

Northgate Minerals CORP
Form 40-F
March 30, 2011

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 40-F

Registration statement pursuant to section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

or

Annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010

Commission File Number 001-6138

Northgate Minerals Corporation

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

British Columbia, Canada

(Province or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

1040

(Primary Standard Industrial Classification Code Number (if applicable))

Not applicable

(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number (if applicable))

815 Hornby Street, Suite 406

Vancouver, British Columbia

Canada V6Z 2E6

(604) 681-4004

(Address and telephone number of Registrant's principal executive offices)

JGB Service Corporation

600 University Street, Suite 3600

Seattle, Washington 98101

(206) 624-0900

(Name, address (including zip code) and telephone number (including area code) of agent for service in the United States)

Form 40-F

Explanatory Note

Northgate Minerals Corporation (the Company) is a Canadian issuer eligible to file its annual report pursuant to Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), on Form 40-F pursuant to the multi-jurisdictional disclosure system of the Exchange Act. The Company is a foreign private issuer as defined in Rule 405 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act).

The Registrant's financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), which differ from United States GAAP, and are subject to Canadian auditing and auditor independence standards and, therefore, may not be comparable to financial statements of United States companies. For a reconciliation of measurement and disclosure differences between Canadian and United States GAAP, see Exhibit 99.4 of this Form 40-F.

The Exhibits of this Form 40-F are incorporated by reference as exhibits to the Company's Registration Statement on Form F-10 (No. 333-167487).

Principal Documents

The following documents, filed as Exhibits 99.1 through 99.4 of this Form 40-F, are hereby incorporated by reference:

- the Annual Information Form of the Company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010;
 - the Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009,
 - the Management's Discussion and Analysis (the MD&A) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010; and
 - the Related Supplementary Note entitled Reconciliation to United States GAAP .
-

Certifications

The certifications required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) under the Exchange Act are attached as Exhibit 99.8 to this Form 40-F.

The certifications required by Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) under the Exchange Act and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code are attached as Exhibit 99.9 to this Form 40-F.

Management's Report on Controls and Procedures

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of December 31, 2010, an evaluation was carried out, under the supervision of and with the participation of the Company's management, including the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer (the CEO) and Chief Financial Officer (the CFO), on the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as defined in Canada in Multilateral Instrument 52-109 - Certification of Disclosure in Issuers' Annual and Interim Filings and in the United States by Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Exchange Act.

Based on that evaluation, the CEO and CFO concluded that the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as at December 31, 2010 to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the Company in reports that the Company files under the Exchange Act is gathered, reported, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's (the SEC) rules and forms and is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including the CEO and CFO, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure as specified under Canadian and U.S. securities laws.

Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

(1) The Company's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act and in Canada as defined in Multilateral Instrument 52-109 - Certification of Disclosure in Issuers' Annual and Interim Filings.

The Company's internal controls over financial reporting are designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of the Company's financial reporting and preparation of the Company's financial statements for external purposes in accordance with GAAP. The Company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that: pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the Company's transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Company; provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of the Company's financial statements in accordance with GAAP and that receipts and expenditures of the Company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Company; and provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Company's assets that could have a material effect on the Company's financial statements. Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

(2) The Company's management, with the participation of the CEO and CFO, assessed the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2010. In making this assessment, management used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in Internal Control-Integrated Framework.

(3) Based on the Company's evaluation, management concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2010.

(4) KPMG LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm that audited the Company's consolidated financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010, has issued its opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting (the Attestation Report).

Attestation Report of the Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Attestation Report is included in Exhibit 99.6 attached hereto, which is incorporated by reference into this Annual Report on Form 40-F.

Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

No changes were made in the Company's internal control over financial reporting during the year ended December 31, 2010 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Notices Pursuant to Regulation BTR

None.

Audit Committee

The Company has a separately-designated standing audit committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Exchange Act. The Company's audit committee is comprised of three members: Conrad A. Pinette, Douglas P. Hayhurst and Patrick D. Downey. Douglas P. Hayhurst is chair of the audit committee.

The Company's board of directors has determined that Patrick D. Downey and Douglas P. Hayhurst are each audit committee financial experts (as that term is defined in paragraph 8(b) of General Instruction B in Form 40-F) and that each member of the audit committee is independent (as such term is defined in the rules of the NYSE Amex).

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

The Company has a code of business conduct and ethics (as such term is defined in paragraph 9(b) of General Instruction B in Form 40-F) (Code of Ethics) that applies to its principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. The Company's Code of Ethics can be found on the Company's website at www.northgateminerals.com. Information contained on, or accessible through, the Company's website is not part of this Form 40-F.

There were no waivers (including implicit waivers) of, or amendments to, the Company's Code of Ethics in 2010.

Principal Accountant Fees and Services

KPMG LLP served as the Company's independent public accountants for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009. The Company paid the following fees to KPMG LLP for professional and other services rendered by them during fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and 2009:

Audit Fees: Fees in the amount of \$738,001 in 2010 and \$693,715 in 2009, related to the audits of the Company's annual financial statements, consultation with respect to the implementation of new accounting and reporting guidance and other accounting and reporting issues, review of quarterly interim financial statements, and the review of documents filed with securities regulatory bodies (such as the British Columbia Securities Commission and the SEC) or issued in connection with securities offerings.

