

ROYAL GOLD INC
Form 424B5
September 21, 2005

Table of Contents

The information in this prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This prospectus supplement and the related prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities, and they are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

**Registration No. 333-111490
Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)**

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED SEPTEMBER 21, 2005

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(To Prospectus dated July 14, 2004)**

\$

Royal Gold, Inc.

2,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

We are selling 2,000,000 shares of our common stock. We have granted the underwriters an option to purchase up to 300,000 additional shares of common stock to cover over-allotments.

Our common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol RGLD. The last reported sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market on September 19, 2005 was \$28.28 per share. Our common stock is also traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol RGL.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-12.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if the prospectus or this prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Share	Total
Public Offering Price	\$	\$
Underwriting Discount	\$	\$
Proceeds to Royal Gold, Inc. (before expenses)	\$	\$

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares to the purchasers on or about September , 2005.

HSBC

Merrill Lynch & Co.

National Bank Financial

The date of this prospectus supplement is September , 2005.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this prospectus supplement. Information in this prospectus supplement updates and modifies the information in the accompanying prospectus.

**Table of Contents
Prospectus Supplement**

	Page
<u>About this Prospectus Supplement</u>	S-1
<u>Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-1
<u>Incorporation of Documents by Reference</u>	S-2
<u>Certain Definitions</u>	S-2
<u>Tax Considerations</u>	S-2
<u>Prospectus Supplement Summary</u>	S-3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-12
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-17
<u>Market Price of Our Common Stock</u>	S-17
<u>Dividend Policy</u>	S-18
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-19
<u>Management</u>	S-20
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-22
<u>Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations for Non-U.S. Holders</u>	S-26
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-28
<u>Experts</u>	S-29
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	S-29

Prospectus

Important Notice to Readers	ii
Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements	ii
Incorporation by Reference	ii
Summary	1
Risk Factors	3
Use of Proceeds	7
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	8
Description of Common Stock	8
Description of Depository Shares	11
Description of Warrants	12
Description of Preferred Stock	13
Description of Debt Securities	14
Plan of Distribution	28
Legal Matters	30
Experts	30
Where You Can Find More Information	30

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement on Form S-3 (File no. 333-111490), as amended, that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) utilizing a shelf registration process and that was declared effective on July 14, 2004. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time, sell up to \$300,000,000 of common stock, warrants, depositary shares, preferred stock or debt securities, of which this offering is a part.

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering of common stock and also adds, updates and changes information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference. The second part is the prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering of common stock. To the extent the information contained in this prospectus supplement differs or varies from the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as the additional information described under *Where You Can Find More Information* on page S-29 of this prospectus supplement before investing in our common stock.

Unless otherwise stated, information in this prospectus supplement assumes the underwriters will not exercise their over-allotment option to purchase additional shares of our common stock and no other person will exercise any other outstanding options to purchase shares of our common stock.

This document includes product names, trade names and trademarks of other companies. All such product names and trademarks appearing in this document are the property of their respective holders.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the related prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference contain certain forward-looking statements and information relating to us that are based on our beliefs and assumptions as well as information currently available to management. Additional written or oral forward-looking statements may be made by Royal Gold, Inc. from time to time in filings with the SEC or otherwise. The words *believe*, *estimate*, *expect*, *anticipate*, and *project* and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date the statement is made. These statements are included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. Such forward-looking statements are within the meaning of that term in Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Such forward-looking statements include statements regarding projected gold and silver production, reserves and mineralization received from the operators of our royalty properties, as well as settlement of the Casmalia matter, the potential need for additional funding for acquisitions, our future capital commitments and our expectation that substantially all our revenues will be derived from royalty interests. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from these forward-looking statements include, in addition to those set forth in *Risk Factors*, among others, changes in precious metals prices, decisions and activities of the operators of our royalty properties, unanticipated grade, geological, metallurgical, processing or other problems at these properties, changes in project parameters as plans of the operators are refined, economic and market conditions, future financial needs, federal or state legislation governing us or the operators, the availability of acquisitions, and the ultimate additional liability, if any, to the State of California in connection with the Casmalia matter, as well as other factors described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified. Future events and actual results could differ materially from those set forth in, contemplated by or underlying the forward-looking statements. We disclaim any obligation to update any forward-looking statement made herein. Readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus supplement, and information in documents that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede information in this prospectus supplement and the related prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we will make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (except current reports on Form 8-K furnished rather than filed under Form 8-K), until the offering of our securities under this registration statement is completed or withdrawn:

1. our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005;
2. our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on August 31, 2005 and September 21, 2005; and
3. our Definitive Proxy Statement filed on Schedule 14A on October 7, 2004.

We will provide a copy of the documents we incorporate by reference, at no cost, to any person who receives this prospectus supplement. To request a copy of any or all of these documents, you should write or telephone us at: Stockholder Relations, Royal Gold, Inc., 1660 Wynkoop Street, Suite 1000, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 573-1660.

CERTAIN DEFINITIONS

Gross Smelter Return (GSR) Royalty: A defined percentage of gross revenue from a resource extraction operation, with no deduction for any costs paid by or charged to the operator.

Net Smelter Return (NSR) Royalty: A defined percentage of the gross revenue from a resource extraction operation, less a proportionate share of incidental transportation, insurance, refining costs and smelter-related charges.

Net Value Royalty: A defined percentage of the gross revenue from a resource extraction operation, less contract-defined costs.

Royalty: The right to receive a percentage or other denomination of mineral production from a mining operation.

Ton: A unit of weight equal to 2,000 pounds or 907.2 kilograms.

TAX CONSIDERATIONS

We are not providing any tax advice as to the acquisition, holding or disposition of the Shares of our common stock offered herein. In making an investment decision, investors must consult their own tax advisor to determine the U.S. federal or state and any applicable foreign tax consequences for their investment in our common stock. See Certain United States Federal Income Tax Considerations for Non-U.S. Holders on page S-26

S-2

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about us. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. For a more complete understanding of us you should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement and the related prospectus, including the Risk Factors section and the other documents we refer to and incorporate by reference. Unless otherwise indicated, we, us, our, or Royal Gold refer to Royal Gold, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

Royal Gold, Inc.

We are engaged in the business of acquiring and managing of precious metals royalties. Substantially all our revenue is derived from our royalties on three mines in Nevada: the Pipeline Mining Complex operated by an affiliate of Placer Dome Inc., the Leeville project operated by Newmont Mining Corporation and portions of the Betze-Post mine at the Goldstrike operation of Barrick Gold Corporation. We also have producing royalties on the Troy mine in Montana, the Martha mine in Argentina and the Bald Mountain mine in Nevada. In fiscal 2005, we generated royalty revenues of \$21,392,636 from the Pipeline Mining Complex, representing approximately 85% of our total revenues. In addition, we generated royalty revenues of \$2,026,052 from the SJ claims at the Betze-Post mine, \$763,012 from the Leeville South mine, \$749,362 from the Troy mine, \$208,103 from the Bald Mountain mine, and \$163,167 from the Martha mine.

Business Model

The key elements of our business model are set out below:

1. *Lower-Risk Exposure to Gold through Royalty Ownership.* We have established our business model based on the premise that an attractive means to invest in gold and other precious metals is to hold and acquire royalty interests in precious metals properties rather than engage in mining operations. By holding royalties we do not directly face the capital costs, mining, operating or environmental risks of an operator. In addition, our sliding-scale royalties provide us leverage to changes in the price of gold.

2. *Financial Flexibility.* Our strong liquidity position allows us to more effectively compete for and close acquisitions of royalties by means of purchase or by providing financing.

3. *Industry Relationships and Experience.* We rely on our experienced management team to identify opportunities and structure creative approaches to acquire royalty interests. Our management team includes senior executives with many years of industry experience in geology, mine operations, mining law and mining and financing transactions. Our management team maintains personal relationships throughout the industry, from major mining companies to exploration companies, landowners and prospectors, giving us an excellent platform to identify, target and obtain royalty interests.

4. *Royalty Evaluation Criteria.* We utilize a series of technical, business and legal criteria as we evaluate potential royalty acquisitions. Among the factors we consider are: our analysis of the quality of the asset, reputation of the operator, country risks, timing of anticipated production, potential for reserve growth and overall size and likely duration of the project. We rely both on our own management expertise and that of the highest quality third party engineering firms to evaluate mining properties and reserves as we value royalties for acquisition. We believe our systematic evaluation of royalties combined with our experience provides us a competitive advantage in acquiring and managing royalties.

5. *Focus on Nevada with Exposure Throughout the World.* We believe that the historical record of successful gold mining in Nevada makes it the most attractive region to seek royalties, and the vast majority of our producing and non-producing royalties are in Nevada. While most of our producing portfolio is in a low political risk environment, we also believe that it is important to have exposure to royalties in other parts of the world, and we currently have royalties on properties in Argentina and Russia. In the last two years we have evaluated royalty opportunities in Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America, Northern Europe, Far Eastern Russia, Australia and Africa.

Table of Contents

Growth Strategy

Our growth strategy includes the following:

1. *Build on Our Core Royalties.* We have secured a core group of royalties in leading mines and mining districts in Nevada, with our royalties in Placer Dome's Pipeline Mining Complex, our royalty on the SJ claims at Barrick's Betze-Post mine and our royalty at Newmont's Leeville project. We have built on our initial royalties through direct acquisition, by providing royalty financing and through exploration.

2. *Pursue Strategic Acquisitions of High Quality Royalties.* We have been opportunistic in acquiring high quality existing royalties on producing properties operated by experienced mining companies. We acquired our royalties on the SJ claims and the Leeville project based on our relationships with the prospectors who secured the original royalties on both properties and where high quality operators, such as Newmont and Barrick, were in place. We provide individual and corporate royalty holders opportunities to monetize their royalty positions, which are often non-core assets of mining companies.

3. *Organic Growth through Reserve Replacement.* We look for properties where we believe there is substantial potential for additional reserve growth. At the Pipeline Mining Complex, the current remaining reserves together with the historical production from the operation since inception is more than double the initial reserve estimate at the time we made our initial investment.

4. *Create Royalties on Development Projects.* We seek to create royalties in early and development stage properties by providing financing to mining companies to conduct feasibility studies or develop their properties. We provide the cash investment needed by the operator in exchange for a royalty on future production. Our royalties on the Troy mine operated by Revett Silver Company (Revett) are examples of this approach. We believe this financing approach provides us with a competitive advantage over traditional lenders in that the mining operator preserves its equity, maintains full operational control of the project cash flows and avoids the need to hedge production.

5. *Early Stage Exploration and Exploration Alliances.* Our business was built through successful exploration in Nevada, where we were involved in the discovery of the South Pipeline deposit, now part of the Pipeline Mining Complex. We seek to capture early stage royalty opportunities through acquiring exploration stage properties. In these situations we conduct or fund exploration activities to prove up properties so they can be transferred to a mining company for development in exchange for a royalty interest. We also acquire royalties in properties held by smaller, exploration-focused mining companies in Nevada and around the world in exchange for making a cash investment or joint venturing the exploration property. We hold interests in a portfolio of exploration properties that we explore and royalties on exploration properties that other companies explore. These properties are located in Nevada, California, Argentina and Russia.

Possible Acquisitions

We are engaged in the continual review of opportunities to acquire existing royalties or to create new royalties through the financing or joint venture of mining projects. At the current time we are evaluating or in discussions regarding a variety of different transactions that have varying likelihoods of being concluded. At this time we cannot provide assurance that all or any of the possible transactions will be concluded successfully. A portion of the proceeds of this offering may be used for these acquisitions.

One potential transaction is with Taranis Resources, Inc. Effective August 18, 2005, we entered into a non-binding term sheet with Taranis for an exploration alliance involving the potential expenditure by us of approximately \$875,000 with respect to Taranis' exploration activities in Finland and for a joint venture on Taranis' Kettukuusikko gold exploration property in Finland in exchange for certain royalty interests. There can be no assurance that we will ultimately enter into a final agreement with Taranis on these terms.

Table of Contents

Producing Royalty Interests

Our principal mineral property interests are set forth below:

We hold four royalty interests at the Pipeline Mining Complex, which includes the Pipeline and South Pipeline gold deposits. The Pipeline Mining Complex is operated by the Cortez Joint Venture, which is a joint venture between Placer Cortez, Inc. (60%), a subsidiary of Placer Dome, Inc., and Kennecott Explorations (Australia) Ltd. (40%), a subsidiary of Rio Tinto:

GSR1, a sliding-scale GSR royalty that covers the current mine footprint which includes the Pipeline and South Pipeline deposits and ranges from 0.4% at a gold price below \$210 per ounce to 5.0% at a gold price of \$470 per ounce or above;

GSR2, a sliding-scale GSR royalty that covers areas outside the current Pipeline mine footprint and ranges from 0.72% at a gold price below \$210 per ounce to 9.0% at a gold price of \$470 per ounce or above;

GSR3, a 0.71% fixed rate GSR royalty on the production covered by GSR1 and GSR2;

NVR1, a fixed rate 0.39% net value royalty on all production on the South Pipeline and Crossroads area, not covering the Pipeline deposit.

We hold a 1.8% NSR royalty on the majority of the Leeville project, which includes the development stage Leeville underground mine and a portion of the Carlin East mine, located in Nevada and operated by Newmont Mining Corporation; and

We hold a 0.9% NSR royalty on the SJ claims, which covers a portion of the Betze-Post open pit mine, at the Goldstrike operation, located in Nevada and operated by Barrick Gold Corporation.

Our other producing royalty interests include:

two royalty interests in the Troy underground silver and copper mine, operated by Revett, located in northwestern Montana:

a production payment equivalent to a 7.0% GSR royalty until either cumulative production of approximately 9.9 million ounces of silver and 84.6 million pounds of copper, or we receive \$10.5 million in cumulative payments, whichever occurs first; and

a GSR royalty, also from the Troy mine, which begins at 6.1% on any production in excess of 11.0 million ounces of silver and 94.1 million pounds of copper, and steps down to a 2% GSR royalty after cumulative production has exceeded 12.7 million ounces of silver and 108.2 million pounds of copper;

a 2% NSR royalty on a number of properties in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina, including the Martha silver mine, which is operated by Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation (Coeur d'Alene); and

a 1.75% NSR sliding-scale royalty interest that increases at a gold price of approximately \$575 and covers a portion of the Bald Mountain mine in Nevada, operated by Placer Dome U.S. Inc.

Estimates received from the mine operators indicate that gold production, attributable to our royalty interests, for calendar year 2005 is expected to be approximately 860,000 ounces from the Pipeline Mining Complex, 90,000 ounces from the Leeville South mine and 51,000 ounces from the Leeville North mine at the Leeville project, 674,000 ounces from the SJ claims and 40,000 ounces from the Bald Mountain mine. The operator of the Martha silver mine expects it to produce 1.7 million ounces of silver attributable to our royalty interest for the 2005 calendar year. The operator of the Troy mine expects it to produce 2.0 million ounces of silver and 17.0 million pounds of copper attributable to our royalty interest for the 2005 calendar year. During the first six months of calendar year 2005, the mine operators have reported gold production attributable to our royalty interests of 505,451 ounces from the Pipeline Mining Complex, 36,630 ounces from Leeville South (no production occurred at Leeville North mine during this period),

Table of Contents

241,244 ounces from the SJ claims and 14,281 ounces from the Bald Mountain mine. Revett reported that the Troy mine produced 522,145 ounces of silver and 4.6 million pounds of copper during the first six months of calendar year 2005. The Martha mine did not provide production data for the first six months of calendar year 2005.

Non-Producing Royalties Interests

In addition, we own royalty interests in the following exploration stage projects. None of our non-producing stage projects contain proven and probable reserves:

A 5% NSR royalty interest on a portion of the Mule Canyon project, located in Lander County, Nevada;

A 16.5% net profits interest royalty on the Buckhorn South project, located in Eureka County, Nevada;

A 1% NSR royalty interest on the Long Valley gold project, located in eastern California;

A 1% NSR royalty on the Svetloye project in Russia;

A 2% NSR royalty on a number of exploration properties in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina, currently owned by Yamana Gold, Inc.;

A 1% NSR royalty interest on the Simon Creek project, located in Eureka County, Nevada;

A 0.25% net value royalty interest on the Horse Mountain project, located in Lander County, Nevada;

A 1.5% net value royalty interest on the Ferris/ Cooks Creek project, located in Lander County, Nevada;

A 0.5% NSR royalty interest on the Rye project, located in Pershing County, Nevada;

A 2.5% NSR royalty interest on the BSC project, located in Elko County, Nevada;

A 0.75% NSR royalty on a 60% interest in the Copper Basin project, located in Lander County, Nevada;

A 0.75% NSR royalty on a 67% interest (approximate) on the ICBM project, located in Lander County and Humboldt County, Nevada;

A 0.75% NSR royalty on the Long Peak project, located in Lander County, Nevada; and

A 0.75% NSR royalty on the Dixie Flats project, located in Elko County, Nevada.

