

Conference Title: Novagold Resources Inc. - Annual Meeting

Date: Friday, May 20th 2022

Operator: Welcome to the 2022 Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Novagold Resources Inc. I would now like to turn the conference over to Mr. David Ottewell, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of the company. Please go ahead, sir.

David Ottewell: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for attending this virtual annual general meeting of Shareholders of Novagold Resources Inc. We wish to thank our shareholders for the virtual participation in this meeting to ensure the health and safety of themselves and all other participants. We are grateful for your interest and support. For today's agenda, I will begin by taking us through the formal business portion of the meeting. Following the conclusion of formal business, Dr. Thomas Kaplan and Greg Lang will provide an overview of Novagold's 2021 results and the outlook for the remainder of 2022. We will then conclude with an opportunity for shareholder questions.

Copies of the management information circular, the 2021 shareholder meeting minutes, and the rules and procedures for the conduct of the meeting are available to shareholders in the material section of the virtual meeting portal. For those of you joining the meeting as guests, the management information circular is available on our profile on SEDAR and Edgar.

As this meeting is being held virtually, we'd like to set out a few rules for the orderly conduct of the meeting. Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, voting results will be provided after the completion of the meeting in order to limit the wait time for tabulating the results of the votes provided. For specific vote tabulations, please see Novagold's report of voting results, which will be posted to Novagold's SEDAR profile at sedar.com and Edgar Profile at SEC.gov.

Voting on all matters will be conducted by electronic balloting using the Broadridge virtual interface. Registered shareholders and duly appointed proxy holders will be asked to vote on each business item. If you have already voted by proxy, it is important that you not vote again here at the meeting

unless you intend to change your initial vote. When the polls are open, registered shareholders and duly appointed proxy holders may cast the votes using the voting button in the lower right-hand corner of the virtual meeting screen. You will only have a certain amount of time to vote. Before the polls close at the end of the formal business portion of the meeting. The online polls are now open for voting.

Registered shareholders who are duly appointed proxy holders will be permitted to ask questions through the Q&A button in the lower right hand corner of the screen. Please refer to the rules and procedures for the conduct of the meeting for additional information. If a shareholder or a proxy holder has a question about one of the matters in the agenda to be voted on by the shareholders, that question may be submitted through the Q&A button in the lower right-hand corner of your screen at or before the time the matters are before the meeting for consideration.

If you believe your question or comment relates to the official business of the meeting, please label it as official business in your submission. Please note that there will be a slight delay in the publication of the communications received. We will answer any relevant questions on any matters in the agenda to be voted on by the shareholders at the meeting before the voting is closed. The meeting will now come to order.

To expedite the meeting, I will move, and in accordance with the articles of the company, no motion needs to be seconded. Pursuant to the articles of the company and with the consent of the meeting, I will act as the meeting chair and Tricia Pannier will act as meeting secretary. With the content of the meeting, the chair appoints Beth van der Beek as scrutineer.

The notice calling this meeting of shareholders was mailed by Broadridge to all shareholders of record as of March 21st, 2022. The declaration of mailing is available for inspection by any shareholder. Ms. Pannier Will append the declaration as a schedule to the minutes of this meeting. The scrutineer has completed the tabulation of the shareholders present in person or represented

by proxy. A quorum for a meeting of Novogold's shareholders is achieved if at least two persons are personally present at the meeting and those two persons hold or represent by proxy shareholders too in the proxy in the aggregate hold not less than 25% of the issued shares of the company entitled to vote at the meeting. The report of the scrutineer indicates that a quorum is present and as notice has been properly given, I declare this meeting regularly and duly called and constituted for the transaction of business.

There are six items of formal business before the meeting today. One, to verify the minutes of the 2021 annual meeting of shareholders. Two, to receive the annual report of the directors containing the consolidated financial statements of the company. Three, to set the number of directors. Four, to elect directors for the forthcoming year. Five, to appoint the company's auditor and to authorize the directors through the audit committee to fix the auditor's remuneration for the forthcoming year. And six, to consider and approve a non-binding resolution approving the compensation of the company's named chief executive officers.

The minutes of the annual meeting of shareholders held on May 12, 2021, have been made available for review by any shareholder. Receiving no objections, the minutes will be taken as read and verified. We will now present the annual report of the directors containing the consolidated financial statements of Novagold for the year ended November 30th, 2021, together with the auditor's report thereon. A copy of the audited financial statements was mailed to each shareholder of record who specifically requested a copy. Copies are also available for review on the company's website at SEC.gov and sedar.com.

