely optimistic person but last week, I became very depressed. Regarding the mine expansion into Cripple Creek, I read that the Teller County Commissioners expressed 'no concern'.

I thank you for this opportunity to explain why each of you should be very concerned!

You saw the mine's power point presentation indicating how generous they are - 1.2 million dollars to local charities – sounds great and no organization turns down 'free money'. In that presentation, we were told that the mine produced 231,000 ounces of gold – sounds like a lot but I've done the math and was amazed. The official average price of gold in 2007 was \$696 an ounce so the mine received \$196 million for their gold. Their charitable giving (hush money?) was six tenths of one percent of their income. In 2008 they plan on producing 301,000 ounces and the price is now over \$900 an ounce so their charitable giving might drop to three tenths of one percent.

## **CC&V Response**

**The presentation to the Board of County Commissioners was merely a review of 2007 activities and a preview of 2008.**

**Managing partner AngloGold Ashanti's business principles include the following:**  
***We want communities and the societies in which we operate to be better off for AngloGold Ashanti having been there.***  
**CC&V is proud of our charitable giving program which donated \$289,196 to various programs throughout the community in 2007.**

**Of course, gross income and net income are vastly different in their calculation.**

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The mine has said they will expand operations in all directions including coming down the hill towards Cripple Creek. They will be strip mining, beginning with the removal of all vegetation including countless Aspen trees and thousands of large Colorado Blue Spruce trees. I asked their environmentalist what happens to the wildlife - he had no answer.

The mine said they will minimize the noise from their dynamite blasting, we already are shaken often by the explosions and they are on the other side of the hill. If there still is a Gold Camp trail (yet to be determined), I wouldn't want to be on it during blasting hours!

The mine indicates that their operations will serve as a "mini-attraction" drawing visitors to view the pits. We all know how visitors currently flock to Victor to look at the rock piles!

## **CC&V Response**

**The current plans will largely extend mining to the north and east. The mining technique is surface mining, which is preceded by removal of topsoil and vegetation. CC&V has prepared maps showing areas and types of vegetation that will be impacted. CC&V is working with the Division of Wildlife on wildlife impacts. Clearly there is surrounding land for wildlife to use during mining operations. Following mining wildlife find the mix of open areas and trees to be very attractive.**

**CC&V will draw on our over 14 years of experience, as well as the recommendations of our experts, to develop our blasting plan. Vibrations are monitored to prevent impacts to structures.**

**The upper portion of the trail will be relocated, and when necessary for safety the trail will be cleared for blasting, just as the Vindicator Valley trail is currently cleared.**

**Operations such as Bingham Canyon attract many visitors to view their operations. Since 1992 more than 2.6 million people have visited.**

**The well over 3,500 visitors who sign in at the American Eagles do "flock" to Victor to look at the mining operations. As well as the visitors who every summer tour the CC&V operations.**

**Victor has requested that the rock piles be included in the Buffer area, and not be removed as they contribute to the mining heritage of the City.**

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The mine presented their plan to the Woodland Park City Council last week – there was no objection (so long as the contributions continue). Of course not – there isn't anyone in Woodland Park affected by the expansion. Wal\*Mart could have asked the Cripple Creek City Council to approve their building plans and, for a small donation, they would have been given enthusiastic support.

For several weeks each fall, Mike Daniels chief weatherman at channel 5/30 shows the live view of our hillside in brilliant gold – their camera is on top of the Teller County Courthouse. I wonder what Mike will do when the hill is only rock – He will likely show the Canon City camera and tell people to go there instead.

If the mine was to amend their plan to go North, East and South leaving our hill alone, I would certainly support their success.

I asked representatives of the mine if they could "scoop" out the rock from behind keeping the top surface intact – I was told this would cost more than strip mining. I guess the \$40 million sent to South Africa last year wasn't enough!

## **CC&V Response**

**The presentation to Woodland Park City Council was the same annual presentation that we make every year to the elected officials of our area including the City Councils of Woodland Park, Victor, and Cripple Creek, as well as the County Commissioners in Teller and Fremont Counties.**

**Vegetation analysis shows that the majority of the aspen stands on that hill will remain, 70% of those in the view shed of Cripple Creek.**

**CC&V is operating on privately owned land, zoned by Teller County for mining. The proposed mine life extension does not change previously approved permit boundaries nor approved reclamation commitments.**

**Mining techniques to support unconsolidated materials do not exist and would be very dangerous, not only to the miners but to the surrounding land owners.**

**Considerable amounts are spent in the local area and state-wide to support the mining operations. Economic studies are available.**

**CC&V will invest \$200 million in the mine life extension project.**

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As a member of the Two Mile High Club, I'm appalled that our Aspen tours will need to be cancelled for lack of Aspen Trees.

As a member of Elks Club, I guess the passing of the Elk herd leaves only the Club's stuffed elk for my grandkids to see.

As a member of The Gold Camp Victorian Society, our Mount Pisgah Speaks fall cemetery tour will require the guides telling the visitors how beautiful the view used to be.

As a member of the Community of Caring Board (the Aspen Center), I guess I should shut up and accept whatever the mine wants but our Community does Care!

I have about 150 Teller County voters that are ready to come to this counsel when you vote on the expansion should our hills be endangered; I ask this council to contact the mine and say "We have seen the light and we support your expansion in all directions except West down into Cripple Creek." Please tell them that when they come over the hill, they will be facing an army of citizens who love their town – Thank you.

## **CC&V Response**

**CC&V's hosting of the aspen tours has always been subject to mining operations, and we have always been able to find suitable routes for the tours. We anticipate continuing to do so.**

**We are working closely with the Division of Wildlife to mitigate mining impacts. Experience has shown that the elk disperse to surrounding areas during operations, but quickly return to enjoy the freshly reclaimed areas.**

**Views from the cemetery as well as other locations in Victor are being prepared to show the view during operations and after reclamation.**

**CC&V will continue to support the community and community activities.**

**CC&V invites all interested parties to review the maps and data on the proposed mining operation. Both the Teller County and State of Colorado processes include opportunities for public comment. CC&V is also reviewing comments as we receive them. We will respond to all comments.**