

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q

☒ **QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2022

OR

☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from to
Commission file number 001-35770

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

3700 BUFFALO SPEEDWAY, SUITE 925
Houston, Texas
(Address of principal executive offices)

27-3431051
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

77098
(Zip code)

(713) 877-1311

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, Par Value \$0.01 per share	CTGO	NYSE American

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). Yes ☒ No ☐.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," or "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.:

Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☒ Smaller reporting company ☒ Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

The total number of shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, outstanding as of November 10, 2022 was 6,774,590.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

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All references in this Form 10-Q to the "Company", "CORE", "we", "us" or "our" are to Contango ORE, Inc.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Unaudited)

Item 1 - Financial Statements

	September 30, 2022	June 30, 2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash	\$ 17,809,627	\$ 23,095,101
Restricted cash	231,000	231,000
Prepaid expenses and other	439,969	453,353
Total current assets	18,480,596	23,779,454
LONG-TERM ASSETS:		
Investment in Peak Gold (Note 5)	—	—
Property & equipment, net	13,480,317	13,514,531
Total long-term assets	13,480,317	13,514,531
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 31,960,913	\$ 37,293,985
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,210,347	\$ 633,856
Accrued liabilities	1,104,361	870,981
Total current liabilities	2,314,708	1,504,837
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Advance royalty reimbursement	1,200,000	1,200,000
Asset retirement obligations	231,108	228,082
Contingent consideration liability	1,847,063	1,847,063
Debt, net	19,286,694	19,239,960
Total non-current liabilities	22,564,865	22,515,105
TOTAL LIABILITIES	24,879,573	24,019,942
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (NOTE 14)		
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:		
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value, 45,000,000 shares authorized; 6,860,420 shares issued and 6,774,590 shares outstanding at September 30, 2022; 6,860,420 shares issued and 6,769,923 shares outstanding at June 30, 2022)	68,604	68,604
Additional paid-in capital	74,845,733	74,057,859
Treasury stock at cost (85,830 at September 30, 2022; and 90,497 shares at June 30, 2022	(2,206,989)	(2,318,182)
Accumulated deficit	(65,626,008)	(58,534,238)
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	7,081,340	13,274,043
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$ 31,960,913	\$ 37,293,985

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2022	2021
EXPENSES:		
Claim rental expense	\$ (146,925)	\$ (149,810)
Exploration expense	(4,396,570)	(946,245)
Depreciation expense	(34,214)	(4,782)
Accretion expense	(3,026)	—
General and administrative expense	(2,424,068)	(1,970,269)
Total expenses	(7,004,803)	(3,071,106)
OTHER INCOME/(EXPENSE):		
Interest income	8,546	497
Interest expense	(449,470)	(56,604)
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC (Note 5)	—	(1,445,000)
Insurance recoveries	338,301	—
Other income	15,656	—
Total other income/(expense)	(86,967)	(1,501,107)
LOSS BEFORE TAXES	(7,091,770)	(4,572,213)
Income tax (expense)/benefit	—	—
NET LOSS	\$ (7,091,770)	\$ (4,572,213)
LOSS PER SHARE		
Basic and diluted	\$ (1.05)	\$ (0.68)
WEIGHTED AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING		
Basic and diluted	6,771,245	6,680,637

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,	
	2022	2021
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Net loss	\$ (7,091,770)	\$ (4,572,213)
Adjustments to reconcile net income/(loss) to net cash used in operating activities:		
Stock-based compensation	787,874	1,021,851
Depreciation expense	34,214	4,782
Accretion expense	3,026	—
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—	1,445,000
Amortization of debt discount and debt issuance fees	49,471	—
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in prepaid expenses and other	13,384	68,478
Increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	948,756	559,421
Increase in income tax receivable	—	(80,000)
Net cash used in operating activities	(5,255,045)	(1,552,681)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash invested in Peak Gold, LLC	—	(1,445,000)
Acquisition of property, plant, and equipment	—	(13)
Cash paid for acquisition of Alaska Gold Torrent, LLC, net of cash received	—	(5,191,037)
Net cash used by investing activities	—	(6,636,050)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash paid for shares withheld from employees for payroll tax withholding	(27,693)	—
Debt issuance costs	(2,736)	—
Cash proceeds from capital raise, net	—	(43,560)
Net cash used by financing activities	(30,429)	(43,560)
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(5,285,474)	(8,232,291)
CASH AND RESTRICTED CASH, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	23,326,101	35,220,588
CASH AND RESTRICTED CASH, END OF PERIOD	\$ 18,040,627	\$ 26,988,297
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information		
Cash paid for:		
Interest expense	\$ 416,670	\$ —
Income taxes	—	80,000
Non-cash investing and financing activities		
Interest expense paid with treasury stock	138,886	—
Note payable issued for acquisition of Alaska Gold Torrent, LLC	—	6,250,000
Direct transaction costs for acquisition of Alaska Gold Torrent, LLC financed in accounts payable	—	199,369
Contingent liability for acquisition of Alaska Gold Torrent, LLC	—	1,847,063
Total non-cash investing activities	\$ 138,886	\$ 8,296,432

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY
(Unaudited)

	Common Stock		Additional	Treasury	Accumulated	Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-In Capital	Stock	Deficit	Shareholders' Equity
Balance at June 30, 2022	6,860,420	\$ 68,604	\$ 74,057,859	\$ (2,318,182)	\$ (58,534,238)	\$ 13,274,043
Stock-based compensation	—	—	787,874	—	—	787,874
Treasury shares issued for convertible note interest payment	—	—	—	138,886	—	138,886
Treasury shares withheld for employee taxes	—	—	—	(27,693)	—	(27,693)
Net loss for the period	—	—	—	—	(7,091,770)	(7,091,770)
Balance at September 30, 2022	<u>6,860,420</u>	<u>\$ 68,604</u>	<u>\$ 74,845,733</u>	<u>\$ (2,206,989)</u>	<u>\$ (65,626,008)</u>	<u>\$ 7,081,340</u>

	Common Stock		Additional	Treasury	Accumulated	Total
	Shares	Amount	Paid-In Capital	Stock	Deficit	Shareholders' Equity
Balance at June 30, 2021	6,675,746	\$ 66,757	\$ 69,509,606	\$ —	\$ (35,027,588)	\$ 34,548,775
Stock-based compensation	—	—	1,021,851	—	—	1,021,851
Cost of common stock issuance	—	—	(43,560)	—	—	(43,560)
Restricted shares activity	10,000	100	(100)	—	—	—
Net loss for the period	—	—	—	—	(4,572,213)	(4,572,213)
Balance at September 30, 2021	<u>6,685,746</u>	<u>\$ 66,857</u>	<u>\$ 70,487,797</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ (39,599,801)</u>	<u>\$ 30,954,853</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these condensed consolidated financial statements.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.
NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Organization and Business

Contango ORE, Inc. ("CORE" or the "Company") engages in exploration for gold ore and associated minerals in Alaska. The Company conducts its operations through three primary means:

- a 30.0% membership interest in Peak Gold, LLC (the "Peak Gold JV"), which leases approximately 675,000 acres from the Tetlin Tribal Council and holds approximately 13,000 additional acres of State of Alaska mining claims (such combined acreage, the "Peak Gold JV Property") for exploration and development, including in connection with the Peak Gold JV's plan to mine ore from the Peak and North Peak deposits within the Peak Gold JV Property (the "Manh Choh Project");
- its wholly-owned subsidiary, Alaska Gold Torrent, LLC, an Alaska limited liability company ("AGT"), which leases the mineral rights to approximately 8,600 acres of State of Alaska and patented mining claims for exploration from Alaska Hard Rock, Inc., located in three former producing gold mines located on the patented claims in the Willow Mining District about 75 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska (the "Lucky Shot Property") (See Note 10 - Acquisition of Lucky Shot Property); and
- its wholly-owned subsidiary, Contango Minerals Alaska, LLC ("Contango Minerals"), which separately owns the mineral rights to approximately 214,600 acres of State of Alaska mining claims for exploration, including (i) approximately 139,100 acres located immediately northwest of the Peak Gold JV Property (the "Eagle/Hona Property"), (ii) approximately 14,800 acres located northeast of the Peak Gold JV Property (the "Triple Z Property"), (iii) approximately 52,700 acres of new property in the Richardson district of Alaska (the "Shamrock Property") and (iv) approximately 8,000 acres located to the north and east of the Lucky Shot Property (the "Willow Property" and, together with the Eagle/Hona Property, the Triple Z Property, and the Shamrock Property, collectively the "Minerals Property").

The Lucky Shot Property and the Minerals Property are collectively referred to in these Notes to Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements as the "Contango Properties".

The Company's Manh Choh Project is in the development stage. All other projects are in the exploration stage.

The Company has been involved, directly and through the Peak Gold JV, in exploration on the Manh Choh Project for twelve years, which has resulted in identifying two mineral deposits (Main and North Manh Choh) and several other gold, silver, and copper prospects. The Peak Gold JV plans to mine ore from the Main and North Manh Choh deposits and then process the ore at the existing Fort Knox mining and milling complex located approximately 250 miles (400 km) away. The use of the Fort Knox facilities is expected to accelerate the development of the Peak Gold JV Property and result in reduced upfront capital development costs, smaller environmental footprint, a shorter permitting and development timeline and less overall execution risk for the Peak Gold JV to advance the Main and North Manh Choh deposits to production, as the Fort Knox facilities have existing operations as opposed to developing, permitting and building a new mill and processing facilities. The Peak Gold JV will be charged a toll for using the Fort Knox facilities. A toll milling agreement is expected to be finalized once a feasibility study has been completed.

The Management Committee of the Peak Gold JV (the "Management Committee") approved a calendar year 2022 budget of \$39.6 million, of which the Company's total share is \$11.9 million for the year. To date, the Company has funded \$9.8 million of the Company's share of the 2022 budget (\$8.3 million of this amount was funded in October 2022). The 2022 budget covers the following areas of work: feasibility study, permitting, on-going environmental monitoring, community engagement, engineering, early construction, and exploration. Kinross Gold Corporation ("Kinross") released a combined feasibility study for the Fort Knox mill and the Peak Gold JV in July 2022. Also, in July 2022, Kinross announced that its board of directors (the "Kinross Board") made a decision to proceed with development of the Manh Choh project. As of September 30, 2022, the early works construction at the Manh Choh Project site was approximately 80% complete, including completion of a 5-acre construction laydown, 7 miles of access road, and 125 acres of tree clearing. Construction on the camp and access road for the site are expected to continue through the end of the calendar year.

At the Lucky Shot Property, the Company engaged Atkinson Construction and Major Drilling as contractors to execute the 2022 exploration/development program which advanced the Enserch Tunnel to the footwall of the area where the Company expects to locate the Lucky Shot vein and related 750 foot drift parallel, and to set up drill stations every 75 feet along the western drift. The Company began pilot hole drilling in late June 2022, and plans to drill approximately 3200 meters (~10,000 feet) underground into what it believes to be the down-dip projection of the Lucky Shot vein. To date, the Company has completed ten holes from the Western and Eastern ballrooms of the Lucky Shot mine, all of which have intersected what it believes to be the Lucky Shot vein structure. The assays from the drilling program are still pending.

On the Shamrock Property, the Company conducted soil and surface rock chip sampling during 2021. Follow up trenching and detailed geologic mapping is planned for the summer of 2023. At the Eagle/Hona Property, the Company carried out a detailed reconnaissance of the northern and eastern portions of the large claim block that had not previously been detail sampled. Due to the steep topography, a helicopter was used to execute the program safely. Follow up geologic mapping and sampling is planned for the summer of 2023.

The Company's 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV, its ownership of AGT and Contango Minerals, and cash on hand constitute substantially all of the Company's assets.

The Company's fiscal year end is June 30.

Background Information

The Company was formed on September 1, 2010 as a Delaware corporation for the purpose of engaging in the exploration in the State of Alaska for gold ore and associated minerals.

On January 8, 2015, the Company's wholly owned subsidiary, CORE Alaska, LLC ("CORE Alaska"), and a subsidiary of Royal Gold, Inc. ("Royal Gold") formed the Peak Gold JV. On September 30, 2020, CORE Alaska sold a 30.0% membership interest (the "CORE JV Interest") in the Peak Gold JV to KG Mining (Alaska), Inc. ("KG Mining"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Kinross. The sale is referred to as the "CORE Transactions".

Concurrently with the CORE Transactions, KG Mining, in a separate transaction, acquired 100% of the equity of Royal Alaska, LLC from Royal Gold, which held Royal Gold's 40.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV (the "Royal Gold Transactions" and, together with the CORE Transactions, the "Kinross Transactions"). After the consummation of the Kinross Transactions, CORE Alaska retained a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV. KG Mining now holds a 70.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV and serves as its manager and operator.

2. Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("US GAAP") for interim financial information, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), including instructions to Form 10-Q and Article 8 of Regulation S-X. Accordingly, they do not include all the information and footnotes required by US GAAP for complete annual consolidated financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments considered necessary for a fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements have been included. All such adjustments are of a normal recurring nature. The consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated audited financial statements and notes included in the Company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The results of operations for the three months ended September 30, 2022 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

3. Liquidity

The Company's cash needs going forward will primarily relate to capital calls from the Peak Gold JV, exploration of the Contango Properties, and general and administrative expenses of the Company. The Company had a \$10.0 million capital commitment for expenditures on the Lucky Shot Property over the 36-month period following August 2021, however the Company has already funded over \$10.0 million on the Lucky Shot Property as of September 30, 2022. If a large budget is undertaken by the Peak Gold JV, and no additional financing is obtained, the Company can elect not to fund its portion of the approved budget and dilute its interest in the Peak Gold JV, in which case the Company would maintain sufficient liquidity to meet its working capital requirements for the next twelve months from the date of this report. If the Company's interest in the Peak Gold JV is diluted, the Company may not be able to fully realize its investment in the Peak Gold JV.

4. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Company's significant accounting policies are described below.

Cash. Cash consists of all cash balances and highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less. All cash is held in cash deposit accounts as of September 30, 2022, and June 30, 2022. The Company has \$231,000 of restricted cash which is held as collateral for its bank-issued Company credit cards.

Management Estimates. The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Other items subject to estimates and assumptions include, but are not limited to, the carrying amounts of property and equipment, asset retirement obligations, valuation of contingent consideration, valuation allowances for deferred income tax assets, and valuation of derivative instruments. Management evaluates estimates and assumptions on an ongoing basis using historical experience and other factors, including the current economic and commodity price environment.

Stock-Based Compensation. The Company applies the fair value method of accounting for stock-based compensation. Under this method, compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized over the award vesting period. The Company classifies the benefits of tax deductions in excess of the compensation cost recognized for the options (excess tax benefit) as financing cash flows. The fair value of each option award is estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model. The fair value of each restricted stock award is equal to the Company's stock price on the date the award is granted.

Income Taxes. The Company follows the liability method of accounting for income taxes under which deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences of (i) temporary differences between the tax basis of assets and liabilities and their reported amounts in the consolidated financial statements and (ii) operating loss and tax credit carry-forwards for tax purposes. Deferred tax assets are reduced by a valuation allowance when, based upon management's estimates, it is more likely than not that a portion of the deferred tax assets will not be realized in a future period.

Investment in the Peak Gold JV. The Company's consolidated financial statements include the investment in the Peak Gold JV, which is accounted for under the equity method. The Company held a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV on September 30, 2022 and designated one of the three members of the Management Committee. The Company recorded its investment at the historical cost of the assets contributed. The cumulative losses of the Peak Gold JV exceed the historical cost of the assets contributed to the Peak Gold JV; therefore, the Company's investment in the Peak Gold JV as of September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022 is zero. The portion of the cumulative loss that exceeds the Company's investment will be suspended and recognized against earnings, if any, from the investment in the Peak Gold JV in future periods.

Property & Equipment. Property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation and amortization are computed for assets placed in service using the straight-line method over the estimated useful life of the asset. When assets are retired or sold, the costs and related allowances for depreciation and amortization are eliminated from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in operations. The Company reviews long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets to be held and used is measured by a comparison of the carrying amount of an asset to future net cash flows expected to be generated by the asset. If an asset is considered to be impaired, the loss recognized is measured by the amount by which the carrying amount of the asset exceeds the fair value of the asset. In mid-February 2022 an avalanche occurred at the Lucky Shot Property. The avalanche destroyed various vehicles and equipment at the site. There was no impairment charge recorded during the quarter ended September 30, 2022, as all of the assets destroyed had been written off in previous quarters. There was also no impairment charge recorded during the quarter ended September 30, 2021. The Company did have insurance recoveries totaling \$338,301 related to the avalanche in quarter ended September 30, 2022. Significant payments related to the acquisition of mineral properties, mining rights, and mineral leases are capitalized. If a commercially mineable ore body is discovered, such costs are amortized when production begins using the units-of-production method based on estimated reserves. If no commercially mineable ore body is discovered, or such rights are otherwise determined to have no value, such costs are expensed in the period in which it is determined the property has no future economic value.

Fair Value Measurement. Accounting guidelines for measuring fair value establish a three-level valuation hierarchy for disclosure of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy categorizes assets and liabilities measured at fair value into one of three different levels depending on the observability of the inputs employed in the measurement.

The three levels are defined as follows:

Level 1 – Observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets at the measurement date for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Other inputs that are observable directly or indirectly, such as quoted prices in markets that are not active or inputs, which are observable, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 – Unobservable inputs for which there are little or no market data and which the Company makes its own assumptions about how market participants would price the assets and liabilities.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Where available, fair value is based on observable market prices or parameters or derived from such prices or parameters. Where observable prices or inputs are not available, valuation models are applied. These valuation techniques involve some level of management estimation and judgment, the degree of which is dependent on the price transparency for the instruments or market and the instrument's complexity. The Company reflects transfers between the three levels at the beginning of the reporting period in which the availability of observable inputs no longer justifies classification in the original level. There were no transfers between fair value hierarchy levels for the quarter ended September 30, 2022.

Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

The Company performs fair value measurements on a recurring basis for the following:

- **Derivative Financial Instruments** - Derivative financial instruments are carried at fair value and measured on a recurring basis. The Company's potential derivative financial instruments include features embedded within its convertible debenture with Queens Road Capital (see Note 16). These measurements were not material to the Consolidated Financial Statements.
- **Contingent Consideration** - As discussed in Note 10, The Company will be obligated to pay CRH Funding II PTE. LTD additional consideration if production on the Lucky Shot Property meets two separate milestone payment thresholds. The fair value of this contingent consideration is measured on a recurring basis, and is driven by the probability of reaching the milestone payment thresholds.

Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis

The Company applies the provisions of the fair value measurement standard on a non-recurring basis to its non-financial assets and liabilities, including mineral properties, business combinations, and asset retirement obligations. These assets and liabilities are not measured at fair value on an ongoing basis but are subject to fair value adjustments if events or changes in certain circumstances indicate that adjustments may be necessary.

Business Combinations. In determining whether an acquisition should be accounted for as a business combination or asset acquisition, the Company first determines whether substantially all of the fair value of the gross assets acquired is concentrated in a single identifiable asset or a group of similar identifiable assets. If this is the case, the single identifiable asset or the group of similar assets is not deemed to be a business, and is instead deemed to be an asset. If this is not the case, the Company then further evaluates whether the single identifiable asset or group of similar identifiable assets and activities includes, at a minimum, an input and a substantive process that together significantly contribute to the ability to create outputs. If so, the Company concludes that the single identifiable asset or group of similar identifiable assets and activities is a business. The Company accounts for business combinations using the acquisition method of accounting. Application of this method of accounting requires that (i) identifiable assets acquired (including identifiable intangible assets) and liabilities assumed generally be measured and recognized at fair value as of the acquisition date and (ii) the excess of the purchase price over the net fair value of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed be recognized as goodwill, which is not amortized for accounting purposes but is subject to testing for impairment at least annually. The Company measures and recognizes asset acquisitions that are not deemed to be business combinations based on the cost to acquire the assets, which includes transaction costs. Goodwill is not recognized in asset acquisitions. Contingent consideration in asset acquisitions payable in the form of cash is recognized when payment becomes probable and reasonably estimable, unless the contingent consideration meets the definition of a derivative, in which case the amount becomes part of the asset acquisition cost when acquired. Contingent consideration payable in the form of a fixed number of the Company's own shares is measured at fair value as of the acquisition date and recognized when the issuance of the shares becomes probable. Upon recognition of the contingent consideration payment, the amount is included in the cost of the acquired asset or group of assets.

The Company purchased 100% of the outstanding membership interests of AGT in August 2021 (See Note 10). The Company accounted for the purchase as an asset acquisition, and thus allocated the total acquisition cost to the assets acquired on a relative fair value basis.

Convertible Debenture. The Company accounts for its convertible debenture in accordance with ASC 470-20, Debt with Conversion and Other Options ("ASC 470-20"), which requires the liability and equity components of convertible debt to be separately accounted for in a manner that reflects the issuer's nonconvertible debt borrowing rate. Debt discount created by the bifurcation of embedded features in the convertible debenture are reflected as a reduction to the related debt liability. The discount is amortized to interest expense over the term of the debt using the effective-interest method. The convertible debenture is classified within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

Derivative Asset/Liability for Embedded Conversion Features. The Company does not use derivative instruments to hedge exposures to cash flow, market, or foreign currency risks. The Company evaluates convertible notes to determine if those contracts or embedded components of those contracts qualify as derivatives to be accounted for separately. In circumstances where the embedded conversion option in a convertible instrument is required to be bifurcated and there are also other embedded derivative instruments in the convertible instrument that are required to be bifurcated, the bifurcated derivative instruments are evaluated and accounted for separately. The result of this accounting treatment is that the fair value of the embedded derivative is recorded as either an asset or a liability and marked-to-market each balance sheet date, with the change in fair value recorded in the statements of operations as other income or expense. Upon conversion or exercise of a derivative instrument, the instrument is marked to fair value at the conversion date and then that fair value is reclassified to equity. The fair value of the embedded conversion features are estimated using several probability weighted binomial lattice models. The Company estimated the fair value of the convertible notes conversion feature at the time of issuance and subsequent remeasurement dates, utilizing the with-and without method, where the value of the derivative feature is the difference in values between a note simulated with the embedded conversion feature and the value of the same note simulated without the embedded conversion feature. Estimating fair values of embedded conversion features is classified within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy, and requires the development of significant and subjective estimates that may, and are likely to, change over the duration of the instrument with related changes in internal and external market factors.

Asset Retirement Obligations. Asset retirement obligations (including reclamation and remediation costs) associated with operating and non-operating mine sites are recognized when an obligation is incurred and the fair value can be reasonably estimated. Fair value is measured as the present value of expected cash flow estimates, after considering inflation, our credit-adjusted risk-free rates and a market risk premium appropriate for our operations. The liability is accreted over time through periodic charges to earnings. In addition, the asset retirement cost is capitalized as part of the asset's carrying value and amortized over the life of the related asset. Reclamation costs are periodically adjusted to reflect changes in the estimated present value resulting from the passage of time and revisions to the estimates of either the timing or amount of the reclamation costs. The estimated reclamation obligation is based on when spending for an existing disturbance is expected to occur. Costs included in estimated asset retirement obligations are discounted to their present value as cash flows are readily estimable. The Company reviews, on an annual basis, unless otherwise deemed necessary, the reclamation obligation for each project in accordance with ASC guidance for asset retirement obligations. The Company had asset retirement obligations related to its Lucky Shot project totaling \$0.2 million, as of September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022. Accretion expense for the quarters ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$3,026 and zero, respectively.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements. In August 2020, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2020-06, Debt — Debt with Conversion and Other Options (Subtopic 470-20) and Derivatives and Hedging — Contracts in Entity's Own Equity (Subtopic 815-40) ("ASU 2020-06") to simplify accounting for certain financial instruments. ASU 2020-06 eliminates the current models that require separation of beneficial conversion and cash conversion features from convertible instruments and simplifies the derivative scope exception guidance pertaining to equity classification of contracts in an entity's own equity. The new standard also introduces additional disclosures for convertible debt and freestanding instruments that are indexed to and settled in an entity's own equity. ASU 2020-06 is effective January 1, 2022 and should be applied on a full or modified retrospective basis, with early adoption permitted beginning on January 1, 2021. The Company adopted ASU 2020-06 effective January 1, 2022. As mentioned, in the accounting policy above, the Company accounts for its convertible debenture with Queens Road Capital under this standard (See Note 16).

The Company has evaluated all other recent accounting pronouncements and believes that none of them will have a significant effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

5. Investment in the Peak Gold JV

The Company initially recorded its investment at the historical book value of the assets contributed to the Peak Gold JV, which was approximately \$1.4 million. As of September 30, 2022, the Company has contributed approximately \$19.4 million to the Peak Gold JV. KG Mining acquired 70% of the Peak Gold JV on September 30, 2020 in connection with the Kinross Transactions. As of September 30, 2022, the Company held a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV.

The following table is a roll-forward of the Company's investment in the Peak Gold JV from January 8, 2015 (inception) to September 30, 2022:

	Investment in Peak Gold, LLC
Investment balance at June 30, 2014	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC, at inception January 8, 2015	1,433,886
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	(1,433,886)
Investment balance at June 30, 2015	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Investment balance at June 30, 2016	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Investment balance at June 30, 2017	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	2,580,000
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	(2,580,000)
Investment balance as June 30, 2018	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	4,140,000
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	(4,140,000)
Investment balance at June 30, 2019	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	3,720,000
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	(3,720,000)
Investment balance at June 30, 2020	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	3,861,252
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	(3,861,252)
Investment balance at June 30, 2021	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	3,706,000
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	(3,706,000)
Investment balance at June 30, 2022	\$ —
Investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Loss from equity investment in Peak Gold, LLC	—
Investment balance at September 30, 2022	\$ —

In conjunction with the CORE Transactions, and KG Mining assuming the role of manager of the Peak Gold JV, the Peak Gold JV converted its method of accounting from US GAAP to International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) and changed its fiscal year end from June 30 to December 31, effective for the quarter ended December 31, 2020. The condensed unaudited financial statements presented below have been converted from IFRS to US GAAP for presentation purposes. The following table presents the condensed unaudited results of operations for the Peak Gold JV for the three month period ended September 30, 2022 and 2021, and for the period from inception through September 30, 2022 in accordance with US GAAP:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2022	Three Months Ended September 30, 2021	Period from Inception January 8, 2015 to September 30, 2022
EXPENSES:			
Exploration expense	\$ 1,438,756	\$ 3,056,104	\$ 59,850,283
General and administrative	77,050	305,057	12,358,069
Total expenses	1,515,806	3,361,161	72,208,352
NET LOSS	\$ 1,515,806	\$ 3,361,161	\$ 72,208,352

The Company’s share of the Peak Gold JV’s results of operations for the three months ended September 30, 2022 was a loss of approximately \$0.4 million. The Company’s share in the results of operations for the three months ended September 30, 2021 was a loss of approximately \$1.0 million. The Peak Gold JV loss does not include any provisions related to income taxes as the Peak Gold JV is treated as a partnership for income tax purposes. As of September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022, the Company’s share of the Peak Gold JV’s inception-to-date cumulative loss of approximately \$42.4 million and \$42.0 million, respectively, exceeded the historical book value of our investment in the Peak Gold JV, of \$19.4 million. Therefore, the investment in the Peak Gold JV had a balance of zero as of each September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022. The Company is currently obligated to make additional capital contributions to the Peak Gold JV in proportion to its percentage membership interest in the Peak Gold JV in order to maintain its ownership in the Peak Gold JV and not be diluted. Therefore, the Company only records losses up to the point of its cumulative investment, which was approximately \$19.4 million as of September 30, 2022. The portion of the cumulative loss that exceeds the Company’s investment will be suspended and recognized against earnings, if any, from the Company’s investment in the Peak Gold JV in future periods. The suspended losses for the period from inception to September 30, 2022 are approximately \$23.0 million.

