



→ Cirque  
MAR 20 1991

881783

To: Selected Members  
Mine Development Review Process  
(See Distribution List)

Date: March 22, 1991  
File: 15140-20/Cirque

**Re: Cirque Lead/Zinc/Silver Project - Stage I Review**

Curragh Resources Ltd. has now distributed its February 1991, Stage I report for a full detailed review prior to completing Stage I of the Province's Mine Development Review Process and a decision on project approval-in-principle. The Company has distributed the report directly to provincial and federal MDRP review agencies, native groups, the public and public libraries.

The objective of the review for the Stage I Report is to determine if the report has addressed the outstanding issues raised at the end of the prospectus review (July, 1989) by the government agencies. The prospectus review indicated that a thorough assessment of the potential for acid mine drainage be addressed, along with a complete analysis of the socio-economic impacts of the project to be included in the Stage I Report.

With respect to the foregoing, you are asked to review the Stage I submission from your agency's mandate and management perspective. Your Stage I review should be geared toward the following:

- o a decision on AIP at the end of Stage I review; and
- o a decision on whether or not outstanding concerns can be handled at Stage III, thereby passing Stage II.

In conducting your review, you should focus as necessary from your agency's perspective on any key issues which were previously noted in the prospectus review, or that have been subsequently raised.

In order to expedite the review of this project, the company will be prepared to meet with key review agencies early in the review to obtain preliminary feedback on any strategic outstanding Stage I concerns which need to be addressed prior to completion of Stage I and decision on approval-in-principle. Early identification of major issues would allow the company to make use of the MDRP review time to assemble and provide additional information, if required. In this respect, the Northeast MDRC has scheduled a preliminary review meeting for April 18, 1991 in Prince George, to address emerging, key strategic issues from concerned agencies.

In the meantime, you are asked to respond with a full agency review of the submission by May 2, 1991, to the following questions from the standpoint of your agency's interests.

1. Do you support the granting of approval-in-principle at the end of Stage I? Alternatively, should a decision on approval-in principle be deferred to the end of Stage II?
2. Do you have concerns, comments or information requirements which should be addressed in a Stage II submission? Alternatively, could outstanding issues be resolved through routine permitting processes at Stage III?
3. If you require information at Stage II, please indicate the topics and the level of information required.
4. If you do not require Stage II involvement, what (if any) information, permitting requirements, etc. must be satisfied at Stage III?

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in expediting the review of this project submission.



**Norm Ringstad**  
Chairman  
Mine Development Steering Committee  
c/o Engineering and Inspection Branch  
Mineral Resources Division

NR:BP

cc: **Ralph McGinn**  
**Steve Wuschke**

**Distribution List**

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VGS -> STRONSAY (CIRRAH)



Province of  
British Columbia

# NEWS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES  
AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
LANDS AND PARKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 1992

## STRONSAY MINE GETS GOVERNMENT GREEN LIGHT

VICTORIA--Curragh Inc.'s Stronsay lead/zinc project, which will create 330 new mining jobs in northern B.C., has been approved by the provincial government. Mines Minister Anne Edwards and Environment, Lands and Parks Minister John Cashore announced today.

A Mine Development Certificate issued to Curragh Inc.'s wholly owned subsidiary Stronsay Corporation, allows the company to go ahead with plans for an underground mine and milling facility at the site 270 kilometres north of Mackenzie.

The certificate, while not itself a permit to construct, represents government endorsement of the project and paves the way for individual licences and permits to construct and operate the mine. Stronsay is the second new mine authorized under the B.C. Mine Development Assessment Act in the last three months.

"This is positive news for B.C.'s mining industry and the Peace River region," Edwards said. "The approval of this mine will lead to the creation of new jobs and prompt new investment."

"The Mine Development Certificate ensures that the highest water quality standards are met for the Cache Creek drainage, and that the downstream fisheries resource will be adequately protected," said Cashore.

Since the proposal was first received in 1989, Curragh Inc. has undertaken extensive public consultation with individuals and communities most affected by the development to ensure their significant and ongoing input into project planning.

.../more

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The new jobs will be created over the proposed 20-year life of the mine. Economic spin-offs will primarily benefit north-central British Columbia. Residents of northern communities will be employed by Curragh to work at the mine. To address the concerns of aboriginal communities, Curragh has adopted a hiring policy which gives priority to the Kaska Dena and Tsay Keh Dene.

The mine and milling facility will process approximately 3,500 tonnes/per day, 365 days per year. Process water will be obtained primarily from the tailings pond with the balance from storage in the upper Cache Creek basin.

"In solving complex technical issues, the company has employed very innovative approaches to meet our requirements for maintaining water quality and protecting fish," said Cashore.