Eric Talbot of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the company's auditor, is present at the meeting today. If there are any questions on the financial statements of the company, please submit your question in the Q&A box of the virtual platform to be addressed at the end of the meeting.

The next item of business is setting the number of directors. The Board of directors has proposed that the business of the company can be properly conducted by a board consisting of 11 directors. A description of the proposal to set the number of directors at 11 and the ordinary resolution before the shareholders is contained on pages six and seven of the Management Information Circular.

Now we'll move to the next item of business. The next item of business is the election of directors. The board of directors and shareholders determined that the business of the company can be properly conducted by a board consisting of 11 directors. 11 individuals have been nominated to serve on the board of directors as set out in the Management Information Circular. The nominees are Dr. Elaine Dorward-King, Sharon Dowdall, Dr. Diane Garrett, Dr. Thomas Kaplan, Greg Lang, Igor Levental, Kalidas Madhavpeddi, Kevin McArthur, Clynton Norman, Ethan Shutt, and Anthony Walsh. There being no more nominations, I declare the nominations closed. I'll move to the next item of business.

The next item of business is to appoint the auditors of the company to hold office until the next annual meeting. There is a motion before the meeting that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, located in Vancouver, British Columbia, be appointed auditors of the company to hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly appointed, and that the directors, through the audit committee be authorized to fix the remuneration. I will move to the next item of business.

The next item of business is to consider and if thought fit, approve a non-binding resolution approving the compensation of the companies named executive officers. The company's compensation, discussion, and analysis is contained on pages 29 through 59 of the Management Information Circular. The full text of the proposed non-binding resolution approving the compensation of the company's named executive officers is set out on page 11 of the Management Information Circular. I will move to the voting on the foregoing items of business.

As previously mentioned, the polls are now open and all registered holders and proxy holders who have properly logged in with their control numbers and wish to vote are able to vote all motions being brought forth at this meeting by clicking on the voting button in the lower right-hand corner of the screen. If you have already voted by proxy, you do not need to vote again here at the meeting unless you intend to change your initial vote. If you have not already done so, please register your votes by accessing the voting page and selecting the four or withhold buttons next to the name of each proposed director and next to the resolution with respect to the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the company's auditors.

Please register your votes by selecting the for against or abstain buttons next to the resolution, setting the number of directors at 11 and the non-binding resolution approving the compensation of the companies named executive officers. As no questions were received on the proposals, we will pause for a few moments to allow time for voting before the - closing the polls on the proposals before this meeting. Voting has now closed, and I have received the preliminary results of the vote on all matters before the meeting from the scrutineer.

I declare the ordinary resolution setting the number of directors at 11 carried by a majority of the votes cast on the resolution. Dr. Elaine Dorward-King, Sharon Dowdall, Dr. Diane Garrett, Dr. Thomas Kaplan, Greg Lang, Igor Levental, Kalidas Madhavpeddi, Kevin McArthur, Clynton, Norman, Ethan Shutt, and Anthony Walsh, elected as directors of the company to hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders of Novagold or until their successors are duly elected or appointed.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP be and are hereby appointed auditors of the company to hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders or until their successors are duly appointed. And that the directors, through the audit committee, be and are hereby authorized to fix their remuneration.

And for the non-binding resolution approving the compensation of named executive officers was carried by a majority of the votes cast on the resolution. Details as to the votes for or withheld from voting for each individual nominee will be disclosed in the manner provided for the majority voting policy. And the full voting results of this meeting will be posted on the company's SEDAR profile at sedar.com and Edgar profile at SEC.gov after this meeting. That concludes the formal items of business. And I declare the formal business of this meeting is now terminated. Thank you for your attention. And we'd like to now turn the time over to Greg Lang, Novagold's President and CEO.

Greg Lang: Thank you, David. I begin my presentation this afternoon with a look back on some of the company's activities over the last year and an update on what's ahead of us for this year. As I'm sure everybody is aware, our presentation does contain some forward-looking statements and is available on our web page for you to peruse at your leisure.

The principal activity at Donlin Gold over the last two years has been extensive drill programs intended to increase our geologic understanding of the ore body and structural controls, and validate the mineralization and the grade. This slide depicts some of the highlights from our very successful 2021 drill program. By just about anybody's measure, these are some of the best intercepts anybody has drilled in the gold industry in recent years. And this is a statement from our partners' annual report on the significance of these drill results. Clearly, both Novagold and Barrick appreciate the significance of these fantastic results.

Following up on the successful program last year and the year before, we've got another program designed this year and it is a little bit different in focus than the prior years. We are still doing some drilling to validate the geologic concepts. But in addition to that and what I find most intriguing about this year's program is we will be drilling at depth underneath the Acoma and Lewis deposits and into some areas that have been sparsely drilled where we believe there is the potential to convert waste material to ore and enhance the economics of the project.