6. Prepaid Expenses and other assets

The Company has prepaid expenses and other assets of \$439,969 and \$453,353 as of September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022, respectively. Prepaid expenses primarily relate to prepaid insurance and prepaid annual claim rentals.

7. Net Loss Per Share

A reconciliation of the components of basic and diluted net loss per share of Common Stock is presented below:

	Three Months Ended September 30,					
	2022			2021		
	Net Loss	Weighted Average Shares	Loss Per Share	Net Loss	Weighted Average Shares	Loss Per Share
Basic Net Loss per Share:						
Net loss attributable to common stock	\$ (7,091,770)	6,771,245	\$ (1.05)	\$ (4,572,213)	6,680,637	\$ (0.68)
Diluted Net Loss per Share:						
Net loss attributable to common stock	\$ (7,091,770)	6,771,245	\$ (1.05)	\$ (4,572,213)	6,680,637	\$ (0.68)

Options to purchase 100,000 shares of Common Stock of the Company were outstanding as of each of September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2021. The 100,000 options were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per share for the quarters ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 due to being anti-dilutive. There were no warrants outstanding as of September 30, 2022 or 2021.

8. Shareholders' Equity

The Company has 45,000,000 shares of Common Stock authorized, and 15,000,000 authorized shares of preferred stock. As of September 30, 2022, 6,774,590 shares of Common Stock were outstanding, including 313,001 shares of unvested restricted stock. As of September 30, 2022, options to purchase 100,000 shares of Common Stock of the Company were outstanding. No shares of preferred stock have been issued. The remaining restricted stock outstanding will vest between August 2022 and January 2025.

Rights Plan Termination and Rights Agreement

On September 23, 2020, the Company adopted a limited duration stockholder rights agreement (the "Rights Agreement") to replace the Company's prior stockholder rights plan, which was terminated upon adoption of the Rights Agreement.

Pursuant to the Rights Agreement, the Board declared a dividend of one preferred stock purchase right (a "Right") for each share of the Company's Common Stock held of record as of October 5, 2020. The Rights will trade with the Company's Common Stock and no separate Rights certificates will be issued, unless and until the Rights become exercisable. In general, the Rights will become exercisable only if a person or group acquires beneficial ownership of 18.0% (or 20.0% for certain passive investors) or more of the Company's outstanding Common Stock or announces a tender or exchange offer that would result in beneficial ownership of 18.0% (or 20.0% for certain passive investors) or more of Common Stock. Each Right will entitle the holder to buy one one-thousandth (1/1000) of a share of a series of junior preferred stock at an exercise price of \$100.00 per Right, subject to anti-dilution adjustments.

The Rights Agreement had an initial term of one year, expiring on September 22, 2021. On September 21, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Company approved an amendment to the Rights Agreement, extending the term of the Rights Agreement by an additional year to September 22, 2022. On August 31, 2022 the Board of Directors approved an amendment the Rights Agreement, extending the term of the Rights Agreement by an additional year to September 22, 2023.

9. Sales Transaction with KG Mining

On September 29, 2020, the Company, CORE Alaska, LLC and KG Mining, entered into the CORE Purchase Agreement pursuant to which CORE Alaska sold a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV, to KG Mining. The CORE Transactions closed on September 30, 2020. In consideration for the CORE JV Interest, the Company received \$32.4 million in cash and 809,744 shares of Common Stock. The 809,744 shares of Common Stock were acquired by KG Mining from Royal Gold, as part of the Royal Gold Transactions and were subsequently canceled by the Company. Of the \$32.4 million cash consideration, \$1.2 million constituted a reimbursement prepayment to the Company relating to its proportionate share of silver royalty payments that the Peak Gold JV may be obligated to pay to Royal Gold, with the understanding that KG Mining will bear the entire economic impact of those royalty payments due from the Peak Gold JV.

Concurrently with the Purchase Agreement, KG Mining, in a separate transaction, acquired from Royal Gold (i) 100% of the equity of Royal Alaska, LLC, which held a 40.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV and (ii) 809,744 shares of Common Stock held by Royal Gold. After the consummation of the Kinross Transactions, CORE Alaska retains a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV. KG Mining now holds a 70.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV and serves as the manager and operator of the Peak Gold JV. KG Mining and CORE Alaska entered into the Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of Peak Gold JV ("A&R JV LLC") on October 1, 2020 to address the new ownership arrangements and to incorporate additional terms that will permit the Peak Gold JV to further develop and produce from its properties.

The Company recorded the \$32.4 million cash proceeds and the 809,744 shares of Common Stock, received from the CORE Transactions, at fair value and recognized a gain on sale of \$39.6 million. The Company valued the Common Stock consideration from the CORE Transactions consistent with the accounting guidance for non-monetary exchanges. The stock consideration was valued based on the implied fair value of the CORE Transactions in total less the cash proceeds. The total value of the CORE Transactions was equated to the value of the Company's 30.0% ownership in the Peak Gold JV, post the 30.0% membership interest transferred to KG Mining. The Common Stock consideration received in the CORE Transactions is classified within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy referenced in Note 4 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. As of the date of the CORE Transactions, the Company's investment in the Peak Gold JV had a zero balance, therefore the \$39.6 million gain approximates the full fair value of the CORE JV Interest surrendered in the CORE Transactions.

The Company recorded a non-current liability totaling \$1.2 million associated with the cash received for the reimbursement prepayment to the Company of its proportionate share of certain silver royalty payments that the Peak Gold JV may be obligated to pay Royal Gold. The liability arises, because pursuant to Article IV of the A&R JV LLC, if the Peak Gold JV terminates, or the Company's membership interest falls below 5% prior to when the prepaid royalty is paid out, the \$1.2 million (less any portion already paid out) is refundable to KG Mining.

Prior to the Kinross Transactions, the Peak Gold JV, Contango Minerals, the Company, CORE Alaska, Royal Gold and Royal Alaska entered into a Separation and Distribution Agreement, dated as of September 29, 2020 (the "Separation Agreement"). Pursuant to the Separation Agreement, the Peak Gold JV completed the formation of Contango Minerals, and contributed approximately 167,000 acres of Alaska State mining claims to it, subject to the Option Agreement (described below), and retained an additional 1.0% net smelter returns royalty interest on certain of the contributed Alaska state mining claims that were contributed. After the formation and contribution to Contango Minerals, the Peak Gold JV made simultaneous distributions to Royal Alaska and CORE Alaska by (i) granting to Royal Gold a new 28.0% net smelter returns silver royalty on all silver produced from a defined area within the Tetlin Lease and also transferring the additional 1.0% net smelter returns royalty described above on the contributed Alaska state mining claims to Royal Gold (bringing the total net smelter royalty due to Royal Gold to 3%) and (ii) assigning one hundred percent (100%) of the membership interests in Contango Minerals to CORE Alaska, which were in turn distributed to the Company, resulting in Contango Minerals becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. The Separation Agreement contains customary representations, warranties and covenants.

The distribution of the Alaska state mining claims to Contango Minerals meets the definition of a non-reciprocal nonmonetary transfer as defined in Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 845 and would generally be recorded at fair value to the extent fair value is determinable. However, to date, the Peak Gold JV's gold exploration has concentrated on the Tetlin Lease (which was retained by the Peak Gold JV), with only a limited amount of work performed on the State of Alaska mining claims. The Company has concluded that the fair value of the state claims is not determinable within reasonable limits, and therefore has recorded the distribution at historical book value. The Peak Gold JV's historical book value associated with the Alaska state mining claims is zero as of the date of the CORE Transactions because the costs associated with exploration performed on these claims were expensed when incurred. Therefore, the Company's balance sheet has a net book value of zero for these claims as of the date of the CORE Transactions.

In connection with the Separation Agreement, the Peak Gold JV and Contango Minerals entered into the Option Agreement. Under the Option Agreement, Contango Minerals granted the Peak Gold JV an option, subject to certain conditions contained in the Option Agreement, to purchase approximately 13,000 acres of the Alaska state mining claims which were contributed to Contango Minerals pursuant to the Separation Agreement, together with all extralateral rights, water and water rights, and easements and rights of way in connection therewith, that are held by Contango Minerals. The signing of the Option Agreement did not result in any accounting implications for the Company. Peak Gold subsequently exercised the Option Agreement in June 2021, and now owns the 13,000 acres of the Alaska state mining claims previously subject to the Option Agreement.

On October 1, 2020, CORE Alaska and KG Mining entered into the A&R JV LLC. The A&R JV LLC supersedes and replaces in its entirety the JV LLC, as amended. The A&R JV LLC is the operating agreement for the Peak Gold JV and provides for understandings between the members with respect to matters regarding percentage ownership interests, governance, transfers of ownership interests and other operational matters. CORE Alaska and KG Mining will be required, subject to the terms of the A&R JV LLC, to make additional capital contributions to the Peak Gold JV for any approved programs budgets in accordance with their respective percentage membership interests.

After the consummation of the Kinross Transactions, Kinross, through KG Mining, replaced Royal Gold as the Company's joint venture partner and as manager of the Peak Gold JV. After consummation of the Kinross Transactions, CORE Alaska holds a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV and KG Mining holds a 70.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV. The A&R JV LLC established the Management Committee to determine the overall policies, objectives, procedures, methods and actions of the Peak Gold JV. The Management Committee currently consists of one representative designated by CORE Alaska and two representatives designated by KG Mining (each a "Representative"). The Representatives designated by each member of the Peak Gold JV vote as a group, and in accordance with their respective membership interests in the Peak Gold JV. Except in the case of certain actions that require approval by unanimous vote of the Representatives, the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership interests in the Peak Gold JV constitutes the action of the Management Committee.

Prior to the CORE Transactions, the Peak Gold JV was a variable interest entity as defined by FASB ASU No. 2015-02, Consolidation (Topic 810): Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis. The Company was not the primary beneficiary since it did not have the power to direct the activities of the Peak Gold JV. The Company's ownership interest in the Peak Gold JV has therefore historically applied the equity method of accounting for its investment. After the Kinross Transactions, the Company retained a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV. The Company continues to have significant influence in the Peak Gold JV pursuant to its right to designate one of the three seats on the Management Committee. Therefore, the Company will continue to account for its investment in the Peak Gold JV under the equity method.

10. Acquisition of Lucky Shot Property

On August 24, 2021 the Company completed the purchase of all outstanding membership interests (the “Interests”) of AGT from CRH Funding II PTE. LTD, a Singapore private limited corporation (“CRH”) (the “Lucky Shot Transaction”). AGT holds rights to the Lucky Shot Property. The Company agreed to purchase the Interests for a total purchase price of up to \$30 million. The purchase price included an initial payment at closing of \$5 million in cash and a promissory note in the original principal amount of \$6.25 million, payable by the Company to CRH (the “Promissory Note”), with a maturity date of February 28, 2022 (the “Maturity Date”). The Promissory Note was secured by the Interests. The Company had the option to pay the Promissory Note through the issuance to CRH of shares of the Company’s common stock if the Company completed an offering and obtained a listing of its shares on the NYSE American prior to the Maturity Date. In November 2021, the Company’s common stock commenced listing on the NYSE American. Since the Company did not complete the required offering, it paid the Promissory Note in cash on February 25, 2022.

The Company will be obligated to pay CRH additional consideration if production on the Lucky Shot Property meets two separate milestone payment thresholds. If the first threshold of (1) an aggregate “mineral resource” equal to 500,000 ounces of gold or (2) production and receipt by the Company of an aggregate of 30,000 ounces of gold (including any silver based on a 1:65 gold:silver ratio) is met, then the Company will pay CRH \$5 million in cash and \$3.75 million in newly issued shares of CORE common stock. If the second threshold of (1) an aggregate “mineral resource” equal to 1,000,000 ounces of gold or (2) production and receipt by the Company of an aggregate of 60,000 ounces of gold (including any silver based on a 1:65 gold:silver ratio) is met, then the Company will pay CRH \$5 million in cash and \$5 million in newly issued shares of CORE common stock. If payable, the additional share consideration will be issued based on the 30-day volume weighted average price for each of the thirty trading days immediately prior to the satisfaction of the relevant production goal. If the milestones are not met, no additional payments would be made to CRH.

The Company also agreed to make \$10,000,000 in expenditures during the 36-month period following closing toward the existence, location, quantity, quality or commercial value of mineral deposits in, under and upon the Lucky Shot Property. As of September 30, 2022, the Company had exceeded the required \$10,000,000 in expenditures.

