

Highmont Opens with a Blast

LOCATION

The Highmont copper/molybdenum deposits are in the south part of the Highland Valley, porphyry copper district, 125 miles northeast of Vancouver. The deposits lie four miles south of the

who did further reconnaissance work.

In 1966 Highmont Mining Corporation Ltd. (N.P.L.) was formed and acquired the 34 claim block from Torwest for the consideration of one million shares of

per/molybdenum deposits and yielded other encouraging results. Underground bulk sampling was conducted and initially financed by Nippon Mining Company. Nippon subsequently withdrew and the program was completed with funds raised by equity sale to the public. In 1969 Teck Corporation Ltd. entered into a financial agreement with Highmont, which included the right to finance the property to production.

By February, 1971, the consulting firm of Chapman, Wood and Griswold Ltd. in association with Wright Engineers Ltd. had completed a feasibility study on the project. Because of the economics prevailing at that time the project did not proceed. Subsequent to the feasibility study additional blocks of claims were purchased. In 1977 Torwest Resources Ltd. and Highmont Mining Corporation Ltd. (N.P.L.) were amalgamated to form Highmont Mining Corporation.

In late 1978 in view of prevailing copper and molybdenum prices, the feasibility study was reviewed and updated and the announcement to proceed with the project was made on 24 April, 1979. In July of 1979 Teck Corporation announced plans for a merger between Teck Corporation, Highmont Mining Corporation, and Iso Mines Ltd. This merger was completed by November.

GEOLOGY

The Highmont property contains seven copper/molybdenum deposits, most of which are in Skeena Quartz Diorite of the Guichon Creek batholith.

The four largest Highmont deposits occur adjacent to both contacts of a west-trending, steeply dipping composite dyke that is above 200 meters wide. The dyke consists mainly of quartz porphyry and has local zones of breccia. Sulphide deposition occurred after the composite dyke was intruded, but chiefly prior to brecciation. Zones dominated by bornite, by chalcopyrite and by chalcopyrite plus pyrite are roughly parallel to the composite dyke. Bornite predominated adjacent to the dyke and gives way outward, to chalcopyrite and pyrite

zones. Sulphide zoning and the ore deposits on both sides of the intrusion dip outward, away from the dike.

North of the dyke the adjacent No. 1 (East) and 2 (West) zones together contain 134 million tons of Open-pit ore mineable in two separate pits. These two zones will support a 25,000 tpd mill with grades of 0.26% Cu and .027% Mo.

Orebody definition and grade confirmation was accomplished by 64,000 feet of core drilling in the East Pit and 34,000 feet in the West Pit.

In the ore zones, chalcopyrite, bornite and molybdenite form disseminations and fracture-fillings accompanied by gangue minerals.

Higher grade mineralization tends to coincide with fracture swarms, or with shear zones and faults with largely parallel these swarms.

The ore zones are reflected by soil anomalies which show some glacial dispersion. IP surveys gave weak but significant responses. The ore zones occur within a strong magnetic gradient, but do not show a significant magnetic response.

OPEN PIT DEVELOPMENT

1. Pre-Production Stripping

Pre-production stripping began in the West Pit on June 2, 1980 and in the East Pit on November 5, 1980. The average depth of overburden in both pits was approximately 12 feet. Soils and overburden were mined using pit equipment and were stockpiled for later use in land reclamation. Waste rock mined was used for construction of haulage roads. Approximately 400,000 tons of treatable ore were stockpiled during the pre-production period.

2. Pit Design

The Stage I West Pit, 2100 ft. x 1500 ft. x 300 ft. deep with approximately 9 million tons of ore. The West Pit is presently 120 feet deep and will be the predominant source of ore during the first year of operation.

The Stage I East Pit is 3400 ft. x 1600 ft. x 330 ft. deep and is expected to produce 17 million tons of ore. The Stage I East Pit will

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Highmont mines: the official opening.

Bethlehem Mine and two miles southeast from the Lornex Mine.