And not just the potential depth is intriguing at Donlin but also along strike. The Acoma and Lewis areas where we have a resource of over 40 million ounces comprise only three kilometers of an eight-kilometer gold-bearing system. We've got gold-bearing drill holes from snow, quartz dome, and all up and down the trend. When the time is right, we will continue drilling and exploring this area. And I think it's also important to note that the area depicted on this slide of the known mineralized belt represents about 5% of the total land position controlled by Donlin Gold.

This year's program is unique in that it is the largest drill program and budget that Donlin has had in over 12 years. I think one of the clearest ways to demonstrate your commitment to a project is by the amount of money you're willing to spend on the project. About half of this year's budget is for drilling-related. We also have a substantial budget for permitting environmental, legal affairs, and community engagement. Additionally, we've got \$8 million budgeted for additional geotechnical studies that will lay the foundation when the owners decide to proceed with the new feasibility study, which we anticipate in the second half of the year.

One key aspect of the Donlin project is that we are permitted. We have completed the federal permitting process. We have a record of decision in hand from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management. The state permits are shown on this slide. Most of the major permits are in hand. This year, we will begin work on the geotechnical elements of the tailings dam design to support our dam safety certifications. And I think it's important to note that the federal record of decision authorizes tailings dam to be built. But in the state of Alaska, these type of structures are also administered under the state, hence the double approvals.

The company is in great shape financially. We have \$155 million in the Treasury and \$25 million coming in from Newmont a little over a year from now. At our current rate of spending and with the planned work, we have sufficient funds to see Donlin through to the completion of a new feasibility study and ultimately a construction decision. We see no reason to raise equity until we go to fund our share of the Donlin construction.

We've recently published our annual report and it is available on the web page. And it's certainly a very exciting time for Novagold, its partners, and our many stakeholders. We also published our inaugural sustainability report. This report crystallizes and formalizes the reporting of values that we have held dear in all of our activities in Alaska. We've been active in the communities for over 20 years and we will continue to do so. This slide - and I'll let you peruse it at your time highlights some of the key metrics that we are using to measure our performance in this area. Certainly, environmental, social, and governance issues are key to any successful public company.

We're also active in our political areas, both in the state of Alaska and in Washington, D.C. And there's a picture of Senator Murkowski and myself taken last summer. She is a staunch advocate for the project, as are the governor and other elected officials in Alaska. We never take these relationships for granted, and it's great to have that kind of backing - the bipartisan backing we enjoy.

The next few slides highlight some of the key attributes that make the Donlin Gold project unique. The first, of course, is its size. There are very few gold deposits that start with 40 million ounces. I've never seen one in my career that started this size. We certainly have room to grow it when the time is right. Our grade at 2.25 grams is twice the industry average and the grades throughout the industry continue to decline. The exploration potential is tremendous. We'll be reporting on some of the potential at depth later this year.

It's great being up in Alaska. It's considered one of the top mining jurisdictions in the world. It is the second-largest gold-producing state in the US. We've got a long history of successful partnerships, both with our native corporation partners and, of course, with our partner Barrick. This slide puts Donlin in the context of the other development gold projects in the industry at almost 40 million ounces about four times the nearest projects and is well above the scale of the average of only 8 million ounces.

Donlin is truly one of the key strategic assets in the gold industry. It's going to be a big mine. If Donlin were producing today, would be one of the largest gold mines in the industry. Its first five years will average 1.5 million ounces of production, followed by decades of over a million ounces per year. That's almost four-fold, the other development projects various companies are advancing. Then when you compare Donlin to the other large development projects out there, it is one of the few that are in a safe, stable jurisdiction.

Grade is a continuing challenge for the gold industry. At 2.25 grams we are twice the industry grade and this is about where the industry was over ten years ago. As grades continue to decline, cost pressures will continue to increase, which puts us in a very unique spot. Another important aspect, Donlin Gold Project, is that we are on private land that is owned by two Alaska Native corporations. Their ownership came about when the US government in the state of Alaska passed the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act. This Act transferred certain lands to the native corporations for their economic self-determination. Donlin was known to have mineral potential, so it was designated for mining-related activities. And these are just a couple of quotes from the leadership at Calista and TKC. They have an ownership interest in seeing the Donlin project go forward. At this stage, I will turn the podium over to Dr. Kaplan, our Chairman and largest shareholder.

