

Issues	Marathon Response
When and where can I send a resume?	Resumes can be sent anytime as there are hirings at all stages. Please send resumes to careers@marathon-gold.com and ensure your file is Word or PDF and does not include photos.
What is the plan for drilling this year?	The drilling plan for 2020 includes 44,000 metres of drill focussed on the Sprite Corridor, footwall zones, and four other exploration targets of interest. Further details are provided in our press release dated February 3, 2020, which is available on our website.
What is your tentative date to start up drilling plans? Can Matt discuss and ensure shareholders that he will not dilute shareholders with anymore private placements? Why have we not seen any insider buying from him?	Drilling at the Marathon Camp restarted on June 9th when NL went to Alert Level 3, and followign the introduction of our COVID-19 safety protocols. Marathon's strategy is to develop the Valentine Project into a successful mine, this will involve project financing, most likely with both equity and debt. Matt's personal purchases of Marathon stock are detailed on the public SEDI filings.
When do you anticipate the resumption of drilling given the impact of the virus?	We shut down the exploration camp on March 14 to ensure worker safety. To resume, we must be in sync with public health authorities. When NL moves to Alert Level 3, we will plan for reopening and are looking forward to resuming exploration as soon as possible. We are developing protocols to ensure safety - looking forward to resumption of drilling in June and we should be able to complete 2020 drilling program. Zero harm to people is our guiding principle so we will proceed cautiously and in alignment with provincial authorities. <b>Update: Note that the province moved to Phase 3 of the COVID-19 restrictions on June 8, and Marathon has restarted exploration work at the site as of June 10 as per our press release dated June 9, 2020.</b>
Could you touch briefly on any RECENT measure of interest Marathon has received from current gold producers concerning a partnership or outright take over for the Valentine Lake project?	This is not something we are able to comment on publically I am afraid. Our stated strategy is the development of the Valentine Project into a successful mining operation.

<p>What will the average wage be for equipment operators?</p>	<p>We have not determined wages for specific employment types to date. We expect the average salary across all employment types at the site to be in the range of \$100,000 including overtime and burden, however please note this is a very high level estimate based on other mine operations in NL and Canada.</p>
<p>How much drilling do you think you can get in the rest of 2020 if province re-open into phase 3 mid June?</p>	<p>We remain optimistic that we can complete the full drilling program that we outlined in our press release dated February 3, 2020. This includes 44,000 metres of drill focussed on the Sprite Corridor, footwall zones, and four other exploration targets of interest. <b>Update: Note that the province moved to Phase 3 of the COVID-19 restrictions on June 8, and Marathon has restarted exploration work at the site as of June 10 as per our press release dated June 9, 2020.</b></p>
<p>Other than increased capacity, is there any difference/improvement in recovery rates wrt Phase 1 vs Phase 2 milling?</p>	<p>There is a small (less than 1%) difference in overall recovery between the two phases. The higher throughput rates of the second phase (4 million tonnes per annum ) versus the first phase (2.5 Mtpa) is achieved by having a coarser grind up front (150 microns versus 75 microns). To maintain the high recoveries during the second phase with that coarser grind, we drop in a flotation circuit. So phase one is low capex-high capex (because of the grinding). Phase 2 is higher capex (because of the flotation) but lower opex. Minimising upfront capital is the reason we do this. We aren't doing it for metallurgical reasons. Recovery is essentially flat between the two flow sheets. Gold production remains relatively consistent through both phases as ore grade in the first couple of years is projected to be higher than average, compensating for the lower throughput of phase 1</p>
<p>If the EIS is submitted in Q3 of 2020, does the government have a mandated time limit to review and approve?</p>	<p>The provincial and federal governments have mandated time limits to review and approve; however, these time limits are for government time only, and do not include the time needed for the proponent to prepare responses to information requests or any additional information that may be required.</p>

<p>When do you expect to appoint your engineering contractor?</p>	<p>We expect to appoint a lead consultant for the Feasibility Study in the next few weeks. That is the next stage of our engineering studies.</p>
<p>Can you explain what "Detox tailings means?</p>	<p>In terms of tailings and milling process, Marathon will use cyanide. The effluent that leaves the tailing will be treated and once so treated, will be considered to be 'detoxified' tailings.</p>
<p>There is no mention of lab personnel as I can see thus far. Are there plans to test the quality of the product in an on-site lab or will the samples be tested externally?</p>	<p>A laboratory will be built at the site to assay drill cuttings for grade control and reconcillation during operations. Gold product will be melted and poured into bars, which will be sent to a smelter for final refinement and quality testing.</p>
<p>When do you anticipate needing first power from NL Hydro?</p>	<p>Currently we are looking at first power, mid to late 2022. We are consulting with NL Hydro as to when power will be needed - no firm date yet.</p>
<p>When you start hiring equipment operators will you be willing to hire someone with little to no experience or will you have to have a certain number of years experience?</p>	<p>We expect to hire equipment operators with a range of experience. We expect to hire some operators with little or no experience, working with local educational institutions to provide training/appreticeship programs to train operators to ensure we have a sustainable workforce over the life of the project.</p>
<p>Are there going to be any delays on the start up time for the hiring of heavy equipment operators?</p>	<p>The schedule shown in the presentation outlines the currently expected timelines for the start of construction, and the start of operations. As with any project, there are certain risks that may impact the actual dates of these milestones, however Marathon is working very hard to meet or exceed these dates. Marathon will continue to inform all stakeholders on the progress of the project and provide employment opportunity updates.</p>
<p>What degree has Covid-19 impacted the project overall?</p>	<p>Environmental Assessment is the critical path for the Project for the time being. Marathon employees are currently working from home. COVID has not seriously affected our ability to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement. We are able to work to schedule so no discernible impacts noted so far.</p>

<p>Would the discovery of another deposit alter the final Feasibility Study or is solely based on the Marathon and Leprechaun deposits?</p>	<p>No, the drilling planned for 2020 and in the next year or two is intended to identify potential new zones of mineralization (like the Berry Zone), however, it takes many years of exploration to determine if a deposit is of sufficient size and grade to be mined. To use the Marathon deposit as an example, from discovery it took 5 to 6 years to complete the exploration required to show it was a viable, economical deposit. With the Feasibility Study work commencing in Q3 2020, and finishing in early 2021, only Leprechaun and Marathon will be included in the study.</p>
<p>Understanding this is an Open Pit Resource for the purposes of getting the project approved, does the geometry of the deposit lend itself to transitioning to an UG operation, if the resource continues at depth?</p>	<p>As noted, the exploration and engineering/feasibility studies to date have been focussed solely on the open pit resources and a project description that exploits those resources. Marathon's exploration drilling to date shows that gold mineralization extends below planned open pit depths of approximately 300 m, to depths greater than 1,000 m where drilling was extended. These results are generally positive, however, substantial exploration work is needed to determine if the resource potential and grades are sufficient to support a transition to underground mining. Currently, the exploration program is focussed on expanding potential open pit resources in new areas such as the Berry Zone.</p>
<p>Is hiring going to be based on how close I live to the site?</p>	<p>We will be developing a formal hiring framework. Currently, we are a small team and are evolving from an exploration company to a producing mine. We will formalize some principles around hiring and a key principle will be proximity to the Project. Buchans, Millertown and Buchans Junction are closest to the Project and we want to ensure that the Project has a meaningful and positive impact on these communities. We will be concluding a Benefits agreement with the Province which will likely reflect this principle. Our objective is to maximize local benefits.</p>
<p>I am a HR person currently working with the Federal Government in Labour Relations and have done staffing discipline, as well. Will this be of interest for employment within Marathon Gold?</p>	<p>Marathon will require HR personnel as the project moves forward, however we have not developed a specific schedule for these hires or specific requirements for these roles in terms of education and experience. We will be advertising positions as required, and drawing from our resume database which you can submit to at <a href="mailto:careers@marathon-gold.com">careers@marathon-gold.com</a>.</p>