Corporate Information

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on January 5, 1981. Our executive offices are located at 1660 Wynkoop Street, Suite 1000, Denver, Colorado 80202, and our telephone number is (303) 573-1660. Our website address is *www.royalgold.com*. The information available on or through our website is not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents**Reserve Information**

The following table shows the proven and probable reserves with respect to our royalty interests that have been reported by Cortez at the Pipeline Mining Complex. Our royalties at the Pipeline Mining Complex cover some of the same reserves.

**Pipeline Mining Complex
Proven and Probable Reserves Subject to Our Royalties(1)(2)(3)(4)
As of December 31, 2004**

Royalty	Tons (millions)	Average Grade (ounces per ton)	Contained Ounces of Gold(5) (millions)
GSR1(6)	196.0	0.029	5.754
GSR2(7)	15.1	0.017	0.258
GSR3(8)	211.1	0.028	6.013
NVR1(9)	126.7	0.028	3.511

- (1) Reserve is that part of a mineral deposit which could be economically and legally extracted or produced at the time of the reserve determination.
- (2) Proven (Measured) Reserves are reserves for which (a) quantity is computed from dimensions revealed in outcrops, trenches, workings or drill holes, and the grade is computed from the results of detailed sampling, and (b) the sites for inspection, sampling and measurement are spaced so closely and the geologic character is so well defined that the size, shape, depth and mineral content of the reserves are well established.
- (3) Probable (Indicated) Reserves are reserves for which the quantity and grade are computed from information similar to that used for proven (measured) reserves, but the sites for inspection, sampling, and measurement are farther apart or are otherwise less adequately spaced. The degree of assurance of probable (indicated) reserves, although lower than that for proven (measured) reserves, is high enough to assume geological continuity between points of observation.
- (4) Amounts shown represent 100% of the reserves subject to our royalty interest and do not take into account losses in processing the ore.
- (5) Contained ounces shown are before an allowance for dilution of ore in the mining process. The expected processing recovery rates are about 88% for oxide mill-grade ore, and 68% oxide for heap leach material. These reserves, estimated by Cortez, are based on a life-of-mine gold price of \$350 per ounce.
- (6) GSR1 is a sliding-scale royalty that covers the Reserve Claims.
- (7) GSR2 is a sliding-scale royalty that covers an area outside of the Reserve Claims.
- (8) GSR3 is a 0.71% fixed rate royalty that covers the same area as GSR1 and GSR2.
- (9) NVR1 is a 0.39% net value royalty that covers production from the GAS Claims, which covers a portion of the Pipeline Mining Complex that excludes the Pipeline pit. NVR1 is calculated by deducting contract defined

processing-related and associated capital costs but not mining costs from revenue received by the operator.

S-7

Table of Contents

The following table summarizes proven and probable reserves with respect to our royalty interests that have been reported to us by the operators for the SJ Claims, the Leeville Project, the Troy mine, the Bald Mountain mine and the Martha mine as of December 31, 2004:

**SJ Claims, Leeville Project, Troy Mine, Bald Mountain Mine and Martha Mine Royalty Interests
Proven and Probable Ore Reserves Subject to Our Royalties
As of December 31, 2004**

Royalty	Operator	Category	Ton (millions)	Average Grade (ounces per ton)	Contained Ounces (millions)
SJ Claims(4)	Barrick	Reserve(1)	68.5	0.141	9.679
Leeville Project					
Leeville North(5)	Newmont	Reserve(1)	5.3	0.479	2.560
Leeville South(5)	Newmont	Reserve(1)	0.3	0.411	0.115
Troy Mine (silver)(6)	Revet	Reserve(2)	7.8	1.570	12.275
Troy Mine (copper)(6)	Revet	Reserve(3)	7.8	0.65 percent	102 pounds
Bald Mountain Mine(7)	Placer Dome	Reserve(1)	6.3	0.070	0.440
Martha Mine (silver)(8)(9)	Coeur d Alene	Reserve(2)	0.057	68.6	3.930

- (1) Gold reserves were calculated by the various operators at \$350 per ounce, except Barrick who calculated reserves at \$375 per ounce.
- (2) Silver reserves were calculated by the operator at \$5.42 per ounce for the Troy mine and \$6.00 per ounce for the Martha mine.
- (3) Copper prices were calculated by the operator at \$0.985 per pound.
- (4) We own a 0.9% NSR royalty on the SJ claims.
- (5) We own a 1.8% carried working interest on a majority of the Leeville project.
- (6) We own a 7.0% GSR royalty in the Troy mine, subject to certain production thresholds.
- (7) We own a 1.75 to 3.5% sliding-scale NSR royalty on a portion of the Bald Mountain mine.
- (8) We own a 2% NSR royalty on the Martha mine.
- (9) On June 30, 2005, Coeur d Alene announced it updated its reserve estimates for the Martha mine, and proven and probable ore reserves related to our royalty now includes 73,900 tons of ore, at an average grade of 61.17 ounces per ton, containing approximately 4.5 million ounces of silver.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Common stock being offered by us 2,000,000 shares

Common stock to be outstanding immediately after this offering 23,030,352 shares

Use of proceeds We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to fund the acquisition and financing of additional royalty interests and for general corporate purposes.

Risk factors An investment in our common stock involves a significant degree of risk. We urge you to carefully consider all of the information described in the section entitled Risk Factors beginning on page S-12.

Nasdaq National Market symbol RGLD

Toronto Stock Exchange symbol RGL

Dividend policy We have declared a cash dividend on our common stock for each fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 2000. We currently plan to sustain a dividend on a calendar year basis, subject to the discretion of the board of directors. However, our board of directors may determine not to declare a dividend based on a number of factors including the gold price, economic and market conditions, and the financial needs of opportunities that might arise in the future.

The number of shares of common stock that will be outstanding after the offering is based on 21,030,352 shares outstanding as of September 16, 2005. This number excludes:

735,024 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding options at a weighted average exercise price of \$13.75 per share, of which 607,774 shares of common stock are subject to options that are vested and immediately exercisable;

58,250 shares of common stock subject to achieving certain performance goals required by the performance shares outstanding under our 2004 Omnibus Long-Term Incentive Plan;

42,000 shares of restricted common stock outstanding under our 2004 Omnibus Long-Term Incentive Plan subject to continued service with us;

676,447 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity compensation plans; and any of the 300,000 additional shares issuable pursuant to the underwriters' over-allotment option.

Table of Contents**Summary of Consolidated Financial Data**

The following summary consolidated financial data should be read together with Selected Financial Data, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our consolidated financial statements and related notes incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. We derived the summary consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended June 30, 2005, 2004 and 2003 from our consolidated financial statements audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm. The related audit reports are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus. Historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected in the future. The unaudited as adjusted balance sheet data gives effect to the issuance by us of 2,000,000 shares of our common stock, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, at a public offering price of \$ per share, and the application of the net proceeds therefrom.

For the Years Ended June 30,

	2005	2004	2003
(dollars in thousands, except per share data)			
Statements of Operations Data:			
Royalty revenues	\$ 25,302	\$ 21,353	\$ 15,788
Costs and expenses			
Costs of operations	1,830	1,513	1,347
General and administrative	3,541	2,923	1,966
Exploration and business development	1,859	1,392	1,233
Impairment of royalty interests in mineral properties			165
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	3,205	3,314	2,855
Non-cash employee stock compensation expense	205		
Total costs and expenses	10,640	9,142	7,566
Gain on sale of other assets			158
Operating income	14,662	12,211	8,380
Interest and other income	834	442	384
Gain on sale of available for sale securities	164		
Interest and other expense	(104)	(127)	(127)
Income before income taxes	15,556	12,526	8,637
Current tax expense	(3,048)	(882)	(177)
Deferred tax expense	(1,055)	(2,772)	(1,708)
Net income	\$ 11,454	\$ 8,872	\$ 6,752
Earnings per share			
Basic	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.43	\$ 0.34
Diluted	\$ 0.54	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.33

Weighted average number of common shares outstanding			
Basic	20,875,957	20,760,452	19,795,949
Diluted	21,070,797	21,110,521	20,231,638

S-10

Table of Contents

	As of June 30, 2005	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(dollars in thousands)	
Balance Sheet Data:		
Current assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 48,840	\$
Royalty receivables	6,601	
Deferred tax assets	453	
Prepaid expenses and other	334	
Total current assets	56,228	
Royalty interests in mineral properties, net	44,817	
Available for sale securities	555	
Deferred tax assets	160	
Other assets	558	
Total assets	\$ 102,318	
Total current liabilities	2,898	
Deferred tax liabilities	7,586	
Other long-term liabilities	97	
Total liabilities	10,581	
Total stockholders' equity	91,737	
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$ 102,318	

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

*An investment in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risks described below, as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, before making an investment decision. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The market or trading price of our securities could decline due to any of these risks. In addition, please read *Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements* in this prospectus supplement, where we describe additional uncertainties associated with our business and the forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. Please note that additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business and operations.*

Risks Related to Our Business

Our revenues are largely dependent on a single property.

In fiscal year 2005, approximately 85% of our revenues were derived from royalties from the Pipeline Mining Complex. We expect that revenue from our royalties on the Pipeline Mining Complex will continue to account for a large percentage of our revenues in the near future. Our success is, therefore, dependent on the extent to which the Pipeline Mining Complex continues to be successful, and on the extent to which we are able to acquire or create other royalty interests.

We own passive interests in mining properties, and it is difficult or impossible for us to ensure properties are operated in our best interest.

All of our current revenue is derived from royalties on properties operated by third parties. The holder of a royalty interest typically has no executive authority regarding development or operation of a mineral property. Therefore, we are not in control of basic decisions regarding development or operation of any of the properties in which we hold a royalty interest, and we have limited or no legal rights to influence those decisions.

Our strategy of having others operate properties in which we retain a royalty or other passive interest puts us generally at risk to the decisions of others regarding all basic operating matters, including permitting, feasibility analysis, mine design and operation, processing, plant and equipment matters, and temporary or permanent suspension of operations, among others. These decisions may be motivated by the best interests of the operator rather than to maximize royalties. Although we attempt to secure contractual rights that will permit us to protect our interests, there can be no assurance that such rights will always be available or sufficient, or that our efforts will be successful in achieving timely or favorable results or in affecting the operations of the properties in which we have royalty interests in ways that would be beneficial to our stockholders.

Decreases in prices of precious metals would reduce our royalty revenues.

The profitability of precious metals mining operations (and thus the value of our royalty interests and exploration properties) is directly related to the market price of precious metals. The market price of various precious metals fluctuates widely and is affected by numerous factors beyond the control of any mining company. These factors include industrial and jewelry fabrication demand, expectations with respect to the rate of inflation, the relative strength of the U.S. dollar and other currencies, interest rates, gold sales and loans by central banks, forward sales by gold producers, global or regional political, economic or banking crises, and a number of other factors. If the market price of precious metals should drop, our royalty revenues would also drop. Our sliding-scale GSR1 royalty amplifies this. When the gold price falls below the steps in the sliding-scale GSR1 royalty, we receive a lower royalty rate on production. In addition, if the gold price drops dramatically, we might not be able to recover our investment in royalty interests or properties. The selection of a royalty investment or of a property for exploration or development, the determination to construct a mine and place it into production, and the dedication of funds necessary to achieve such purposes are decisions that must be made long before the first revenues

Table of Contents

from production will be received. Price fluctuations between the time that such decisions are made and the commencement of production can have a material adverse effect on the economics of a mine, and can eliminate or have a material adverse impact on the value of royalty interests.

The volatility in gold prices is illustrated by the following table, which sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low prices in U.S. dollars per ounce of gold, based on the London PM fix.

Gold Price Per Ounce (\$)

Year	High	Low
1997	\$ 367	\$ 283
1998	313	273
1999	326	253
2000	312	263
2001	293	256
2002	349	278
2003	416	320
2004	454	375
January 1-September 19, 2005	465	411

We depend on the services of our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and our President and other key employees.

We believe that our success depends on the continued service of our key executive management personnel. Currently, Stanley Dempsey is serving as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Tony Jensen is serving as President, Chief Operating Officer and Director. Mr. Dempsey's knowledge of the legal and commercial aspects of royalties and his extensive contacts within the mining industry give us an important competitive advantage. Mr. Jensen has extensive experience in mining operations. Loss of the services of Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Jensen or other key employees could jeopardize our ability to maintain our competitive position in the industry. We currently do not have key person life insurance for any of our officers or directors.

Our revenues are subject to operational risks of the mining industry.

Although we are not required to pay operating costs, our financial results are subject to all of the hazards and risks normally associated with developing and operating mining properties, both for the properties where we are exploring or indirectly for properties operated by others where we hold royalty interests. These risks include:

insufficient ore reserves;

fluctuations in production costs that may make mining of ore uneconomic;

declines in the price of gold;

significant environmental and other regulatory restrictions;

labor disputes;

geological problems;

pit walls or tailings dam failures;

natural catastrophes such as floods or earthquakes; and

the risk of injury to persons, property or the environment.

Operating cost increases can have a negative effect on the value of and income from our royalty interests, and may cause an operator to curtail, delay or close operations at a mine site.

S-13

Table of Contents***Estimates of reserves and mineralization by the operators of mines in which we have royalty interests are subject to significant estimates which can change.***

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating proven and probable reserves and mineralization, including many factors beyond our control or that of the operators of mineral properties in which we have a royalty interest. Reserve estimates on our royalty interests are prepared by the operators of the mining properties, and we do not participate in the preparation of such reports. The estimation of reserves and of other mineralization is a subjective process and the accuracy of any such estimates is a function of the quality of available data and of engineering and geological interpretation and judgment. Results of drilling, metallurgical testing and production, and the evaluation of mine plans subsequent to the date of any estimate may cause revision of such estimates. The volume and grade of reserves recovered and rates of production may be less than anticipated. Assumptions about prices are subject to great uncertainty and the gold price has fluctuated widely in the past. Declines in the market price of gold or other precious metals also may render reserves or mineralization containing relatively lower grades of ore uneconomic to exploit. Changes in operating and capital costs and other factors including short-term operating factors, such as the need for sequential development of ore bodies and the processing of new or different ore grades, may materially and adversely affect reserves.

We may be unable to acquire additional royalty interests.

Our future success depends upon our ability to acquire royalty interests to replace depleting reserves and to diversify our royalty portfolio. We anticipate that most of our revenues will be derived from royalty interests that we acquire or finance, rather than through exploration and development of properties. In addition, we face competition in the acquisition of royalty interests. If we are unable to successfully acquire additional royalties, the reserves on properties currently covered by our royalties will decline as reserves are mined.

Anticipated federal legislation could decrease our royalty revenues.

In recent years, the U.S. Congress has considered a number of proposed major revisions of the General Mining Law, which governs the creation and possession of mining claims and related activities on federal public lands in the United States. It is possible that another bill may be introduced in the Congress and it is possible that a new law could be enacted. If and when a new mining law is enacted, it might impose a royalty upon production of minerals from federal lands and might contain new requirements for mined land reclamation, and similar environmental control and reclamation measures. It remains unclear to what extent new legislation may affect existing mining claims or operations, but it could raise the cost of mining operations, perhaps materially affecting operators and our royalty revenue. The effect of any revision of the General Mining Law on royalty interests in the United States cannot be determined conclusively until such revision, if any, is enacted. The majority of our interests are on public lands. If a royalty, assessment, production tax or other levy imposed on and measured by production is charged to the operator at the Pipeline Mining Complex, the amount of that charge would be deducted from gross proceeds for calculation of our two sliding-scale GSR royalties.

The mining industry is subject to significant environmental risks.

