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Mount Polley Gold-Copper project to proceed. Imperial Metals Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation have agreed to proceed with construction of the Mount Polley porphyry gold-copper deposit. The total capital cost for the 18,000 tonne per day operation is estimated at \$123.5 million. Mineable reserves are 82.3 million tonnes grading 0.417 g/t Au and 0.3% Cu. Annual production is expected to exceed 100,000 ounces of gold (3.1 million grams) and 14,000 tons of copper (12,700 tonnes) during the first 4 years of the minimum 12 year mine life.

The Mount Polley project is located 56 km northeast of Williams Lake and will create about 200 jobs during construction and approximately 170 during mine

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operation. Site construction began in the fall of 1995 and will resume following spring break-up. Production is expected to commence in the fall of 1997.

Public presentation by Royal Oak Mines on the Kemess South mine development. Royal Oak staff (including Doug Johnson-Mgr of Environmental Services, B.C., Chan Rutal, Project Mgr., Jim Kosky, construction Mgr., and Larry Connell, Corporate Mgr. of Environmental Services), introduced by Ed Beswick, gave an overview of the project, including construction schedule and mining plan, to over 25 people in attendance (mostly contractors and tradesmen). The presentation was very well received-many questions regarding contracts and employment opportunities.

Minerals North '96 Conference. The municipality of Tumbler Ridge hosted a very successful and well-attended conference (>100 registrants). Ed Beswick, Jamie Parry and I presented talks. The slide presentation I gave, entitled "Summary of 1995 Exploration, Development and Mining Activity in the Northeast-Central Region British Columbia", had been prepared by Ken MacDonald.

KEG '96 Conference in Kamloops was attended. It was another upbeat, well-run and well-attended meeting.

1995 PRODUCTION AT NORTHEAST-CENTRAL REGION LODE METAL MINES (unofficial-compiled by Schroeter and Lane, April '96):

QR: 21,215 oz gold were produced from 194,000 tonnes of ore milled at an operating cost of US \$234 per ounce of gold produced. Reserves as of Jan. 1/96 are 1.29 million tonnes grading 4.35 g/t Au.

Gibraltar: 30,394 tonnes copper and 30.4 tonnes molybdenum were produced from 13.8M tonnes of ore milled at a rate of 38,000 tonnes per day. Proven and probable reserves as of Jan. 1/96 are 162.3 million tonnes grading 0.297% Cu and 0.009% Mo.

Endako: 6,536 tonnes of molybdenum were produced from 10.6M tonnes of ore milled. The daily rate of production was 28,900 tonnes. Reserves as of Jan. 1/96 are 104.8 million tonnes grading 0.077% Mo.

1996 PRODUCTION:

Gibraltar: Production for the first quarter of 1996 is 14.3 million lbs. Cu and 69,000 lbs. Mo. Severe winter conditions resulted in lower than anticipated production levels.

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