

Barrytown ‘radiation’ concerns allayed

Laura Mills

New reports on radiation have been supplied to the West Coast Regional Council by TiGa Minerals, which proposes mining the mineral sands of Barrytown Flat.

Last time the company applied for consent for the mine, specialists said uranium deposits in the heavy mineral concentrate had been confirmed as “mildly radioactive” but were nowhere near the level required for any regulations to apply.

The applicant installed both dust and radiation monitors on the perimeter of the mine site in late 2022, and says these

monitoring stations will remain in place for the duration of mining activities.

IHC Mining, in a new report for the resubmitted application from TiGa, said the radiation activity level in the ore was low.

“The ore, tailings and heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) produced are not a radioactive material for the purposes of the New Zealand Radiation Safety Act (RSA) 2016.”

When TiGa last applied for consent — and were rejected for lack of information — commissioners said radiation was a matter out of the RMA consent process.

“However, we consider the presence

of radioactive material relevant to our consideration of the potential effects of dust and any risks posed to the surrounding environment. We accept that the applicant may well need to undertake further investigations to discharge any obligations under the RSA and other applicable laws. We acknowledge the health concerns raised by submitters in relation to dust and potential health effects from exposure to radioactive components.

“We are satisfied the applicant would be required to comply with the provisions of the any relevant law before processing, storing and transporting the HMC product.”