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EXCELLENT METALLURGY FOR GIANT FISH LAKE GOLD-COPPER DEPOSIT

Jeffrey P. Franzen, Director of Taseko Mines Limited (TKO:V), is pleased to report results of a comprehensive metallurgical testwork program completed on bulk samples from the Fish Lake gold-copper project near Williams Lake, British Columbia. The Fish Lake deposit contains some 9 million ounces of gold and 3 billion pounds of copper and is ideally suited for large-scale open pit development. Summary metallurgical results are as follows:

High Recoveries of Copper and Gold - recoveries of 85% to 90% for copper and 74% to 79% for gold in an 18% copper flotation concentrate are expected from full-scale milling operations.

Environmentally Sound - due to the low sulphide and high carbonate content of ore and waste rock the project's waste dump and tailings impoundment areas will not develop acid mine drainage.

Capital and Operating Costs Below Industry Average - low work index (10) of ore will significantly lower project capital and operating costs.

The four month, \$350,000 testwork program, directed by the Company's metallurgical consultant - Melis Engineering Ltd. - assessed flotation, environmental and grindability characteristics of the Fish Lake gold-copper ore at the facilities of Applied Ore Testing Inc., Oakville, Ontario; Hazen Research Inc., Golden, Colorado; and Lakefield Research, Lakefield, Ontario. The testwork program was carried out on two representative drill core bulk samples, totalling 2000 lbs., composited from a systematic 12 hole diamond drilling program as completed by Cominco Ltd. in 1989 (Figure 1).

A total of 55 batch flotation tests and 5 lock-cycle flotation tests were completed on a 1300 lb. ore composite grading 0.22% copper and 0.015 ounces gold per ton. An assessment of gold, copper and sulphur assays from the composite showed that 86% of the gold is associated with chalcopyrite; 8% with pyrite; and the remainder with gangue. Testwork results on this composite indicated, that under plant operating conditions, copper recoveries of 85% and gold recoveries of 76% can be achieved in an 18% copper flotation concentrate. Gold grade of the copper concentrate is approximately 1 ounce per ton. Typical recoveries for higher grade ore - such as that being outlined by the Company's ongoing drilling program (0.35% copper and 0.018 ounces gold per ton) - will be in the range of 90% for copper and 79% for gold in an 18% copper flotation concentrate. Figure 2 illustrates predicted head grade - metallurgical recovery curves for the Fish Lake ore.

Cominco drilling

current drilling

$\approx .62 \text{ g/t}$

$\frac{3 \times 10^9}{.185 \times .9 \times 2 \times 10^3} = 4.76 \text{ m tonnes rec'd?}$

$9 \times 10^6 \text{ oz} = .018 \text{ oz/t} \times x \text{ tons} \times .79 \text{ recover}$

$x = \frac{9 \times 10^6}{.018 \times .79} = 633 \text{ m tons} = 574 \text{ m tonnes rec'd}$

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Acid mine drainage is the single most important environmental issue facing the Canadian mining industry. Extensive acid-base accounting tests on the Fish Lake ore composite have demonstrated that due to a low sulphide and high carbonate content, project ore and waste rock are naturally acid consuming. Testwork results clearly show that the project's tailings containment areas and waste rock dumps will not develop acid mine drainage. In addition, tailings liquid returned analyses with negligible metal and trace element values.

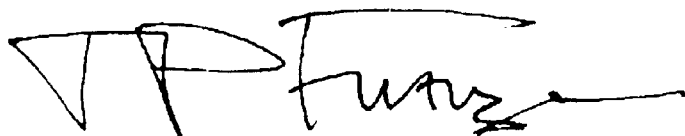
Testwork on a 700 lb. drill core composite returned an unusually low Operating Work Index value of 10 for the Fish Lake ore. The Operating Work Index is a direct measure of the amount of energy (electricity) required to grind an ore to a particle size for optimum liberation and recovery of copper and gold. Typically, these electrical energy costs account for one-third of the site operating costs for a large-scale open pit mine in British Columbia. A low Work Index value indicates a low energy requirement and therefore reduced project capital and operating costs. The Table below compares Operating Work Index values for Fish Lake with four other British Columbia open pit projects.

**OPERATING WORK INDICES
BRITISH COLUMBIA OPEN PIT PROJECTS**

OPEN PIT PROJECT	MILLING RATE TONS/DAY	OPERATING WORK INDEX
* <u>FISH LAKE</u>	<u>66,000</u>	10
BELL	15,000	14
GIBRALTAR	35,000	14
MT. MILLIGAN	66,000	21
AFTON	9,000	28

A large diameter diamond drilling program is in progress at Fish Lake. Three holes reported to date averaged 0.36% copper and 0.019 ounces gold per ton or 1.01% net smelter return copper equivalent over 2625 feet. Complete drill hole assay results and further technical information will be released as they become available.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Jeffrey P. Franzen
Director

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2 FIGURES FOR THIS RELEASE
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The Vancouver Stock Exchange has neither approved nor disapproved the information contained in this news release.