

West Vault Mining Announces 51% IRR Pre-Feasibility Study Update for Hasbrouck Gold Project

23.01.2023 | [Newsfile](#)

Vancouver, January 23, 2023 - [West Vault Mining Inc.](#) (TSXV: WVM) (OTCQX: WVMDF) ("West Vault" or the "Company") is pleased to announce the results of an independent NI 43-101 Pre-feasibility Study ("Technical Report") prepared by USA-based engineering firm RESPEC Company LLC ("RESPEC") for West Vault's 100% owned Hasbrouck Gold Project located near Tonopah, Nevada. West Vault intends to file the Technical Report on SEDAR (www.sedar.com) within 45 days of this news release.

The Technical Report updates a September 2016 Pre-feasibility Study ("2016 PFS"), necessary because of the possible effect of increased capital costs, operating costs, and metal prices on project economics, and their combined effects on Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve. After completion of the Technical Report, it has been determined that the mine plan, mineral processing, and Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve Statements are substantially unchanged from the 2016 PFS. Exploration and expansion potential on the fully permitted project is highlighted.

The Technical Report was prepared by largely the same team that prepared the 2016 PFS, headed by RESPEC (formerly Mine Development Associates) of Rapid City, South Dakota, with contributions from Kappes, Cassidy & Associates, Reno ("KCA"), NewFields Mining Design & Technical Services ("NewFields"), Jorgensen Engineering & Technical Services ("JE&TS"), and Westland Engineering & Environmental Services (formerly EM Strategies).

The Hasbrouck Gold Project consists of the Three Hills and Hasbrouck Deposits plus a large land package, located near Tonopah, Nevada. All dollar values presented in this news release are in U.S. dollars.

2023 Technical Report Highlights (2016 PFS at \$1,275 gold in brackets)

Project Status	Permitted, construction-ready
NPV(5%) (after-tax, \$1,790 gold)	US\$206 million (US\$120 million)
IRR (after-tax, \$1,790 gold)	51% (43%)
Initial Capital	US\$66 million (US\$47 million)
Pay-back	2.9 years (3.1 years)
Recoverable Gold & Silver	561 koz gold (577 koz); 1,918 koz silver (1,163 koz)
All-in Sustaining Cost	US\$877 per gold ounce net of by-product credits (US\$709)
Geology	well-understood, +600 boreholes, all-oxide
Mining	low 1.1:1 strip ratio, minimal pre-strip, above water table
Metallurgy	13 test programs, 75% average heap-leach gold recovery
Infrastructure	Water and water-rights obtained, nearby grid power, nearby highway access

Sandy McVey, West Vault's CEO, commented, "We are very pleased with the results of the Technical Report. Not only does it confirm that the project is strong economically, but more importantly it demonstrates how leveraged it is to the price of gold, going from 43% IRR in 2016 to 51% IRR now. This validates our thesis that our shareholders should benefit through their ownership of a high-quality project in an excellent jurisdiction and knowing that we will hold to our strategy of patiently letting the gold cycle do the work of increasing value, avoiding the risk of going to construction too early."

Regarding expansion potential, there are a number of significant gold intercepts located proximal to current Mineral Resources, on strike from and below the proposed open pits that are not incorporated into the Technical Report Mineral Resource model. These intercepts show the potential to increase and extend the known Mineral Resource on West Vault's property.

The Technical Report estimates a modest initial capital of US\$66M for the Phase 1 Three Hills Mine. The Phase 2 Hasbrouck Mine is estimated to cost US\$123M, and this money is planned to come from free cash flow generated at the Three Hills Mine. The Technical Report does not include mineralized material at the Company's Hill of Gold property located between Three Hills Mine and Hasbrouck Mine.

Project Highlights - (US dollars)

To view an enhanced version of this graphic, please visit:
https://images.newsfilecorp.com/files/3137/152098_table1.jpg

Notes:

(1) Gold equivalent calculations are made using the ratio of recovered silver / gold and metal prices.