Mining is subject to potential risks and liabilities associated with pollution of the environment and the disposal of waste products occurring as a result of mineral exploration and production. Laws and regulations in the United States and abroad intended to ensure the protection of the environment are constantly changing and generally are becoming more restrictive and costly. Insurance against environmental risks (including potential liability for pollution or other hazards as a result of the disposal of waste products occurring from exploration and production) is not generally available to the companies within the mining industry, such as the operators of the mines in which we hold a royalty interest, at a reasonable price. If an operator is forced to incur significant costs to comply with environmental regulations or becomes subject to environmental restrictions that limit its ability to continue or expand operations, it could reduce our royalty revenues. To the extent that we become subject to environmental

Table of Contents

liabilities for the time period during which we were operating properties, the satisfaction of any liabilities would reduce funds otherwise available to us and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

In September 2002, we settled a claim by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (the "EPA") against Royal Gold, along with 92 other potentially responsible parties, known as PRPs. The EPA's allegation was based on the disposal of allegedly hazardous petroleum exploration wastes at the Casmalia Resources Hazardous Waste Site by our predecessor, Royal Resources, Inc., during 1983 and 1984. Although we do not currently expect to incur additional costs in connection with this claim, the State of California has notified us and the other parties who participated in the settlement that it will seek to recover response costs. We do not know and cannot predict the amount of the estimated costs the State would seek to recover but, if we are compelled to pay a large sum, it could materially adversely affect our operations. If the State agrees to a volumetric allocation among the parties, our portion of the liability would be 0.438% of any settlement amount.

If title to properties are not properly maintained by the operators, our royalty revenues may be decreased.

The validity of unpatented mining claims, which constitute a significant portion of the properties on which we hold royalties in the United States, is often uncertain and such validity is always subject to contest. Unpatented mining claims are generally considered subject to greater title risk than patented mining claims, or real property interests that are owned in fee simple.

Foreign operations are subject to many risks.

Our foreign activities are subject to the risks normally associated with conducting business in foreign countries. This includes exchange controls and currency fluctuations, limitations on repatriation of earnings, foreign taxation, foreign environmental laws and enforcement, expropriation or nationalization of property, labor practices and disputes, and uncertain political and economic environments. There are also risks of war and civil disturbances, as well as other risks that could cause exploration or development difficulties or stoppages, restrict the movement of funds or result in the deprivation or loss of contract rights or the taking of property by nationalization or expropriation, without fair compensation. Exploration licenses granted by some foreign countries, like Bulgaria, do not include the right to mine. Each country has discretion in determining whether to grant a license to mine. If an operator cannot secure a mining license following exploration of a property, the value of our royalty interest would be negatively affected. Foreign operations could also be adversely impacted by laws and policies of the United States affecting foreign trade, investment and taxation. We currently have interests in projects in Argentina and Russia. We also pursue precious metal royalty acquisitions or development opportunities in other parts of the world, including Canada, Mexico, Central America, Northern Europe, Australia, other Republics of the former Soviet Union, Asia, Africa and South America. We are subject to the considerations and risks of operating in Russia. The economy of the Russian Federation continues to display characteristics of an emerging market. These characteristics include, but are not limited to, the existence of a currency that is not freely convertible outside of the country, extensive currency controls and high inflation. The prospects for future economic stability in the Russian Federation are largely dependent upon the effectiveness of economic measures undertaken by the government, together with legal, regulatory and political developments.

Russian laws, licenses and permits have been in a state of change and new laws may be given a retroactive effect. It is also not unusual in the context of dispute resolution in Russia for parties to use the uncertainty in the Russian legal environment as leverage in business negotiations. In addition, Russian tax legislation is subject to varying interpretations and constant change. Further, the interpretation of tax legislation by tax authorities as applied to the transactions and activities of our Russian operations may not coincide with that of management. As a result, transactions may be challenged by tax authorities and our Russian operations may be assessed additional taxes, penalties and interest, which could be significant. The periods remain open to review by the tax authorities for three years.

Table of Contents

We are also subject to risks relating to an uncertain or unpredictable political and economic environment in Argentina. In the short term, significant macroeconomic instability in the region is expected to negatively impact the business environment and may lead to longer term changes in the national approaches taken to ownership by foreign companies of natural resources. Argentina has experienced political instability, currency value fluctuations and changes in banking regulations in recent years. Continued or new instability, fluctuations or regulation changes could adversely affect our revenues from Argentina, including revenues from the Martha mine.

Risks Related to Our Common Stock

Our stock price may continue to be volatile and could decline.

The market price of our common stock has fluctuated and may decline in the future. The high and low closing sale prices of our common stock were \$28.42 and \$10.04 in fiscal year 2003, \$24.64 and \$11.34 in fiscal year 2004 and \$20.31 and \$13.04 in fiscal year 2005. The fluctuation of the market price of our common stock has been affected by many factors that are beyond our control, including:

market prices of gold;

interest rates;

expectations regarding inflation;

ability of operators to produce precious metals and develop new reserves;

currency values;

general stock market conditions; and

global and regional political and economic conditions, and many other factors.

We may change our dividend policy.

We have declared a cash dividend on our common stock for each fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 2000. Our board of directors has discretion in determining whether to declare a dividend based on a number of factors, including prevailing gold prices, economic market conditions and funding requirements for future opportunities or operations. If our board of directors declines to declare dividends in the future, or reduces the current dividend level, our stock price could fall, and the success of an investment in our common stock would depend solely upon any future stock price appreciation in value.

Certain anti-takeover provisions could delay or prevent a third party from acquiring us.

Provisions in our Certificate of Incorporation may make it more difficult for third parties to acquire control of Royal Gold or to remove management. Some of these provisions:

Permit the board of directors to issue preferred stock that has rights senior to the common stock without shareholder approval; and

Provide for three classes of directors serving staggered, three-year terms.

We are also subject to the business combination provisions of Delaware law that could delay, deter or prevent a change in control. In addition, we have adopted a Stockholder's Rights Plan that imposes significant penalties upon a person or group that acquires 15% or more of our outstanding common stock without the approval of the board of directors. Any of these measures could prevent a third party from pursuing an acquisition of us, even if shareholders believe the acquisition is in their best interests.

Table of Contents**USE OF PROCEEDS**

The net proceeds from the sale of the shares of our common stock in this offering are estimated to be approximately \$ million (\$ million if the underwriters' over-allotment option is exercised in full), based on a public offering price of \$ per share and after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses.

We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to fund the acquisition or financing of additional royalty interests and for general corporate purposes.

Pending their application, we expect to invest the net proceeds of this offering in short-term, interest-bearing, investment-grade securities.

MARKET PRICE OF OUR COMMON STOCK

Our common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol RGLD and traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol RGL. The following table sets forth, for each of the quarterly periods indicated, the range of high and low closing sales prices, in U.S. dollars, of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market.

	High	Low
Year Ended June 30, 2004		
First Quarter	\$ 25.34	\$ 18.08
Second Quarter	23.45	17.55
Third Quarter	21.73	16.00
Fourth Quarter	18.30	11.07
Year Ended June 30, 2005		
First Quarter	\$ 17.11	\$ 12.30
Second Quarter	19.03	14.95
Third Quarter	19.95	15.35
Fourth Quarter	20.50	15.99
Year Ended June 30, 2006		
First Quarter (through September 19, 2005)	\$ 28.62	\$ 18.89

On September 19, 2005, the last sale price of our common stock as reported on the Nasdaq National Market was \$28.28 per share. On September 1, 2005, the number of our common stockholders of record was 811.

Table of Contents

DIVIDEND POLICY

We have declared a cash dividend on our common stock for each fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 2000. Our board of directors has discretion in determining whether to declare a dividend based on a number of factors including prevailing gold prices, economic market conditions and funding requirements for future opportunities or operations.

For calendar year 2005, we declared an annual dividend of \$0.20 per share of common stock, in four quarterly payments of \$0.05 each. We paid the first payment of \$0.05 per share on January 21, 2005, to shareholders of record at the close of business on January 7, 2005. We paid the second payment of \$0.05 per share on April 22, 2005, to shareholders of record at the close of business on April 8, 2005. We paid the third payment of \$0.05 on July 22, 2005 to shareholders of record at the close of business on July 8, 2005. We anticipate paying the fourth payment of \$0.05 on October 21, 2005, to shareholders of record at the close of business on October 7, 2005.

For calendar 2004, we declared an annual dividend of \$0.15 per share of common stock, in four quarterly payments of \$0.0375 each. We paid the first payment of \$0.0375 per share on January 16, 2004, to shareholders of record at the close of business on January 2, 2004. We paid the second payment of \$0.0375 per share on April 16, 2004, to shareholders of record at the close of business on April 2, 2004. We paid the third payment of \$0.0375 on July 16, 2004 to shareholders of record at the close of business on July 2, 2004. We paid the fourth payment of \$0.0375 on October 15, 2004, to shareholders of record at the close of business on October 1, 2004. For fiscal year 2003, we declared an annual dividend of \$0.10 per share of common stock, in two semi-annual payments of \$0.05 each. We paid the first payment of \$0.05 per share on January 17, 2003, to shareholders of record at the close of business on January 3, 2003. We paid the second payment of \$0.05 per share on July 18, 2003, to shareholders of record at the close of business on July 3, 2003.

We currently plan to sustain a dividend on a calendar year basis, subject to the discretion of the board of directors. However, our board of directors may determine not to declare a dividend based on a number of factors including the gold price, economic and market conditions, and the financial needs of opportunities that might arise in the future.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our capitalization as of June 30, 2005, on an actual basis, and as adjusted to give effect to the issuance by us of 2,000,000 shares of our common stock, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses at a public offering price of \$ per share, and the application of net proceeds therefrom.

	As of June 30, 2005	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(dollars in thousands, unaudited)	
Cash and equivalents	\$ 48,840	\$
Long-term debt, including current portion	\$	\$
Stockholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$.01 par value, 10,000,000 shares authorized; no shares issued and outstanding		
Common stock, \$.01 par value, 40,000,000 shares authorized; 21,258,576 shares issued and outstanding; as adjusted 23,258,576 shares	212	
Additional paid-in capital	104,164	
Accumulated other comprehensive (loss) income	(285)	
Deferred compensation	(525)	
Accumulated deficit	(10,732)	
Treasury stock, at cost (229,224 shares)	(1,097)	
Total stockholders' equity	91,737	
 Total capitalization	 \$ 102,318	 \$

The number of shares of common stock outstanding is based on 21,029,352 shares outstanding as of June 30, 2005. This number excludes:

736,024 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of outstanding options at a weighted average exercise price of \$ 13.75 per share, of which 602,174 shares of common stock are subject to options that are vested and immediately exercisable;

58,250 shares of common stock subject to achieving certain performance goals required by the performance shares outstanding under our 2004 Omnibus Long-Term Incentive Plan;

42,000 shares of restricted common stock outstanding under our 2004 Omnibus Long-Term Incentive Plan subject to continued service with us; and

676,447 shares of common stock reserved for future issuance under our equity compensation plans.

The table assumes no exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option to purchase an additional 300,000 shares of our common stock.

Table of Contents**MANAGEMENT****Directors and Executive Officers**

Shown below are the names, ages and positions of our executive officers and directors as of September 19, 2005.

Name	Age	Position
Stanley Dempsey	66	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer
Tony Jensen	43	Director, President and Chief Operating Officer
John W. Goth	78	Director
Merritt E. Marcus	71	Director
James W. Stuckert	67	Director
S. Oden Howell, Jr.	65	Director
Edwin W. Peiker, Jr.	74	Director
Donald Worth	72	Director
Karen P. Gross	51	Vice President and Secretary
Donald J. Baker	56	Vice President Corporate Development
Stefan Wenger	32	Treasurer and Chief Accounting Officer
Randy Parcel	60	Vice President and General Counsel

Stanley Dempsey has served as our Chief Executive Officer since August 1988 and on our board of directors since August 1983. Mr. Dempsey also served as our President from May 2002 until August 11, 2003 and our President and Chief Operating Officer from July 1, 1987 to April 4, 1988. From 1984 through June 1986, Mr. Dempsey was a partner in the law firm of Arnold & Porter. During the same period, he was a principal in Denver Mining Finance Company, a firm that provides financial, management, and advisory services to the mining industry. From 1960 through 1987, Mr. Dempsey was employed by AMAX, Inc., a major international mining firm, serving in various managerial and executive capacities. Mr. Dempsey is also a member of the board of directors of various mining-related associations.

Tony Jensen has served as our President and Chief Operating Officer since August 2003. Mr. Jensen has over twenty years of mining industry experience, eighteen with Placer Dome Inc. Before joining us, he was the Mine General Manager of the Cortez Joint Venture from August 1999 to June 2003, a mining joint venture by Placer Cortez, Inc., a subsidiary of Placer Dome Inc. and Kennecott Explorations (Australia) Ltd., a subsidiary of Rio Tinto. His extensive background in operations was developed both in the United States and Chile where he occupied several senior management positions. Mr. Jensen is a Director of the Industrial Advisory Board of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, the Nevada Mining Association, and the Colorado Mining Association.

John W. Goth has served as a non-Executive Director of the Denver Gold Group since August 2005. He was Executive Director of the Denver Gold Group since 1990. He has been a consultant to the mining industry since 1985. Mr. Goth held several senior positions at AMAX, Inc., a major international mining firm, from April 1, 1954 to November 1, 1985. He is currently a director of U.S. Gold Corporation, Behre Dolbear, past chairman of the Mineral Information Institute and past president of the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America. He is a former director of Magma Copper Corporation, U.S. Zeolites and Dome Mines Corporation.

Merritt E. Marcus is the former President and Chief Executive Officer of Marcus Paint Company, a manufacturer of industrial liquid coatings, and Performance Powders, LLC, a manufacturer of industrial powder coatings, from 1983 until 2004. Mr. Marcus has served several terms as a director of the National Paint and Coatings Association.

Table of Contents

James W. Stuckert is the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Hilliard, Lyons, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky, a full service financial asset management firm. He joined Hilliard, Lyons in 1962 and served in several capacities prior to being named Chairman in December 1995. He served in this role until December 2003 and is now Senior Executive. He holds significant positions in other entities as a private investor.

S. Oden Howell, Jr. has served since 1988 as the President of Howell & Howell Contractors, Inc., a renovation contractor and industrial and commercial painting contractor. He is the owner of Kessinger Service Industries, LLC, an industrial coatings contractor firm. From 1972 until 1988, Mr. Howell was Secretary/ Treasurer of Howell & Howell, Inc., an industrial and commercial painting contractor firm.

Edwin W. Peiker, Jr. served as our President and Chief Operating Officer from April 1988 until February 1992. He was our Vice President of Engineering from May 1987 to April 1988. Mr. Peiker was also a principal in Denver Mining Finance Company, a firm that provides financial, management, and advisory services to the mining industry, from 1984 until 1986. From 1983 to 1986, Mr. Peiker was engaged in mineral consulting activities. During the period from 1966 to 1983, Mr. Peiker served in a variety of positions with the Climax Molybdenum division of AMAX, Inc., a major international mining firm involved in exploration activities worldwide.

Donald Worth has been involved in the mining industry since 1949. He formerly was a mining specialist and a Vice President of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (Canada) from July 1984 to August 1997. Mr. Worth is a director of Sentry Select Capital Corporation, Cornerstone Capital Resources, Inc., and Tiomin Resources Inc. He is also a trustee of Labrador Iron Ore Royalty Income Fund, and is involved with several professional associations both in Canada and the United States.

Karen P. Gross has served as our Vice President since June 1994 and Corporate Secretary since 1989. From 1987 until 1989, Ms. Gross was our Assistant Secretary. Ms. Gross is in charge of investor relations, public relations and ensuring our compliance with various corporate governance standards.

Donald J. Baker has served as our Vice President Corporate Development since November 1998. From December 1996 until November 1998, Mr. Baker was our Manager of Corporate Development. From 1994 until 1997, he was a consultant to us. Mr. Baker was previously employed by Climax Molybdenum Company and Homestake Mining Company.

Stefan Wenger has served as our Treasurer and Chief Accounting Officer since April 2003. From June 2002 until March 2003, he was a manager with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. From September 2000 until June 2002, he was a manager with Arthur Andersen LLP. Mr. Wenger has over ten years of experience in the mining and natural resource industry working in various financial roles. Mr. Wenger is a certified public accountant.

