

Two small limestone quarries, **Giscome** and **Dahl Lake**, did not operate in 1998, but sold a limited amount of material from stockpiles to be used principally for landscaping. The **Giscome** quarry, 20 kilometres northeast of Prince George, is owned by **Kode - Jerrat Quarries Ltd.** The **Dahl Lake** limestone quarry, 50 kilometres southwest of Prince George, is owned by **Northrock Industries Ltd.**

The **Giscome** and **Ahbau** railroad ballast quarries supplied material for mainline routes in their respective areas.

### Future Mine Developments

**Placer Dome Inc.** received an amendment to extend the **Project Approval Certificate (PAC)** for its **Mt. Milligan** porphyry copper-gold deposit for 5 years to 2003. A company review of the projects economic viability resulted in a decision to put the development on hold.

**Pine Valley Coal Ltd.**, (operator for the **BCR Ventures Inc.**, **Falls Mountain Coal Inc.** and **Mitsui Matsushima Canada Ltd.** joint venture), received a **PAC** for its **Willow Creek** coal project from the province's **Environmental Assessment Office** on **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1998**. The property, located 45 kilometres west of **Chetwynd**, is in the process of being converted into a mine lease. The company hopes to start construction of a 900 000 tonnes per year open-pit coal mine in 1999. Capital cost of the project is an estimated \$20 million. The operation would require a workforce of 110 during its 15-year mine life. The current mineable in-place reserve for the **North and Central** areas is 15.65 million tonnes of thermal and low-grade coking coal.

The low-volatile coal measures are in the upper and middle members of the **Gething Formation**, on the northeast limb of the **Coal River anticline**. During the year large diameter core-drilling generated two bulk samples for testing by potential customers. A 200 kg sample was collected for testing as a **PCI (Pulverized Coal Injection)** coal and a 600 kg sample was evaluated for its carbonization characteristics and its applicability as a semisoft coking coal. **Pine Valley's** immediate plans are to mine and ship 50 000 tonnes of low-ash coal from the **South Peninsula** area of the deposit to three potential buyers of **PCI coal**.

At the **Belcourt** property, 100 km south of **Quintette**, **Western Coal Corporation** drilled a series of holes on the **Holtlander** reserve area to confirm general structure, coal seam thickness and basic coal quality data. A more detailed program is planned for 1999. Current reserves for the property are reported for the **Red Deer (34.6 million tonnes)**, **Holtlander (23.8 million tonnes)** and **Omega (44.8 million tonnes)** areas.