



PRESS RELEASE

Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd. Announces Completion of Merger

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Toronto, Ontario – February 1, 2006 - Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd. (“New Wesdome”) is pleased to announce the completion of the merger (the “Merger”) of Wesdome Gold Mines Inc. (“Old Wesdome”) (TSXV: WDG-X) and River Gold Mines Ltd. (“River”) (TSX: RIV-T) to form “Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd.”. New Wesdome expects that its common shares will commence trading over the facilities of the Toronto Stock Exchange (the “TSX”) on Monday, February 6, 2006 under the symbol “WDO”. This will follow the de-listing of the common shares of Old Wesdome from the TSX Venture Exchange (the “TSXV”), which is expected to occur at the close of business on Friday, February 3, 2006.

The Merger involved the amalgamation of Old Wesdome with a wholly-owned subsidiary of River (the “Amalgamation”). Immediately prior to the Amalgamation, River filed articles of amendment (i) changing its name to “Wesdome Gold Mines Ltd.” and (ii) consolidating the outstanding River common shares on the basis that 1.538461538 of a common share of River (each a “Pre-Consolidation River Share”) became one post-consolidation River common share (each a “New Wesdome Share”); i.e. each Pre-Consolidation River Share became 0.65 of a New Wesdome Share. Upon the Amalgamation, each common share in the capital of Wesdome was exchanged for a New Wesdome Share and the shareholders of Old Wesdome became shareholders of the combined entity.

This document may contain or refer to forward-looking information based on current expectations. Forward-looking statements are subject to significant risks and uncertainties, and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from expected results. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date hereof and we assume no responsibility to update or revise them to reflect new events or circumstances.

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The TSX Venture Exchange has neither approved nor disapproved the information contained herein and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

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