Randy Parcel has served as our Vice President and General Counsel since June 2004. He served as the Managing Partner of the Denver office of Perkins Coie LLP from January 2001 until May 2004. Prior to forming his own law firm in 1978, Mr. Parcel was in-house counsel to the mining division of Johns-Manville Corporation and was a partner at the Denver law firm of Holland & Hart. He has over thirty years experience in mining and natural resources law.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. (HSBC) is acting as the representative of the underwriters named below. Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the number of shares set forth opposite the underwriter's name.

Underwriter	Number of Shares
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	
National Bank Financial Inc.	
Total	2,000,000

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the shares included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the shares (other than those covered by the over-allotment option described below) if they purchase any of the shares.

The underwriters propose to offer some of the shares directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and some of the shares to dealers at the public offering price less a concession not to exceed \$ per share. The underwriters may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession not to exceed \$ per share on sales to other dealers. If all of the shares are not sold at the initial offering price, the representatives may change the public offering price and the other selling terms.

We have granted to the underwriters an option, exercisable for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, to purchase up to 300,000 additional shares of common stock at the public offering price less the underwriting discount. The underwriters may exercise the option solely for the purpose of covering over-allotments, if any, in connection with this offering. To the extent the option is exercised, each underwriter must purchase a number of additional shares approximately proportionate to that underwriter's initial purchase commitment.

We and our executive officers and directors have agreed that, for a period of 90 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, we and they will not, without the prior written consent of HSBC, dispose of or hedge any shares of our common stock or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, except that our executive officers and directors may sell up to an aggregate 60,000 shares of common stock during the lock-up period. Our officers and directors are also permitted to transfer shares of common stock as bona fide gifts, provided that the donee or donees agree to be bound by the restrictions set forth in the lock-up agreements. HSBC in its sole discretion may release any of the securities subject to these lock-up agreements at any time without notice.

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of shares to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the shares which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of shares to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

(a) to legal entities which are authorised or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;

Table of Contents

(b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or

(c) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of shares to the public in relation to any shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the shares, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Each of the underwriters has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has not made or will not make an offer of shares to the public in the United Kingdom within the meaning of section 102B of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended) (FSMA) except to legal entities which are authorised or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorised or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities or otherwise in circumstances which do not require the publication by us of a prospectus pursuant to the Prospectus Rules of the Financial Services Authority (FSA);

(b) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of FSMA) to persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 or in circumstances in which section 21 of FSMA does not apply to us; and

(c) it has complied with, and will comply with all applicable provisions of FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the shares in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not being distributed in the context of a public offer in France within the meaning of Article L.411-1 of the French Monetary and Financial Code, and thus this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus has not been and will not be submitted to the *Commission des Opérations de Bourse* for approval in France. The shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, to the public in France and this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any other offering material relating to the offer of the shares may not be distributed to the public in France and such offers, sales and distributions will be made in France (i) to qualified investors and or (ii) to a restricted group of investors, in each case, acting for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with, Articles L.411-1 and L.411-2 of the French Monetary and Financial Code and Decree no. 98-880 dated 1st October, 1998. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not to be further distributed or reproduced (in whole or in part) in France by the recipients of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have been distributed on the understanding that such recipients will only participate in the issue or sale of the shares for their own account and undertake not to transfer, directly or indirectly, the shares to the public in France, other than in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and in particular with Articles L.411-1 and L.411-2 of the French Monetary and Financial Code.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not a Securities Selling Prospectus (*Verkaufsprospekt*) within the meaning of the German Securities Prospectus Act of September 8, 1998, as amended, and has not been filed with and approved by the German Federal Supervisory Authority or any other German governmental authority under the relevant laws. The shares may not be offered or sold in Germany, and no copies of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or any document relating to the shares may be distributed, directly or indirectly, in Germany except to persons falling within

Table of Contents

the scope of section 2 numbers 1, 2 and 3 of the German Securities Prospectus Act and no steps which would constitute a public offering of the shares in Germany may be taken.

Each underwriter agrees that it has only offered or sold and will only offer or sell shares in Switzerland in compliance with all applicable securities laws and regulation in force in Switzerland, and will, to the extent necessary, obtain any consent, approval or permission required, if any, by it for the offer or sale by it of shares under the laws and regulations in force in Switzerland.

The common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol RGLD and is also traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol RGL.

The following table shows the underwriting discounts and commissions that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares of common stock.

Paid by Royal Gold, Inc.

	No Exercise	Full Exercise
Per share of common stock		
Total		

In connection with this offering, HSBC on behalf of the underwriters, may purchase and sell shares of common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Short sales involve syndicate sales of common stock in excess of the number of shares to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Covered short sales are sales of shares made in an amount up to the number of shares represented by the underwriters' over-allotment option. In determining the source of shares to close out the covered syndicate short position, the underwriters will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase shares through the over-allotment option. Transactions to close out the covered syndicate short involve either purchases of the common stock in the open market after the distribution has been completed or the exercise of the over-allotment option. The underwriters may also make naked short sales of shares in excess of the over-allotment option. The underwriters must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares of common stock in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriters are concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of bids for or purchases of shares in the open market while the offering is in progress.

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when HSBC repurchases shares originally sold by that syndicate member in order to cover syndicate short positions or make stabilizing purchases.

Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common stock. They may also cause the price of the common stock to be higher than the price that would otherwise exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions on the Nasdaq National Market or in the over-the-counter market, or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

In addition, in connection with this offering, some of the underwriters (and selling group members) may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on the Nasdaq National Market, prior to the pricing and completion of the offering. Passive market making consists of displaying bids on the Nasdaq National Market no higher than the bid prices of independent market makers and making purchases at prices no higher than those independent bids and effected in response to order flow. Net purchases by a passive market maker on each day are limited to a specified percentage of the passive market maker's average daily trading volume in the common stock

during a specified period and must be

S-24

Table of Contents

discontinued when that limit is reached. Passive market making may cause the price of the common stock to be higher than the price that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of those transactions. If the underwriters commence passive market making transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

We estimate that the total expenses of this offering will be \$.

The underwriters have performed investment banking and advisory services for us from time to time for which they have received customary fees and expenses. The underwriters may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for us in the ordinary course of their business. HSBC Bank USA, an affiliate of the underwriter, has provided us a line of credit in the amount of \$10 million that may be used to acquire producing royalties. We and HSBC Bank USA are currently negotiating to increase such line of credit to up to \$30 million.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by one or more of the underwriters. The representatives may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters for sale to their online brokerage account holders. The representatives will allocate shares to underwriters that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations. In addition, shares may be sold by the underwriters to securities dealers who resell shares to online brokerage account holders.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

Table of Contents

**CERTAIN UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX
CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS**

The following is a summary of certain material United States federal income tax consequences to non-U.S. holders (defined below) of the ownership and disposition of the shares of common stock purchased in the offering.

As used herein, U.S. holders are beneficial owners of the shares of our common stock purchased in the offering that are, for United States federal income tax purposes, (1) citizens or residents of the United States, (2) corporations created or organized in, or under the laws of, the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia, (3) estates, the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source, or (4) trusts if (A) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and (B) one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust. In addition, certain trusts in existence on August 20, 1996 and treated as a U.S. holder prior to such date may also be treated as U.S. holders.

As used herein, non-U.S. holders are beneficial owners of the shares of our common stock purchased in the offering, other than partnerships, that are not U.S. holders as defined above. If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity treated as a partnership for United States federal tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of the shares of our common stock purchased in the offering, the treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Partnerships and partners in such partnerships should consult their tax advisors about the United States federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of the our common stock.

This summary does not describe all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to a holder in light of its particular circumstances. For example, it does not deal with special classes of holders such as banks, thrifts, real estate investment trusts, regulated investment companies, insurance companies, dealers in securities or currencies, or tax-exempt investors. It also does not discuss the shares of our common stock purchased in the offering held as part of a hedge, straddle, conversion, synthetic security or other integrated transaction. This summary also does not address the tax consequences to (i) persons that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar, (ii) certain U.S. expatriates or (iii) shareholders or beneficiaries of a holder of such shares of common stock. Further, it does not include any description of any alternative minimum tax consequences or the tax laws of any state or local government or of any foreign government that may be applicable to such shares of common stock. This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder and administrative and judicial interpretations thereof, all as of the date hereof, and all of which are subject to change or differing interpretations, possibly on a retroactive basis. There can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service will not challenge one or more of the tax consequences described herein, and we have not obtained, nor do we intend to obtain, a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service with respect to the United States federal income tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of the such shares of common stock.

U.S. HOLDERS AND NON-U.S. HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT WITH YOUR TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN INCOME, FRANCHISE, PERSONAL PROPERTY AND ANY OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF THE SECURITIES.

The Common Stock

The rules governing United States federal income taxation of a non-U.S. holder of our common stock are complex and no attempt will be made herein to provide more than a summary of such rules. Non-U.S. holders should consult with their tax advisors to determine the effect of federal, state, local and foreign income tax laws, as well as treaties, with regard to an investment in our common stock, including any U.S. tax reporting requirements.

Table of Contents***Dividends***

The amount of any distribution made in respect of our common stock will be equal to the amount of cash and the fair market value, on the date of distribution, of any property distributed. Generally, distributions will be treated as a dividend, subject to tax as ordinary income, to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles, then as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of a holder's tax basis in the common stock and thereafter as gain from the sale or exchange of such common stock as described below.

Distributions made with respect to our common stock that are treated as dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder (excluding dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business by such holder and are taxable as described below) will be subject to United States federal withholding tax at a 30% rate (or a lower rate provided under an applicable income tax treaty). Except to the extent that an applicable income tax treaty otherwise provides, a non-U.S. holder will be taxed in the same manner as a U.S. holder on dividends paid (or deemed paid) that are effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business by the non-U.S. holder. That is, such dividends will be included in taxable income, along with the holder's other U.S. business income, and taxed at the regular U.S. income tax rates applicable thereto. If such non-U.S. holder is a foreign corporation, it may also be subject to a United States branch profits tax on such effectively connected income at a 30% rate (or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty). Even though such effectively connected dividends are subject to income tax and may be subject to the branch profits tax, they will not be subject to United States federal withholding tax if the holder delivers a properly executed Internal Revenue Service Form W-8ECI (or successor form) to the payor or the payor's agent.

A non-U.S. holder who wishes to claim the benefit of an applicable income tax treaty is required to satisfy certain certification and other requirements. If the non-U.S. holder is eligible for a reduced rate of United States withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty, such holder may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by filing an appropriate claim for refund with the Internal Revenue Service.

Sale or Exchange of Common Stock

A non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax and in certain cases withholding tax on the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common stock received in the offering unless (1) the gain is effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the non-U.S. holder, (2) in the case of a non-U.S. holder who is an individual, such holder is present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the taxable year of the disposition, and either (A) such holder has a tax home in the United States or (B) the disposition is attributable to an office or other fixed place of business maintained by such holder in the United States or (3) the Company is or has been a U.S. real property holding corporation for United States federal income tax purposes. Because of our ownership of substantial royalty interests in gold assets in the United States, it is possible, although perhaps not likely, that we presently may be, or may become, a U.S. real property holding corporation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, so long as our common stock is regularly traded on an established securities market, under applicable Treasury regulations, non-U.S. holders who never beneficially own more than 5% of the total value of our common stock will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any gain realized on the sale, exchange or redemption of common stock solely because we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation.

If a non-U.S. holder falls under clause (1) or (3) above, such holder generally will be taxed on the net gain derived from a sale in the same manner as a U.S. holder (see above), and in the case of (3) above generally will be subject to a ten percent withholding tax applied to the gross proceeds received. If an individual non-U.S. holder falls under clause (2) above, such individual generally will be subject to a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from a sale, which may be offset by certain United States capital losses (notwithstanding the fact that such individual is not considered a resident of the United States). Individual non-U.S. holders who have spent (or expect to spend) 183 days or more in the United States in the taxable year in which they contemplate a sale of common stock are urged to consult their tax advisors

Table of Contents

as to the tax consequences of such sale. If a non-U.S. holder that is a foreign corporation falls under clause (1) or (3), it generally will be taxed on the net gain derived from a sale in the same manner as a U.S. holder and, in addition, may be subject to the branch profits tax on such effectively connected income at a 30% rate (or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty).

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding Tax

Dividends on our common stock held by a non-U.S. holder will be subject to information reporting and may be subject to backup withholding requirements unless certain certification requirements are satisfied. United States information reporting requirements and backup withholding tax will not apply to any payment of the proceeds of the sale of our common stock effected outside the United States by a foreign office of a broker as defined in applicable Treasury regulations, unless such broker (1) is a United States person as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, (2) is a foreign person that derives 50% or more of its gross income for certain periods from the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, (3) is a controlled foreign corporation for United States federal income tax purposes or (4) is a foreign partnership with certain U.S. connections. Payment of the proceeds of any such sale effected outside the United States by a foreign office of any broker that is described in clause (1), (2), (3) or (4) of the preceding sentence may be subject to information reporting, unless such broker has documentary evidence in its records that the beneficial owner is a non-U.S. holder and certain other conditions are met, or the beneficial owner otherwise establishes an exemption. Payment of the proceeds of any such sale to or through the United States office of a broker is subject to backup withholding tax and information reporting requirements unless the beneficial owner of the common stock certifies to the payor or the payer's agent, under penalties of perjury, that it is not a United States person and provides its name, address and certain other information of a properly executed Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or a suitable substitute form or otherwise establishes an exemption. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a non-U.S. holder will be allowed as a credit against such non-U.S. holder's United States federal income tax and may entitle the non-U.S. holder to a refund, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

U.S. Federal Estate Tax

Our common stock held by a non-U.S. holder decedent at the time of his or her death will be included in such holder's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise. Holders that are individuals should be aware that there have been recent amendments to the U.S. federal estate tax rules, and such holders should consult with their tax advisors with regard to an investment in our common stock.

THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX DISCUSSION SET FORTH ABOVE IS INCLUDED FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE DEPENDING UPON A HOLDER'S PARTICULAR SITUATION. HOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR TAX ADVISORS WITH RESPECT TO THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF THE OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF THE SECURITIES, INCLUDING THE TAX CONSEQUENCES UNDER STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN AND OTHER TAX LAWS AND THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF CHANGES IN UNITED STATES FEDERAL OR OTHER TAX LAWS.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common stock to be offered hereby is being passed upon for us by Hogan & Hartson L.L.P., Denver, Colorado. Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, New York, New York will pass upon legal matters for the underwriters.

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this prospectus supplement by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2005 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act a registration statement on Form S-3. This prospectus supplement together with the related prospectus, do not contain all of the information contained in the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement. We strongly encourage you to read carefully the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement.

Any statement made in this prospectus supplement or the related prospectus concerning the contents of any contract, agreement or other document is only a summary of the actual contract, agreement or other document. If we have filed any contract, agreement or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the document or matter involved.

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy the registration statement and any other document we file at the following SEC public reference room:

Judiciary Plaza
100 F Street, NE, Room 1580,
Washington D.C. 20549

You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room in Washington, D.C. by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. We file information electronically with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available from the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, which contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically. You may read and copy our SEC filings and other information at the Nasdaq National Market at 1735 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$300,000,000

Royal Gold, Inc.

Common Stock

Warrants

Depositary Shares

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Royal Gold may offer, from time to time, together or separately, up to \$300,000,000 aggregate amount, or the equivalent in one or more foreign currencies or currency units, of:

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Depositary Shares

Warrants

Debt Securities

We may offer the securities in one or more series, in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. We will provide the specific terms of any securities we actually offer for sale in supplements to this prospectus.

You should read this prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully before you purchase any of our securities. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may sell the securities directly to you, through agents we select, or through underwriters or dealers we select. If we use agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement. The net proceeds we expect to receive from these sales will be included in the prospectus supplement.

Royal Gold's common stock is traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol RGLD. On June 30, 2004, the reported last sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$14.17 per share. Our common stock is also traded on The Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol RGL. None of the warrants, the preferred stock or the debt securities are currently publicly traded.

Investing in our securities involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 3.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor state securities regulators have approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

July 14, 2004.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<u>Important Notice to Readers</u>	ii
<u>Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements</u>	ii
<u>Incorporation by Reference</u>	ii
<u>Summary</u>	1
<u>Risk Factors</u>	3
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	7
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges</u>	8
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	8
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	11
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	12
<u>Description of Preferred Stock</u>	13
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	14
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	28
<u>Legal Matters</u>	30
<u>Experts</u>	30
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	30

Table of Contents

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO READERS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, using this prospectus, together with a prospectus supplement, we may sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus in a dollar amount that does not exceed \$300,000,000, in the aggregate, subject to Rule 462(b)(3). This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus before making an investment in our securities. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for more information.