<p>Will copies of the EIS be available to the public other than online?</p>	<p>Yes, hard copies of the EIS will be available at public viewing centres in the project vicinity. These locations have yet to be determined, but are generally municipal buildings, libraries, or other locations that are open to the public.</p>
<p>When would we expect to see a request for contracts for the start of the construction phase at end of 2021?</p>	<p>We generally expect to tender contracts for the construction phase in mid to Q3 2021 based on our anticipated construction start of January 2022.</p>

What happens to the tailings pond in the long term?

In Year 9 of operations, tailings deposition will be moved from the TMF to the exhausted Leprechaun Pit. Rehabilitation and closure of the TMF will commence in year 10 of operations, including revegetation and construction of the "closure spillway" which will essentially eliminate water ponding within the tailings impoundment. During the rehabilitation phase, testwork will be conducted to determine if the tailings have sufficiently consolidated to consider the TMF a landform. At the same time, the water draining from the TMF will be monitored to determine if continued holding or treatment of the water is required for some period of time (the water treatment plant and polishing pond will remain in place as required to treat the water from the TMF). Noting that our testwork to date indicate very low likelihood that we have any Acid Rock Drainage or Metal Leaching issues with the tailings, we are optimistic that prior to the final closure of the Project Site, that the TMF will be considered a landform with water drainage that is suitable for release to the environment. This would mean that the dams are no longer considered dams for the purpose of holding the tailings in place, and that the TMF would be considered stable in perpetuity. Further testwork, engineering, and monitoring will be required to confirm these assumptions. In the event the TMF cannot be considered a landform based on the Canadian Dam Association requirements, Marathon will be responsible for monitoring and maintenance of the dam in perpetuity. In the event that Marathon is unable to continue this work for any reason (eg. bankruptcy), the Province requires Financial Assurance to be posted by Marathon that will ensure sufficient funds are held such that the Province would be able to hire a third party to complete the monitoring and maintenance of the TMF.

<p>What is likelihood of future expansion?</p>	<p>Marathon is continuing with exploration programs which are targeting existing and potential exploration targets of interest (see our press release regarding the 2020 drill program dated February 3, 2020 on our website). Marathon is optimistic that other economical deposits exist on the property and we will continue to explore, noting that it generally takes 5 to 10 years from discovery of a deposit to having sufficient data to show it is an economical deposit.</p>
<p>Seems like a great project economically with large profit margins. I just hope an appropriate amount of those profits are being set aside for harm prevention and remediation of this area. Thank you for the information session.</p>	<p>Marathon is required to post "Financial Assurance" to the Province, which will cover the cost of the rehabilitation and closure of the site if Marathon is not able to do so for any reason (e.g. bankruptcy). This cost - which is reviewed and approved by the Department of Natural Resources - will be in the tens of millions of dollars for Marathon's proposed project, and we will be required to provide these funds prior to construction. This is a policy/requirement that the NL government put in place to ensure that the public is not left on the hook for the costs associated with rehabilitating a mine site where the owner doesn't do what is required (e.g. the former Hope Brook Gold Mine). In addition to this requirement, Marathon is committed to meeting and exceeding required measures to minimize or avoid environmental impacts, and to developing leading-edge enhancement and compensation programs where impacts can not be completely avoided.</p>
<p>Has a Geo-membrane liner been considered?</p>	<p>The Prefeasibility-level TMF dam design incorporates a continuous geosynthetic liner system that will be applied to the upstream face of the rockfill dam slope. Properly graded materials and/or geomembrane will be utilized to protect the liner, which will serve to contain the tailings and effluent with the tailings impoundment upstream of the tailings dam.</p>

