



Province of
British Columbia

ACTION:

NEWS RELEASE

FILE NO.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES
AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*cc Managers
Post.*

1990:19

May 8, 1990

WINDY CRAGGY MINE GETS FULL PUBLIC REVIEW

Victoria, B.C. - Mines Minister Jack Davis today announced that the proposed Windy Craggy mine will undergo an extensive environmental assessment, including an independent public review.

"Right now, Windy Craggy is in B.C.'s Mine Development Review Process," said Davis. "I expect that, as with the proposed Cinola mine on the Queen Charlotte Islands, there will be joint federal-provincial public hearings after detailed plans have been filed."


The mine proposal by Geddes Resources calls for a twenty-year-plus copper/gold/silver/cobalt mine employing 500 persons, located in the far northwest corner of British Columbia, near the Alaska and the Yukon borders.

"The Windy Craggy deposit, discovered in 1958, is of world-class size in a richly mineralized region," said Davis. "The largest B.C. gold nugget on record was discovered near there, and the region boasts more than 80 documented finds of a large range of valuable minerals -- copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc, tungsten, barite and gypsum.

"Creating acceptable multiple-use plans for the area is a high priority," said the Minister. "The Tatshenshini River is used by international commercial river-rafting companies and the region has high recreational value. Therefore, in planning for the development of the area's mineral resources, we will keep the public and government agencies in British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska fully involved."

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Mindy Craggy*

The Windy Craggy Stage I report was filed last January. A potential problem identified in the report is acid drainage from the mine's open pits and rock-dumps which could pollute lakes and watercourses if not prevented. Initial review by government agencies shows that the acid drainage threat has not been eliminated.

"Provincial policy requires that the environment must be completely protected from the potential threat of acid drainage," said the Minister. "The company has been told it must do further research and revise its mine plan for further scrutiny. The independent public review will not begin until this revised plan has been submitted." 

A public information tour of B.C., Yukon and Alaskan communities is underway by the company; government staff will be present to explain the Mine Development Review procedures.

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