

# AIR QUALITY EFFECTS

## OVERVIEW

If Project Quattro is approved, we will be required to comply with consent conditions for air quality. Under the conditions of that consent, OceanaGold Waihi expects a requirement to submit an updated Air Quality Management Plan that sets out procedures for managing and monitoring air quality.

To better help us monitor air quality, we are installing a new system of real-time air quality monitors in addition to our current network. The expanded system will enable us to more readily respond to dust.

## KEY EFFECTS

Dust is generated from many man-made and natural sources and may be made up of earth, pollen, volcanic emissions, vehicle exhaust, smoke or any other particles small enough to be suspended or carried by the wind. The stronger the wind, the larger the particles lifted, and the more dust carried.

A wide range of activities associated with Project Quattro may potentially generate dust, including:

- Removal of vegetation and topsoil.
- Removal of overburden material.
- Blasting and drilling operations.
- Operation of crushing equipment.
- Loading and unloading of material on site.

- Transport by vehicles on access roads and haul roads.
- Wind action affecting stockpiles and exposed areas of the site.

The amount and type of dust will vary and depends on many factors, including source, climate, wind direction, traffic, and dust management techniques.





## MONITORING

OceanaGold Waihi and its predecessors have been monitoring dust particulates in the vicinity of the Martha Mine since 1982. Over the years, new monitoring sites have been added and others removed to accommodate changes in the mining operation and the locations of sensitive receivers. At present, OceanaGold Waihi has a total of 11 permanent monitoring sites, with additional monitors to investigate potential issues.

Our monitoring data shows:

- Results for Waihi are comparable with those from other small urban areas.
- Measured inhalable particulate levels are well below the levels set to protect against health effects.
- Metal concentrations of the dust are very low and compare with levels in other rural areas (city urban area levels are much higher).
- Air quality in and around Waihi has not been deteriorating over time.

If Project Quattro is approved, we will continue to monitor and manage air quality in accordance with an updated Air Quality Management Plan that would be approved by Waikato

Regional Council. This will include real-time monitoring of air quality, which will enable us to more readily and proactively respond to air quality issues as and when they occur.

## MANAGEMENT MEASURES

There is a range of air quality management measures that may be implemented to meet the requirements of the Waikato Regional Council consent, including:

- Watering haul roads and using sprinkler systems and water sprays where required.
- A comprehensive vehicle and equipment maintenance programme.
- Dust collectors and filters on drill rigs.
- Keeping stockpiles low so the wind is less likely to spread dust.
- Optimal blasting techniques, using quality blasting compounds and blast-hole stemming.
- Planting pasture to cover long-term stockpiles.
- Establishing conservative speed limits around the site and having sealed high-use roads.
- Washing vehicles before leaving the site to travel on public roads.

## CONCLUSION

We are working on the air quality study for Project Quattro. This study will use experts to identify the best measures to effectively monitor and manage air quality. The findings will be incorporated into the Air Quality Management Plan required by the consents. This will ensure we not only meet our consent requirements but reduce any impacts in relation to air quality on our neighbours.

### **We welcome your input into developing Project Quattro.**

If you have an idea, concern, question or opinion, we want to hear from you. You can contact us through our website;

**[www.waihigold.co.nz](http://www.waihigold.co.nz)**

or visit us at our Project Information Office;

**86 Seddon Street, Waihi.**

Or use our Community Engagement Line;

**0800 924 444**