Dr. Thomas Kaplan: Thank you, Greg, and thank you to all of those who are tuning in or will be watching this after the fact. You've heard from Greg many of the reasons that when combined, allow us to be able to think of Donlin as being unique. You have the enormous size, the extraordinary grade for a large-scale open pit. You have the mine life. You have exploration potential, which is outstanding by any measure. And of course, you have all of this in the safest jurisdiction in the world. That, for an investor, represents what we really think of as being the Holy Grail.

I am a very, very staunch gold bull, and I'll get to that in a moment. But what I look for in a company is something that we would call a category killer, something that combines those attributes such that they would move the needle for any company and provide a go-to opportunity for investors in a bull market in the underlying theme. Our attitude as investors and I speak for Electrum, which is the largest shareholder of the company, is that what we really want in an asset is incredible leverage to an underlying theme in a jurisdiction that will allow you to keep the fruits of that leverage when the time comes to ring the cash register. We have that at Donlin. And of course, that's one of the major reasons why we have the staunch support of our shareholders.

But in addition to these quantitative and qualitative aspects is something else. It's a special sauce that when Greg Lang became the CEO of Novagold and I became simultaneously the Chairman of the company, we made a commitment not only to each other but also to our shareholders that we would make all those engaged with us shareholders, local communities, partners, proud of the association. The way to be able to instill pride in your shareholders in the same way as you try to instill pride in your family, is by keeping your promises and by showing that combined working together, you make something that is bigger than the sum of its parts.

The first thing that we did was we embarked on a roadshow in January of 2012. It was primarily an exercise in trying to get people to understand the new management team. It was a very, very successful tour. And at the end of a couple of weeks, we had hundreds of millions of dollars in demand for our equity, and we raised over \$300 million at \$9.5 a share. One of the reasons why we were so successful in that offering, which is still one of the largest that has been conducted by certainly a development-stage gold company in the last decade is because we made specific promises and we told people, hold us to account.

The first thing was that we said the new strategy was to harness the unique attributes of Donlin such that we could become a pure-play on an asset that we really felt could be considered to be the new Nevada or the new Carlin. As such, we said, in order to maintain the focus of the company,

we're going to divest Novagold of the two primarily copper assets that were in the portfolio. One of them we spun out that same year was the 100% owned Ambler Project in forming NovaCopper, which is now called Trilogy Metals, with a market cap of approximately \$165 million Canadian.

The second is that because we controlled another category killer asset called Galore Creek, an asset, which we believe will be developed now by Newmont and Teck and will be one of the highest quality copper-gold producers in Canada. There were people who thought maybe we'll get \$50 million for it. We said, no, we're going to wait for better times. And as a consequence of that, we will be able to realize up to \$275 million from the sale of our interest. As of next year, we will already be at the \$200 million mark with \$75 million coming if the partners make a construction decision. I'm very pleased to say that at a recent conference in Florida, the partners indicated that they do hope to build the Lord Creek. That will obviously be a bonanza, not just for them and their native corp partners, but also for the shareholders of Novagold.

Until this time, in the convening decade since Greg and I have been at the helm in our respective positions of CEO and Chairman, we haven't undertaken any financing, we haven't had to. The corporate finance department of the company has husbanded our cash very studiously. And as you see, we enter the year with a very, very strong and healthy Treasury. We're ensuring that Donlin Gold advances with limited impact to shareholder value. Our belief is that gold will go up, as gold goes up, the interest in development-stage assets, particularly those in safe jurisdictions like the United States, is going to go up exponentially. And at that time, if we have a positive construction decision with our partner, then we can talk about an equity raise. My belief, strongly held belief, forward-looking statements notwithstanding, are that the share price of Novagold will be multiples of what it is today.

With regard to our partner, we're aligned on project strategy and the timeline for Barrick Gold. There's a 14-year history of building value with an unwavering focus by both Barrick and Novagold on stakeholder wealth creation, technical excellence, environmental stewardship, and social

responsibility. The constructive and positive relation that we enjoy with Barrick and respect for Barrick's corporate objectives, including renewed focus on geology, our shared values as well as shared interests. In that regard, I really want to emphasize even more so the cultural mutual respect that is shared between Novagold, the Donlin Gold Partnership and our local stakeholders. We have very, very well established partnerships with the native corporations who are the holders of the mineral rights and land rights that we are together going to be developing for the benefit of that region.

We believe, as they do, that resource development provides benefits for all stakeholders. And in the interim, we are employing people, we are giving scholarships, workforce development and environmental programs to be able to take us until that point when there is a construction decision. I think it's because of the fact that we enjoy the kind of reputation that we have for keeping our promises and for being good, reliable partners, we've also managed to retain the kind of partnership relationship with our shareholders. If you keep your promises, you keep your shareholders. And the truth is that Novagold is blessed with having amongst the smartest as well as loyalist shareholders in the business.