The Company evaluated this acquisition under ASC 805, Business Combinations. ASC 805 requires that an acquirer determine whether it has acquired a business. If the criteria of ASC 805 are met, a transaction would be accounted for as a business combination and the purchase price is allocated to the respective net assets assumed based on their fair values and a determination is made whether any goodwill results from the transaction. In evaluating the criteria outlined by this standard, the Company concluded that the acquired set of assets did not meet the US GAAP definition of a business (the assembled workforce does not currently perform a substantive process). Therefore, the Company accounted for the purchase as an asset acquisition, and allocated the total consideration transferred on the date of the acquisition, approximately \$13.5 million, to the assets acquired on a relative fair value basis. The total consideration transferred is comprised of \$5.1 million in cash, a \$6.25 million promissory note, \$0.3 million in direct transactions costs, plus the fair value of the contingent liability (described above), net of cash received. The Company accounted for the share portion of the contingent liability in accordance with ASC 480 and measured at fair value at inception, approximately \$1.85 million. The fair value of this liability was calculated using management’s projected timing of mining activities and mineral resources being defined and an estimate of the probability of achieving those targets. The share portion of the contingent consideration is classified within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy referenced in Note 4 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. Changes in value in subsequent periods, based on management’s ongoing assessment of probability, will be recorded in earnings. There was no change in probability, and thus no change in value of the liability during the current period. The Company’s accounting policy is to recognize the contingent consideration associated with cash contingent payments related to the asset acquisitions when the contingency is resolved. Any amounts issued in excess of the contingent consideration initially recognized as a liability would be an additional cost of the asset acquisition allocated to increase the eligible assets on a relative fair value basis. Amounts issued that are less than the contingent consideration initially recognized as a liability would be a reduction of the cost of the asset(s) acquired and would reduce the eligible assets on a relative value basis.

11. Property & Equipment

The table below sets forth the book value by type of fixed asset as well as the estimated useful life:

Asset Type	Estimated Useful Life	September 30, 2022	June 30, 2022
Mineral properties	N/A - Units of Production	\$ 11,700,007	\$ 11,700,007
Land	Not Depreciated	87,737	87,737
Buildings and improvements	20-39 years	1,455,546	1,455,546
Machinery and equipment	3 - 10 years	287,635	287,635
Vehicles	5 years	135,862	135,862
Computer and office equipment	5 years	16,239	16,239
Furniture & fixtures	5 years	2,270	2,270
Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization		(89,954)	(55,740)
Less: Accumulated impairment		(115,025)	(115,025)
Property & Equipment, net		\$ 13,480,317	\$ 13,514,531

12. Related Party Transactions

Mr. Brad Juneau, who served as the Company's Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer until January 6, 2020, and now serves as the Company's Chairman, is also the sole manager of Juneau Exploration, L.P. ("JEX"), a private company involved in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas. On December 11, 2020, the Company entered into a Second Amended and Restated Management Services Agreement (the "A&R MSA") with JEX, which amends and restates the Amended and Restated Management Services Agreement between the Company and JEX dated as of November 20, 2019. Pursuant to the A&R MSA, JEX will continue, subject to direction of the board of directors of the Company (the "Board"), to provide certain facilities, equipment and services used in the conduct of the business and affairs of the Company and management of its membership interest in the Peak Gold JV. Pursuant to the A&R MSA, JEX will provide to the Company office space and office equipment, and certain related services. The A&R MSA will be effective for one year beginning December 1, 2020 and will renew automatically on a monthly basis as of December 1, 2021 unless terminated upon ninety days' prior notice by either the Company or JEX. Pursuant to the A&R MSA, the Company will pay to JEX a monthly fee of \$10,000, which includes an allocation of approximately \$6,900 for office space and equipment. JEX will also be reimbursed for its reasonable and necessary costs and expenses of third parties incurred for the Company. The A&R MSA includes customary indemnification provisions.

On September 30, 2020, in a series of related transactions, Kinross, through its wholly owned subsidiary, acquired all of the interest in the Peak Gold JV held by Royal Gold and an additional 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV held by the Company. The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary, retained a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV, with KG Mining acquiring a 70.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV and becoming the manager and operator of the Peak Gold JV. Prior to and in connection with the Kinross Transactions, on September 29, 2020, Contango Minerals entered into an Omnibus Second Amendment and Restatement of Royalty Deeds (the "Contango Minerals Royalty Agreement") with Royal Gold. Under the terms of the Contango Minerals Royalty Agreement, in addition to certain existing 2.0% royalties (the "2% Royalties") and 3.0% royalties in favor of Royal Gold on the Alaska State mining claims, Contango Minerals granted an additional 1% net smelter returns royalty on those Alaska State mining claims that were already subject to the 2% Royalties, increasing the royalty rate on those Alaska State mining claims to 3.0%. These Alaska state mining claims were transferred to Contango Minerals as part of the transactions with Kinross, with Royal Gold retaining the 3.0% royalty. As a result of the Contango Minerals Royalty Agreement, Contango Minerals will be obligated to pay Royal Gold a 3.0% net smelter returns royalty on all properties subject to the Contango Minerals Royalty Agreement, subject to the terms and conditions of that agreement.

In addition, on September 29, 2020, the Peak Gold JV entered into an Omnibus Second Amendment and Restatement of Royalty Deeds and Grant of Additional Royalty (the "JV Royalty Agreement") with Royal Gold. Pursuant to the JV Royalty Agreement, the Peak Gold JV (i) granted to Royal Gold a 28.0% net smelter returns royalty interest on all silver produced from a defined area within the Tetlin Lease and (ii) transferred to Royal Gold the additional 1.0% net smelter returns royalty that it had retained on the Alaska State mining properties which were contributed to Contango Minerals, all subject to the terms of the JV Royalty Agreement.

The Company will be required to fund any royalty payments the Peak Gold JV is obligated to make to Royal Gold under the JV Royalty Agreement in proportion to its membership interests in the Peak Gold JV. The Company's proportionate share of the additional royalty granted to Royal Gold pursuant to the JV Royalty Agreement has been partially offset by a cash payment of \$1.2 million to the Company, designated as a reimbursement prepayment by Kinross for the Company's estimated proportionate share of the additional silver royalty, in proportion to Company's membership interest in the Peak Gold JV after the consummation of the transactions described above.

On January 1, 2022, our non-executive directors realized a vesting of 160,000 restricted shares of Common Stock, which resulted in federal and state income tax obligations. Consistent with the Company's treatment of employees who experience similar tax obligations in connection with their vesting of restricted shares, the Company purchased a total of 60,100 shares of Common Stock from the non-executive directors on January 5, 2022, at a price of \$25.60 per share (the applicable closing price per share of Common Stock for vesting on January 1, 2022), resulting in aggregate payments of \$1.5 million that will be used by the non-executive directors to pay their tax obligations on the vested shares.

13. Stock-Based Compensation

On September 15, 2010, the Board adopted the Contango ORE, Inc. Equity Compensation Plan (the “2010 Plan”). On November 14, 2017, the Stockholders of the Company approved and adopted the Contango ORE, Inc. Amended and Restated 2010 Equity Compensation Plan (the “Amended Equity Plan”). The amendments to the 2010 Plan included (a) increasing the number of shares of Common Stock that the Company may issue under the plan by 500,000 shares; (b) extending the term of the plan until September 15, 2027; and (c) allowing the Company to withhold shares to satisfy the Company’s tax withholding obligations with respect to grants paid in Company Stock.

On November 13, 2019, the stockholders of the Company approved and adopted the First Amendment (the “Amendment”) to the Amended Equity Plan (as amended, the “Equity Plan”) which increased the number of shares of Common Stock that the Company may issue under the Equity Plan by 500,000 shares. Under the Equity Plan, the Board may issue up to 2,000,000 shares of Common Stock and options to officers, directors, employees or consultants of the Company. Awards made under the Equity Plan are subject to such restrictions, terms and conditions, including forfeitures, if any, as may be determined by the Board.

On December 11, 2020, the Board, upon recommendation of the Compensation Committee of the Board (the “Compensation Committee”), adopted an amendment to the Equity Plan to increase the maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock of the Company with respect to which award grants may be made under the Equity Plan to any individual during a calendar year from 100,000 shares to 300,000 shares.

On November 10, 2022, the stockholders of the Company approved and adopted the Second Amendment (the “Second Amendment”) to the Amended Equity Plan (as amended, the “Amended Equity Plan”) which increased the number of shares of Common Stock that the Company may issue under the Equity Plan by 600,000 shares. Under the Amended Equity Plan, the Board may issue up to 2,600,000 shares of Common Stock and options to officers, directors, employees or consultants of the Company. Awards made under the Amended Equity Plan are subject to such restrictions, terms and conditions, including forfeitures, if any, as may be determined by the Board.

As of September 30, 2022, there were 313,001 shares of unvested restricted Common Stock outstanding and 100,000 options to purchase shares of Common Stock outstanding issued under the Equity Plan. Stock-based compensation expense for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 was \$787,874 and \$1,021,851, respectively. The amount of compensation expense recognized does not reflect cash compensation actually received by the individuals during the current period, but rather represents the amount of expense recognized by the Company in accordance with US GAAP. All restricted stock grants are expensed over the applicable vesting period based on the fair value at the date the stock is granted. The grant date fair value may differ from the fair value on the date the individual’s restricted stock actually vests.

Restricted Stock. In November 2019, the Company granted 158,000 restricted shares of Common Stock to its executives and non-executive directors. The restricted stock granted vested in January 2022.

In connection with the appointment of Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, on January 9, 2020, the Company issued 75,000 shares of restricted stock to Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse. The shares of restricted stock will vest in two equal installments, half on the first anniversary of Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse’s employment with the Company and half on the second anniversary of his employment with the Company, subject to acceleration upon a change of control of the Company. Half of this restricted stock grant (37,500 shares) vested on January 6, 2021, and the other half vested on January 6, 2022.

On December 1, 2020, the Company granted an aggregate 20,000 shares of Common Stock to two new employees. The restricted stock granted to such employees vests in equal installments over three years on the anniversary of the grant date. On December 11, 2020, the Company granted 162,500 restricted shares of Common Stock to its executives and non-executive directors. The restricted stock granted to the executives and non-executive directors vests between January 2022 and January 2023. On December 11, 2020 the Company also granted Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse 23,333 shares of restricted stock in conjunction with his short-term incentive plan, and such shares vested in January 2022. As of September 30, 2022, 165,834 shares of restricted stock granted in December 2020 remained unvested.

On August 16, 2021, the Company granted 10,000 shares of Common Stock to a new employee. The restricted stock granted to the employee vests in equal installments over three years on the anniversary of the grant date. As of September 30, 2022, 6,667 shares of restricted stock granted in August 2021 remain unvested.

On November 11, 2021, the Company granted 123,500 restricted shares of Common Stock to its executives and non-executive directors. The restricted stock granted to the executives and non-executive directors vests between January 2023 and January 2024. As of September 30, 2022, all 123,500 shares of such restricted stock granted remained unvested.

In January 2022, Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse received 15,000 restricted shares of Common Stock, which will vest on January 15, 2023. On February 2, 2022 the Company also granted to four employees a total of 12,000 shares of restricted stock. These restricted shares will vest between January 2023 and January 2025.

As of September 30, 2022, the total compensation cost related to unvested awards not yet recognized was \$2,333,122. The remaining costs will be recognized over the remaining vesting period of the awards.

Stock options. In connection with the appointment of Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, on January 6, 2020, the Company granted to Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse options to purchase 100,000 shares of Common Stock of the Company, with an exercise price of \$14.50 per share, which is equal to the closing price on January 6, 2020, the day on which he began employment with the Company. The options vested in two equal installments, half vested on the first anniversary of Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse's employment with the Company and the other half vested on the second anniversary of his employment with the Company.

There were no stock option exercises during the three months ended September 30, 2022. There were also no stock option exercises during the three months ended September 30, 2021. The Company applies the fair value method to account for stock option expense. Under this method, cash flows from the exercise of stock options resulting from tax benefits in excess of recognized cumulative compensation cost (excess tax benefits) are classified as financing cash flows. See Note 4 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. All employee stock option grants are expensed over the stock option's vesting period based on the fair value at the date the options are granted. The fair value of each option is estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes options-pricing model. As of September 30, 2022, the stock options had a weighted-average remaining life of 2.27 years. All of the compensation cost related to these stock options had been recognized as of September 30, 2022.

A summary of the status of stock options granted under the Equity Plan as of September 30, 2022 and changes during the three months then ended, is presented in the table below:

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2022	
	Shares Under Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price
Outstanding as of June 30, 2022	100,000	\$ 14.50
Granted	—	—
Exercised	—	—
Forfeited	—	—
Outstanding at the end of the period	100,000	\$ 14.50
Aggregate intrinsic value	\$ 1,021,000	
Exercisable, end of the period	100,000	
Aggregate intrinsic value	\$ 1,021,000	
Available for grant, end of period	427	
Weighted average fair value per share of options granted during the period	\$ —	

14. Commitments and Contingencies

Tetlin Lease. The Tetlin Lease had an initial ten-year term beginning July 2008 which was extended for an additional ten years to July 15, 2028, and for so long thereafter as the Peak Gold JV initiates and continues to conduct mining operations on the Tetlin Lease.

Pursuant to the terms of the Tetlin Lease, the Peak Gold JV was required to spend \$350,000 per year until July 15, 2018 in exploration costs. The Company's exploration expenditures through the 2011 exploration program have satisfied this requirement because exploration funds spent in any year in excess of \$350,000 are credited toward future years' exploration cost requirements. Additionally, should the Peak Gold JV derive revenues from the properties covered under the Tetlin Lease, the Peak Gold JV is required to pay the Tetlin Tribal Council a production royalty ranging from 3.0% to 5.0%, depending on the type of metal produced and the year of production. The Company previously paid the Tetlin Tribal Council \$225,000 in exchange for reducing the production royalty payable to them by 0.75%. These payments lowered the production royalty to a range of 2.25% to 4.25%. The Tetlin Tribal Council had the option to increase their production royalty by (i) 0.25% by payment to the Peak Gold JV of \$150,000, (ii) 0.50% by payment to the Peak Gold JV of \$300,000, or (iii) 0.75% by payment to the Peak Gold JV of \$450,000. The Tetlin Tribal Council exercised the option to increase its production royalty by 0.75% by payment to the Peak Gold JV of \$450,000 on December 30, 2020. In lieu of a cash payment, the \$450,000 will be credited against future production royalty and advance minimum royalty payments due by the Peak Gold JV to the Tetlin Tribal Council under the lease once production begins. The exercise of this option by the tribe did not have an accounting impact to the Company. Until such time as production royalties begin, the Peak Gold JV must pay the Tetlin Tribal Council an advance minimum royalty of \$50,000 per year. On July 15, 2012, the advance minimum royalty increased to \$75,000 per year, and subsequent years are escalated by an inflation adjustment.