In this prospectus, we use the terms [Royal Gold](#), [the Company](#), [we](#), [us](#) and [our](#) to refer to Royal Gold, Inc.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated herein by reference contain certain forward-looking statements and information relating to us that are based on our beliefs and assumptions as well as information currently available to management. Additional written or oral forward-looking statements may be made by the Company from time to time in filings with the SEC or otherwise. The words [believe](#), [estimate](#), [expect](#), [anticipate](#), and [project](#) and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements, which are only as of the date the statement is made. These statements are included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Such forward-looking statements are within the meaning of that term in Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Such statements may include, but are not limited to, information regarding projected cash flows, reserves, mineralization, settlement of the Casmalia matter, planned levels of expenditures, and our belief that future growth will more likely occur as a result of acquisitions, rather than from exploration, as well as assumptions relating to the foregoing. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified. Future events and actual results could differ materially from those set forth in, contemplated by or underlying the forward-looking statements. Statements in this prospectus, including those set forth in [Risk Factors](#), describe factors, among others, that could contribute to or cause such differences.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and information in documents that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supercede information in this prospectus. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we will make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (except current reports on Form 8-K containing only Regulation FD or Regulation G disclosure furnished under Items 9 or 12 of Form 8-K), until the offering of our securities under this registration statement is completed or withdrawn:

1. our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, including those portions incorporated by reference therein of our definitive proxy material on Schedule 14A as filed with the SEC on October 14, 2003;
2. our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended September 30, 2003, December 31, 2003 and March 31, 2004;
3. our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on September 4, 2003, December 1, 2003, December 29, 2003 and April 15, 2004;

Table of Contents

4. our Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on February 6, 2003;

5. the description of our Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock issuable under our rights agreement, as contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A, filed September 12, 1997; and

6. all documents filed by us pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (except current reports on Form 8-K containing only Regulation FD or Regulation G disclosure furnished under Items 9 or 12 of Form 8-K) after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of the offering.

We will provide a copy of the documents we incorporate by reference, at no cost, to any person who receives this prospectus. To request a copy of any or all of these documents, you should write or telephone us at: Stockholder Relations, Royal Gold, Inc., 1660 Wynkoop Street, Suite 1000, Denver, CO 80202, (303) 573-1660.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about our company and a general description of the securities we may offer. This summary is not complete and does not contain all of the information that may be important to you. For a more complete understanding of us and the terms of the particular securities we will offer, you should read carefully this entire prospectus, including the Risk Factors section, the applicable prospectus supplement for such securities and the other documents we refer to and incorporate by reference. In particular, we incorporate important business and financial information in this prospectus by reference.

The Company

Royal Gold, Inc., together with its subsidiaries, is engaged in the business of acquisition and management of precious metals royalties.

Royal Gold seeks to acquire existing royalties or to finance projects that are in production or near production in exchange for royalty interests. We also explore and develop properties thought to contain precious metals and seek to obtain royalty and other carried ownership interests in these properties through the subsequent transfer of operating interests to other mining companies. We expect that substantially all of our revenues are and will be derived from royalty interests. We do not conduct mining operations. During the 2003 fiscal year, we focused on the acquisition of royalty interests, rather than the creation of royalty interests through exploration. We expect that this emphasis on acquisition and royalty financing, rather than exploration, will continue in the future.

Our principal mineral property interests are:

two sliding-scale gross smelter returns, or GSR, royalty interests;

one fixed GSR royalty interest; and

one net value royalty interest,

all relating to a mining complex known as the Pipeline Mining Complex, which includes the Pipeline and South Pipeline gold deposits, operated by the Cortez Joint Venture;

one 1.8% NSR royalty on the majority of the Leeville Project, which includes a portion of the Carlin East mine, operated by Newmont Mining Corporation; and

one 0.9% NSR royalty on the SJ Claims, which covers a portion of the Goldstrike mine operated by Barrick Gold Corporation.

Our other producing royalty interests include a 1.75% NSR royalty interest covering a portion of the Bald Mountain mine, operated by Placer Dome U.S. Inc., and a 2% NSR royalty on a number of properties in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina, including the Martha mine, which is operated by Coeur d'Alene Mines Corporation.

In addition, as of December 1, 2003, we own interests in the following exploration stage properties:

A 5% NSR royalty interest on a portion of the Mule Canyon project, located in Lander County, Nevada.

A 14% net profits interest royalty on the Buckhorn South project, located in Eureka County, Nevada.

A 1% NSR royalty interest on the Long Valley gold project, located in eastern California.

A 1% carried working interest, equal to a 1% NSR royalty, on possible production of precious metals on an exploration property in Russia.

Table of Contents

A 2% NSR royalty on a number of exploration properties in Santa Cruz Province, Argentina, currently under evaluation by a joint venture, which includes Yamana Gold, Inc., Compania de Minas Buenaventura S.A.A. and Mauricio Hochschild S.A.C.

Royalty interests on five non-operating exploration projects in Nevada.

In fiscal 2003, we generated royalty revenues of \$13.9 million from the Pipeline Mining Complex, representing 88% of our total revenues. In addition, we generated royalty revenue of \$0.4 million from the Leeville Project, \$0.7 million from the SJ Claims, \$0.7 million from the Bald Mountain mine, and \$0.1 million from the Martha mine. The Leeville Project is an underground operation, currently under development by Newmont Mining Corporation. Newmont has announced its intention to initiate production at Leeville during the 4th quarter of calendar 2005. Current production on the Leeville Project ground is derived from the Carlin East deposit, also operated by Newmont.

Royal Gold also provides, through two wholly-owned subsidiaries, Denver Mining Finance Company and Environmental Strategies, Inc., financial, operational, and environmental consulting services to the mining industry and to companies serving the mining industry. During fiscal 2003, 2002 and 2001, we did not generate material income from consulting services.

Royal Gold was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on January 5, 1981. Our executive offices are located at 1660 Wynkoop Street, Suite 1000, Denver, Colorado 80202, (303) 573-1660, and we maintain a web site at www.royalgold.com. Information contained on our website is not a prospectus and does not constitute part of this prospectus.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a high degree of risk. We urge you carefully to consider the risks described below, as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, before making an investment decision. We urge you also to consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions discussed under the caption Risk Factors in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2003, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus, which may be amended, supplemented or superceded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future. Additional risks, including those that relate to any particular securities that we will offer, will be included in the applicable prospectus supplement. Our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected by any of these risks. The market or trading price of our securities could decline due to any of these risks. In addition, please read Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements in this prospectus, where we describe additional uncertainties associated with our business and the forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Please note that additional risks not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business and operations.

Our revenues are largely dependent on a single property.

In fiscal 2003, 88% of our revenues were derived from royalties from the Pipeline Mining Complex. We expect that revenue from our royalties on the Pipeline Mining Complex will continue to account for most of our revenues in the near future. Our success is therefore dependent on the extent to which the Pipeline Mining Complex continues to be successful, and on the extent to which we are able to acquire or create other royalty interests.

We own passive interests in mining properties, and it is difficult or impossible for us to ensure properties are operated in our best interest.

All of our current revenue is derived from royalties on properties operated by third parties. The holder of a royalty interest typically has no executive authority regarding development or operation of a mineral property. Therefore, we are not in control of basic decisions regarding development or operation of any of the properties in which we hold a royalty interest, and we have limited or no legal rights to influence those decisions.

Our strategy of having others operate properties in which we retain a royalty or other passive interest puts us generally at risk to the decisions of others regarding all basic operating matters, including permitting, feasibility analysis, mine design and operation, processing, plant and equipment matters, and temporary or permanent suspension of operations, among others. These decisions may be motivated by the best interests of the operator rather than to maximize royalties. Although we attempt to secure contractual rights that will permit us to protect our interests, there can be no assurance that such rights will always be available or sufficient or that our efforts will be successful in achieving timely or favorable results or in affecting the operations of the properties in which we have royalty interests in ways that would be beneficial to our stockholders.

Decreases in prices of precious metals would reduce our royalty revenues.

The profitability of precious metals mining operations (and thus the value of our royalty interests and exploration properties) is directly related to the market price of precious metals. The market prices of various precious metals fluctuate widely and are affected by numerous factors beyond the control of any mining company. These factors include industrial and jewelry fabrication demand, expectations with respect to the rate of inflation, the relative strength of the U.S. dollar and other currencies, interest rates, gold sales and loans by central banks, forward sales by gold producers, global or regional political, economic or banking crises, and a number of other factors. If the market price of precious metals should drop, our royalty revenues would also drop. Our sliding-scale GSR1 royalty amplifies this. When the gold price falls below the steps in the sliding-scale GSR1 royalty, we receive a lower royalty rate on production. In addition, if gold prices drop dramatically, we might not be able to recover our investment in royalty interests or properties. The selection of a royalty

Table of Contents

investment or of a property for exploration or development, the determination to construct a mine and place it into production, and the dedication of funds necessary to achieve such purposes are decisions that must be made long before the first revenues from production will be received. Price fluctuations between the time that such decisions are made and the commencement of production can have a material adverse effect on the economics of a mine, and can eliminate or have a material adverse impact on the value of royalty interests.

The volatility in gold prices is illustrated by the following table, which sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low prices in U.S. dollars per ounce of gold, based on the London PM fix.

Gold Price Per Ounce (\$)

Year	High	Low
1997	\$367	\$283
1998	313	273
1999	326	253
2000	313	264
2001	293	256
2002	349	278
2003	400	320
January 1-June 30, 2004	427	375

We depend on the services of our Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President and other key employees.

We believe that our success depends on the continued service of our key executive management personnel. Currently, Stanley Dempsey is serving as chief executive officer and chairman of the board of directors, and Tony Jensen is serving as President. Mr. Dempsey's knowledge of the legal and commercial aspects of royalties and his extensive contacts within the mining industry give us an important competitive advantage. Mr. Jensen's experience in operations that pay royalties is extensive. Loss of the services of Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Jensen or other key employees could jeopardize our ability to maintain our competitive position in the industry. We currently do not have key person life insurance for any of our officers or directors.

We are subject to operational risks of the mining industry.

Although we are not required to pay operating costs, our financial results are subject to all of the hazards and risks normally associated with developing and operating mining properties, both for the properties where we are exploring or indirectly for properties operated by others where we hold royalty interests. These risks include:

insufficient ore reserves,

fluctuations in production costs that may make mining of ore uneconomic;

declines in the price of gold; significant environmental and other regulatory restrictions;

labor disputes;

geological problems;

pit walls or tailings dam failures;

natural catastrophes such as floods or earthquakes; and

the risk of injury to persons, property or the environment.

Operating cost increases can have a negative effect on the value of and income from our royalty interests, and may cause an operator to curtail, delay or close operations at a mine site.

Table of Contents

Estimates of reserves and mineralization by the operators of mines in which we have royalty interests may be incorrect.

There are numerous uncertainties inherent in estimating proven and probable reserves and mineralization, including many factors beyond our control or that of the operators of mineral properties in which we have a royalty interest. Reserve estimates on our royalty interests are prepared by the operators of the mining properties, and we do not participate in the preparation of such reports. The estimation of reserves and of other mineralization is a subjective process and the accuracy of any such estimates is a function of the quality of available data and of engineering and geological interpretation and judgment. Results of drilling, metallurgical testing and production, and the evaluation of mine plans subsequent to the date of any estimate may cause revision of such estimates. The volume and grade of reserves recovered and rates of production may be less than anticipated. Assumptions about prices are subject to great uncertainty and gold prices have fluctuated widely in the past. Declines in the market price of gold or other precious metals also may render reserves or mineralization containing relatively lower grades of ore uneconomic to exploit. Changes in operating and capital costs and other factors including short-term operating factors such as the need for sequential development of ore bodies and the processing of new or different ore grades may materially and adversely affect reserves.

We may be unable to acquire additional royalty interests.

Our future success depends upon our ability to acquire royalty interests to replace depleting reserves and to diversify our royalty portfolio. We anticipate that most of our revenues will be derived from royalty interests that we acquire, rather than through exploration and development of properties. In addition, we face competition in the acquisition of royalty interests. If we are unable to successfully acquire additional royalties, the reserves on properties currently covered by our royalties will decline as reserves are mined.

Anticipated federal legislation could decrease our royalty revenues.

In recent years, the U.S. Congress has considered a number of proposed major revisions of the General Mining Law, which governs the creation and possession of mining claims and related activities on federal public lands in the United States. It is possible that another bill may be introduced in the Congress and it is possible that a new law could be enacted. If and when a new mining law is enacted, it might impose a royalty upon production of minerals from federal lands and might contain new requirements for mined land reclamation, and similar environmental control and reclamation measures. It remains unclear to what extent new legislation may affect existing mining claims or operations, but it could raise the cost of mining operations, perhaps materially affecting operators and our royalty revenue. The effect of any revision of the General Mining Law on royalty interests in the United States cannot be determined conclusively until such revision, if any, is enacted. If a royalty, assessment, production tax or other levy imposed on and measured by production is charged to the operator at the Pipeline Mining Complex, the amount of that charge would be deducted from gross proceeds for calculation of our two sliding scale GSR royalties. The majority of our interests are on public lands.

The mining industry is subject to significant environmental risks.

Mining is subject to potential risks and liabilities associated with pollution of the environment and the disposal of waste products occurring as a result of mineral exploration and production. Laws and regulations in the United States and abroad intended to ensure the protection of the environment are constantly changing and are generally becoming more restrictive and costly. Insurance against environmental risks (including potential liability for pollution or other hazards as a result of the disposal of waste products occurring from exploration and production) is not generally available to the companies within the mining industry, such as the operators of the mines in which we hold a royalty interest, at a reasonable price. If an operator is forced to incur significant costs to comply with environmental regulations or becomes subject to environmental restrictions that limit its ability to continue or expand operations, it could reduce our royalty revenues. To the extent that we become subject to environmental liabilities for the time period during which we were operating

Table of Contents

properties, the satisfaction of any liabilities would reduce funds otherwise available to us and could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

We have recently settled a claim by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency against Royal Gold, along with 92 other potentially responsible parties, known as PRPs. The EPA's allegation was based on the disposal of allegedly hazardous petroleum exploration wastes at the Casmalia Resources Hazardous Waste Site by our predecessor, Royal Resources, Inc., during 1983 and 1984. Although we do not currently expect to incur additional costs in connection with this claim, the State of California has notified us and the other parties who participated in the settlement that it will seek to recover response costs. We do not know and cannot predict the amount of the estimated costs the State would seek to recover but, if we are compelled to pay a large sum, it could materially adversely affect our operations. If the State agrees to a volumetric allocation among the parties, our portion of the liability would be 0.438% of any settlement amount.

If title to properties are not properly maintained by the operators, our royalty revenues may be decreased.

The validity of unpatented mining claims, which constitute a significant portion of the properties on which we hold royalties in the United States, is often uncertain, and such validity is always subject to contest. Unpatented mining claims are generally considered subject to greater title risk than patented mining claims, or real property interests that are owned in fee simple.

Foreign operations are subject to many risks.

Our foreign activities are subject to the risks normally associated with conducting business in foreign countries, including exchange controls and currency fluctuations, limitations on repatriation of earnings, foreign taxation, foreign environmental laws and enforcement, expropriation or nationalization of property, labor practices and disputes, and uncertain political and economic environments, as well as risks of war and civil disturbances, or other risks that could cause exploration or development difficulties or stoppages, restrict the movement of funds or result in the deprivation or loss of contract rights or the taking of property by nationalization or expropriation, without fair compensation. Exploration licenses granted by some foreign countries, like Bulgaria, do not include the right to mine. Each country has discretion in determining whether to grant a license to mine. If an operator cannot secure a mining license following exploration of a property, the value of our royalty interest would be negatively affected. Foreign operations could also be adversely impacted by laws and policies of the United States affecting foreign trade, investment and taxation. We currently have interests in projects in Bulgaria, Argentina, and Russia. We also pursue precious metal royalty acquisitions or development opportunities in other parts of the world, including Canada, Australia, other Republics of the former Soviet Union, Asia, Africa and South America.

We are subject to the considerations and risks of operating in Russia. The economy of the Russian Federation continues to display characteristics of an emerging market. These characteristics include, but are not limited to, the existence of a currency that is not freely convertible outside of the country, extensive currency controls and high inflation. The prospects for future economic stability in the Russian Federation are largely dependent upon the effectiveness of economic measures undertaken by the government, together with legal, regulatory and political developments.

Russian laws, licenses and permits have been in a state of change and new laws may be given a retroactive effect. It is also not unusual in the context of dispute resolution in Russia for parties to use the uncertainty in the Russian legal environment as leverage in business negotiations. In addition, Russian tax legislation is subject to varying interpretations and constant change. Further, the interpretation of tax legislation by tax authorities as applied to the transactions and activities of our Russian operations may not coincide with that of management. As a result, transactions may be challenged by tax authorities and our Russian operations may be assessed additional taxes, penalties and interest, which could be significant. The periods remain open to review by the tax authorities for three years.

The Company is subject to risks relating to an uncertain or unpredictable political and economic environment in Argentina. In the short term, significant macroeconomic instability in the region is expected to negatively impact the business environment and may lead to longer term negative changes in the national

Table of Contents

approaches taken to ownership by foreign companies of natural resources. Argentina has experienced political instability, currency value fluctuations and changes in banking regulations in recent years. Any continued or new instability, fluctuations or regulation changes could adversely affect our Argentine revenues.

Our stock price may continue to be volatile and could decline.

The market price of our common stock has fluctuated and may decline in the future. The high and low closing sale prices of our common stock were \$15.48 and \$4.00 in fiscal year 2002, and \$28.42 and \$10.04 in fiscal year 2003. The high and low closing sale prices for the period from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, were \$24.64 and \$11.34. The market price of our common stock has fluctuated widely and has been affected by many factors that are beyond our control, including:

market prices of gold;

interest rates;

expectations regarding inflation;

ability of operators to produce precious metals and develop new reserves;

currency values;

general stock market conditions; and

global and regional political and economic conditions, and many other factors.

We may change our dividend policy.

We have declared a cash dividend on our common stock for each fiscal year beginning in fiscal 2000. Our board of directors has discretion in determining whether to declare a dividend based on a number of factors, including prevailing gold prices, economic market conditions and funding requirements for future opportunities or operations. If our board of directors declines to declare dividends in the future, or reduces the current dividend level, our stock price could fall, and the success of an investment in our common stock would depend solely upon any future stock price appreciation in value.

Certain anti-takeover provisions could delay or prevent a third party from acquiring us.

Provisions in our Certificate of Incorporation may make it more difficult for third parties to acquire control of Royal Gold or to remove management. Some of these provisions:

Permit the board of directors to issue preferred stock that has rights senior to the common stock without shareholder approval;

Provide for three classes of directors serving staggered, three-year terms.

We are also subject to the business combination provisions of Delaware law that could delay, deter or prevent a change in control. In addition, we have adopted a Stockholder's Rights Plan that imposes significant penalties upon a person or group that acquires 15% or more of our outstanding common stock without the approval of the board of directors. Any of these measures could prevent a third party from pursuing an acquisition of our company, even if shareholders believe the acquisition is in their best interests.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless a prospectus supplement indicates otherwise, we intend to use the net proceeds to be received from the sale of the securities offered hereunder for acquisition of additional projects or royalty interests, working capital and general corporate purposes. Pending the specific application of the net proceeds, we expect to invest such proceeds in short-term, interest-bearing instruments or other investment-grade securities.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES**

The following table sets forth the ratio of earnings to fixed charges of Royal Gold for the periods indicated. For purposes of calculating such ratio, earnings consist of income before income taxes, and fixed charges consists of total interest expense, including amortization of debt issuance costs and the portion of rental expense representative of interest. We did not have any preferred stock outstanding for any period presented.

	Nine Months Ended March 31, 2004	Year Ended June 30				
		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (unaudited)	96.16	53.06	25.44	19.98	24.79	*

* Due to our loss before income taxes in fiscal 1999, the ratio was less than 1:1. Additional income before income taxes of \$8,808,173 would have been required to achieve a ratio of 1:1.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

The following description of our common stock, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplement, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the common stock that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus. Although the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future stock that we may offer, we will describe the particular terms of any class or series of these securities in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. For additional information about the terms of our common stock, please refer to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws, and stockholder rights agreement that are incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. The terms of these securities may also be affected by the general corporation law of the state of Delaware. The summary below and that contained in any prospectus supplement may not contain all information that may be important to a particular investor and we urge you to read our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, amended and restated bylaws and stockholder rights agreement.

General

Our authorized capital stock consists of 40,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of June 30, 2004, there were approximately 20,783,359 shares of common stock issued and outstanding. Holders of common stock are entitled to one vote for each share held in the election of directors and on all other matters submitted to a vote of stockholders and do not have any cumulative voting rights.

Holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends, if any, when, as and if declared by the board of directors out of funds legally available therefor, subject to any preferential dividend rights of any outstanding preferred stock.

Upon the liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of our company, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably the net assets of the company available after payment of all debts and other liabilities, subject to the prior rights of any outstanding preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no preemptive, subscription, redemption, or conversion rights. The outstanding shares of common stock are, and the shares offered by us by any prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus will be, when issued and paid for, fully paid and non-assessable.

You are urged to read the prospectus supplement relating to an offering of common stock, or of securities convertible, exchangeable or exercisable for common stock, for the terms of the offering, including the number of shares of common stock offered, any initial offering price and market prices and dividend information relating to the common stock.

Table of Contents

Anti-Takeover Effects of Certain Provisions of Delaware Law and Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws

Effect of Delaware Anti-takeover Statute.

We are subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, an anti-takeover law. In general, Section 203 prohibits a Delaware corporation from engaging in any business combination with any interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date that the stockholder became an interested stockholder, unless:

prior to that date, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction that resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares of voting stock outstanding (but not the voting stock owned by the interested stockholder) those shares owned by persons who are directors and also officers and by excluding employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer; or

on or subsequent to that date, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock that is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Section 203 defines business combination to include the following:

any merger or consolidation involving the corporation and the interested stockholder;

any sale, transfer, pledge or other disposition of 10% or more of the assets of the corporation involving the interested stockholder;

subject to certain exceptions, any transaction that results in the issuance or transfer by the corporation of any stock of the corporation to the interested stockholder;

any transaction involving the corporation that has the effect of increasing the proportionate share of the stock of any class or series of the corporation beneficially owned by the interested stockholder; or

the receipt by the interested stockholder of the benefit of any loans, advances, guarantees, pledges or other financial benefits provided by or through the corporation.

In general, Section 203 defines an interested stockholder as any entity or person beneficially owning 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, or who beneficially owns 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation at anytime within a three year period immediately prior to the date of determining whether such person is an interested stockholder, and any entity or person affiliated with or controlling or controlled by any of these entities or persons.

Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws Provisions.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws include provisions that may have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a change in control or an unsolicited acquisition proposal that a stockholder might consider favorable, including a proposal that might result in the payment of a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders. These provisions are summarized in the following paragraphs.

Classified Board of Directors. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides for our board to be divided into three classes of directors serving staggered, three year terms. The classification of the board has the effect of requiring at least two annual stockholder meetings, instead of one, to replace a majority of the members of the board of directors.

Table of Contents

Authorized but Unissued or Undesignated Capital Stock. Our authorized capital stock consists of 40,000,000 shares of common stock and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock. The authorized but unissued (and in the case of preferred stock, undesignated) stock may be issued by the board of directors in one or more transactions. In this regard, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation grants the board of directors broad power to establish the rights and preferences of authorized and unissued preferred stock. The issuance of shares of preferred stock pursuant to the board of director's authority described above could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to holders of common stock and adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of such holders and may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control. The board of directors does not currently intend to seek stockholder approval prior to any issuance of preferred stock, unless otherwise required by law.

Special Meetings of Stockholders. Our amended and restated bylaws provide that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by our board of directors, by our Chairman of the board of directors or by our Chief Executive Officer.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated bylaws provide that an action required or permitted to be taken at any annual or special meeting of our stockholders may only be taken at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders. This provision prevents stockholders from initiating or effecting any action by written consent, and thereby taking actions opposed by the board.

Notice Procedures. Our amended and restated bylaws establish advance notice procedures with regard to all stockholder proposals to be brought before meetings of our stockholders, including proposals relating to the nomination of candidates for election as directors, the removal of directors and amendments to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation or amended and restated bylaws. These procedures provide that notice of such stockholder proposals must be timely given in writing to our Secretary prior to the meeting. Generally, to be timely, notice must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 150 days prior to the meeting. The notice must contain certain information specified in the amended and restated bylaws.

Stockholder Rights Plan

Rights to purchase Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value per share (the Series A Preferred Stock) have been distributed to holders of our common stock under a rights agreement. A maximum of 500,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock is currently authorized for issuance upon exercise of these rights. The rights agreement provides that attached to each share of our common stock is one right that, when exercisable, entitles the holder to purchase one one-hundredth of a share of Series A Preferred Stock at a purchase price of \$50, subject to adjustment. In certain events, including when a person or group becomes the owner of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock or when a person or group commences a tender offer or exchange offer for 15% or more of our outstanding common stock, the rights become exercisable. Exercise of the rights would entitle the holders of the rights (other than the acquiring person or group) to receive shares of our common stock or that number of one-hundredths of a share of Series A Preferred Stock or the preferred stock equivalent, with a market value equal to two times the exercise price of the rights. At any time after the rights become exercisable, but before the acquiring person or group has obtained 50% or more of our outstanding common stock, our board of directors, under certain circumstances, may exchange the rights for a share of common stock or one one-hundredth of a Series A Preferred Share or the preferred stock equivalent. Accordingly, exercise or exchange of the rights may cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire our company. The rights, which expire on September 10, 2007, may be redeemed at a price of \$.001 per right at any time until the tenth day following an announcement that an individual, corporation or other entity has acquired 15% or more of our outstanding common stock, except as otherwise provided in the rights agreement. The rights agreement makes the takeover of our company much more difficult.

Table of Contents

Limitation of Director Liability

As permitted by provisions of the Delaware General Corporation Law, our amended and restated Certificate of Incorporation limits, in certain circumstances, the monetary liability of our directors for breaches of their fiduciary duties as directors. These provisions do not eliminate the liability of a director for:

a breach of the director's duty of loyalty to our company or its stockholders;

acts or omissions by a director not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

for liability arising under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (relating to the declaration of dividends and purchase or redemption of shares in violation of the Delaware General Corporation Law); or

for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

In addition, these provisions do not eliminate the liability of a director for violations of federal securities laws, nor do they limit our rights or the rights of our stockholders, in appropriate circumstances, to seek equitable remedies such as injunctive or other forms of non-monetary relief. Such remedies may not be effective in all cases.

Indemnification Arrangements

Our amended and restated Certificate of Incorporation and amended and restated bylaws provide that our company shall indemnify all of our directors and officers to the full extent permitted by the Delaware Law. Under such provisions any director or officer, who, in his capacity as such, is made or threatened to be made a party to any suit or proceeding, may be indemnified if the board determines such director or officer acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the company. The amended and restated Certificate of Incorporation, amended and restated bylaws, and the Delaware General Corporation Law further provide that such indemnification is not exclusive of any other rights to which such individuals may be entitled under the Certificate, the bylaws, any agreement, any vote of stockholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise.

We have entered into indemnification agreements to assure our directors and officers that they will be indemnified to the extent permitted by our amended and restated Certificate of Incorporation, amended and restated bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law. The indemnification agreements cover any and all expenses, judgments, fines, penalties, and amounts paid in settlement by the director or officer, provide for the prompt advancement of all expenses incurred by the director or officer in connection with any proceeding and obligate the director or officer to reimburse us for all amounts so advanced if it is subsequently determined, as provided in the indemnification agreements, that the director or officer is not entitled to indemnification.

Transfer Agent

The transfer agent for our common stock is Computershare Trust Company, Golden, Colorado; and Computershare Trust Company of Canada, Toronto, Ontario.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

We may, at our option, elect to offer fractional shares of preferred stock rather than full shares of preferred stock. If we exercise this option, we will issue to the public receipts for depositary shares, and each of these depositary shares will represent a fraction (to be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement) of a share of a particular series of preferred stock.

The shares of any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between us and a bank or trust company selected by us. The depositary will have its principal office in the United States and a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000. Subject to the

Table of Contents

terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock underlying the depositary share, to all of the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying that depositary share. Those rights may include dividend, voting, redemption, conversion and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under a deposit agreement. Depositary receipts will be distributed to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares, in accordance with the terms of the offering. We will describe the material terms of the deposit agreement, the depositary shares and the depositary receipts in a prospectus supplement relating to the depositary shares. You should also refer to the forms of the deposit agreement and depositary receipts that will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of the specific depositary shares.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

General

We may issue warrants, including warrants to purchase debt securities, as well as other types of warrants. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any equity or debt securities and may be attached to or separate from such equity or debt securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between the Company and a warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of such series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants. The following sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the warrants offered hereby. Further terms of the warrants and the applicable warrant agreement are set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Debt Warrants

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of the warrants to purchase debt securities (referred to as Debt Warrants):

the title of the Debt Warrants;

the aggregate number of the Debt Warrants;

the price or prices at which the Debt Warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the price of the Debt Warrants may be payable;

the designation, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the Debt Warrants;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the debt securities with which the Debt Warrants are issued and the number of the Debt Warrants issued with each such debt security;

the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the principal of or any premium or interest on the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the Debt Warrant will be payable;

if applicable, the date on and after which the Debt Warrants and the related debt securities will be separately transferable;

the price at which and the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of the Debt Warrants may be purchased;

the date on which the right to exercise the Debt Warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the Debt Warrants which may be exercised at any one time;

Table of Contents

information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any;

if applicable, a discussion of certain United States federal income tax considerations; and

any other terms of the Debt Warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the Debt Warrants.

Other Warrants

We may issue other warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of any such other warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered:

the title of the warrants;

the securities (which may include preferred stock or common stock) for which the warrants are exercisable;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the price of the warrants may be payable;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the common stock or preferred stock with which the warrants are issued and the number of the warrants issued with each the share of common stock or preferred stock;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related common stock or preferred stock will be separately transferable;

if applicable, a discussion of certain United States federal income tax considerations; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

The following is a description of certain general terms and provisions of the preferred stock. The particular terms of any series of preferred stock will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so indicated in a prospectus supplement, the terms of any such series may differ from the terms set forth below. Certain provisions applicable to the preferred stock are set forth above in Description of Common Stock.

Investors are urged to read the provisions of our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, and the certificate of designation relating to each series of the preferred stock, which will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part at or prior to the time of issuance of such series of preferred stock.

Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation authorizes the issuance of 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value of \$0.01 per share. As of the date of this prospectus, we had no outstanding shares of preferred stock. Rights to purchase Series A Preferred Stock have been distributed to holders of our common stock under a rights agreement, and a maximum of 500,000 shares of Series A Preferred Stock are authorized for issuance on exercise of rights. Our preferred stock may be issued from time to time in one or more series, without stockholder approval. Subject to limitations prescribed by law, the board of directors is authorized to determine the voting powers (if any), designations, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, for each series of preferred stock that may be issued, and to fix the number of shares of each such series. Thus, the board of directors, without stockholder approval, could authorize the issuance of preferred stock with voting, conversion and other rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of holders of common stock or other series of preferred stock

Table of Contents

or that could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of our company. See Description of Common Stock.

This summary highlights selected information about the preferred stock we may issue and may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We urge you to read our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the certificate of designations creating your series of preferred stock which, define your rights as a holder of preferred stock.

The specific terms of any preferred stock proposed to be sold will be described in the prospectus supplement. The terms of the offered preferred stock as described in the prospectus supplement may differ from the terms set forth below.