HISTORY

Although the Highmont deposits are very largely hidden by a thin mantle of glacial till, averaging about 12 feet, the nearby higher ground exposes showings of copper/molybdenum sulfides which apparently were explored by prospectors in the 1930's. Because of widely scattered mineralization and favourable geology, the Gnawed Mountain area was repeatedly investigated.

The claims are part of a group that was staked in 1955 and 1956 and were subsequently held by Amador Mines, Highmont Resources Ltd., and subsequently Torwest Resources (1962) Ltd. Bob Falkins, President of Highmont Mining Corporation, participated in the staking almost 25 years ago.

In 1957 the claims were optioned to American Smelting and Refining, who did some preliminary geological mapping and five shallow churn drill holes. In 1959 Keneco Explorations Western Ltd. optioned the property for a brief period - their program consisted of mapping, trenching, soil sampling, some IP work, and two short diamond drill holes.

In 1964 and 1965 the claim group formed part of a parcel that was optioned to the Anaconda Group

excrowded Highmont stock.

In mid-1966 Rio Algom carried out localized IP work and some 2,700 feet of percussion drilling on an option basis. Subsequent to this in 1966 and 1967 an extensive program, by Highmont Mining Corporation Ltd. (N.P.L.), of diamond and percussion drilling outlined the largest of the cop-

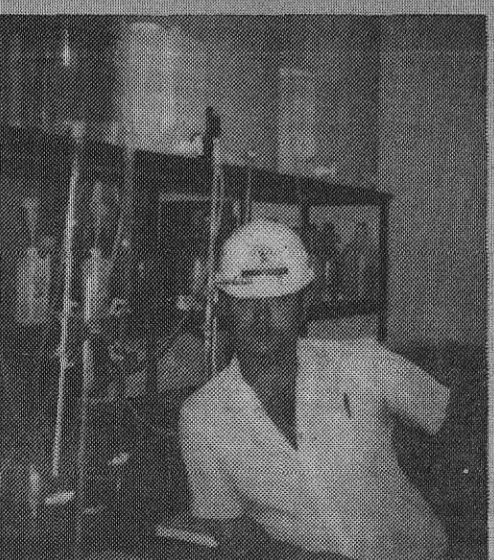
HIGHMOUNT OPENING

Sunday in Kamloops around 9 A.M. is ordinarily as exciting as a mid-afternoon siesta in Spain.

The Sunday of the official Highmont opening, however, was as unique as a mountain in Manitoba. It was an anomaly and it was a blast-off.

Balmy skies, and a 7:30 A.M. chartered flight on P.W.A. Champagne and cake served by a gracious hostess compliments of Teck Corp. Norio Nanbu of Nissho Iwai winking over his champagne "eye-opener" at my Canadian coffee and snapping shot after shot of the Kamloops open Pit Mines with the ubiquitous Japanese camera.

Touchdown: Chartered buses whisking us away to the Oriental Cafe, and Sunday brunch with a bunch of the boys; Mining Executives, Politicians and the Press. I'm sitting across from Kevan Alexander. Kevan works for



Kevan Alexander

Teck, young enthusiastic, conscientious, co-operative, and resourceful. Listening to Kevan talk about his bright prospects with Teck, one could easily sense the omnipresence of the charis-

matic Kevels' talking about the dynamic future of Teck and the Teck Frontier.

Back on the buses. Past Lornex and on to Highmont. Sitting beside John Guminski, - administrative, analytical, vigorous, and visionary. Typical of the Teck Team.

Highmont. "Bob" Falkins; Stoic, Prospector, Pioneer. "Bob" Hallbauer; a genuine page out of J.P. Getty's "The art of Being an executive", traces of Mark Twain's humour and wit surrounding a Hemingway view of courage, - "poise under pressure". Roland Mitchener, the benevolent God-Father; cosmopolitan and conquistador.

The Keevil Genius. Everything perfectly synchronized, yet as playful as a porpoise in water.

Moly, machines and men; copper and crowds. A tent and throngs of people. Beer, beans, and beef. A real blast and then blast-off.

The Highmont Opening. ●