Gold Exploration. The Company's Triple Z, Eagle/Hona, Shamrock, Willow, and Lucky Shot claims are all located on State of Alaska lands. The Company released its Bush and West Fork claims in November 2020. The annual claim rentals on these projects vary based on the age of the claims, and are due and payable in full by November 30 of each year. Annual claims rentals for the 2022-2023 assessment year totaled \$355,805. The Company paid the current year claim rentals in November 2022. The associated rental expense is amortized over the rental claim period, September 1 - August 31 of each year. As of September 30, 2022, the Peak Gold JV had met the annual labor requirements for the State of Alaska acreage for the next four years, which is the maximum period allowable by Alaska law. The Company obtained 100% ownership of these claims in conjunction with the Separation Agreement.

Lucky Shot Acquisition. With regard to the Lucky Shot Acquisition, in addition to the cash at closing and the Promissory Note, the Company will be obligated to pay CRH additional consideration if production on the Lucky Shot Property meets two separate milestone payment thresholds. If the first threshold of (1) an aggregate "mineral resource" equal to 500,000 ounces of gold or (2) production and receipt by the Company of an aggregate of 30,000 ounces of gold (including any silver based on a 1:65 gold:silver ratio) is met, then the Company will pay CRH \$5 million in cash and \$3.75 million in newly issued shares of CORE common stock. If the second threshold of (1) an aggregate "mineral resource" equal to 1,000,000 ounces of gold or (2) production and receipt by the Company of an aggregate of 60,000 ounces of gold (including any silver based on a 1:65 gold:silver ratio) is met, then the Company will pay CRH \$5 million in cash and \$5 million in newly issued shares of CORE common stock. If payable, the additional share consideration will be issued based on the 30-day volume weighted average price for each of the thirty trading days immediately prior to the satisfaction of the relevant production goal.

Royal Gold Royalties. Initially, the Peak Gold JV was obligated to pay Royal Gold (i) an overriding royalty of 3.0% should the Peak Gold JV derive revenues from the Tetlin Lease, the Additional Properties and certain other properties and (ii) an overriding royalty of 2.0% should the Peak Gold JV derive revenues from certain other properties. In conjunction with the Separation Agreement (described in Note 9), the Peak Gold JV granted a new 28.0% net smelter returns silver royalty on all silver produced from a defined area within the Tetlin Lease and transferred an additional 1.0% net smelter returns royalty on the state mining claims to Royal Gold. Therefore, Royal Gold currently holds a 3.0% overriding royalty on the Tetlin Lease and the state mining claims that were transferred to the Company in conjunction with the Separation Agreement.

Retention Agreements. In February 2019, the Company entered into Retention Agreements with its then Chief Executive Officer, Brad Juneau, its Chief Financial Officer, Leah Gaines, and one other employee providing for payments in an aggregate amount of \$1,500,000 upon the occurrence of certain conditions. The Retention Agreements are triggered upon a change of control (as defined in the applicable Retention Agreement), provided that the recipient is employed by the Company when the change of control occurs. On February 6, 2020, the Company entered into amendments to the Retention Agreements to extend the term of the change of control period from August 6, 2020 until August 6, 2025. Mr. Juneau and Ms. Gaines will receive a payment of \$1,000,000 and \$250,000, respectively, upon a change of control that takes place prior to August 6, 2025. On June 10, 2020, the Company entered into a Retention Payment Agreement with Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, providing for a payment in an amount of \$350,000 upon the occurrence of certain conditions. The Retention Payment Agreement is triggered upon a change of control (as defined in the Retention Payment Agreement) which occurs on or prior to August 6, 2025, provided that Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse is employed by the Company when the change of control occurs.

Short Term Incentive Plan. The Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of the Company (the "Compensation Committee") adopted a Short-Term Incentive Plan (the "STIP") effective as of June 10, 2020, for the benefit of Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse. Pursuant to the terms of the STIP, the Compensation Committee will establish performance goals each year and evaluate the extent to which, if any, Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse meets such goals. The STIP provides for a payout equal to 25.0% of Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse's annual base salary if the minimum performance target established by the Compensation Committee is met, 100.0% of his annual base salary if all performance goals are met, and up to 200.0% of his annual base salary if the maximum performance target is met. Amounts due under the STIP will be payable 50.0% in cash and 50.0% in the form of restricted stock granted under the Equity Plan, vesting in two equal annual installments on the first and second anniversaries of the grant date, and subject to the terms of the Equity Plan. In addition, in the event of a Change of Control (as defined in the Equity Plan) during the term of the STIP, the Compensation Committee, in its sole and absolute discretion, may make a payment to Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse in an amount up to 200.0% of his annual base salary, payable in cash, shares of Common Stock of the Company under the Equity Plan or a combination of both, as determined by the Compensation Committee, not later than 30 days following such Change of Control. In conjunction with STIP plan, in December 2020, Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse received a \$350,000 cash bonus and 23,333 restricted shares of Common Stock, which vested on January 1, 2022. In conjunction with the STIP plan, in January 2022, Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse received a \$300,000 cash bonus and 15,000 restricted shares of Common Stock, which will vest on January 15, 2023.

15. Income Taxes

The Company recognized a full valuation allowance on its deferred tax asset as of September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022 and has recognized zero income tax expense for the three months ended September 30, 2022. The Company recognized zero income tax expense for the three months ended September 30, 2021. The effective tax rate was 0% for the three months ending September 30, 2022 and 2021. The Company has historically had a full valuation allowance, which resulted in no net deferred tax asset or liability appearing on its statement of financial position. The Company recorded this valuation allowance after an evaluation of all available evidence (including the Company's history of net operating losses) that led to a conclusion that, based upon the more-likely-than-not standard of the accounting literature, these deferred tax assets were unrecoverable. The Company is forecasting a book and taxable net loss for its fiscal year end, June 30, 2023. The Company reviews its tax positions quarterly for tax uncertainties. The Company did not have any uncertain tax positions as of September 30, 2022 or June 30, 2022.

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (the "CARES" Act) was enacted which is aimed at providing emergency assistance due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act includes provisions related to refundable payroll tax credits, deferment of employer side social security payments, net operating loss carryback periods, alternative minimum tax credit refunds, modifications to the net interest deduction limitations and technical corrections to tax depreciation methods for qualified improvement property. The Company does not expect to be materially impacted by the CARES Act and does not anticipate the CARES Act to have a material effect on its ability to realize deferred tax assets with the exception of the relief from the 80% limitation on some of its net operating losses that were fully utilized for the tax year ended June 30, 2021.

16. Debt

On April 26, 2022, the Company closed on a \$20,000,000 unsecured convertible debenture to Queen's Road Capital Investment, Ltd. ("QRC"). The Company will use the proceeds from the sale of the debenture to fund commitments to the Peak Gold JV, the exploration and development at its Lucky Shot properties, and for general corporate purposes.

The debenture bears interest at 8% per annum, payable quarterly, with 6% paid in cash and 2% paid in shares of Common Stock issued at the market price at the time of payment based on a 20-day volumetric weighted average price ("VWAP"). The debenture is unsecured, with a maturity of four years after issuance. The holder may convert the debenture into Common Stock at any time at a conversion price of \$30.50 per share (equivalent to 655,738 shares), subject to adjustment. The Company may redeem the debenture after the third anniversary of issuance at 105% of par, provided that the market price (based on a 20-day VWAP) of the Company's Common Stock is at least 130% of the conversion price. The Company may also redeem the debenture, and the holder will have rights to put the debenture to the Company, upon a change of control of the Company, with the redemption or put price being 130% of par for the first three years following issuance and 115% of par thereafter and accrued interest at the time of redemption or put being paid in the same form as other interest payments. Upon the completion of a secured financing the holder has the right to require the Company to redeem the debenture. Additionally, upon announcement of a change of control, the Company has the right to require the holder to convert some or the whole principal amount of the debenture into shares at the conversion price, subject to certain conditions.

In connection with the issuance of the debenture, the Company agreed to pay an establishment fee of 3% of the debenture face amount. In accordance with the investment agreement, QRC elected to receive the establishment fee in shares of Common Stock valued at \$24.82 per share, for a total of 24,174 shares. The establishment fee shares were issued to QRC pursuant to an exemption from registration under Regulation S. QRC entered into an investor rights agreement with the Company in connection with the issuance of the debenture. The investor rights agreement contains provisions that require QRC and its affiliates, while they own 5% or more of our outstanding Common Stock, to standstill, not to participate in any unsolicited or hostile takeover of the Company, not to tender its shares of Common Stock unless the Company's board recommends such tender, to vote its shares of Common Stock in the manner recommended by the Company's board to its stockholders, and not to transfer its shares of Common Stock representing more than 0.5% of outstanding shares without notifying the Company in advance, whereupon the Company will have a right to purchase those shares.

The debt carried an original issue discount of \$0.6 million and debt issuance costs of approximately \$0.2 million. As of September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022, the unamortized discount and issuance costs were \$0.6 million and \$0.2 million, respectively. The carrying amount of the debt at September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022, net of the unamortized discount and issuance costs, was \$19.3 million and \$19.2 million, respectively. The fair value of the note (Level 2) as of September 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022 was \$20.0 million. The company recognized interest expense totaling \$0.4 million related to this debt for the quarter ended September 30, 2022 (inclusive of approximately \$400,000 of contractual interest, and approximately \$49,000 related to the amortization of the discount and issuance fees). The effective interest rate of the note is the same as the stated interest rate, 8.0%. The effective interest rate for the amortization of the discount and issuance costs as of June 30, 2022 was 1.0%. The Company reviewed the provisions of the debt agreement to determine if the agreement included any embedded features. The Company concluded that the change of control provisions within the debt agreement met the characteristics of a derivative and required bifurcation and separate accounting. The fair value of the identified derivative was determined to be de minimis at April 26, 2022, June 30, 2022, and September 30, 2022 as the probability of a change of control was negligible as of those dates. For each subsequent reporting period, the Company will evaluate each potential derivative feature to conclude whether or not they qualify for derivative accounting. Any derivatives identified will be recorded at the applicable fair value as of the end of each reporting period.

Available Information

General information about the Company can be found on the Company's website at www.contangoore.com. Our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K, as well as any amendments and exhibits to those reports, are available free of charge through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after the Company files or furnishes them to the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC").

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes and other information included elsewhere in this Form 10-Q and our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, previously filed with the SEC.

Notice Regarding Mineral Disclosure

In October 2018, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") adopted amendments to its current disclosure rules to modernize the mineral property disclosure requirements for mining registrants. The amendments include the adoption of a new subpart 1300 of Regulation S-K, which will govern disclosure for mining registrants (the "SEC Mining Modernization Rules"). The SEC Mining Modernization Rules replace the historical property disclosure requirements for mining registrants that were included in the SEC's Industry Guide 7 and better align disclosure with international industry and regulatory practices, including the Canadian National Instrument 43-101—Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects. The Company must comply with the SEC Mining Modernization Rules as of the Company's fiscal year beginning on or after January 1, 2021, which began on July 1, 2021.

The Technical Report summary for the Peak Gold JV Property (as defined below) has been prepared in accordance with the SEC Mining Modernization Rules and is included as Exhibit 96.1 to this Form 10-Q.

These disclosures differ in material respects from the requirements set forth in Industry Guide 7, which remains applicable to U.S. companies subject to the reporting and disclosure requirements of the SEC that have not early adopted the SEC Mining Modernization Rules. These standards differ significantly from the disclosure requirements of Industry Guide 7 in that mineral resource information contained herein may not be comparable to similar information disclosed by U.S. companies that have not early adopted the SEC Mining Modernization Rules.

The financial statements, notes thereto and audits for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 were prepared in compliance with Industry Guide 7. The accounting and definitions used in the notes to the financial statements for the Company's fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 were prepared in compliance with Industry Guide 7 since the SEC Mining Modernization Rules were not applicable during these periods. However, since there are disclosures made in this Form 10-Q that are made to be current as of September 30, 2022, the disclosure made in certain Items that is not solely based on an historical presentation for periods prior to July 1, 2021 has been made in compliance with the SEC Mining Modernization Rules.

The Company has no known reserves as defined under Industry Guide 7 or the SEC Mining Modernization Rules. There are significant differences in the definitions and in the disclosure required under the SEC Mining Modernization Rules and under Industry Guide 7. Under Industry Guide 7, mineralization may not be classified as a "reserve" unless the determination has been made that the mineralization could be economically and legally produced or extracted at the time the reserve determination is made. Industry Guide 7 does not define and the SEC's disclosure standards normally do not permit the inclusion of information concerning "measured mineral resources", "indicated mineral resources" or "inferred mineral resources" or other descriptions of the amount of mineralization in mineral deposits that do not constitute "reserves" by U.S. standards in documents filed with the SEC. U.S. investors should also understand that "inferred mineral resources" have a great amount of uncertainty as to their existence and great uncertainty as to their economic and legal feasibility. An inferred mineral resource has a lower level of confidence than that applying to an indicated mineral resource and must not be converted to a mineral reserve.

Therefore, the reader should be aware that the notes to the financial statements were prepared in compliance with Industry Guide 7, and the balance of this Item 2 to Form 10-Q was prepared in compliance with the SEC Mining Modernization Rules. Therefore, those terms that have specific definitions in the SEC Mining Modernization Rules have those meanings ascribed to them by the regulation.

