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## KILBORN STUDIES CONFIRM MAJOR GOLD-COPPER MINE AT FISH LAKE

Robert G. Hunter, Chairman of Taseko Mines Limited (NASDAQ: TKOCF; VSE:TKO) is pleased to provide an update for the Company's 100% owned Fish Lake property, located near Williams Lake in south central British Columbia.

Kilborn Engineering Pacific Ltd. is nearing completion of a comprehensive Prefeasibility Study on the design, construction and operation of a 60,000 tonne per day open pit mine-mill complex for the Fish Lake gold-copper deposit. Kilborn's Prefeasibility Study addresses all aspects of the Fish Lake Project, including geology, ore reserves, mining, metallurgy, processing, concentrate handling, tailings disposal, infrastructure, ancillary facilities, environmental aspects, and reclamation requirements. In several areas, the level of detail and the analysis of the database is that of a feasibility study. A number of Project component trade-off and optimization studies, such as conveyors versus truck haulage, are still underway, but due to the very large size of the Project, these specific detailed engineering studies will take more time to complete.

The Prefeasibility Study prepared by Kilborn, with input from specialist consultants, confirms that the Fish Lake gold-copper porphyry deposit is a very large scale, long-life, comparatively low-cost, co-product mine. Once in production, Fish Lake will rank among Canada's largest and lowest cost producers of gold and copper.

The Fish Lake deposit contains a mineable reserve of 675 million tonnes of ore at an average grade of 0.236% copper and 0.434 grams gold per tonne (0.0127 oz/ton). The geometry and continuity of the reserve provides for efficient open pit mining with an overall life of mine waste to ore stripping ratio of 1.57:1. Mine life is 31 years. The mineable reserve contains 9.4 million ounces of gold and 3.5 billion pounds of copper.

Extensive metallurgical and mill process testing have confirmed that conventional crushing, grinding and staged flotation will recover on average 73.2% of gold and 87.3% of copper.

The standard-flotation process will produce a concentrate averaging 24.2% copper, 37.4 grams gold per tonne (1.1 oz/ton) and 89 grams silver per tonne (2.6 oz/ton).

At a milling rate of 60,000 tonnes per day (21.9 million tonnes/year) average annual production will be 222,360 ounces gold, 99 million pounds copper and 530,000 ounces silver contained in 185,000 tonnes of concentrate. Metal production levels emphasize the coproduct nature of the deposit where 51% of the value is in gold and 49% is in copper.

The cash cost for gold produced, net of copper and silver credits, is estimated to average US\$147 per ounce over the mine life. Or alternatively, if gold and silver are applied as a credit, the estimated cost to produce a pound of copper is US \$0.43. Cash costs of metal production rank within the lowest quartile of the world's producers of gold or copper.

Detailed cost engineering shows that the mine-mill complex will have an estimated mine site operating cost of \$5.19 per tonne of ore milled and are average net smelter return (NSR) of \$8.74 per tonne of ore at US \$395/ounce gold, US \$1.00/pound copper and a US \$0.73 to Cdn \$1.00 exchange rate.

Total revenues for the Project over its 31 year mine life are projected to be Cdn \$5.9 billion. Total pre-tax cash flow produced will be Cdn \$1.6 billion. Capital costs for the mine, mill, ancillary facilities and infrastructure are estimated at Cdn \$460 million which includes all contingencies and working capital.

The Fish Lake gold-copper project compares very favourably with large scale open-pit porphyry mines located in the region.

ESTIMATED COMPARATIVE STATISTICS*					
Mine	Valley Copper	Gibraltar	Fish Lake		
Tonnes Milled/Day	122,000	34,500	60,000		
Net Smelter Return/tonne ore Cdn\$	8.21	5.35	8.74		
Operating Cost/tonne ore Cdn\$	5.19	3.89	5.19		
Operating Margin/tonne ore Cdn\$	3.02	1.46	3.55		
Cost Per Pound of Copper US\$ (net of credits)	0.72	0.75	0.43		

\*Estimated by Taseko Mines Limited at \$1.00 Cu, \$395 Au, \$2.32 Mo and \$0.73 FXR and based on publicly reported statistics which have not been independently verified.

Taseko Mines is rapidly completing the trade off and optimization studies required for a final detailed economic analysis of the Fish Lake Project and at the same time is proceeding with completion of mine permitting and planning. An Application for a Mine Development Certificate will be submitted this fall to the Provincial Government.

Large scale production of gold and copper is projected to commence at Fish Lake during the last half of 1997. An initial mine work force of 442 employees will increase annually to a peak of 721 in year 23 of the 31 year mine life.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Robert G. Hunter

Chairman

The Vancouver Stock Exchange has neither approved nor disapproved the information contained in this news release.

REPORTED COMPARATIVE STATISTICS 1				
Mine	Highland Valley	Gibraltar	Fish Lake	
Year	1993	1992	Average Life of Mine	
Ore Reserve (million tonnes)	595	148	675	
Ore Grade Copper (%) Gold (gms/tonne) Molybdenum (%)	0.425 - 0.0073	0.301 - 0.0084	0.236 0.434 -	
Sales Revenue (Cdn\$ million)	274	67	190	
Tonnes Mined (million)	95	30	56	
Tonnes Milled (million)	44.5	12.7	21.9	
Tonnes Milled Per Day	122,000	34,500	60,000	
Mill Head Grade Copper (%) Gold (gms/tonne) Molybdenum (%)	0.417 - 0.009	0.34 - 0.008	0.236 0.434 -	
Mill Recovery (%) Copper (%) Gold (%) Molybdenum (%)	87.3 - 41.8	73.8 - 15.2	87.3 73.2	
Metal in Concentrate Copper (payable pounds) Copper Cathode (payable pounds) Gold (contained ounces) Molybdenum (contained pounds) Silver (contained ounces)	345,563,000 - 13,000 3,789,000 1,912,000	68,170,000 6,900,000 - 376,000	95,000,000 - 222,360 - 530,000	
Concentrates Produced (tonnes)	393,003	122,214	185,000	
Concentrate Grade Copper (%) Gold (gms/tonne) Molybdenum (%)	41 - 54	28 53	24 37 -	
Number of Employees	1,140	279	550	
<sup>1</sup> Based on publicly reported statistics which have not been independently verified.				

**ESTIMATED COMPARATIVE STATISTICS<sup>2</sup>** Mine Valley Copper Fish Lake Gibraltar Tonnes Milled/Day 122,000 34,500 60,000 Net Smelter Return/tonne ore Cdn\$ 8.21 5.35 8.74 Operating Cost/tonne ore Cdn\$ 5.19 3.89 5.19 Operating Margin/tonne ore Cdn\$ 3.02 1.46 3.55 Cost Per Pound of Copper US\$ 0.72 0.75 0.43 (net or credits)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Estimated by Taseko Mines Limited at \$395 Au, \$1.00 Cu, \$2.32 Mo and \$0.73 FXR and based on publicly reported statistics which have not been independently verified.