We're incredibly grateful to those who have kept the faith with us as we believe that we have kept the faith with them, including, of course, Fidelity and John Paulson, Blackrock, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Funds, Exor, First Eagle. These are amongst the smartest investors in the world. VanEck, Vanguard, Copernicus. We are blessed with some of the best shareholders that exist in the marketplace, and I can tell all of our shareholders that we not only don't take that for granted, but we also take advantage of it. We go out of our way to seek their counsel in ways that we can do things better to position the company so that they will be able to achieve the maximum leverage to the underlying thesis in gold.

Obviously, all of the shareholders believe that what we're going to see are higher gold prices. What you see here are at NPVs 5% and NPVs at 0%. It is my very firm belief as a historian that in the

next bull run you're going to see those very, very scarce, high-quality gold development stories, particularly those in jurisdictions that are de-risked, be able to achieve 0% discount rates on their NPVs. If you think that's fanciful, the reality is that's exactly what we had for US assets before we went into the great era of go where the gold is and the frontier mentality that really sort of kicked off with Newmont going to Yanacocha.

At that time, just to show you how different the world is, the safe jurisdiction valued at 0% was the United States. It was arbitrage against the riskier jurisdictions. That is to say Canada, Australia, and South Africa. Well, I don't have to tell you, and candidly, as someone who was a beneficiary of that frontier spirit that took me to Bolivia and Congo and Mongolia and many, many other places, I believe that we're going to see a revaluation of those really, really scarce, high-quality assets in jurisdictions that will allow you to keep the leverage that we see on this price chart. And what that sort of indicates is that we're talking about a roughly \$20 billion NPV at 0%. At around today's prices, 22.5 at \$2,000 gold. If I'm right, \$2,000 gold will be something that in the not too distant future, we're going to be looking back upon as being a new support as opposed to resistance.

I happen to subscribe and have done for a long time to this distribution chart, which suggests that we could see gold rising to between \$3,000 and \$5,000 an ounce. Incrementum has put that date at 2030. I'm not going to put a date on it, but I do believe that the minimum equilibrium price for gold, where supply and demand will be able to meet minimum, is between \$3,000 and \$5,000. In fact, I do believe that there may very well be days when the gold price has a higher intraday trading range than where gold is right now in absolute terms.

The bottom line is that we believe that the era for gold is just being rebooted. Gold 2.0 in the form of crypto, candidly, has only pointed to the fact that gold 1.0 has really, really done a very, very good job of being able to preserve wealth in a very variable world. I believe that that is only just beginning to be recognized.

Certainly, the inflation genie is out of the bottle. I haven't heard in a long time. That is to say months, because today's world months are a long time, people talking about inflation being transitory. And one of the reasons why I think we have to put that aside is despite the dislocations of supply chains that came from COVID, this is a global phenomenon. This isn't just about American supply chains. The UK has inflation at 40-year levels. Last week, the Bank of England suggested that the UK would experience both high inflation and a strong possibility of recession. That kind of scenario is being mooted by some of the most serious and well-respected economists in the United States. But the truth is, it's global. Inflation is everywhere. The chickens are coming home to roost. It's not just simply about COVID disruptions. It's about the enormity of the increase in the money supply since the global financial crisis and beyond. This is not going to be resolved overnight.

And the truth is the Fed can raise interest rates a lot higher, and the likelihood is that real inflation is going to be eating away at people's savings. And one of the nice things about gold is that it keeps its value in this kind of environment, as it does candidly in a very, very recessionary environment. As we may very well have stagflation and both inflation and recession, it's very likely that one of the only beneficiaries of that will be gold.

Most of my shareholders have known me for at least the time that I've been chairman, but possibly for 20 years beyond that decade. I don't like to talk about fear factors as a reason to own gold. I don't believe it's necessary. I've said this many, many times that having to resort to getting people to be afraid is like patriotism, the last refuge of the scoundrel. It's not necessary. But as somebody who is so invested in the gold space, I can say this, it gives me some comfort with Novagold, with exposure to gold, to be in an asset that not only should prosper for a lot of very, very good, positive reasons, but also is one of the best ways history has shown us to be able to preserve wealth in difficult times.

We are in uncharted waters, not just with regards to inflation, but in so many areas around the world. And I would urge everyone to have some exposure to gold, silver. I'm not saying go out and break the bank with it, but this is a time to be protecting yourself. And this is one of the only tried and true assets that give you that kind of protection. The truth is that there aren't that many brands, not even Coca-Cola and Apple, which are as widely known, and if given the opportunity, coveted as gold.

