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## Cominco plans <sup>78</sup> to close H.B. mine

VANCOUVER — Cominco's H.B. Mine near Salmo, B.C., will close by the end of August due to lack of ore. The mine operated two years longer than originally expected.

Keith Meyer, Cominco's manager of outside mines, says the company is planning a scheduled closure date of Sept. 1.

The 110 employees at the lead-zinc mine will be offered positions at other Cominco operations and details of a financial assistance plan for relocation expenses are being worked out with Canada Manpower.

The H.B. Mine operated from 1955 to 1966 when dropping zinc prices forced its closure. When it reopened in 1973, its estimated life was 3½ years. An exploration program bolstered ore reserves and gave the mine another two years of operation.

Employees and civic officials at Salmo were told in 1973 that the mine would have a limited lifespan and it was announced last year that the operation would close in 1978.

Sixty percent of employees have indicated they would like to work at Cominco's Trail operations with the remainder requesting to move to the company's Sullivan mine at Kimberley or other operations.

Mr. Meyer said the H.B. is "an ideal mine in many respects." It won the Ryan Award for mine safety more times than any other mine in B.C. The H.B.'s mine rescue team received national recognition in 1976 by winning the Dominion Mine Rescue Championship.

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