<p>Since it is only 80km from Millertown to the mine, is it possible that we will ever have a daily commute bus to the site?</p>	<p>Unfortunately that distance is too long to allow a daily commute, especially when we consider speed limits on the road and the fact that employees will be coming from different locations within the region and province. So we will be operating this project with an accommodation camp and a variety of rotations. The 80km to Millertown is favourable to us though in having efficient and timely shipment of goods and services to the site, and allowing efficient access for contractors.</p>
<p>During construction and operations will those living in the local communities be impacted (noise, dust, road safety) by mine traffic?</p>	<p>There are certain communities that are on the route between the Trans-Canada highway and the site that will see mine-related traffic. However, we are not shipping ore or concentrate in this project. so any traffic will be supplies, fuel and people principally. Realistically, that would most likely be no more than a few vehicles a day. During construction there will be the shipment of construction materials as well. Minimizing noise, dust, and risk is something we will be looking to achieve through careful route selection and scheduling in consultation with communities. Upgrading the access road from Millertown to the site is contemplated in our Pre-Feasibility Study to allow for a safe and reliable trip during that leg.</p>
<p>Initially the proposal did not take into account potential impacts on fish and fish habitat downstream of the immediate project site. Has this changed to address potential downstream impacts?</p>	<p>The potential impacts of the original footprint were related to immediate impacts on site. When the initial site layout was proposed, a pond was assumed to be fishless - this proved to be incorrect so site plan has been altered. In terms of downstream impacts, we have a lot of information about discharge etc. embedded in project planning and design. Our monitoring efforts will also address downstream impacts. We have done fate and effects modelling for accidental events and this will be incorporated into the EIS. As a result downstream effects have been considered both in design and monitoring.</p>

<p>I think that it is important to clearly state the difference ( acid leaching) between your project and what happened at Hope brook. This would be beneficial!</p>	<p>There has been significant regulatory change since Hope Brook was operated. During the operation of this mine, there was a release of cyanide which resulted in fish die-off. However, the regulations have changed and we will be implementing spill containment and other measures to ensure that the effluent that leaves facility is treated through a cyanide destruct process. There is a significant difference between the way cyanide will be treated by Marathon and how it was treated at Hope Brook. We will institute control and other measures to reduce the risk of a similar event. We have also adjusted Project design to eliminate the heap leach process and instead will employ processing at a conventional mill. This change was made to reduce potential adverse environmental effects - all processing will be within a contained facility with detoxification procedures.</p>
<p>During operation, will there be any opportunities to perform progressive reclamation at the site and if so, will MOZ do this?</p>	<p>Yes, there will be opportunities for progressive rehabilitation. It is a requirement under the mining act and we will be developing plans in compliance with this legislation.</p>
<p>Can you discuss the notion of intentional dam breaching?</p>	<p>The tailings are impounded by a dam. Following the conclusion of operations, we will have an opportunity to look at turning the tailings facility into a land form. Our research indicates that we will not have acid-generating tailings so we will be looking at opportunities to avoid having a dam in perpetuity. We are undertaking studies and are optimistic that we can turn the tailings facility into a land form and is there fore no longer considered a dam.</p>
<p>Is a comprehensive Human Health Risk Assessment (completed as per Health Canada's guidelines) being completed for the project?</p>	<p>Marathon is undertaking sampling this summer to determine potential effects on country foods. Depending on the modelling related to deposition of atmospheric emissions and related matters, we will determine whether a Human Health Risk Assessment is required in consultation with Health Canada.</p>
<p>Would it be possible to minimize the height of the tailing dam by filling the Leprechaun pit sooner?</p>	<p>Marathon will take this into consideration. However, in order to deposit tailings will need to exhaust Leprechaun pit first. The pit is due to be finished in year 9; if we can mine this pit sooner, would have an opportunity to place tailings there sooner and thus minimize the height of the tailings dam.</p>

Are more public consultation sessions planned prior to submission of the EIS?

We will hold a public consultation session after submission - this is our current strategy and will provide information for individuals to participate in the government processes for public comment on the EIS.