



# Discover It

(May 2007)

## Sonic Drilling Completed! Results on Heaps Pending

The sonic drilling scheduled for the relief canyon heaps has been completed and results are pending. Consisting of 58 holes, the sonic drilling proved to be an effective method in analyzing the gold content on the heaps, while protecting the integrity and accuracy of the results.

One key component of sonic drilling is the physical method of sample collection. The rock is removed by use of sonic vibration, which allows for very straight holes that are not affected by the density of the material. Additionally, the sample is not compromised by the use of water or collection, as it is removed in compartmentalized plastic containers resembling sausage links. (Seen P. 2)

(Continued P. 2 – **Sonic Drilling**)



*Firstgold Corp.'s reverse circulation drill rig and Sonic Drill on site together.*

## CEO's Corner

It goes without saying that the excitement continues here at Firstgold Corp. We have a lot of new data we are crunching from this round of drilling. Our team is literally working 24 hours a day, seven days a week to process and analyze this data. Additionally, the support equipment for our rig should be completed with the week, and we expect to be drilling in the pits immediately thereafter.

Lastly, we updated the website with some new pictures so you all can see what's going on at the mine as well. Keep an out as we are planning some informative updates for the web.

Cheers,

Scott Dockter  
President/CEO  
Firstgold Corp.



## Atomic Absorption - What? How do you find the gold?

Among the frequently asked questions, one of the most common is, "How do you actually know how much gold is in the rocks?" Firstgold Corp.'s lab uses a technique called an Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy, which allows them to determine the concentration gold within a sample. This method can be used to analyze the concentration of over 62 different metals in a solution.

Typically, the technique makes use of a flame to atomize the sample. Three steps are involved in turning a liquid sample into an atomic gas. The first is Desolvation – the liquid solvent is evaporated, and the dry sample remains. The second step is Vaporization – the solid sample vaporizes to a gas.

(Cont. P.3 – **AA**)

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## Sonic Drilling (continued)

The samples are being analyzed separately by Firstgold Corp.'s in house laboratory. While waiting for completion of its lab facilities, Firstgold has setup a temporary lab at the mine site. Currently, they are using Atomic absorption spectroscopy to determine the gold content of the current samples.

Overall, the program is viewed as a success, having finished on time and under budget. Like a father in the delivery room, all we can do now is wait on the results. However, preliminary indicators were encouraging. One observable point of interest is the amount of clay present in the heaps themselves. This is a very good indicator, consistent with Firstgold Corp.'s running theory. Based upon the amount of material and grades that went on the heaps, and what was reportedly extracted, we believe that the clay content hampered the previous operator's ability to remove the gold content. Additionally, Firstgold Corp.'s exploration geologists have found very hard pieces of Jasperoid within the heaps. If testing shows that these are porous and contain gold, this would support the theory that additional crushing will enable us to extract the gold previously left behind.



*Driller Steve Loughry and associate examine samples taken from heaps via Sonic Drilling.*



*Steve Tibbals present check to Lions Club*

## Firstgold Supports Local Community Aides in Lovelock's Veteran Tribute

Recently, Firstgold Corp. had the opportunity to sponsor the *Lovelock Lions Club* with funds for a new Flagpole. This 100 foot flagpole will stand adjacent to the highway next to the local community skate park and near the highway entrance. It will provide a beautiful addition to the entrance into Lovelock, as well, it will be dedicated to those men and women who have served their Country and the Lovelock community, both in the military and the EMS agencies.

Firstgold Corp. is proud to honor all of our Veterans and will be present at the Dedication Ceremony which will be held at the site of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

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## AA (continued)

... The final step is Volatilization – the compounds making up the sample are broken into free atoms.

The flame is arranged such that it is laterally long and not deep. The height of the flame must also be controlled by controlling the flow of the fuel mixture. A beam of light is focused through this flame at the lateral axis onto a detector past the flame.

The light that is focused into the flame is produced by a hollow cathode lamp.

Inside the lamp is a cylindrical metal cathode containing the metal for excitation, and an anode. When a high voltage is applied across the anode and cathode, the metal atoms in the cathode are excited into producing light with a certain emission spectra. The type of hollow cathode tube depends on the metal being analyzed. For analyzing the concentration of gold in an ore, a gold cathode tube would be used, and likewise for any other metal being analyzed. The electrons of the atoms in the flame can be promoted to higher orbitals for an instant by absorbing a set quantity of energy (a quantum). This amount of energy is specific to a particular electron transition in a particular element. As the quantity of energy put into the flame is known, and the quantity remaining at the other side (at the detector) can be measured, it is possible to calculate how many of these transitions took place, and thus get a signal that is proportional to the concentration of the element being measured.

For all you who may still have questions, always feel free to write to the email address below. For many others, you are welcome to just call it “Firstgold’s AA Machine.”

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*Sample prep room at Relief Canyon Mine*