The chart on the right, let's make no mistake about it. That is a very bullish price chart. And the truth is that with the dollar at 20-year highs and gold being percentage points from its all-time highs in dollar terms, gold is screaming in other currencies. If you look at gold in yen, in Indian rupees, in euros, gold is making in some cases new all-time highs, breaking out. We live in a very America-centric universe. We think that ultimately everything that the Fed does is going to determine how the rest of the world is. It's no longer the case any longer.

The Bank of China now, at the end of the day, has a lot more influence than people think, and they're not the only ones. The Bank of India, the Bank of England, the Eurozone. We can't only think of ourselves as being well, it's all about the dollar and it's all about gold in dollars. There are a lot of other people out there in the world who buy gold. The biggest consumers of gold are China and India. And gold is doing very well for those who have put their money in India. Almost every Indian who's owned gold since the dawn of mankind has managed to preserve his wealth by owning it. That's a statement, that's called positive reinforcement. I think that we may find one day that we wake up in the morning and find out that it wasn't necessarily New York, which took gold over \$2,000, \$2,100. But it may have been something overseas. Could have been in Tokyo. Could have been in Shanghai. It could have been in London.

Watch that space. Look at gold in other currencies. That's a bull market. Leg number one of that bull market, as far as I believe, it really began at the turn of the century. It gave us the move from approximately \$250 to \$1,800, \$1,900. Leg number two was a correction within that bull market.

Came down like a stock from \$17 or \$18 to \$11 after rising from \$2.5, perfectly normal. I believe that we are now in the early stages of a third wave up. We're dealing with a little bit of a coiling situation to test certain formations. But I do believe that we are not that far away from the breakout. I don't know if we need a little bit of a pullback and a washout prior to that happening, doesn't really matter. The point is, if you look at that chart, you say, I want to own some of that.

Now, there are other reasons why obviously you want to own it, and it's not because of technical analysis. I am by background a fundamental analyst with a very, very strong qualitative bent, particularly superimposing history onto cycles. And what I see in gold is a perfect storm. All roads, as I once wrote in the Financial Times a while back, lead to gold, especially today, you have people looking for asset diversification. For some, it was crypto. I think a lot of people are going to be taking a second look at gold. Clearly, the safe haven appeal has been proven itself right. The currency debasement is so far off the charts that we would probably need another two or three charts to be able to contain it.

You have inflation protection as I showed deflation protection and you have the emerging market demand. The United States is not the largest consumer, and ultimately I do not believe that the United States will be the determining factor on gold. I think that they will be chasing what other people around the world want. One thing that we do see is that central banks are buying gold. They have been buying gold for years at very, very high rates. And I look upon the central banks as being the ultimate insider traders. Following the insiders is not a bad idea so long as it's legal. And the truth is, they, more than anyone else, are keenly aware of the quality of their reserves. The fact that they're adding to their gold reserves is an indication of very, very strong underlying support. They have not become fatigued with gold.

So meanwhile, you have these demand drivers, but also the supply. The discovery rates are abysmal. There have been almost no new discoveries that really move the needle in any place. Candidly, I think that the best place for future discoveries, probably at Donlin itself, just in the area

of the existing pits, not even to mention what we hope we will be able to see laterally as well as to depth. For sure, inadequate exploration budgets have been partly to blame, but also you've had a situation where, as Greg pointed out, grades have declined by almost 50% in the last decade. Donlin's 2.25 grams a ton is a complete outlier in an industry where the average grade is approaching, if not breaking through the floor of a gram.

Then, of course, you have jurisdictional risk. A lot of projects that people thought would come on board simply aren't in many, many parts of the world. They won't be financed. And there would be very few investors who are going to be willing to take the risk of nationalization or resource nationalism coming out in different forms. Back to the central banks. The central banks have been buying and buying and buying since the financial crisis, since the time that they rightly or wrongly began one of the biggest currency debasement in the history of the world. Again, although the official money, they actually do know what they're doing.

This is only likely to accelerate now that we've seen what happens when a country falls out of step with the dollar zone. One of the missteps that President Putin made when he invaded Ukraine was not securing his very, very well-manicured reserves. One of the only things that he was able to keep at home was his gold. But as we know, almost half of his other non-dollar foreign reserves or some dollars were seized. As The Wall Street Journal put it, if Russian currency reserves aren't really money, the world is in for a shock. Sanctions have shown that currency reserves accumulated by central banks can be taken away. With China taking note, this may reshape geopolitics, economic management, and even the international role of the US dollar. All of that bodes well for gold as a safe haven officially, as well as for all of us, unofficially.