Edgar Filing: Northgate Minerals CORP - Form 40-F

Audit-Related Fees: Fees in the amount of \$42,078 in 2010, for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's financial statements and are not reported under Audit Fees above. Specifically, these services related were rendered in connection with Northgate's transition to International Financial Reporting Standards. There were no fees incurred for this category in 2009.

Tax Fees: Fees in the amount of \$81,367 in 2010 and \$259,316 in 2009, for tax return preparation and advice related to tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning.

All Other Fees: The Company did not pay KPMG LLP for any other services related to fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and fiscal year 2009.

Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

The Company's Audit Committee Charter requires pre-approval of all services to be rendered by the Company's independent public accountants. All fees paid or committed to the independent public accountants for the last two years were reviewed and pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

The Company has no off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future effect on its financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources that are material to investors.

Tabular Disclosure of Contractual Obligations

The information required is included under the heading "Material Contracts" on page 72 of the Company's Annual Information Form which is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this Form 40-F.

NYSE AMEX Corporate Governance

The Company's common shares are listed on the NYSE Amex. A description of the significant ways in which the Company's governance practices differ from those followed by domestic companies pursuant to NYSE Amex rules is as follows:

Shareholder Meeting Quorum Requirement: The NYSE Amex minimum quorum requirement for a shareholder meeting is one-third of the outstanding shares of common stock. In addition, a company listed on the NYSE Amex is required to state its quorum requirement in its bylaws.

The Company's quorum requirement is set forth in its Articles of Incorporation. A quorum for a meeting of shareholders of the Company is one or more persons who are, or who represent by proxy, one or more of the shareholders who, in the aggregate, hold at least 10% of the issued shares of the Company entitled to be voted at the meeting.

Proxy Delivery Requirement: NYSE Amex requires the solicitation of proxies and delivery of proxy statements for all shareholder meetings and requires that these proxies shall be solicited pursuant to a proxy statement that conforms to SEC proxy rules.

The Company is a "foreign private issuer" as defined in Rule 3b-4 under the Exchange Act, and the equity securities of the Company are accordingly exempt from the proxy rules set forth in Sections 14(a), 14(b), 14(c) and 14(f) of the Exchange Act. The Company solicits proxies in accordance with applicable rules and regulations in Canada.

The foregoing are consistent with the laws, customs and practices in Canada.

In addition, the Company may from time-to-time seek relief from NYSE Amex corporate governance requirements on specific transactions under Section 110 of the AMEX Company Guide by providing written certification from independent local counsel that the non-complying practice is not prohibited by the Company's home country law, in which case, the Company shall make the disclosure of such transactions available on the Company's website at www.northgateminerals.com.

Forward Looking Information

This document, documents incorporated herein by reference, and other reports and filings made with the securities regulatory authorities contain certain forward-looking statements within the meaning of section 21E of the Exchange Act and Section 27A of the Securities Act. These forward-looking statements include estimates, forecasts, and statements as to management's expectations with respect to, among other things, future metal production and production costs, potential mineralization and reserves, exploration results, progress in the development of mineral properties, demand and market outlook for commodities and future plans and objectives of the Company. Forward-looking statements generally can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology, such as may, will, expect, intend, estimate, anticipate, believe, or continue or the negative thereof or variations thereon or terminology. Forward-looking statements are necessarily based upon a number of estimates and assumptions that, while considered reasonable by management, are inherently subject to significant business, economic and competitive uncertainties and contingencies. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the Company's expectations are disclosed under the heading Risk Factors in Northgate's 2010 Annual Information Form, which is included in Exhibit 99.1 attached hereto. Northgate expressly disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by applicable law.

Undertaking and Consent to Service of Process

A. Undertaking

Registrant undertakes to make available, in person or by telephone, representatives to respond to inquiries made by the Commission staff, and to furnish promptly, when requested to do so by the Commission staff, information relating to: the securities registered pursuant to Form 40-F; the securities in relation to which the obligation to file an annual report on Form 40-F arises; or transactions in said securities.

B. Consent to Service of Process

The Company filed with the SEC on June 1, 2006 an Appointment of Agent for Service of Process and Undertaking on Form F-X signed by the Company and its agent for service of process with respect to the class of securities in relation to which the obligation to file the Form 40-F arises.

Any change to the name or address of the agent for service of process of the registrant shall be communicated promptly to the Commission by an amendment to the Form F-X referencing the file number of the registrant.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Exchange Act, the registrant certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 40-F and has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

Registrant: **Northgate Minerals Corporation**

By: /s/ Jon A. Douglas
Name: Jon A. Douglas
Title: Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Date: March 30, 2011

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Description

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| <u>99.1</u> | <u>Annual Information Form of Northgate Minerals Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2010</u> |
| <u>99.2</u> | <u>Annual Audited Financial Statements for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2010</u> |
| <u>99.3</u> | <u>MD&A of Northgate Minerals Corporation for the year ended December 31, 2010</u> |
| <u>99.4</u> | <u>Related Supplementary Note entitled Reconciliation to United States GAAP</u> |
| <u>99.5</u> | <u>Report of the Independent Registered Accounting Firm on the 2010 Audited Financial Statements and on the related supplementary note entitled Reconciliation to United States GAAP</u> |
| <u>99.6</u> | <u>Attestation Report of the Independent Registered Accounting Firm on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting</u> |
| <u>99.7</u> | <u>Consent of KPMG LLP</u> |
| <u>99.8</u> | <u>Certifications required by Rule 13a-14(a) or Rule 15d-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended</u> |
| <u>99.9</u> | <u>Certifications required by Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code</u> |
-