(2) Silver production is averaged over the Hasbrouck mine life only.

(3) Difference between Funding and Capex from free cash flow from Three Hills Mine.

(3) World Gold Council - Adjusted Operating Costs include:

On-site mining and G&A, royalties and production taxes, permitting and community cost related to current operations, 3rd party smelting, refining and transport costs, stock-piles and inventory write-downs, site-based non-cash remuneration, operational stripping costs and by-product credits.

(4) Other category includes royalties, production taxes, permitting, refining and by-product credit.

(5) World Gold Council All-in /Sustaining Costs includes:

Adjusted Operating Costs (above) plus corporate G&A, reclamation & remediation - accretion & amortization, expenditures sustaining exploration and study costs, capital exploration, capitalized stripping and sustaining capital.

(6) World Gold Council All-in Cost include:

All-in Sustaining Costs (above) plus community, permitting and reclamation and remediation costs not related to current operations and non-sustaining exploration and study costs, capital exploration, capitalized stripping and capital expenditure.

(7) The \$1,790/oz gold price represents the three-year trailing average gold price at 17 January 2023.

Sensitivity to Gold Price

To view an enhanced version of this graphic, please visit:
https://images.newsfilecorp.com/files/3137/152098_table2.jpg

Outlook

West Vault is committed to maximizing shareholder value through its low-risk gold-in-ground strategy, which involves acquiring, advancing, and holding high-quality development gold projects in the best jurisdictions.

Authors and Qualified Persons Statement

The Technical Report was authored by RESPEC and was prepared in conformance with National Instrument 43-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects ("NI 43-101"). Technical work, analysis, and findings were completed by Thomas L. Dyer, P.E., and Jeff Bickel, C.P.G. both of RESPEC, Reno, with contributions by Mark Jorgensen, SME, of JE&TS (metallurgy), Ryan Baker, P.E., of NewFields (civil and heap leach) and Carl Defilippi, SME, of KCA (process design). Each person is either a "Qualified Person" or an "Expert Relied Upon" under NI 43-101 and has reviewed and approved the information in this news release relevant to the portion of the Technical Report for which they are responsible. Each Qualified Person or Expert Relied Upon noted above has reviewed and approved the scientific and technical content in this news release relating to the Technical Report. West Vault will file the Technical Report on SEDAR in support of the technical disclosures made in this news release within 45 days.

Sample Preparation, Analyses, and Security

It is RESPEC's opinion that the sampling, assaying, and security procedures used at Three Hills and Hasbrouck deposits follow industry standard procedures, and are adequate for the estimation of the current Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve and for use in preparing the Technical Report.

Data Verification

RESPEC completed audits of the database, performed a site visit, reviewed quality assurance and quality control data and confirmed historic assays. After performing their review, they consider the assay data to be adequate for the estimation of the current Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve and for use in preparing the Technical Report.

About RESPEC

Based in Rapid City, South Dakota, RESPEC is a global leader in diverse technologies and draws from a wide array of expertise, products, and services to deliver world-class solutions for business, mining, energy, water, natural resources, urban development, infrastructure, and enterprise services.

Qualified Person

Sandy McVey P.Eng., Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer for the Company, as a non-independent Qualified Person as defined in NI 43-101, has reviewed and approved the technical information disclosed in this news release.

On behalf of the Board of [West Vault Mining Inc.](#)

Sandy McVey, P.Eng., MSc, PMP

CEO & COO

For further information please see the Company's website at www.westvaultmining.com or contact us by email at info@westvaultmining.com.

Investor enquiries:
Sandy McVey
(604) 685 8311 / info@westvaultmining.com

Hasbrouck Gold Project Mineral Resources

Mineral Resources are reported inclusive of Mineral Reserves.