The decline in reserves, discoveries, grade, underinvestment in exploration is like the currency debasement. At the end of the day, the chickens come home to roost. If you look on the far right aspect of this slide, what you see is new gold discoveries. They aren't there. Existing mines are being depleted and the grades are declining with few new discoveries. Between 2010 to 2019, the

reserve growth average was 52%. This was a result of major acquisitions. Between 2010, 2019, the top 19 gold producing companies reserves decreased. The underinvestment in exploration means that we should be anticipating that, as our friends at Barrick put it, gold has peaked and we're going to see a number of years of gold production declining. Certainly even now, with gold prices near their highs, the current gold exploration budgets are 35% below their peak levels. Only 28 major new deposits have been identified in the past ten years, containing 171 million ounces of gold, which is only 6.4% of the gold discovered over the past 30 years.

The horse is already out of the barn. And the reason why I say that is because even if multiple Donlins were found tomorrow, on average, it now takes 20 years to go from the identification of a mineral prospect through to the mine itself. As I said, this is a perfect storm for gold. Not all ounces are the same, however. So when you look at global gold reserves and you rank them by favorability of mining jurisdictions, you see an increasing jurisdictional risk. Donlin, in view of its size as well as its location, really, really does stand out. I mean, the only comparable that we see for it in the gold development space is Sukhoi Log in Russia. That's a really, really good deposit. And analysts have been giving it valuations of between \$10 and \$20 billion, 100% ownership.

Well, that sort of reinforces the valuation that we too see at Donlin. Of course, the difference with Donlin is that we are quite literally on the right side, literally and figuratively, of the Bering Straits.

Well, I guess I'm just repeating myself. But we have a saying within the company that Donlin is the tortoise, as in Aesop's Tortoise and the Hare Fable that as we have moved ever steadily along getting to the finish line, we've seen not just one but many hares along the way who've had to go to sleep for one reason or another. So like the tortoise and the hare, we've taken Donlin Gold up the value chain while other projects that people thought would go into production have fallen by the wayside.

Donlin Gold is on the path. We expect good news to be coming out of this year's program. And when we are in production, the beautiful part about Donlin is that it really is a gift that keeps on giving, not just geologically, but it will be one of the largest-scale producers in the world in the best part of the world for decades to come.

That handsome devil sitting with me in the New York Stock Exchange, as many of you will recognize, is John Hathaway. John and I had a conversation, which we published in lieu of my usual Chairman's Letter. We discussed the gold market trajectory, jurisdictional safety, crypto, and why I very strongly believe that Novagold will be amongst, if not the very best performer in the gold development space. Because of that combination of great attributes and because I do believe that portfolio managers are going to be looking for that leverage in places where they can keep it. I urge you to take a look at the interview, if for no other reason, than to be able to enjoy the elegance and statesmanship of John Hathaway, who I really do consider to be the dean of gold investors. Being able to be interviewed with him, indeed to spend time with him was an absolute pleasure. And I think that's reflected in the interview itself.

So to sum up once again. And I think this really is the crux of the issue. People ask me, how can you say that Donlin is unique? And my response is - and I no longer get pushback on this, is that when you look at the confluence, the combination of attributes that defines Donlin, that combination is unique. As Greg said, he's never seen a gold mine go into production with 40 million ounces. It's at a grade, which is double the world average now. The exploration potential is enormous. Only 5% of a 489 square kilometre land package has been explored, and the 40 or so million ounces that we've identified are only on a fraction of that 5%. Three kilometers of an eight-kilometer belt that is mineralized and open for exploration. Put another way, 95% of the land package has not been explored. That's a big statement.

We have often said that we believe that just as when you're going out in search of elephants, you go to elephant country as the expression goes, in the mining industry, that is the way it works. And

I do believe that the next Donlin could be found at Donlin itself. We enjoy tremendous advantage in having great partnerships with the native corporations and with Barrick and with our long-term shareholders, who we see as partners and co-investors with us.

And of course, last but not least, let's remember that in a very, very challenging world, we are blessed to be in the world's premier jurisdiction. And not only that, we're in Alaska. Alaska is the second-largest gold-producing state in the safest jurisdiction in the world. Alaska is a mining state that respects socially and environmentally responsible mine development.

I'd like to take this moment to thank the native corporations of Alaska for their stalwart support in advancing Donlin. I would like to thank the state government and the Senators and Congressmen of Alaska who have been so important in working with us such that we were able to get federal permits, which are enormously valuable in today's world.

