BARITE EMPR MINING 1981-1985 017054

Since the closure of the Walton mine in Nova Scotia, the bulk of barite production in Canada comes from British Columbia. In 1980, however, the National Energy Policy negatively affected oil and natural gas exploration, and subsequent demand for barite as used for drilling mud. As a result, in the early 1980s, several barite producers did not operate, or operated at reduced levels.

## FIRESIDE BARITE (Fig.M-1, NTS 94, No.58) Long.127<sup>0</sup>12'

Liard M.D.

(**Fig.m-1**) Lat.59<sup>0</sup>46'

(94M/14E)

The Fireside mine is located at 887 kilometres north on Highway 97. A 4.5 kilometre access road on the north side of Highway 97 leads into the property.

The property is owned by the Magcobar Minerals Division of Dresser Industries Inc., P.O. Box 6504, Houston, Texas, U.S.A. 77005.

The mine is an open pit operation, where overburden is removed by bulldozers to expose the vein surface. The ore is then blasted and loaded by hydraulic excavators and front-end loaders into 13.5-tonne haul trucks. The ore is then hauled to the crushing plant and from there to the mineral dressing plant at Watson Lake. The mined-out pits are then backfilled and seeded.

Bulk sampling of the deposit was performed in 1983, and production commenced in 1984. By 1985, the mine was in full operation, and produced 41,071 tonnes of barite. During 1985, a 1.3-hectare area was cleared for a plant site/camp site, and a 25 tonne-per-hour jig plant was built to separate high density barite ore from the lower density wall rock.

Reference: MI 94M-3.

## PARSON

(Fig.M-1, NTS 82, No.59)			
Golden M.D.	Lat 51 <sup>0</sup> 01'	Long. 116 <sup>0</sup> 39'	(82N/2E)

The Parson barite mine is located 7 kilometres south-west of Parson, at an elevation of 1,200 metres. It is accessed by crossing the Columbia River from Parson and following the Crestbrook forest road.

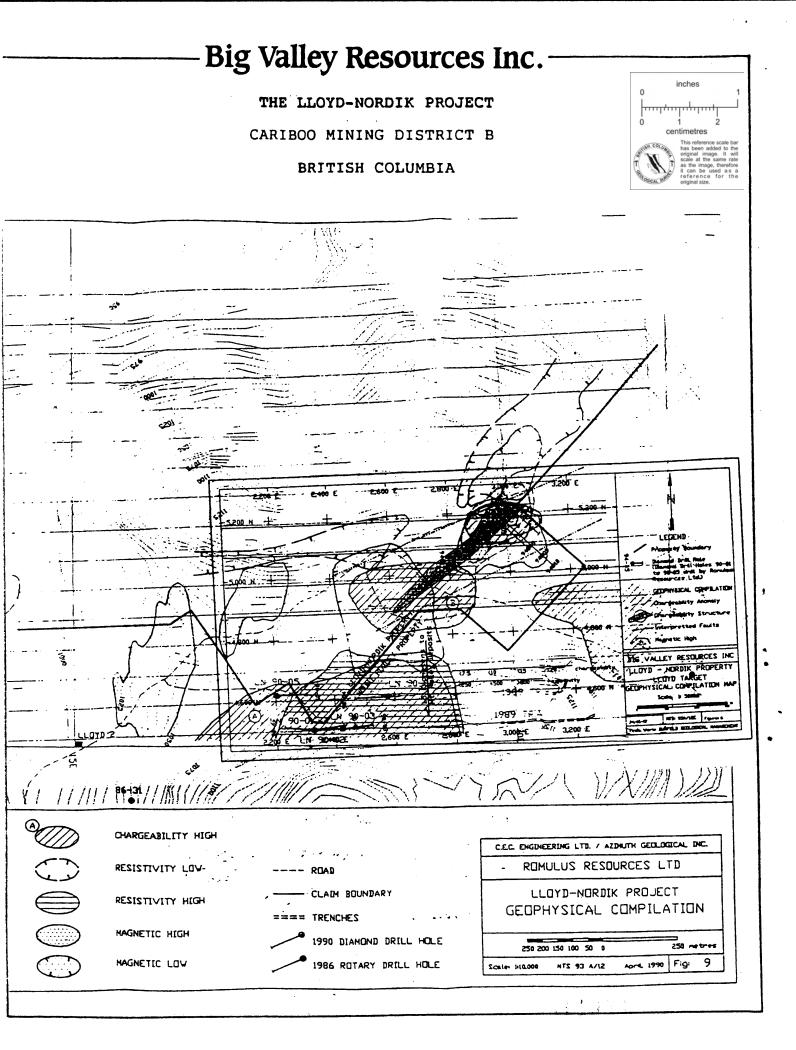
It is owned by Mountain Minerals Limited, 714 - 5th Avenue S., Lethbridge, Alta., T1J 0V1.

Two sub-parallel fissure veins, about 100 metres apart and dipping 55 degrees west, are in Lower Cambrian sedimentary rocks.

Mining is underground, by room and pillar method, with ore trammed to an ore pass by scoop. From there, it is hauled to the surface by a front dump skip on a skipway inclined at 44 degrees. The ore is trucked from the mine to Parson, then by rail to Mountain Minerals' grinding plant in Lethbridge, Alberta.

The Parson mine did not operate in 1981 and 1982. In 1982, the mine switched from diesel generation to electric power. The mine was reactivated in 1983, and from then to 1985, operated on a reduced scale, producing about 2,000 tonnes of barite a month.

Reference: *Ministry of Energy, Mines & Pet. Res.,* Mining in British Columbia, Vol.1, 1975-1980, p.42; MI 82N-2.



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