



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

River Gold Mines and Wesdome Gold Mines to Consider Business Combination

Toronto, Ontario – April 20, 2005 - River Gold Mines Ltd. (RIV-T) (“River”) and Wesdome Gold Mines Inc. (WDG-V) (“Wesdome”) announce that each company has established an independent committee of its board of directors for the purpose of exploring and making recommendations regarding a possible business combination of the two companies. Western Quebec Mines Inc. (WQM-T) owns approximately 34% of the outstanding common shares of River and approximately 45% of the outstanding common shares of Wesdome. The consideration of a possible business combination is at a very preliminary stage and any potential transaction will be subject to the receipt of all necessary regulatory, board and shareholder approvals including “minority approval” in accordance with Ontario Securities Commission Rule 61-501 and Quebec Policy Q-27. While there is no set timeframe for any possible combination, the companies hope to report back to their shareholders regarding a possible transaction within the next few months. In the meantime, shareholders of each company are invited to express their views on a possible combination at the annual meetings of Wesdome and River set for June 1 and June 2, 2005, respectively.

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