For further information regarding the terms of the preferred stock offered, including the following, we urge you to read the prospectus supplement:

the title and stated value of the preferred stock;

the number of shares of the preferred stock offered, the liquidation preference per share and the offering price of the preferred stock;

the dividend rate(s), period(s) and/or payment date(s) or method(s) of calculation of such rates, periods or dates applicable to the preferred stock;

the rank of the preferred stock with respect to dividend and liquidation rights;

the date from which dividends on the preferred stock will accumulate, if applicable;

the liquidation rights of the preferred stock;

whether the preferred stock will have preemptive rights;

the procedures for auction and remarketing, if any, of the preferred stock;

the sinking fund provisions, if applicable, for the preferred stock;

the redemption provisions, if applicable, for the preferred stock;

whether the preferred stock will be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities and, if so, the terms and conditions of conversion or exchange, including the conversion price or exchange ratio and the conversion or exchange period (or the method of determining the same);

whether the preferred stock will have voting rights and the terms of the voting rights, if any;

whether the preferred stock will be listed on any securities exchange;

the transfer agent for the preferred stock;

whether the preferred stock will be issued with any other securities and, if so, the amount and terms of these other securities; and

any other specific terms, preferences or rights of, or limitations or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series. The following description summarizes the general terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus that are common to all series. The specific terms relating to any series of our debt securities that we offer will be described in a prospectus supplement. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus

Edgar Filing: ROYAL GOLD INC - Form 424B5

supplement for the terms of the series of debt securities offered, especially because the terms of specific series of debt securities offered may differ from the general information that we have provided below.

As required by federal law for all bonds and notes of companies that are publicly offered, the debt securities will be governed by a document called an indenture. An indenture is a contract between a

Table of Contents

financial institution, acting on your behalf as trustee of the debt securities offered, and us. The debt securities will be issued pursuant to an indenture that we will enter into with a trustee, which we will select. When we refer to the indenture in this prospectus, we are referring to the indenture under which your debt securities are issued, as may be supplemented by any supplemental indenture applicable to your debt securities. The trustee has two main roles. First, subject to some limitations on the extent to which the trustee can act on your behalf, the trustee can enforce your rights against us if we default on our obligations under the indenture. Second, the trustee performs certain administrative duties for us with respect to the debt securities.

Unless otherwise provided in any applicable prospectus supplement, the following section is a summary of the principal terms and provisions that will be included in the indenture. Because this section is a summary, it does not describe every aspect of the debt securities or the indenture. If we refer to particular provisions in the indenture, such provisions, including the definition of terms, are incorporated by reference in this prospectus as part of this summary. We urge you to read the indenture and any supplement thereto that are applicable to you. The form of indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for information on how to obtain a copy of the indenture.

General Terms of Debt Securities

Unless otherwise provided in any applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities offered hereby will be unsecured obligations of Royal Gold and will be either our senior unsecured obligations issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the senior debt securities, or our subordinated unsecured obligations issued in one or more series and referred to herein as the subordinated debt securities. The senior debt securities will rank equal in right of payment to all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of the senior debt securities and all of our other senior indebtedness, as described below under [Subordination Provisions](#).

The indenture contains covenants with respect to the following matters:

- payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest;
- maintenance of an office or agency in each place of payment;
- arrangements regarding the handling of money held in trust;
- maintenance of corporate existence;
- maintenance of insurance; and
- statement by officers as to default.

We may agree to additional covenants for the benefit of one or more series of debt securities, and, if so, these will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The indenture does not limit the total amount of debt securities that we can issue under it, nor does it limit us from incurring or issuing other unsecured or secured debt. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indenture pursuant to which the debt securities are issued will not contain any financial covenants or other provisions that protect you in the event we issue a large amount of debt, or in the event that we are acquired by another entity (including in a highly leveraged transaction).

Specific Terms of Debt Securities

We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of the series of debt securities offered. The terms of the debt securities described in such prospectus supplement may include the following, as applicable to the series of debt securities offered thereby:

- the title of the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities will be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities of Royal Gold;

Table of Contents

the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities and whether there is any limit on such aggregate principal amount;

whether we may reopen the series of debt securities for issuances of additional debt securities of such series;

the date or dates, or how the date or dates will be determined, when the principal amount of the debt securities will be payable;

the amount payable upon acceleration of the maturity of the debt securities or how this amount will be determined;

the interest rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, that the debt securities will bear, if any, or how such interest rate or rates will be determined;

the basis upon which interest will be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year or twelve 30-day months;

the date or dates from which any interest will accrue or how such date or dates will be determined;

the interest payment dates and the record dates for these interest payments;

whether the debt securities are redeemable at our option;

whether there are any sinking fund or other provisions that would obligate us to purchase or otherwise redeem the debt securities;

the form in which we will issue the debt securities, if other than in registered book-entry only form represented by global securities;

whether we will have the option of issuing debt securities in certificated form;

whether we will have the option of issuing certificated debt securities in bearer form if we issue the securities outside the United States to non-U.S. persons;

any restrictions on the offer, sale or delivery of bearer securities and the terms, if any, upon which bearer securities of the series may be exchanged for registered securities of the series and vice versa (if permitted by applicable laws and regulations);

the currency or currencies of the debt securities;

whether the amount of payments of principal, premium, if any, or interest on the debt securities will be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method (which could be based on one or more currencies, commodities, equity indices or other indices) and how these amounts will be determined;

the place or places for payment, transfer, conversion and/or exchange of the debt securities;

the denominations in which the offered debt securities will be issued;

the applicability of the provisions of the indenture described under defeasance and any provisions in modification of, in addition to or in lieu of any of these provisions;

material federal income tax considerations that are specific to the series of debt securities offered;

any provisions granting special rights to the holders of the debt securities upon the occurrence of specified events;

whether the indenture contains any changes or additions to the events of default or covenants described in this prospectus;

whether the debt securities will be convertible into or exchangeable for any other securities and the applicable terms and conditions for such conversion or exchange;

Table of Contents

if the debt securities are to be secured, the provisions applicable to such security; and

any other terms specific to the series of debt securities offered.

Redemption

If the debt securities are redeemable, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms and conditions for such redemption, including:

the redemption prices (or method of calculating the same);

the redemption period (or method of determining the same);

whether such debt securities are redeemable in whole or in part at our option; and

any other provisions affecting the redemption of such debt securities.

Conversion and Exchange

If any series of the debt securities offered are convertible into or exchangeable for shares of our common stock or other securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms and conditions for such conversion or exchange, including:

the conversion price or exchange ratio (or method of calculating the same);

the conversion or exchange period (or method of determining the same);

whether conversion or exchange will be mandatory, or at our option or at the option of the holder;

the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price or the exchange ratio; and

any other provisions affecting conversion or exchange of such debt securities.

Form and Denomination of Debt Securities

Denomination of Debt Securities

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be denominated in U.S. dollars, in minimum denominations of \$1,000 and multiples thereof.

Registered Form

We may issue the debt securities in registered form, in which case we may issue them either in book-entry form only or in certificated form. We will issue registered debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities issued in book-entry form will be represented by global securities.

Bearer Form

We also will have the option of issuing debt securities in non-registered form, as bearer securities, if we issue the securities outside the United States to non-U.S. persons. In that case, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the mechanics for holding the bearer securities, including the procedures for receiving payments, for exchanging the bearer securities for registered securities of the same series and for receiving notices. The applicable prospectus supplement will also describe the requirements with respect to our maintenance of offices or agencies outside the United States and the applicable U.S. federal tax law requirements.

Table of Contents

Holders of Registered Debt Securities

Book-Entry Holders

We will issue registered debt securities in book-entry form only, unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement. Debt securities held in book-entry form will be represented by one or more global securities registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee. The depositary or its nominee will hold such global securities on behalf of financial institutions that participate in such depositary's book-entry system. These participating financial institutions, in turn, hold beneficial interests in the global securities either on their own behalf or on behalf of their customers.

Under the indenture, only the person in whose name a debt security is registered is recognized as the holder of that debt security. Consequently, for debt securities issued in global form, we will recognize only the depositary or its nominee as the holder of the debt securities, and we will make all payments on the debt securities to the depositary or its nominee. The depositary will then pass along the payments that it receives to its participants, which in turn will pass the payments along to their customers who are the beneficial owners of the debt securities. The depositary and its participants do so under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers or by law; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities or the terms of the indenture.

As a result, investors will not own debt securities directly. Instead, they will own beneficial interests in a global security, through a bank, broker or other financial institution that participates in the depositary's book-entry system, or that holds an interest through a participant in the depositary's book-entry system. As long as the debt securities are issued in global form, investors will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the debt securities.

Street Name Holders

In the event that we issue debt securities in certificated form, or in the event that a global security is terminated, investors may choose to hold their debt securities either in their own names or in street name. Debt securities held in street name are registered in the name of a bank, broker or other financial institution chosen by the investor, and the investor would hold a beneficial interest in those debt securities through the account that he or she maintains at such bank, broker or other financial institution.

For debt securities held in street name, we will recognize only the intermediary banks, brokers and other financial institutions in whose names the debt securities are registered as the holders of those debt securities, and we will make all payments on those debt securities to them. These institutions will pass along the payments that they receive from us to their customers who are the beneficial owners pursuant to agreements that they have entered into with such customers or by law; they are not obligated to do so under the terms of the debt securities or the terms of the indenture. Investors who hold debt securities in street name will be indirect holders, and not holders, of the debt securities.

Registered Holders

Our obligations, as well as the obligations of the trustee and those of any third parties employed by the trustee or us, run only to the registered holders of the debt securities. We do not have obligations to investors who hold beneficial interests in global securities, in street name or by any other indirect means and who are, therefore, not the registered holders of the debt securities. This will be the case whether an investor chooses to be an indirect holder of a debt security, or has no choice in the matter because we are issuing the debt securities only in global form.

For example, once we make a payment or give a notice to the registered holder of the debt securities, we have no further responsibility with respect to such payment or notice even if that registered holder is required, under agreements with depositary participants or customers or by law, to pass it along to the indirect holders but does not do so. Similarly, if we want to obtain the approval of the holders for any purpose (for example, to amend an indenture or to relieve us of the consequences of a default or of our obligation to comply with a particular provision of an indenture), we would seek the approval only from the registered holders, and not the

Table of Contents

indirect holders, of the debt securities. Whether and how the registered holders contact the indirect holders is up to the registered holders.

Notwithstanding the above, when we refer to you or your in this prospectus, we are referring to investors who invest in the debt securities being offered by this prospectus, whether they are the registered holders or only indirect holders of the debt securities offered. When we refer to your debt securities in this prospectus, we mean the series of debt securities in which you hold a direct or indirect interest.

Special Considerations for Indirect Holders

If you hold debt securities through a bank, broker or other financial institution, either in book-entry form or in street name, we urge you to check with that institution to find out:

how it handles securities payments and notices;

whether it imposes fees or charges;

how it would handle a request for its consent, as a registered holder of the debt securities, if ever required;

if permitted for a particular series of debt securities, whether and how you can instruct it to send you debt securities registered in your own name so you can be a registered holder of such debt securities;

how it would exercise rights under the debt securities if there were a default or other event triggering the need for holders to act to protect their interests; and

if the debt securities are in book-entry form, how the depository's rules and procedures will affect these matters.

Global Securities

A global security represents one or any other number of individual debt securities. Generally, all debt securities represented by the same global securities will have the same terms. Each debt security issued in book-entry form will be represented by a global security that we deposit with and register in the name of a financial institution or its nominee that we select. The financial institution that we select for this purpose is called the depository. Unless we specify otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, known as DTC, will be the depository for all debt securities that we issue in book-entry form.

A global security may not be transferred to or registered in the name of anyone other than the depository or its nominee, unless special termination situations arise. We describe those situations below under Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated. As a result of these arrangements, the depository, or its nominee, will be the sole registered holder of all debt securities represented by a global security, and investors will be permitted to own only beneficial interests in a global security. Beneficial interests must be held by means of an account with a broker, bank or other financial institution that in turn has an account either with the depository or with another institution that has an account with the depository. Thus, an investor whose security is represented by a global security will not be a registered holder of the debt security, but an indirect holder of a beneficial interest in the global security.

Special Considerations for Global Securities

As an indirect holder, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the investor's financial institution and of the depository, as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. The depository that holds the global security will be considered the registered holder of the debt securities represented by such global security.

Table of Contents

If debt securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

An investor cannot cause the debt securities to be registered in his or her name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the debt securities, except in the special situations we describe below under **Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated**.

An investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the debt securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the debt securities, as we describe under **Holders of Registered Debt Securities** above.

An investor may not be able to sell his or her interest in the debt securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form.

An investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in the debt securities in circumstances where certificates representing the debt securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective.

The depositary's policies, which may change from time to time, will govern payments, transfers, exchanges and other matters relating to an investor's interest in the debt securities. Neither the trustee nor we have any responsibility for any aspect of the depositary's actions or for the depositary's records of ownership interests in a global security except to the extent the depositary or intermediary acts pursuant to our specific instructions. Additionally, neither the trustee nor we supervise the depositary in any way.

DTC requires that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security that is deposited in its book-entry system use immediately available funds. Your broker or bank may also require you to use immediately available funds when purchasing or selling interests in a global security.

Financial institutions that participate in the depositary's book-entry system, and through which an investor holds its interest in a global security, may also have their own policies affecting payments, notices and other matters relating to the debt security. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the actions of any of such intermediaries.

Special Situations When a Global Security Will Be Terminated

In a few special situations described below, a global security will be terminated and interests in the global security will be exchanged for certificates in non-global form, referred to as **certificated debt securities**. After such an exchange, it will be up to the investor as to whether to hold the certificated debt securities directly or in street name. We have described the rights of direct holders and street name holders under

Holders of Registered Debt Securities above. Investors must consult their own banks or brokers to find out how to have their interests in a global security exchanged on termination of a global security for certificated debt securities to be held directly in their own names.

The special situations for termination of a global security are as follows:

if the depositary notifies us that it is unwilling, unable or no longer qualified to continue as depositary for that global security, and we do not appoint another institution to act as depositary within 60 days of such notification;

if we notify the trustee that we wish to terminate that global security; or

if an event of default has occurred with regard to the debt securities represented by that global security and such event of default has not been cured or waived.

The applicable prospectus supplement may list situations for terminating a global security that would apply only to the particular series of debt securities covered by such prospectus supplement. If a global

Table of Contents

security were terminated, only the depository, and not we or the trustee, would be responsible for deciding the names of the institutions in whose names the debt securities represented by the global security would be registered and, therefore, who would be the registered holders of those debt securities.

Form, Exchange and Transfer of Registered Securities

If we cease to issue registered debt securities in global form, we will issue them:

only in fully registered certificated form; and

unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in denominations of \$1,000 and amounts that are multiples of \$1,000.

Holders may exchange their certificated securities for debt securities of smaller denominations or combined into fewer debt securities of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed.

Holders may exchange or transfer their certificated securities at the trustee's office. We have appointed the trustee to act as our agent for registering debt securities in the names of holders transferring debt securities. We may appoint another entity to perform these functions or perform them ourselves.

Holders will not be required to pay a service charge to transfer or exchange their certificated securities, but they may be required to pay any tax or other governmental charge associated with the transfer or exchange. The transfer or exchange will be made only if our transfer agent is satisfied with the holder's proof of legal ownership.

If we have designated additional transfer agents for your debt security, they will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. We may appoint additional transfer agents or cancel the appointment of any particular transfer agent. We may also approve a change in the location of the office through which any transfer agent acts.

If any certificated securities of a particular series are redeemable and we redeem less than all the debt securities of that series, we may block the transfer or exchange of those debt securities during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers or exchanges of any certificated securities selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any debt security that will be partially redeemed.

If a registered debt security is issued in global form, only the depository will be entitled to transfer and exchange the debt security as described in this subsection because it will be the sole holder of the debt security.

Payment and Paying Agents

On each due date for interest payments on the debt securities, we will pay interest to each person shown on the trustee's records as owner of the debt securities at the close of business on a designated day that is in advance of the due date for interest. We will pay interest to each such person even if such person no longer owns the debt security on the interest due date. The designated day on which we will determine the owner of the debt security, as shown on the trustee's records, is also known as the record date. The record date will usually be about two weeks in advance of the interest due date.

Because we will pay interest on the debt securities to the holders of the debt securities based on ownership as of the applicable record date with respect to any given interest period, and not to the holders of the debt securities on the interest due date (that is, the day that the interest is to be paid), it is up to the holders who are buying and selling the debt securities to work out between themselves the appropriate purchase price for the debt securities. It is common for purchase prices of debt securities to be adjusted so as to prorate the interest on the debt securities fairly between the buyer and the seller based on their respective ownership periods within the applicable interest period.

