

YGS → MFM  
Weekly

### Oil and Gas Rights Sale:

- September sale of oil and gas rights brought \$51.7 million, the largest sale amount in 15 years. Focus of the sale was a very lightly explored area 70 kilometres southeast of Fort Nelson. Fiscal year-to-date bonus revenue now stands at \$145.3 million. (PLA)

### Industry News:

- Unocal has ended its efforts to block development of the North Aitken underground storage project by purchasing the facility from Canadian Hunter. The storage facility will now be operated in conjunction with Unocal's Aitken Creek facility (PLA).
- The joint venture of ZincOx Resources Ltd. and Redhawk Resources Inc. has completed about half of a 2600m reverse circulation drilling program at the Remac property south of Salmo. (MB)
- *Black Crystal* IMP Industrial Mineral Park's (soon to be Crystal Graphite Corp.) have been refinanced and have reactivated their proposed 200,000 to 300,000 ton/year graphite mine on the Black Crystal property on Hoder Creek (near Valhalla Park). A pre-application EA meeting with staff from the EA office and all interested agencies was planned to take place on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. (MB)
- *HVC* Highland Valley Copper - Mine announced on September 1<sup>st</sup> that further exploration is unlikely before the scheduled closure of the mine in Spring of 2009. A three year extension (deepening of Valley pit) is possible depending on the price of copper nearer to the closure date. (MB)
- *Tulameen* Tulameen Coal (Pacific West Coal) - Permit issued this week for 100,000 tonne per year mine. Logging of site (Tolko) to begin in October. Bulk sample this fall depending on results of marketing efforts. (MB)
- Leader Mining International Inc. made the second payment of \$150,000 to Imperial Metals on August 31 as part of their purchase of the Similco and Invermay properties. The final payment of \$700,000 is due on December 1, 2000. Geological compilation is underway and the company is evaluating how to restart the mine. (MB)
- August 17<sup>th</sup> was the last day of production from the Quintette Coal Plant. (MB)
- Mt. Polley - West Rock Disposal Site Public Meeting was attended by Prince George and Victoria Inspectors. Minimum public interest was expressed. (MB)
- Eskay Creek is proceeding with construction of the pipeline to carry tails to Tom McKay Lake. Much of the bed for the pipe to rest on is now in place and work is underway installing the pipeline. The mine received EA approval 3 months ago and is moving quickly to get maximum work completed prior to winter. (MB)
- Slate Creek Group is threatening litigation against MEM after they were ordered to stop work at Tulameen. Survey and design information for the temporary access road is required under the MX Code. (MB)
- Afton, Teck Corp (Kamloops) - a company from Sudbury, Ontario is inquiring about establishing an explosives plant warehouse in the Ajax East Pit (which is partially filled with waste rock). MEM concerns it may impact access to remaining undeveloped ore reserves in the nearby Ajax West Pit and ground between the two pits. Discussions ongoing with Teck regarding removal of this area from their permit. (MB)
- Approximately 350 CAW workers walked off the job at Myra Falls operations at midnight on September 20<sup>th</sup> when they were unable to conclude a collective agreement with Boliden-Westmin by the strike deadline. Workers were out for a total of 40 hours before accepting the agreement. (MB)
- Cassiar resumed production on August 2 after a four week forced shutdown due to a cash flow problem. (MB)
- On July 31<sup>st</sup> Wheaton River Minerals advised Boliden Ltd. that they would not proceed with the acquisition of an interest in the Premier Mill and Tailings storage system. They felt that the degree of uncertainty associated with both the technical and cost issues would expose the company to an imprudent degree of unquantifiable liability. Pond capacity, dam integrity, acid generating potential of existing tailings, the potential for intervention during the permit amendment stage, the necessity of adding another (downstream) lift on the dam, a new water reclaim system and holding costs were among factors considered. (MB)