Hasbrouck Deposit Reported Mineral Resources* December 15, 2022,
(0.007oz AuEq/ton Cutoff)

Class	K Tons	oz Au/ton	K oz Au	oz Ag/ton	k oz Ag
Measured	6,987	0.019	134	0.39	2,752
Indicated	35,041	0.015	516	0.27	9,404
M+I	42,028	0.015	651	0.29	12,156
Inferred	5,161	0.011	56	0.19	986

Three Hills Deposit Reported Mineral Resources* December 15, 2022
(0.005oz Au/ton Cutoff)

Class	K Tons	oz Au/ton	K oz Au
Indicated	10,423	0.018	185
Inferred	1,008	0.017	17

Notes:

(1) All estimates of Mineral Resource have been prepared in accordance with NI 43-101 standards.

(2) Mineral Resource for the Hasbrouck deposit is estimated using a gold equivalent 0.007oz AuEq/ton cut-off grade inside an optimized pit shell that was created using a gold price of \$1,850/oz gold and \$22.75/oz silver, a mining cost of \$2.39/ton mined, a processing cost of \$4.81/ton processed, a lithologic- and depth dependent recovery equation provided by Mr. Mark Jorgenson, G&A cost of \$0.36/ton processed, and a 2.38% NSR royalty (note the project cash-flow analysis uses 3-year trailing average prices of \$1,790/oz gold and \$22.50/oz silver as off January 17, 2023).

(3) The Hasbrouck gold equivalent cutoff grade utilizes the following formulas:

1. Oz AuEq/ton = oz Au/ton + (oz Ag/ton x AuEqFactor)
2. AuEqFactor = (Au Price / Ag Price) x (Au Recovery / Ag Recovery)
3. Upper Siebert Formation: oz AuEq/ton = oz Au/ton + (oz Ag/ton x 0.0053)
4. Lower Siebert Formation: oz AuEq/ton = oz Au/ton + (oz Ag/ton x 0.0027)

(4) Mineral Resource for Three Hills deposit is estimated using a 0.005oz Au/ton cut-off grade inside an optimized pit shell created using a gold price of \$1,850 per ounce, a mining cost of \$2.39/ton mined, a processing cost of \$2.98/ton processed, a grade-dependent recovery equation provided by Mr. Mark Jorgenson, G&A cost of \$0.42/ton processed, and a 2.38% NSR Royalty.

(5) Rounding as required by reporting guidelines may result in apparent discrepancies between tons, grades, and contained metal content.

(6) The Mineral Resource has been prepared by Jeff Bickel, C.P.G of RESPEC in conformity with CIM "Estimation of Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserve Best Practices" guidelines as required by Canadian Securities Administrators NI43-101. Mineral Resources are not Mineral Reserves and do not have demonstrated economic viability. There is no certainty that all Mineral Resources will be converted into Mineral Reserves. These Mineral Resource estimates include Inferred Mineral Resources that are considered too speculative geologically to have economic considerations applied to them that would enable them to be categorized as Mineral Reserves. It is reasonably expected that the majority of Inferred Mineral Resources could be upgraded to Measured or Indicated Mineral Resource with continued exploration.

(7) The effective date of the Mineral Resource Estimate is December 15, 2022.

(8) The Mineral Resource Estimate may be materially affected by geology, environment, permitting, legal, title, taxation, sociopolitical, marketing, or other relevant issues.

(9) RESPEC is not aware of political, environmental, or other risks that could materially affect the potential development of the Mineral Resources.

Hasbrouck Gold Project Mineral Reserves

Proven and Probable Reserves total 44.0 million tons containing 753,000 ounces gold and 10.5 million ounces silver as detailed below:

Hasbrouck Gold Project Reserves, January 11, 2023, RESPEC (1, 2)