Table of Contents

Payments on Global Securities

We will make payments on a global security by wire transfer of immediately available funds directly to the depository, or its nominee, and not to any indirect holders who own beneficial interests in the global security. An indirect holder's right to those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of the depository and its participants, as described under "Global Securities" above.

Payments on Certificated Securities

We will make interest payments on debt securities held in certificated form by mailing a check on each due date for interest payments to the holder of the certificated securities, as shown on the trustee's records, as of the close of business on the record date. We will make all payments of principal and premium, if any, on the certificated securities by check at the office of the trustee in New York City, New York, and/or at other offices that may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or in a notice to holders, against surrender of the certificated security. All payments by check will be made in next-day funds (that is, funds that become available on the day after the check is cashed).

Alternatively, if a certificated security has a face amount of at least \$10,000,000, and the holder of such certificated security so requests, we will pay any amount that becomes due on such certificated security by wire transfer of immediately available funds to an account specified by the holder at a bank in New York City, New York, on the applicable due date for payment. To request payment by wire transfer, the holder must give appropriate transfer instructions to the trustee or other paying agent at least 15 business days before the requested wire payment is due. In the case of any interest payments, the instructions must be given by the person who is shown on the trustee's records as the holder of the certificated security on the applicable record date. Wire instructions, once properly given, will remain in effect unless and until new instructions are given in the manner described above.

Payment When Offices Are Closed

If payment on a debt security is due on a day that is not a business day, we will make such payment on the next succeeding business day. The indenture will provide that such payments will be treated as if they were made on the original due date for payment. A postponement of this kind will not result in a default under any debt security or indenture, and no interest will accrue on the amount of any payment that is postponed in this manner. Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how they will receive payments on their debt securities.

Events of Default

You will have special rights if an Event of Default occurs with respect to your debt securities and such Event of Default is not cured, as described later in this subsection.

What Is an Event of Default?

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the term "Event of Default" with respect to the debt securities offered means any of the following:

We do not pay the principal of, or any premium on, the debt security on its due date.

We do not pay interest on the debt security within 30 days of its due date.

We do not deposit any sinking fund payment, if applicable, with respect to the debt securities on its due date.

We remain in breach of a covenant with respect to the debt securities for 60 days after we receive a written notice of default stating that we are in breach. The notice must be sent by either the trustee or holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series.

We file for bankruptcy or certain other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

Table of Contents

Any other Event of Default that may be described in the applicable prospectus supplement, and set forth in the indenture, occurs.

An Event of Default for a particular series of debt securities does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default for any other series of debt securities issued under the same indenture or any other indenture.

Remedies If an Event of Default Occurs

If an Event of Default has occurred and has not been cured within the applicable time period, the trustee or the holders of 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may declare the entire principal amount of all the debt securities of that series to be immediately due and payable. This is called a declaration of acceleration of maturity. A declaration of acceleration of maturity may be rescinded by the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series.

The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default, except in the payment of principal or interest, if it considers the withholding of notice to be in the best interests of the holders. Additionally, subject to the provisions of the indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, the trustee is not required to take any action under the indenture at the request of any of the holders of the debt securities unless such holders offer the trustee reasonable protection from expenses and liability (called an indemnity). If reasonable indemnity is provided, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the relevant series may direct the time, method and place of conduct of any lawsuit or other formal legal action seeking any remedy available to the trustee. The trustee may refuse to follow those directions in certain circumstances. No delay or omission in exercising any right or remedy will be treated as a waiver of that right, remedy or Event of Default.

Before you are allowed to bypass the trustee and bring your own lawsuit or other formal legal action or take other steps to enforce your rights or protect your interests relating to your debt securities, the following must occur:

You must give the trustee written notice that an Event of Default has occurred and remains uncured.

The holders of 25% in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities of the relevant series must make a written request that the trustee take action because of the default that has occurred and must offer reasonable indemnity to the trustee against the cost and other liabilities of taking that action.

The trustee must not have taken any action for 60 days after receipt of the above notice, request and offer of indemnity.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the relevant series must not have given the trustee a direction inconsistent with the above notice or request.

Notwithstanding the above, you are entitled at any time to bring a lawsuit for the payment of money due on your debt securities on or after the due date for payment.

Holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of the affected series may waive any past defaults other than:

the payment of principal, or any premium or interest, on the affected series of debt securities; or

a default in respect of a covenant that cannot be modified or amended without the consent of each holder of the affected series of debt securities.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how to give notice or direction to or make a request of the trustee, and how to declare or rescind an acceleration of maturity on their debt securities.

With respect to each series of debt securities, we will furnish to each trustee, each year, a written statement of certain of our officers certifying that, to their knowledge, we are in compliance with the provisions of the indenture applicable to such series of debt securities, or specifying an Event of Default.

Table of Contents

Merger or Consolidation

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the indenture will generally permit us to consolidate or merge with another entity. We will also be permitted to sell all or substantially all of our assets to another entity. However, we may not take any of these actions unless, among other things, the following conditions are met:

in the event that we merge out of existence or sell all or substantially all of our assets, the resulting entity must agree to be legally responsible for the debt securities;

the merger or sale of all or substantially all of our assets must not cause a default on the debt securities, and we must not already be in default (unless the merger or sale would cure the default) with respect to the debt

securities; and

we must satisfy any other requirements specified in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of debt securities.

Modification or Waiver

There are three types of changes we can make to any indenture and the debt securities issued thereunder.

Changes Requiring Your Approval

First, there are changes that we cannot make to the terms or provisions of your debt securities without your specific approval. Subject to the provisions of the indenture, without your specific approval, we may not:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or interest or any additional amounts on, your debt securities;

reduce the principal amount of, or premium, if any, or interest on, or any other amounts due on your debt securities;

reduce the amount of principal payable upon acceleration of maturity of your debt securities;

make any change that adversely affects your right to receive payment on, to convert, to exchange or to require us to purchase, as applicable, your debt security in accordance with the terms of the indenture;

change the place or currency of payment on your debt securities;

impair your right to sue for payment on your debt securities;

if your debt securities are subordinated debt securities, modify the subordination provisions in the indenture in a manner that is adverse to you;

reduce the percentage of holders of outstanding debt securities of your series whose consent is needed to modify or amend the indenture;

reduce the percentage of holders of outstanding debt securities of your series whose consent is needed to waive compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or to waive certain defaults of the indenture;

modify any other aspect of the provisions of the indenture dealing with modification and waiver of past defaults, changes to the quorum or voting requirements or the waiver of certain covenants relating to your debt securities; or

modify any other provisions of the indenture as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Changes Not Requiring Your Approval

There are certain changes that we may make to your debt securities without your specific approval and without any vote of the holders of the debt securities of the same series. Such changes are limited to clarifications and certain other changes that would not adversely affect the holders of the outstanding debt securities of such series in any material respect.

Changes Requiring Majority Approval

Subject to the provisions of the indenture, any other change to, or waiver of, any provision of the indenture and the debt securities issued pursuant thereto would require the following approval:

If the change affects only one series of debt securities, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series.

If the change affects more than one series of debt securities issued under the same indenture, it must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected by the change, with all affected series voting together as one class for this purpose.

Waiver of our compliance with certain provisions of an indenture must be approved by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series issued under such indenture, voting together as one class for this purpose, in accordance with the terms of such indenture.

In each case, the required approval must be given in writing.

Further Details Concerning Voting

When taking a vote, we will decide the principal amount attributable to the debt securities in the following manner:

For original issue discount debt securities, we will use the principal amount that would be due and payable on the voting date if the maturity of such debt securities were accelerated to that date because of a default.

For debt securities for which principal amount is not known (for example, because it is based on an index), we will use the formula described in the prospectus supplement relating to such debt securities.

For debt securities denominated in one or more foreign currencies, we will use the U.S. dollar equivalent.

Debt securities will not be considered outstanding, and therefore will not be eligible to vote, if we have deposited or set aside in trust money for their payment in full or their redemption. Debt securities will also not be eligible to vote if we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations with respect to such debt securities, as described below under **Defeasance** **Full Defeasance**.

We will generally be entitled to set any day as a record date for the purpose of determining the holders of outstanding debt securities that are entitled to vote or take other action under the indenture. If we set a record date for a vote or other action to be taken by holders of one or more series of debt securities, such vote or action may be taken only by persons shown on the trustee's records as holders of the debt securities of the relevant series on such record date.

Book-entry and other indirect holders should consult their banks or brokers for information on how their approval or waiver may be granted or denied if we seek their approval to change or waive the provisions of an indenture or of their debt securities.

Table of Contents

Defeasance

If specified in the applicable prospectus supplement and subject to the provisions of the indenture, we may elect either:

to be released from some of the covenants in the indenture under which your debt securities were issued (referred to as *covenant defeasance*); or

to be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to your debt securities, except for obligations to register the transfer or exchange of your debt securities, to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, to maintain paying offices or agencies and to hold moneys for payment in trust (referred to as *full defeasance*).

Covenant Defeasance

In the event of covenant defeasance, you would lose the protection of some of our covenants in the indenture, but would gain the protection of having money and government securities set aside in trust to repay your debt securities.

Subject to the provisions of the indenture, to accomplish covenant defeasance with respect to the debt securities offered:

We must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the debt securities of the same series as your debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that would generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on such series of debt securities on the various dates when such payments would be due.

No Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time would become an Event of Default, including by reason of the above deposit of money, notes or bonds, with respect to your debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit.

We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities a legal opinion of our counsel to the effect that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you will not recognize income, gain or loss as a result of such covenant defeasance and that such covenant defeasance will not cause you to be taxed on your debt securities any differently than if such covenant defeasance had not occurred and we had just repaid your debt securities ourselves at maturity.

We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities a legal opinion of our counsel to the effect that the deposit of funds or bonds would not require registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or that all necessary registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, had been effected.

We must comply with any additional terms of, conditions to or limitations to covenant defeasance, as set forth in the indenture.

We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities an officer's certificate and a legal opinion of our counsel stating that all conditions precedent to covenant defeasance, as set forth in the indenture, had been complied with.

If we were to accomplish covenant defeasance, you could still look to us for repayment of the debt securities if there were a shortfall in the trust deposit or the trustee were prevented from making payment. In fact, if an Event of Default that remained after we accomplish covenant defeasance occurred (such as our bankruptcy) and your debt securities became immediately due and payable, there might be a shortfall in our trust deposit. Depending on the event causing the default, you might not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall. For example, if the event causing the event of default is a bankruptcy, you may not be able to obtain payment.

Table of Contents

Full Defeasance

If we were to accomplish full defeasance, you would have to rely solely on the funds or notes or bonds that we deposit in trust for repayment of your debt securities. You could not look to us for repayment in the unlikely event of any shortfall in our trust deposit. Conversely, the trust deposit would most likely be protected from claims of our lenders and other creditors if we were to become bankrupt or insolvent.

Subject to the provisions of the indenture, in order to accomplish full defeasance with respect to the debt securities offered:

We must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of the debt securities of the same series as your debt securities a combination of money and U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that would generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on such series of debt securities on the various dates when such payments would be due.

No Event of Default or event which with notice or lapse of time would become an Event of Default, including by reason of the above deposit of money, notes or bonds, with respect to your debt securities shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit.

We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities a legal opinion of our counsel stating either that we have received, or there has been published, a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service or that there had been a change in the applicable U.S. federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, you will not recognize income, gain or loss as a result of such full defeasance and that such full defeasance will not cause you to be taxed on your debt securities any differently than if such full defeasance had not occurred and we had just repaid your debt securities ourselves at maturity.

We must deliver to the trustee a legal opinion of our counsel to the effect that the deposit of funds or bonds would not require registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or that all necessary registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, had been effected.

We must comply with any additional terms of, conditions to or limitations to full defeasance, as set forth in the indenture.

We must deliver to the trustee of your debt securities an officer's certificate and a legal opinion of our counsel stating that all conditions precedent to full defeasance, as set forth in the indenture, had been complied with.

Subordination Provisions

Upon any distribution of our assets upon our dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated, to the extent provided in the subordinated indenture, as supplemented, in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness. Our obligation to make payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities will not otherwise be affected. In addition, no payment on account of principal and premium, if any, sinking fund or interest, if any, may be made on the subordinated debt securities at any time unless full payment of all amounts due in respect of the principal and premium, if any, sinking fund and interest, if any, on our senior indebtedness has been made or duly provided for in money or money's worth.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless all of our senior indebtedness has been paid in full, in the event that any payment or distribution made by us is received by the trustee or the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities, such payment or distribution must be paid over to the holders of our senior indebtedness or a person acting on their behalf, to be applied toward the payment of all our senior indebtedness remaining unpaid until all the senior indebtedness has been paid in full. Subject to the payment in full of all our senior indebtedness, the rights of the holders of the subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of our senior indebtedness.

Table of Contents

By reason of this subordination, in the event of a distribution of our assets upon our insolvency, certain of our general creditors may recover more, ratably, than holders of the subordinated debt securities. The subordinated indenture provides that these subordination provisions will not apply to money and securities held in trust under the defeasance provisions of the subordinated indenture.

When we refer to senior indebtedness in this prospectus, we are referring to the principal of (and premium, if any) and unpaid interest on:

our indebtedness (including indebtedness of others guaranteed by us), other than subordinated debt securities, whenever created, incurred, assumed or guaranteed, or money borrowed, unless the instrument creating or evidencing such indebtedness or under which such indebtedness is outstanding provides that such indebtedness is not senior or prior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities; and

renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of any of such indebtedness.

If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with the offering of a series of subordinated debt securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference will set forth the approximate amount of our senior indebtedness outstanding as of a recent date.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the law of the State of New York.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

through agents to the public or to investors;

to underwriters for resale to the public or to investors;

directly to investors; or

through a combination of any of these methods of sale.

We will set forth in a prospectus supplement the terms of that particular offering of securities, including:

the name or names of any agents or underwriters;

the purchase price of the securities being offered and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents or underwriters compensation;

any initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchanges or markets on which such securities may be listed.

Agents

We may designate agents who agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchases of our securities for the period of their appointment or to sell our securities on a continuing basis.

Table of Contents

Underwriters

If we use underwriters for a sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities of the series offered if they purchase any of the securities of that series. We may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions the underwriters allow or reallow or pay to dealers. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe the nature of any such relationship in any prospectus supplement naming any such underwriter.

Direct Sales

We may also sell securities directly to one or more purchasers without using underwriters or agents. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of the securities may be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act, and any discounts or commissions they receive from us and any profit on their resale of the securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will identify in the applicable prospectus supplement any underwriters, dealers or agents and will describe their compensation. We may have agreements with the underwriters, dealers and agents to indemnify them against specified civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of their businesses.

Trading Markets and Listing of Securities

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each class or series of securities will be a new issue with no established trading market, other than our common stock, which is listed on The Nasdaq National Market and The Toronto Stock Exchange. We may elect to list any other class or series of securities on any exchange or market, but we are not obligated to do so. It is possible that one or more underwriters may make a market in a class or series of securities, but the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot give any assurance as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

Stabilization Activities

Any underwriter may engage in overallotment, stabilizing transactions, short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Overallotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. Short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of these activities at any time.

Passive Market Marking

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on The Nasdaq National Market may engage in passive market making transactions in the securities on The Nasdaq National Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the securities. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security. If all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities to be offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Hogan & Hartson L.L.P., Denver, Colorado.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2003 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting. The financial statements of High Desert Mineral Resources Inc. incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Report on Form 8-K/A filed February 6, 2003 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton LaBonte, Chartered Accountants.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act a registration statement on Form S-3. This prospectus does not contain all of the information contained in the registration statement and the exhibits and the schedules to the registration statement. We strongly encourage you to read carefully the registration statement and the exhibits and the schedules to the registration statement.

Any statement made in this prospectus concerning the contents of any contract, agreement or other document is only a summary of the actual contract, agreement or other document. If we have filed any contract, agreement or other document as an exhibit to the registration statement, you should read the exhibit for a more complete understanding of the document or matter involved.

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy the registration statement and any other document we file at the following SEC public reference rooms:

Judiciary Plaza
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Rm. 1024
Washington, D.C. 20549

You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room in Washington, D.C. by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. We file information electronically with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available from the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, which contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically. You may read and copy our SEC filings and other information at the offices of the Nasdaq National Market, 1735 K St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Table of Contents