

■ ELKVIEW COAL MINE

Elkview (previously known as the Balmer mine) is an open pit coal mine located in the Elk Valley in southeastern British Columbia, 15 km from Sparwood and 600 km east of Vancouver. The former owner, Westar Mining Limited, applied for protection under the Company Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) and was petitioned into bankruptcy on August 31, 1992. Teck Corporation was the successful bidder for the Balmer mine and the transfer of assets was completed on December 9, 1992. Mine operations are planned to re-commence during 1993 after negotiation of sales contracts with Japanese customers.

The coal occurs in eleven seams which vary in thickness from 1.3 to 15.4 meters. A conventional shovel/truck operation will be used in the open pits.

Raw coal will be transported by a 4.0 km overland conveyor to a breaker station. The coal is then transferred to a 2.5 km overland conveyor of which 1.5 km is through a tunnel between the pit and the process plant. The coal is cleaned using heavy media vessels, cyclones, and froth flotation. Clean coal is stored in four 13,600 tonne silos adjacent to the plant, and loaded onto 112 car unit trains for transport to the Roberts Bank coal port in Vancouver.

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Dryer and loadout facility at the Elkview coal mine *and inset*, part of the large elk population that inhabit the property.