		K tons Ore	Grade (oz Au/ ton)	K oz Au	Grade (oz Ag/ton)	K oz Ag
Three Hills Mine Reserves						
	Proven	-	-	-	-	-
0.005 opt	Probable	9,653	0.018	175	-	-
Au cutoff	P&P	9,653	0.018	175	-	-
Hasbrouck Mine Reserves						
	Proven	6,130	0.021	126	0.417	2,558
Variable	Probable	28,239	0.016	452	0.281	7,946
cutoff grade (3)	P&P	34,370	0.017	578	0.306	10,504
Total Hasbrouck Gold Project						
	Proven	6,130	0.021	126	0.417	2,558
Variable	Probable	37,893	0.017	627	0.210	7,946
cutoff grade (3)	P&P	44,023	0.017	753	0.239	10,504

Notes:

(1) The estimation and classification of Proven and Probable Mineral Reserves have been prepared by Thomas L. Dyer, P.E., of RESPEC following CIM standards effective 17 January 2023.

(2) Mineral Reserves are estimated based on previously designed pits which have been validated using \$1,750/oz gold and \$21.50/oz silver (note the project cash-flow analysis uses 3-year rolling average prices of \$1,790/oz gold and \$22.50/oz silver)

(3) Three Hills Mine cutoff grade used for Mineral Reserves is 0.005 oz Au/ton and are based on a grade dependent recovery equation for gold provided by Mr. Mark Jorgensen

$$1. \text{Rec}_{\text{gold}} = \min(0.925, (0.1786 \text{ times } \ln(\text{grade in opt}) + 1.5203) - 0.0025)$$

(4) Hasbrouck Mine Mineral Reserves use a variable gold recovery based on material in Upper Siebert and Lower Siebert along with depth below topo

$$1. \text{Upper Siebert: } \text{Rec}_{\text{gold}} = (0.0009 \text{ times } (\text{Depth below topo in feet})) + 0.3026 + 0.10$$

$$2. \text{Lower Siebert: } \text{Rec}_{\text{gold}} = (0.0002 \text{ times } (\text{Depth below topo in feet})) + 0.6412 + 0.05$$

(5) Hasbrouck Mine Mineral Reserves silver recovery uses a constant 24% for Upper Siebert and 17% for Lower Siebert

(6) Hasbrouck Mine Mineral Reserves use a gross metal value ("GMV") cutoff grade of \$5.17/ton which includes the cost for processing and G&A

(7) Mineral Resources are reported inclusive of Mineral Reserves

(8) The Inferred Mineral Resource does not contribute to the financial performance of the project and is treated in the same way as waste

Glossary

NI 43-101 - National Instrument 43-101 Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects

k - thousand

koz - thousand ounces

NPV(5%) - net present value at a five-percent discount rate

IRR - internal rate of return

G&A - general and administrative (costs)

Compliance with NI 43-101 and Cautionary Statement on Mineral Resources and Reserves

The information in this news release has been summarized from the Technical Report and Updated Preliminary Feasibility Study: Hasbrouck and Three Hills Gold-Silver Project, Esmeralda County, Nevada - RESPEC, January 2023, currently being prepared by Thomas L. Dyer, P.E., and Jeff Bickel, C.P.G. of RESPEC, Reno, with contributions by Mark Jorgensen, SME, of JE&TS (metallurgy), Ryan Baker, P.E., of NewFields (civil and heap leach) and Carl Defilippi, SME, of KCA (process design). Each aforementioned person is a "Qualified Person" or a "Expert Relied Upon" under NI 43-101, is independent of West Vault and has reviewed and approved the information in this presentation, as of the time that the Technical Report was produced and as relevant to the portion of the Technical Report for which they are responsible. RESPEC has reviewed and verified the data disclosed in this news release to be in conformity with generally accepted CIM "Estimation of Mineral Resource and Mineral Reserves Best Practices" guidelines as of the time of the Technical Report as required by NI 43-101. For readers to fully understand the information in this news release, they should read the Technical Report when available on www.sedar.com or at www.westvaultmining.com in its entirety, including all qualifications, assumptions, and exclusions that relate to the information set out in this news release that qualify the technical information contained in the Technical Report. The Technical Report is intended to be read as a whole, and sections should not be read or relied upon when taken out of the context of the full Technical Report. The technical information in this presentation is subject to the assumptions, qualifications, and exclusions contained in the Technical Report.