Cautionary Statement about Forward-Looking Statements

Some of the statements made in this report may contain “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”). The words and phrases “should be”, “will be”, “believe”, “expect”, “anticipate”, “estimate”, “forecast”, “goal” and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements and express our expectations about future events. Any statement that is not historical fact is a forward-looking statement. These include such matters as:

- The Company’s financial position;
- Business strategy, including outsourcing;
- Meeting Company forecasts and budgets;
- Anticipated capital expenditures and availability of future financings;
- Prices of gold and associated minerals;
- Timing and amount of future discoveries (if any) and production of natural resources on the Contango Properties and the Peak Gold JV Property;
- Operating costs and other expenses;
- Cash flow and anticipated liquidity;
- The Company’s ability to fund its business with current cash reserves based on currently planned activities;
- Prospect development;
- Operating and legal risks; and
- New governmental laws and regulations.

Although the Company believes the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, such expectations may not occur. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are outside of our control, that may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from future results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. In addition to the risk factors described in Part I, Item 2. Risk Factors, of this report and Part I, Item 1A. Risk Factors, in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2022, these factors include among others:

- Ability to raise capital to fund capital expenditures;
- Ability to retain or maintain our relative ownership interest in the Peak Gold JV;
- Ability to influence management of the Peak Gold JV;
- Ability to realize the anticipated benefits of the Kinross Transactions, including ability to process ore mined from the Peak Gold JV Property at the existing Fort Knox mining and milling complex;
- Disruption from the Kinross Transactions and transition of the Peak Gold JV’s management to Kinross, including as it relates to maintenance of business and operational relationships potential delays or changes in plans with respect to exploration or development projects or capital expenditures;
- Operational constraints and delays;
- The risks associated with exploring in the mining industry;
- The timing and successful discovery of natural resources;
- Availability of capital and the ability to repay indebtedness when due;
- Declines and variations in the price of gold and associated minerals;
- Price volatility for natural resources;
- Availability of operating equipment;
- Operating hazards attendant to the mining industry;
- Weather;
- The ability to find and retain skilled personnel;
- Restrictions on mining activities;
- Legislation that may regulate mining activities;
- Changes in applicable tax rates and other regulatory changes;
- Impact of new and potential legislative and regulatory changes (including commitments to international agreements) on mining operating and safety standards.;
- Uncertainties of any estimates and projections relating to any future production, costs and expenses (including changes in the cost of fuel, power, materials, and supplies);
- Timely and full receipt of sale proceeds from the sale of any of our mined products (if any);
- Stock price and interest rate volatility;
- Federal and state regulatory developments and approvals;
- Availability and cost of material and equipment;
- Actions or inactions of third-parties;
- Potential mechanical failure or under-performance of facilities and equipment;
- Environmental and regulatory, health and safety risks;
- Strength and financial resources of competitors;
- Worldwide economic conditions;
- Impact of pandemics, such as the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak, which could impact the Company’s or the Peak Gold JV’s exploration schedule;
- Expanded rigorous monitoring and testing requirements;
 - Ability to obtain insurance coverage on commercially reasonable terms;
 - Competition generally and the increasing competitive nature of the mining industry;
 - Risks related to title to properties; and
 - Ability to consummate strategic transactions.

You should not unduly rely on these forward-looking statements in this report, as they speak only as of the date of this report. Except as required by law, the Company undertakes no obligation to publicly release any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances occurring after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. All forward-looking statements included herein are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section.

Overview

The Company engages in exploration for gold ore and associated minerals in Alaska. The Company conducts its operations through three primary means:

- a 30.0% membership interest in Peak Gold, LLC (the “Peak Gold JV”), which leases approximately 675,000 acres from the Tetlin Tribal Council and holds approximately 13,000 additional acres of State of Alaska mining claims (such combined acreage, the “Peak Gold JV Property”) for exploration and development, including in connection with the Peak Gold JV’s plan to mine ore from the Peak and North Peak deposits within the Peak Gold JV Property (the “Manh Choh Project”);
- its wholly-owned subsidiary, Alaska Gold Torrent, LLC, an Alaska limited liability company (“AGT”), which leases the mineral rights to approximately 8,600 acres of State of Alaska and patented mining claims for exploration from Alaska Hard Rock, Inc., located in three former producing gold mines located on the patented claims in the Willow Mining District about 75 miles north of Anchorage, Alaska (the “Lucky Shot Property”) (See Note 10 - Acquisition of Lucky Shot Property); and
- its wholly-owned subsidiary, Contango Minerals Alaska, LLC (“Contango Minerals”), which separately owns the mineral rights to approximately 214,600 acres of State of Alaska mining claims for exploration, including (i) approximately 139,100 acres located immediately northwest of the Peak Gold JV Property (the “Eagle/Hona Property”), (ii) approximately 14,800 acres located northeast of the Peak Gold JV Property (the “Triple Z Property”), (iii) approximately 52,700 acres of new property in the Richardson district of Alaska (the “Shamrock Property”) and (iv) approximately 8,000 acres located to the north and east of the Lucky Shot Property (the “Willow Property”) and, together with the Eagle/Hona Property, the Triple Z Property, and the Shamrock Property, collectively the “Minerals Property”).

The Lucky Shot Property and the Minerals Property are collectively referred to in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q as the “Contango Properties”.

As of September 30, 2022, the Company had approximately \$18.0 million of cash.

The Management Committee of the Peak Gold JV (the “Management Committee”) approved a calendar year 2022 budget of \$39.6 million, of which the Company’s total share is \$11.9 million for the year. To date, the Company has funded \$9.8 million of the Company’s share of the 2022 budget (\$8.3 million of this amount was funded in October 2022). The 2022 budget covers the following areas of work: feasibility study, permitting, on-going environmental monitoring, community engagement, engineering, early construction, and exploration. Kinross Gold Corporation (“Kinross”) released a combined feasibility study for the Fort Knox mill and the Peak Gold JV in July 2022. Also, in July 2022, Kinross announced that its board of directors (the “Kinross Board”) made a decision to proceed with development of the Manh Choh project. As of September 30, 2022, the early works construction at the Manh Choh Project site was approximately 80% complete, including completion of a 5-acre construction laydown, 7 miles of access road, and 125 acres of tree clearing. Construction on the camp and access road for the site are expected to continue through the end of the calendar year.

At the Lucky Shot Property, the Company engaged Atkinson Construction and Major Drilling as contractors to execute the 2022 exploration/development program which advanced the Enserch Tunnel to the footwall of the area where the Company expects to locate the Lucky Shot vein and related 750 foot drift parallel, and to set up drill stations every 75 feet along the western drift. The Company began pilot hole drilling in late June 2022, and plans to drill approximately 3200 meters (~10,000 feet) underground into what it believes to be the down-dip projection of the Lucky Shot vein. To date, the Company has completed ten holes from the Western and Eastern ballrooms of the Lucky Shot mine, all of which have intersected what it believes to be the Lucky Shot vein structure. The assays from the drilling program are still pending.

On the Shamrock Property, the Company conducted soil and surface rock chip sampling during 2021. Follow up trenching and detailed geologic mapping is planned for the summer of 2023. At the Eagle/Hona Property, the Company carried out a detailed reconnaissance of the northern and eastern portions of the large claim block that had not previously been detail sampled. Due to the steep topography, a helicopter was used to execute the program safely. Follow up geologic mapping and sampling is planned for the summer of 2023.

Background

Contango ORE, Inc. was formed on September 1, 2010 as a Delaware corporation for the purpose of engaging in the exploration in the State of Alaska for gold ore and associated minerals. On January 8, 2015, the Company and a subsidiary of Royal Gold, Inc. (“Royal Gold”) formed the Peak Gold JV. The Company contributed a 100% leasehold interest in an estimated 675,000 acres (the “Tetlin Lease”) from the Tetlin Tribal Council, the council formed by the governing body for the Native Village of Tetlin, an Alaska Native Tribe (the “Tetlin Tribal Council”); and State of Alaska mining claims near Tok, Alaska (together with other property, formerly the “Peak Gold Joint Venture Property”), and Royal Gold made an initial investment into the Peak Gold JV of \$5.0 million. By September 29, 2020, Royal Gold had contributed approximately \$37.1 million to the Peak Gold JV and earned a cumulative economic interest of 40.0%. The proceeds from the investments were used for exploration of the Peak Gold Joint Venture Property. Royal Gold served as the manager of the Peak Gold JV and managed, directed, and controlled operations of the Peak Gold JV until the Kinross Transactions (described below).

Kinross Transaction

On September 29, 2020, the Company, CORE Alaska, LLC and KG Mining (Alaska), Inc. (“KG Mining”), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation, a corporation formed under the laws of Ontario, Canada (“Kinross”), entered into a Purchase Agreement (the “CORE Purchase Agreement”), pursuant to which CORE Alaska sold a 30.0% membership interest (the “CORE JV Interest”) in the Peak Gold JV, to KG Mining (the “CORE Transactions”). The CORE Transactions closed on September 30, 2020. In consideration for the CORE JV Interest, the Company received \$32.4 million in cash and 809,744 shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “Common Stock”). The 809,744 shares of Common Stock were acquired by KG Mining from Royal Gold, as part of the Royal Gold Transactions (described below) and were subsequently canceled by the Company. Of the \$32.4 million cash consideration, \$1.2 million constituted a reimbursement prepayment to the Company by KG Mining of amounts relating to CORE Alaska’s proportionate share of certain silver royalty payments that the Peak Gold JV may be obligated to pay to Royal Gold, with the understanding that as a result of such reimbursements, KG Mining would bear the entire economic impact of those silver royalty payments due from the Peak Gold JV. Concurrently with the CORE Purchase Agreement, KG Mining, in a separate transaction, acquired from Royal Gold (i) 100% of the equity of Royal Alaska, LLC (“Royal Alaska”), which held a 40.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV (the “Royal Gold Transactions” and, together with the CORE Transactions, the “Kinross Transactions”). Therefore, as of September 30, 2022, the Company holds a 30.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV, and KG Mining holds a 70.0% membership interest in the Peak Gold JV and serves as the manager and operator of the Peak Gold JV. KG Mining and CORE Alaska entered into the Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of the Peak Gold JV (the “A&R JV LLC”) on October 1, 2020 to address the new ownership arrangements and to incorporate additional terms that will permit the Peak Gold JV to further develop and produce from its properties.

The Peak Gold JV had also historically held certain State of Alaska unpatented mining claims for the exploration of gold ore and associated minerals. Prior to the Kinross Transactions, the Peak Gold JV, Contango Minerals Alaska, LLC, an Alaska limited liability company formed by the Peak Gold JV (“Contango Minerals”), the Company, CORE Alaska, Royal Gold and Royal Alaska entered into a Separation and Distribution Agreement, dated as of September 29, 2020 (the “Separation Agreement”). Pursuant to the Separation Agreement, the Peak Gold JV formed Contango Minerals, contributed approximately 167,000 acres of Alaska State mining claims to it, subject to the Option Agreement (described below), and retained an additional 1.0% net smelter returns royalty interest on certain of the Alaska state mining claims that were contributed. After the formation and contribution to Contango Minerals, the Peak Gold JV made simultaneous distributions to Royal Alaska and CORE Alaska by (i) granting a new 28.0% net smelter returns silver royalty on all silver produced from a defined area within the Tetlin Lease and transferring the additional 1.0% net smelter returns royalty described above to Royal Gold and (ii) assigning 100.0% of the membership interests in Contango Minerals to CORE Alaska, which were in turn distributed to the Company, resulting in Contango Minerals becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company. The Separation Agreement contains customary representations, warranties and covenants.

In connection with the Separation Agreement, the Peak Gold JV and Contango Minerals entered into an Option Agreement, dated as of September 29, 2020 (the “Option Agreement”). Under the Option Agreement, Contango Minerals granted the Peak Gold JV an option, subject to certain conditions contained in the Option Agreement, to purchase approximately 13,000 acres of the Alaska state mining claims which were contributed to Contango Minerals pursuant to the Separation Agreement, together with all extralateral rights, water and water rights, and easements and rights of way in connection therewith, that are held by Contango Minerals. Subject to the conditions in the Option Agreement, the Peak Gold JV had the right to exercise the option to purchase the Alaska state mining claims, in whole or in part, at an exercise price of \$50,000. The Peak Gold JV exercised this option in whole in June 2021 and paid the Company \$50,000.

Kinross is a large gold producer with a diverse global portfolio and extensive operating experience in Alaska. The Peak Gold JV plans to mine ore from the Peak and North Peak deposits and then process ore at the existing Fort Knox mining and milling complex located approximately 250 miles away. The use of the Fort Knox mill is expected to accelerate the development of the Peak Gold JV Property and result in reduced upfront capital development costs, smaller environmental footprint, a shorter permitting and development timeline and less overall risk for Peak Gold JV Property.

Acquisition of Lucky Shot Property

On August 24, 2021 the Company completed the purchase of all outstanding membership interests (the “Interests”) of AGT from CRH Funding II PTE. LTD, a Singapore private limited corporation (“CRH”) (the “Lucky Shot Transaction”). AGT holds rights to the Lucky Shot Property. The Company agreed to purchase the Interests for a total purchase price of up to \$30 million. The purchase price included an initial payment at closing of \$5 million in cash and a promissory note in the original principal amount of \$6.25 million, payable by the Company to CRH (the “Promissory Note”), with a maturity date of February 28, 2022 (the “Maturity Date”). The Promissory Note was secured by the Interests. The Company had the option to pay the Promissory Note through the issuance to CRH of shares of the Company’s common stock if the Company completed an offering and obtained a listing of its shares on the NYSE American prior to the Maturity Date. In November 2021, the Company’s common stock commenced listing on the NYSE American. Since the Company did not complete the required offering, it paid the Promissory Note in cash on February 25, 2022.

In addition to the cash at closing and the Promissory Note, the Company will be obligated to pay CRH additional consideration if production on the Lucky Shot Property meets two separate milestone payment thresholds. If the first threshold of (1) an aggregate “mineral resource” equal to 500,000 ounces of gold or (2) production and receipt by the Company of an aggregate of 30,000 ounces of gold (including any silver based on a 1:65 gold:silver ratio) is met, then the Company will pay CRH \$5 million in cash and \$3.75 million in newly issued shares of CORE common stock. If the second threshold of (1) an aggregate “mineral resource” equal to 1,000,000 ounces of gold or (2) production and receipt by the Company of an aggregate of 60,000 ounces of gold (including any silver based on a 1:65 gold:silver ratio) is met, then the Company will pay CRH \$5 million in cash and \$5 million in newly issued shares of CORE common stock. If payable, the additional share consideration will be issued based on the 30-day volume weighted average price for each of the thirty trading days immediately prior to the satisfaction of the relevant production goal.

The Company also agreed to make \$10,000,000 in expenditures during the 36-month period following closing toward the existence, location, quantity, quality or commercial value of mineral deposits in, under and upon the Lucky Shot Property. On August 16, 2021, the Company hired Chris Kennedy, who has prior experience in underground mine operations management, to serve as the Company’s Mine General Manager. In his role, Mr. Kennedy will manage the Company’s underground exploration and development program on the Lucky Shot Property. As of September 30, 2022, the Company had exceeded the \$10.0 million in required expenditures.

Strategy

Retaining Proven Executive Leadership. Effective as of January 6, 2020, Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse was appointed to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company. Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse will perform the functions of the Company's principal executive officer. Also effective on January 6, 2020, the size of the Board was increased from four to five directors with Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse appointed to the Board to fill the vacancy created by the increase. Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse, 65, previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Trilogy Metals Inc. from January 2012 until December 2019. Between May 1999 and January of 2012, he served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of NOVAGOLD Resources, Inc. In December 2020, Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse hired two employees to assist with the execution and field management of the Company's exploration of its 100% owned properties.

Partnering with strategic industry participants to expand future exploration work. In January 2015, the Company formed the Peak Gold JV pursuant to the JV LLCA with Royal Gold. Under the JV LLCA, Royal Gold was appointed as the manager of the Peak Gold JV, initially, with overall management responsibility for operations of the Peak Gold JV. As of October 1, 2020, in conjunction with the Kinross Transactions and the signing of the A&R JV LLCA, KG Mining became the manager of the Peak Gold JV (the "Manager"). KG Mining may resign as Manager and can be removed as Manager for a material breach of the A&R JV LLCA, a material failure to perform its obligations as the Manager, a failure to conduct the Peak Gold JV operations in accordance with industry standards and applicable laws, and other limited circumstances. The Manager will manage and direct the operation of the Peak Gold JV, and will discharge its duties, in accordance with approved programs and budgets. The Manager will implement the decisions of the Management Committee and will carry out the day-to-day operations of the Peak Gold JV. Except as expressly delegated to the Manager, the A&R JV LLCA provides that the Management Committee has exclusive authority to determine all management matters related to the Company. The Management Committee currently consists of one appointee designated by the Company and two appointees designated by KG Mining. The Representatives designated by each member of the Peak Gold JV vote as a group, and in accordance with their respective membership interests in the Peak Gold JV. Except in the case of certain actions that require approval by unanimous vote of the Representatives, the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership interests in the Peak Gold JV constitutes the action of the Management Committee.

Structuring Incentives to Drive Behavior. The Company believes that equity ownership aligns the interests of the Company's executives and directors with those of its stockholders. As of September 30, 2022, the Company's directors and executives beneficially own approximately 22.7% of the Company's Common Stock. An additional 11.6% of the Company's Common Stock is beneficially owned by the Marital Trust of Mr. Kenneth R. Peak, the Company's former Chairman, who passed away on April 19, 2013.

Acquiring exploration properties. The Company anticipates from time to time acquiring additional properties in Alaska for exploration, subject to the availability of funds. The acquisitions may include leases or similar rights from Alaska Native corporations or may include filing Federal or State of Alaska mining claims by staking claims for exploration. Acquiring additional properties will likely result in additional expense to the Company for minimum royalties, minimum rents and annual exploratory work requirements.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

None.

Contractual Obligations

The Tetlin Lease had an initial ten year term beginning July 2008 which was extended for an additional ten years to July 15, 2028, or so long as the Peak Gold JV initiates and continues to conduct mining operations on the Tetlin Lease. The Peak Gold JV was required to spend \$350,000 per year annually until July 15, 2018 in exploration costs pursuant to the Tetlin Lease. Exploration expenditures to date under the Tetlin Lease have satisfied this work commitment requirement for the full lease term, through 2028, because exploration funds spent in any year in excess of \$350,000 are credited toward future years' exploration cost requirements. The Tetlin Lease also provides that the Peak Gold JV will pay the Tetlin Tribal Council a production royalty ranging from 3.0% to 5.0% should the Peak Gold JV deliver to a purchaser on a commercial basis precious or non-precious metals derived from the properties under the Tetlin Lease. The Company had previously paid the Tetlin Tribal Council \$225,000 in exchange for reducing the production royalty payable to them by 0.75%. These payments lowered the production royalty to a range of 2.25% to 4.25%. On or before December 30, 2020, the Tetlin Tribal Council had the option to increase its production royalty by (i) 0.25% by payment to the Peak Gold JV of \$150,000, (ii) 0.50% by payment to the Peak Gold JV of \$300,000, or (iii) 0.75% by payment to the Peak Gold JV of \$450,000. The Tetlin Tribal Council exercised the option to increase its production royalty by 0.75% by payment to the Peak Gold JV of \$450,000 on December 30, 2020. In lieu of a cash payment, the \$450,000 will be credited against future production royalty and advance minimum royalty payments due by the Peak Gold JV to the Tetlin Tribal Council under the lease once production begins.

On January 8, 2015, the Company assigned the Tetlin Lease to the Peak Gold JV in connection with the formation of the Peak Gold JV.

Until such time as production royalties begin, the Peak Gold JV will pay the Tetlin Tribal Council an advance minimum royalty of approximately \$75,000 per year, plus an inflation adjustment. Additionally, the Peak Gold JV will pay Royal Gold an overriding royalty of 3.0% should it deliver to a purchaser on a commercial basis gold or associated minerals derived from the Tetlin Lease, and a 28.0% net smelter returns silver royalty on all silver produced from a defined area within the Tetlin Lease. The Company will pay Royal Gold an overriding royalty of 3.0% on certain State of Alaska mining claims should it deliver to a purchaser on a commercial basis precious metals, non-precious metals or hydrocarbons. The Company pays claim rentals on State of Alaska mining claims which vary based on the ages of the claims. For the 2022–2023 assessment year, claims rentals totaled \$355,805. Also, if the minimum work requirement is not performed on the property, additional minimum labor payments are due on certain state of Alaska acreage.

In February 2019, the Company entered into Retention Agreements with its then-Chief Executive Officer, Brad Juneau, its Chief Financial Officer, Leah Gaines, and one other employee providing for payments in an aggregate amount of \$1,500,000 upon the occurrence of certain conditions. The Retention Agreements, as amended, are triggered upon a change of control (as defined in the applicable Retention Agreement), that takes place prior to August 6, 2025, provided that the recipient is employed by the Company when the change of control occurs. Mr. Juneau and Ms. Gaines will receive a payment of \$1,000,000 and \$250,000, respectively, upon a change of control.

On June 10, 2020, the Company entered into a Retention Payment Agreement with Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, providing for a payment in an amount of \$350,000 upon the occurrence of certain conditions. The Retention Payment Agreement is triggered upon a change of control (as defined in the Retention Payment Agreement) which occurs on or prior to August 6, 2025, provided that Mr. Van Nieuwenhuyse is employed by the Company when the change of control occurs.

The Company received \$32.4 million in cash consideration in conjunction with the Kinross Transactions. Of the \$32.4 million, \$1.2 million constituted a reimbursement prepayment to the Company relating to its proportionate share of certain silver royalty payments that the Peak Gold JV may be obligated to pay to Royal Gold, with the understanding that KG Mining will bear the entire economic impact of those royalty payments due from the Peak Gold JV. Pursuant to Article IV of the A&R JV LLCA, if the Peak Gold JV terminates, or the Company's membership interest falls below 5% prior to when the prepaid royalty is paid out, the \$1.2 million (less any portion already paid out) is refundable to KG Mining.

With regard to the Lucky Shot Acquisition, in addition to the cash at closing and the Promissory Note, the Company will be obligated to pay CRH additional consideration if production on the Lucky Shot Property meets two separate milestone payment thresholds. If the first threshold of (1) an aggregate "mineral resource" equal to 500,000 ounces of gold or (2) production and receipt by the Company of an aggregate of 30,000 ounces of gold (including any silver based on a 1:65 gold:silver ratio) is met, then the Company will pay CRH \$5 million in cash and \$3.75 million in newly issued shares of CORE common stock. If the second threshold of (1) an aggregate "mineral resource" equal to 1,000,000 ounces of gold or (2) production and receipt by the Company of an aggregate of 60,000 ounces of gold (including any silver based on a 1:65 gold:silver ratio) is met, then the Company will pay CRH \$5 million in cash and \$5 million in newly issued shares of CORE common stock. If payable, the additional share consideration will be issued based on the 30-day volume weighted average price for each of the thirty trading days immediately prior to the satisfaction of the relevant production goal. The Company also agreed to make \$10,000,000 in expenditures during the 36-month period following closing toward the existence, location, quantity, quality or commercial value of mineral deposits in, under and upon the Lucky Shot Property. The Company has exceeded the required \$10,000,000 in expenditures as of September 30, 2022.

Application of Critical Accounting Policies and Management's Estimates

The discussion and analysis of the Company's financial condition and results of operations is based upon the consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements requires the Company to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. The Company has identified below the policies that are of particular importance to the portrayal of our financial position and results of operations and which require the application of significant judgment by management. The Company analyzes its estimates, including those related to its mineral reserve estimates, on a periodic basis and bases its estimates on historical experience, independent third party engineers and various other assumptions that management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. The Company believes the following critical accounting policies affect its more significant judgments and estimates used in the preparation of the Company's consolidated financial statements:

Stock-Based Compensation. The Company applies the fair value method of accounting for stock-based compensation. Under this method, the Company measures and recognizes compensation expense for all stock-based payments at fair value at the date of grant and amortize the amount over the employee's service period. Management is required to make assumptions including stock price volatility and employee turnover that are utilized to measure compensation expense.

Investment in the Peak Gold JV. The Company's consolidated financial statements include the investment in the Peak Gold JV, which is accounted for under the equity method. The Company has designated one of the three members of the Management Committee and on September 30, 2022 held a 30.0% ownership interest in the Peak Gold JV. KG Mining serves as the manager of the Peak Gold JV and manages, directs, and controls operations of the Peak Gold JV. The Company recorded its investment at the historical cost of the assets contributed. The cumulative losses of the Peak Gold JV exceed the historical cost of the assets contributed to the Peak Gold JV; therefore, the Company's investment in the Peak Gold JV as of September 30, 2022 is zero. The portion of the cumulative loss that exceeds the Company's investment will be suspended and recognized against earnings, if any, from the investment in the Peak Gold JV in future periods.

Business Combinations. In determining whether an acquisition should be accounted for as a business combination or asset acquisition, the Company first determines whether substantially all of the fair value of the gross assets acquired is concentrated in a single identifiable asset or a group of similar identifiable assets. If this is the case, the single identifiable asset or the group of similar assets is not deemed to be a business, and is instead deemed to be an asset. If this is not the case, the Company then further evaluates whether the single identifiable asset or group of similar identifiable assets and activities includes, at a minimum, an input and a substantive process that together significantly contribute to the ability to create outputs. If so, the Company concludes that the single identifiable asset or group of similar identifiable assets and activities is a business. The Company accounts for business combinations using the acquisition method of accounting. Application of this method of accounting requires that (i) identifiable assets acquired (including identifiable intangible assets) and liabilities assumed generally be measured and recognized at fair value as of the acquisition date and (ii) the excess of the purchase price over the net fair value of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed be recognized as goodwill, which is not amortized for accounting purposes but is subject to testing for impairment at least annually. The Company measures and recognizes asset acquisitions that are not deemed to be business combinations based on the cost to acquire the assets, which includes transaction costs. Goodwill is not recognized in asset acquisitions. Contingent consideration in asset acquisitions payable in the form of cash is recognized when payment becomes probable and reasonably estimable, unless the contingent consideration meets the definition of a derivative, in which case the amount becomes part of the asset acquisition cost when acquired. Contingent consideration payable in the form of a fixed number of the Company's own shares is measured at fair value as of the acquisition date and recognized when the issuance of the shares becomes probable. Upon recognition of the contingent consideration payment, the amount is included in the cost of the acquired asset or group of assets.

Convertible Debenture. The Company accounts for its convertible debenture in accordance with ASC 470-20, Debt with Conversion and Other Options ("ASC 470-20"), which requires the liability and equity components of convertible debt to be separately accounted for in a manner that reflects the issuer's nonconvertible debt borrowing rate. Debt discount created by the bifurcation of embedded features in the convertible debenture are reflected as a reduction to the related debt liability. The discount is amortized to interest expense over the term of the debt using the effective-interest method.

