SEC Charges San Diego Attorney with Fraudulently Hiding His Control of a Company in an Unsuccessful IPO

June 2, 2016 – The Securities and Exchange Commission today announced that a San Diego attorney has agreed to settle charges that he engaged in fraud by hiding his control of NuGold Resources, Inc. in a registration statement filed with the SEC in his unsuccessful attempt to take NuGold public.

An SEC investigation found that Donald J. Stoecklein prepared and filed a registration statement on behalf of NuGold. In reality, Stoecklein controlled and directed virtually all of NuGold’s operations. For instance, the company’s registration statement stated that the CEO had provided its initial capitalization when in reality Stoecklein had. Furthermore, NuGold’s registration statement did not identify Stoecklein’s role or disclose that the SEC previously ordered him to cease and desist from future securities registration and antifraud violations. These statements and omissions were repeated in the nine amendments to NuGold’s registration statement, all of which Stoecklein prepared.

The SEC’s order instituting a settled administrative proceeding finds that Stoecklein violated Sections 17(a)(1) and 17(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933. Without admitting or denying the findings, Stoecklein agreed to be censured, ordered to cease and desist from future violations and pay an $80,000 civil penalty, and barred from being an officer or director of a public company and participating in any penny stock offerings. In addition, Stoecklein agreed to the entry of an order permanently suspending him from appearing and practicing before the SEC as an attorney. The order prohibits Stoecklein from representing clients in SEC matters, including investigations, litigation, or examinations, and from advising clients about SEC filing obligations or content.

The SEC today also instituted an order prohibiting NuGold’s registration statement from becoming effective.

The SEC’s investigation was conducted by Roberto Tercero of the Commission’s Los Angeles Regional Office as part of the Microcap Fraud Task Force.

See also:  
Order – Stoecklein  
SEC Order – NuGold