Non-IFRS Reporting Measures

"Cash Costs", "All-in Sustaining Costs" and "All-in Costs" are not Performance Measures reported in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). These performance measures are included because these statistics are key performance measures that management uses to monitor performance. Management uses these statistics to assess how the Project ranks against its peer projects and to assess the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the contemplated mining operations. These performance measures do not have a meaning within IFRS and, therefore, amounts presented may not be comparable to similar data presented by other mining companies. These performance measures should not be considered in isolation as a substitute for measures of performance in accordance with IFRS.

Disclaimer for Forward-Looking Information

This press release may contain forward-looking information or forward-looking statements (collectively "forward-looking information") within the meaning of applicable securities laws. Forward-looking information is typically identified by words such as: "will", "will come from", "forecast", "believe", "eliminating", "means", "should benefit", "would benefit", "will benefit", "validates", "thesis", "reflecting", "exploration potential", "expansion potential", "potential to increase and extend", "highlighted", "confirms", "economically robust", "gold-price sensitive", "will benefit", "high-quality", "excellent", "patiently letting", "avoiding the risk", "significant", "high-quality", "acquiring", "advancing", "holding", "validates", "too early", "excellent jurisdiction", "increasing value", "supports", "strong economically", "supports" "leveraged", "high-quality project", and similar expressions, and those, which, by their nature, refer to future events. All statements that are not statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. Forward looking statements in this news release include, without limitation, statements regarding the projected cost and economic performance of the Project based on the Technical Report, the Company's ability to obtain any additional permits required to commence and complete construction and perform operations, the Company's ability to obtain required funding on reasonable terms, and the potential identification, execution, and realization of accretive opportunities.

Although West Vault believes that such information as set out in this press release is reasonable, it can give no assurance that such expectations and estimates will prove correct. The Company cautions investors that any forward-looking information provided by the Company is not a guarantee of future results or performance, and that actual results may differ materially from forward-looking information as a result of various factors. The reader is referred to the Company's public filings for a more complete discussion of such risk factors and their potential effects which may be accessed through the Company's profile on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

Neither the TSX Venture Exchange nor its Regulation Services Provider (as that term is defined in the policies of the TSX Venture Exchange) accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

Note to US Investors

This news release has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the securities laws in effect in Canada, which differ from the requirements of United States securities laws. The terms "Mineral Resource", "Indicated Mineral Resource" and "Inferred Mineral Resource" are defined in and required to be disclosed by NI 43-101. However, these terms are not defined terms under SEC S-K 1300 and are normally not permitted to be used in reports and registration statements filed with the SEC. In addition, the terms "Mineral Reserve", "Probable Mineral Reserve" and "Proven Mineral Reserve" are also defined in NI43-101 and not S-K 1300. Investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of an "Indicated Mineral Resource" or "Inferred Mineral Resource" will ever be upgraded to a higher category or converted into Mineral Reserves in accordance with S-K 1300. "Inferred Mineral Resources" have a great amount of uncertainty as to their existence, and great uncertainty as to their economic and legal feasibility. Under Canadian rules, estimates of Inferred Mineral Resources may not form the basis of feasibility or pre-feasibility studies, except in rare cases. Investors are cautioned not to assume that all or any part of an Inferred Mineral Resource exists or is economically or legally mineable. Disclosure of "contained ounces" in a Mineral Resource is permitted disclosure under Canadian regulations; however, the SEC normally only permits issuers to report mineralization that does not constitute "Reserves" by SEC S-K 1300 standards as in-place tonnage and grade without reference to unit measures. Accordingly, information contained in this News Release contains descriptions of the Company's mineral deposits that may not be comparable to similar information made public by U.S. companies subject to the reporting and disclosure requirements under the United States federal securities laws and the rules and regulations thereunder.

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