Derivative Asset/Liability for Embedded Conversion Features. The Company does not use derivative instruments to hedge exposures to cash flow, market, or foreign currency risks. The Company evaluates convertible notes to determine if those contracts or embedded components of those contracts qualify as derivatives to be accounted for separately. In circumstances where the embedded conversion option in a convertible instrument is required to be bifurcated and there are also other embedded derivative instruments in the convertible instrument that are required to be bifurcated, the bifurcated derivative instruments are evaluated and accounted for separately. The result of this accounting treatment is that the fair value of the embedded derivative is recorded as either an asset or a liability and marked-to-market each balance sheet date, with the change in fair value recorded in the statements of operations as other income or expense. Upon conversion or exercise of a derivative instrument, the instrument is marked to fair value at the conversion date and then that fair value is reclassified to equity. The fair value of the embedded conversion features are estimated using several probability weighted binomial lattice models. The Company estimated the fair value of the convertible notes conversion feature at the time of issuance and subsequent remeasurement dates, utilizing the with-and without method, where the value of the derivative feature is the difference in values between a note simulated with the embedded conversion feature and the value of the same note simulated without the embedded conversion feature. Estimating fair values of embedded conversion features requires the development of significant and subjective estimates that may, and are likely to, change over the duration of the instrument with related changes in internal and external market factors.

Results of Operations

Neither the Company nor the Peak Gold JV has commenced mining or producing commercially marketable minerals. To date, neither the Company nor the Peak Gold JV has generated any revenue from mineral sales or operations. Neither the Company nor the Peak Gold JV has any recurring source of revenue other than contributions by the Company and KG Mining to the Peak Gold JV, and, in addition to the consideration received in the Kinross Transactions, the Company's ability to continue as a going concern is dependent on the Company's ability to raise capital to fund its future exploration and working capital requirements. In the future, the Peak Gold JV may generate revenue from a combination of mineral sales and other payments resulting from any commercially recoverable minerals from the Peak Gold JV Property. The Company does not expect the Peak Gold JV to generate revenue from mineral sales in the foreseeable future. If the Peak Gold JV Property fails to contain any proven reserves, our ability to generate future revenue, and our results of operations and financial position, would be materially adversely affected. Other potential sources of cash, or relief of demand for cash, include external debt, the sale of shares of our stock, joint ventures, or alternative methods such as mergers or sale of our assets. No assurances can be given, however, that the Company will be able to obtain any of these potential sources of cash. The Company will need to generate significant revenues to achieve profitability and it may never do so.

Three Months Ended September 30, 2022 Compared to Three Months Ended September 30, 2021

Claim Rentals Expense. Claim rental expense primarily consists of State of Alaska rental payments and annual labor payments. We recognized claim rental expense of \$146,925 compared to \$149,810 for the three months ended September 30, 2021. The Lucky Shot state claims were acquired as a part of the acquisition of AGT in August 2021.

Exploration Expense. Exploration expense for the three months ended September 30, 2022 was \$4.4 million compared to \$0.9 million for the three months ended September 30, 2021. Current year exploration expense relates primarily to exploration work performed on our Lucky Shot Property. Lucky Shot was acquired in August 2021, so no work was performed on this property in the quarter ended September 30, 2021. Prior year exploration expense relates to spending on our 100% owned state claims on the Eagle/Hona and Shamrock Property. Exploration related work began on those prospects in July 2021.

General and Administrative Expense. General and administrative expense for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 were \$2.4 million and \$2.0 million, respectively. The Company's general and administrative expense primarily relates to legal fees, management fees, payroll and stock-based compensation expense. The current year increase in general and administrative expenses is the result of additional payroll, insurance, and other general and administrative fees related to the acquisition of the Lucky Shot Property in August 2021. The stock-based compensation expense for the quarter ended September 30, 2022 was approximately \$0.8 million, compared to \$1.0 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2021.

Loss from Equity Investment in the Peak Gold JV. The loss from the Company's equity investment in the Peak Gold JV for the three months ended September 30, 2022 and 2021 was zero and \$1,445,000, respectively. Pursuant to the terms of the A&R JV LLCA, the Company and KG Mining are required to jointly fund the joint venture operations in proportion to their membership interests in the Peak Gold JV to avoid dilution. The Company did not make a capital contribution to the Peak Gold JV during the current quarter. The Company invested \$1,445,000 in the Peak Gold JV during the three months ended September 30, 2021. The portion of the cumulative loss that exceeds the Company's cumulative investment will be suspended and recognized against earnings, if any, from the Company's investment in the Peak Gold JV in future periods. The suspended losses for the period from inception to September 30, 2022 are \$23.0 million.

Interest Expense. On April 26, 2022, the Company closed on a \$20,000,000 unsecured convertible debenture to QRC. The debenture bears interest at 8% per annum, payable quarterly, with 6% paid in cash and 2% paid in shares of Common Stock (See Note 16 to our Consolidated Financial Statements). The Company acquired AGT in August 2021 for an initial payment at closing of \$5 million (plus a working capital adjustment of \$0.1 million) in cash and a Promissory Note (see Note 10 to our Consolidated Financial Statements). Interest expense for the quarter ended September 30, 2022 of \$449,470 includes the interest related to the convertible debenture. Interest expense for the quarter ended September 30, 2021 of \$56,604 relates to the Promissory Note. The Promissory Note was paid in full with cash on February 25, 2022.

Insurance Recoveries. In mid-February 2022 an avalanche occurred at the Lucky Shot Property. The avalanche destroyed various vehicles and equipment at the site. During the quarter ended September 30, 2022, the Company received insurance recoveries totaling \$338,301 related to the avalanche. There were no such recoveries during the quarter ended September 30, 2021.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

The Company's primary cash requirements have been for general and administrative expenses, capital calls from the Peak Gold JV for the Manh Choh Property, and exploration expenditures on the Lucky Shot Property. Besides the Kinross Transactions, the Company's sources of cash have been from Common Stock offerings and the issuance of the \$20 million unsecured convertible debenture to Queens Road Capital Investment, Ltd. ("QRC"). In conjunction with the Kinross Transactions, the Company received \$32.4 million and 809,744 shares of the Company's Common Stock. The 809,744 shares of Common Stock were acquired by KG Mining from Royal Gold, as part of the Royal Gold Transactions and were subsequently canceled by the Company. Of the \$32.4 million cash consideration, \$1.2 million constituted a reimbursement prepayment to the Company of its proportionate share of certain silver royalty payments that the Peak Gold JV may be obligated to pay to Royal Gold, with the understanding that KG Mining will bear the entire impact of those royalty payments due from the Peak Gold JV.

As of September 30, 2022, the Company had approximately \$18.0 million of cash. The Management Committee of the Peak Gold JV approved a 2022 calendar year budget of \$39.6 million, of which our total share is \$11.9 million. As of the date of this report, the Company has funded \$9.8 million of its share of the 2022 budget (\$1.5 million was funded as of September 30, 2022 and an additional \$8.3 million was funded in October 2022). The 2022 budget covers the following areas of work: feasibility study, permitting, on going environmental monitoring, community engagement, engineering, early construction, and exploration. On April 26, 2022, the Company closed on a \$20,000,000 unsecured convertible debenture to QRC. The debenture was purchased at par. Due to cash received from the unsecured debenture, the cash received in the Kinross Transaction and the private placements completed in September 2020 and June 2021, the Company believes that it has sufficient liquidity to meet its working capital requirements for the next twelve months. The Company's cash needs going forward will primarily relate to capital calls from the Peak Gold JV, exploration of the Contango Properties, and general and administrative expenses of the Company. If a large budget is undertaken, and no additional financing is obtained, the Company can elect not to fund its portion of the approved budget, in which case the Company would maintain sufficient liquidity to meet its working capital requirements for the next twelve months; however, its membership interest in the Peak Gold JV would be diluted.

KG Mining became the Manager of the Peak Gold JV in conjunction with the Kinross Transactions and the signing of the A&R JV LLCA. Pursuant to the terms of the A&R JV LLCA, the Company and KG Mining are required to jointly fund the joint venture operations in proportion to their membership interests in the Peak Gold JV. If a member elects not to contribute to an approved program and budget or contributes less than its proportionate membership interest, its percentage membership interest will be reduced. The Company's ability to contribute funds sufficient to retain its membership interests in the Peak Gold JV may be limited. To date, neither the Company nor the Peak Gold JV has generated any revenue from mineral sales or operations. In the future, the Peak Gold JV may generate revenue from a combination of mineral sales and other payments resulting from any commercially recoverable minerals from the Peak Gold JV Property. The Company currently does not have any recurring source of revenue. The Peak Gold JV currently does not have any recurring source of revenue, and its only source of cash inflows are contributions received from KG Mining and the Company. As a result, the Company's ability to contribute funds to the Peak Gold JV and retain its membership interest will depend on its ability to raise capital. The Company has limited financial resources and the ability of the Company to arrange additional financing in the future will depend, in part, on the prevailing capital market conditions, the exploration results achieved at the Peak Gold JV Property, as well as the market price of metals. The Company cannot be certain that financing will be available to the Company on acceptable terms, if at all. If the Company were unable to fund its contributions to the approved programs and budgets for the Peak Gold JV, its membership interest in the Peak Gold JV would be diluted.

Further financing by the Company may include issuances of equity, instruments convertible into equity (such as warrants) or various forms of debt. The Company believes that it is more likely than not that it will raise capital through the issuance of additional equity and or debt securities in the next six months for purposes of funding its proportionate share of future Peak Gold JV exploration and for the Company's operating costs. The Company has issued Common Stock and other instruments convertible into equity in the past and cannot predict the size or price of any future issuances of Common Stock or other instruments convertible into equity, and the effect, if any, that such future issuances and sales will have on the market price of the Company's securities. Any additional issuances of Common Stock or securities convertible into, or exercisable or exchangeable for, Common Stock may ultimately result in dilution to the holders of Common Stock, dilution in any future earnings per share of the Company and may have a material adverse effect upon the market price of the Common Stock of the Company.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

As a “smaller reporting company”, the Company is not required to provide this information.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures. As required by Rule 13a-15(b) of the Exchange Act, the Company has evaluated, under the supervision and with the participation of its management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act) as of the end of the period covered by this Form 10-Q. Our disclosure controls and procedures are designed to provide reasonable assurance that the information required to be disclosed by us in reports that the Company files or submits under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure and is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC. Based upon the evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2022 at the reasonable assurance level.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. There have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that occurred during our last fiscal quarter that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect our internal control over financial reporting.

PART II—OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

From time to time, the Company is party to litigation or other legal and administrative proceedings that it considers to be a part of the ordinary course of business. As of the date of this Form 10-Q, the Company is not a party to any material legal proceedings and the Company is not aware of any material proceedings contemplated against us, that could individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial condition, cash flows or results of operations.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

In addition to information set forth in this Form 10-Q, you should carefully consider the risks discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2022, under the headings “Item 1. Business — Adverse Climate Conditions,” “—Competition,” “— Government Regulation” and “Item 2. Properties— Environmental Regulation and Permitting,” “Item 1A. Risk Factors,” and “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” which risks could materially affect our business, financial condition or future results. There have been no material changes in our risk factors from those described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2022. The risks described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2022 are not the only risks the Company faces. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to us or that we currently deem to be immaterial also may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition or future results. An investment in the Company is subject to risks inherent in our business and involves a high degree of risk. The trading price of the shares of the Company is affected by the performance of our business relative to, among other things, competition, market conditions and general economic and industry conditions. The value of an investment in the Company may decrease, resulting in a loss.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None.

Item 5. Other Information

None.

Item 6. Exhibits

(a) Exhibits:

The following is a list of exhibits filed as part of this Form 10-Q. Where so indicated, exhibits, which were previously filed, are incorporated herein by reference.

Exhibit Number	Description
3.1	<u>Certificate of Incorporation of Contango ORE, Inc.</u> (Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to Amendment No. 2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 10, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 26, 2010).
3.2	<u>Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation of Contango ORE, Inc. (Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 17, 2020).</u>
3.3	<u>Bylaws of Contango ORE, Inc.</u> (Filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Amendment No. 2 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 10, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 26, 2010).
3.4	<u>Amendment No. 1 to the Bylaws of Contango ORE, Inc.</u> (Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 21, 2021).
4.1	<u>Form of Certificate of Contango ORE, Inc. Common Stock.</u> (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the three months ended December 31, 2013, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 14, 2013).
4.2	<u>Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Preferred Stock of Contango ORE, Inc. (Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 21, 2012).</u>
4.3	<u>Certificate of Elimination of Series A Junior Preferred Stock of Contango ORE, Inc. (Filed as Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2020).</u>
4.4	<u>Certificate of Designations of Series A-1 Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Contango ORE, Inc. (Filed as Exhibit 3.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2020).</u>
4.5	<u>Registration Rights Agreement dated as of June 17, 2021, by and between Contango ORE, Inc. and the Purchaser named therein</u> (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 21, 2021).
4.6	<u>Registration Rights Agreement dated as of August 24, 2021, by and between the Company and CRH Funding II Pte. Ltd.</u> (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 25, 2021).
4.7	<u>Rights Agreement, dated as of September 23, 2020, between Contango ORE, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent.</u> (Filed as Exhibit 4.2 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 24, 2020).
4.8	<u>Amendment No. 1 to Rights Agreement, dated as of September 22, 2021, between Contango ORE, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. as Rights Agent</u> (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 22, 2021).
4.9	<u>Amendment No. 2 to Rights Agreement, dated as of August 31, 2022, between Contango ORE, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. as Rights Agent</u> (Filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's current report on Form 8-K, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 2, 2022).
31.1	<u>Certification of Principal Executive Officer required by Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. *</u>
31.2	<u>Certification of Principal Financial Officer required by Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. *</u>
32.1	<u>Certification of Principal Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. *</u>
32.2	<u>Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. *</u>
96.1	<u>Technical Report Summary relating to the Peak Gold JV Property prepared for Contango ORE, Inc. and issued effective as of December 31, 2020 by Sims Resources, LLC and John Sims, C.P.G., as the qualified person</u> (Filed as Exhibit 96.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 26, 2021).

101.INS	Inline XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	Inline XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101)

* Filed herewith.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

CONTANGO ORE, INC.

Date: November 10, 2022

By: /s/ RICK VAN NIEUWENHUYSE
Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

Date: November 10, 2022

By: /s/ LEAH GAINES
Leah Gaines
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer and
Controller
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

