

Surgold Holds Public Consultation Meetings on Proposed Gold Mining Project

Surgold is holding open, public consultation meetings to provide information and solicit public input on the proposed Merian Gold Project. The series of open public meetings will take place in Paramaribo, Moengo and Langa Tabiki between 17th and 19th August 2011.

Surgold has commissioned Environmental Resources Management (ERM), an international environmental consultancy, to complete an independent study of the environmental and social impacts of the proposed mining project. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), carried out by ERM, will seek to maximise positive impacts from the project, including economic and infrastructure development, while identifying and reducing potential negative impacts.

“Before this project can proceed, we must first gather input from the public about potential benefits and impacts,” said Kirk Schmidt Surgold Manager. *“The public’s input is vital to helping shape the proposed project so we may anticipate and address community needs and concerns.”*

The public consultation meetings are a key element of the ongoing ESIA process, which is required in order to determine if the project should proceed. The public will be provided information about the proposed project and are invited to ask questions and express their views at the meetings. The entire ESIA process is expected to last until June 2012.

Maps, informational brochures and the proposed methodology for the assessment are publicly available for review. Representatives of both Surgold and ERM were present at the meetings to gather input and answer questions about the proposed project.

###