Summary of “800 Jobs Put on Hold at Lancaster Gold Mine” (2011) in *Worldnow* and *wbtv.com*

An article on the WBTC website out of Charlotte, North Carolina, reports on the loss of or delay in jobs at the Haile Gold Mine in Lancaster County, South Carolina. Romarco Minerals, the owner of Haile Gold Mine, was only about a month away from hiring the first of 800 employees when they ran into a delay.

The Army Corp of Engineers thought that the quickest way to move the approval process forward for Romarco would be to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a procedure that might take a year to complete. The need to do so results from the concern that the mine would destroy creeks and streams and wetlands once the mining operations begin. Soil and water samples will be obtained as part of the study.

The CEO of Romarco Minerals, Dianne Garrett, feels that the process will not take as long because Romarco already has some of the necessary data and studies completed since they have been monitoring many of the environmental aspects from when they obtained the property four years prior.Regardless, the opening date has been pushed back and Romarco hopes to be able to create its first gold bars from the Haile Gold Mine in 2014.

The lifetime of the mine should be 13–20 years after mining operations begin, although if further deposits are found, the mine could remain open for a longer period. Garrett noted that the wetlands will be in better shape after post-mining restoration processes than how they are today. “We will not only be preserving and restoring [those] that have been significantly impaired by 200 years of mining, but we’ll create wetlands when we close the mine and re-contour the property.”

Source: