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The Afton plant, with the smelter in the left foreground and the concentrator building on the right, and inset examination of ore at the new Ajax open pit.

The Afton plant is located 15 km west of Kamloops in the south-central interior of British Columbia. This copper concentrator commenced production in December, 1977 and since then mining has been carried out in four pits - the Afton, Pothook, Crescent, and the Ajax. The Ajax pit, in which Cominco has a 30% interest, has reserves sufficient for 7 years, after which the deep extension of the original Afton orebody may be developed by underground methods.

Mining is by electric shovels and drills with a 12 km haul to the concentrator.

The Afton concentrator employs two stage grinding utilizing semi-autogenous grinding as well as ball milling. The recovery circuit employed for the Afton native copper ore was unique in that it contained both a gravity and a flotation circuit. Only the flotation circuit is required for the Ajax ore, which consists of normal copper sulphides.

Production was suspended in 1991 because of the decline in world price of both copper and gold. The mine and mill are being maintained so that production can be resumed once metal prices recover.

Capital cost, \$	90,000,000
Annual capacity, lbs. Cu	27,000,000
Mill capacity, tonnes/day	9,000
Head grade, % Cu	0.46
Head grade, oz/tonne Au	0.01
Recovery, %	83
Concentrate grade, % Cu	21
Construction start	March, 1976
Construction completion	December, 1977
Teck equity, %	100
Number of employees	204