And finally, moving away from Alaska, I'd like to take a moment to thank a really, really fine management team known for their integrity as well as their professionalism. And I'd like to thank my fellow board members for the support, the strong support that they have given to management, as well as to me personally. So for all of those directors who were re-elected and to Kevin McArthur, who was our newest board member, thank you very much. Gratitude, as they say, is the memory of the heart. And I am enormously grateful to all of you. Thank you.

Speaker: Our first question comes from the line of Sophie Wolff.

Sophie Wolff: Thank you for this opportunity to ask questions. My name is Sophie Wolff. I was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska. Being Alaska native, I am an ONC Tribal member as well as a Bethel Native Corporation and [inaudible] shareholder. Alaska's state slogan is "North to the Future." To me, this phrase stems from the rich indigenous culture that co-exist with the land, from subsistence activities and traditional knowledge, and represents the future health of our region.

If built, Donlin Gold Mine will interrupt the ecosystems of some of our most prized subsistence foods from Rainbow Smelt to salmon[?] and the increased barge traffic will only increase the erosion around villages along the river, which are already in a state of emergency. For these reasons, many federally recognized tribes signed a resolution opposing this mine with the understanding that too much of our culture is at risk. I'm concerned about permafrost, body stabilizing the ground and the constant shifts happening with geologic activity causing earthquakes. A more frequent hazard is seasonal flooding following annual spring thaw. These factors combined stand to cause a catastrophic event in and around the tons of toxic waste that will be produced and housed in a tailings storage facility and waste rock pile. Is there any backup plan to preserve the culture of the 56 village actively using the Kuskokwim River? Or would this waste simply become a part of our ecosystem?

Also have you considered strategies for support and the retaining returning to a healthy environment following an unforeseen natural phenomenon? Do you have an understanding of the native corporation relationships with their shareholders? Being a shareholder of this native corporation myself, I think you should push the native corporation to take great honor in servicing and taking the opinions of their own shareholders. They have had zero consultations with us and telling you we have a regional go ahead. Do you see something wrong with this tactic?

Greg Lang: Well, first off, Sophie, thank you for the question and your very sincere concern about the impact of the project. I think you posed many questions in your commentary, and I won't speak to those questions today, and I commit that we will get back to you and answer the technical questions to the best degree we can. But I think it's also important to take a look back on the process that got us to where we are now.

Your first off, Calista and TKC are the underlying owners of the Donlin Gold asset. At their invitation, Donlin Gold LLC was invited to participate and help them advance this project. Permitting

in the United States is a very public undertaking and throughout that process, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management held extensive public consultation and got input from the stakeholders on what their concerns were, and these were addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. Also through a community advisory board, Donlin involved Calista and TKC in all aspects of the planning and subsequent operation of the Donlin Gold Mine.

Both Donlin, Calista, and TKC believe that the project that we have permitted can coexist with the subsistence lifestyle and has incorporated many state-of-the-art measures to protect the environment. Donlin has and will continue to engage with all stakeholders and we will certainly make arrangements to meet with you and your representatives to discuss your concerns in detail, in person. Thank you.

Speaker: The next question comes from Beverly Hoffman.

Beverly Hoffman: I am an elder of the Kuskokwim. My name is Beverly Hoffman, a Calista shareholder and ONC Tribal member living in Bethel, Alaska. I ask, how can you make declarations of protecting subsistence rights on the waters and lands where the probable impacts and risks of a mine of this magnitude? The Donlin Gold open pit mine could destroy a subsistence culture whose people have depended on the land and the water for food for thousands of years.

Mines of this type and size associated with mercury are not environmentally safe, and the people who live in the region never voted for the Donlin Gold Project and were never given a say in deciding to move it forward. How can the Novagold shareholders support actions when the majority of tribes in the Yukon Kuskokwim region do not support it? The Health Corporation does not support it. Why continue making false statements when the majority of indigenous people say no?

Greg Lang: Well, I will take that as more of a rhetorical statement than a question, but I will speak to it because the response is similar to my earlier response. Donlin, Calista, and TKC believe that the

design of the project has addressed the very concerns that Ms. Hoffman has raised. And this project is designed with state-of-the-art safeguards for the environment. And every step of the way, we were sensitive to the subsistence lifestyle and the needs of many people who practice this lifestyle to have employment.

You know, my earlier comment is the same. Donlin will continue to engage with all interested communities and stakeholders to address their concern. And I would also note, as I stated earlier, that many of these concerns that she has raised are best taken up with Calista. Thank you.

Speaker: That concludes the question-and-answer period.

Operator: Novagold Resources Inc's conference call has come to an end. Thank you for attending today's presentation. You may now disconnect.