

GCNL # 8

January 12/78

(AFTON MINES LTD.)

file only

92119W

GOOD OPERATING RESULTS REPORTED
FOR FIRST MONTH OF PRODUCTION

R.E. Hallbauer, managing director of Afton Mines Ltd., has reported that tune-up of Afton's mine and concentrator is progressing smoothly. No major mechanical or metallurgical problems have been encountered. Operation of the 7,000 ton per day concentrator commenced on December 9, 1977 and the rated capacity was exceeded within a few days. During December, 134,856 tons grading 0.76% copper were treated to produce 988 tons of flotation concentrate grading 53% copper and 210 tons of gravity concentrate grading 75.3% copper.

During the period January 2 to January 9, 1978, throughput has averaged 7,400 tons per day. A total of 59,200 tons grading 0.91% copper produced 682 tons of flotation concentrate averaging 47% copper and 145 tons of gravity concentrate averaging 72% copper. Ore treated to date has been primarily from the top bench of the open pit which contained lower than average grade, oxidized copper and mud. Recovery during January has averaged 79% compared to the target of 87%. It is expected that recoveries will improve to projected levels now that mining of the top bench is complete and this has been confirmed by the fact that recovery averaged 90.1% on January 9th.