Federal government agencies have given the project the environmental screening required under the federal Environmental Assessment Review Process Guidelines and concluded that impacts can be managed with current technology.

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For further information contact:

Candace Kenyon  
Acting Director  
Ministry of Energy, Mines  
and Petroleum Resources  
Communications and  
Public Affairs Branch  
(604) 387-5178

Bob Hart  
Senior Coordinator  
Ministry of Environment,  
Lands and Parks  
Environmental Assessment  
Branch  
(604) 387-9844

NOTE TO EDITORS: COPIES OF THE MINE DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE, THE 'REASONS FOR DECISION' AND OTHER BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. CALL SUSAN FERGUSON AT (604) 356-2212.



Province of British Columbia  
 Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
 Communications and Public Affairs Branch



708 → CIRQUE

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Please deliver the following message.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Janice Bobick  
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Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

↓  
Tom

RUSH

|       |                 |          |                                     |                  |          |                          |
|-------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| From: | Irwin Henderson | 387-5178 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Tracey Whittaker | 387-5178 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Comments: Here's a copy of the press release  
about the \$37-million govt contribution.  
The press release doesn't say anything  
about the \$ but the news paper  
article does. Premier announced it  
in Fort St John yesterday - (the \$ amount)

Number of pages including cover sheet: 4

Confidential: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Urgent: Yes:  No: \_\_\_\_\_

Our fax machine number is (604) 356-8969.

If there is a problem with this message, please phone (604) 387-5178.

Fr. St. John - Rita Johnston  
gave \$37,000,000 to Pearl Mine?

Glenda 665-3365.

Vancouver Public Library

Stonson Mine  
\$140,000,000 project

8000 2d Street, Vancouver B.C. V6P 1A2

Department of  
Energy, Mines and  
Technical Services

British Columbia  
Province of



- maximize water recycling and minimize the use of fresh water;
- monitor water quality and fisheries impacts associated with the project;
- hire an environmental officer to monitor environmental effects during construction;
- file contingency plans for emergencies and hazards;
- continue to work with the Kaska Dena Nation, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council and their members to ensure that Indian concerns are included and local bands benefit economically during project construction and operation.

Reclamation after mining will focus on restoring wildlife habitat and protecting water quality.

The certificate will be issued under the Mine Development Assessment Act, which has just come into effect. The Act formalizes B.C.'s mine development review process which has considered over 150 mine proposals since 1976.

The process gives a "one-window" contact point for the public, mining companies and government agencies. It integrates environmental, engineering, and socio-economic factors in decision-making on all aspects of mining projects.

Key decisions required under the Act are shared between the Energy and Mines Minister and the Minister of Environment. The process is public at each stage. There is explicit provision for negotiation, mediation and public hearings during reviews, as well as legal sanctions for violating the act's provisions.

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For further information contact:

Irwin Henderson, Director  
Communications and Public Affairs  
(604) 387-5178





Province of  
British Columbia

SEP 24 1991

## NEWS RELEASE

Geological Survey Branch  
MEMPR

VOS → CIRQUE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES  
AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1991:67

September 24, 1991

~~NEW STRONSAY MINE~~ DEVELOPMENT GETS GOVERNMENT APPROVAL

Victoria - Energy and Mines Minister Jack Weisgerber and Environment Minister Dave Mercier announced today that they have approved the Mine Development Certificate for the proposed Stronsay lead-zinc mine in northern B.C.

The two ministers will be issuing the certificate at the conclusion of the federal environmental review, expected in the next two weeks.

The \$140-million, 3,500-tonne-per-day mining and milling operation, located 280 kilometres northwest of Mackenzie, will employ 200 during construction and more than 300 for the 15-years-plus of expected mine life.

"Stronsay's Mine Development Certificate will be the first issued under new legislation which mandates the review of all mining proposals," said Weisgerber. "Environmental acceptability is key to sustainable mine development. The company has consulted widely in the region and held public meetings to explain its proposal."

"The company's plans for environmental protection are innovative and will reduce impacts to acceptable levels," said Mercier.

The Mine Development Certificate will require Stronsay to:

-- design an environmentally sound minesite, mill operation and reclamation program in line with explicit conditions;

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Wednesday, September 25, 1991

## MacBlo in recycling venture

\$400-million California newsprint mill planned with German producer

BY PATRICIA LUSH

British Columbia Bureau

B3

VANCOUVER — MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. of Vancouver and Haindl Papier of Germany are looking at building a \$400-million (U.S.) newsprint recycling mill in California.

The move is in response to California's increasingly stringent requirements for recycled content in newspapers.

MacMillan sells half of its entire newsprint output in California, about 465,000 tonnes in 1990.

MacMillan and Haindl, based in Augsburg and one of the world's largest producers of recycled paper, say they will decide, probably early in the new year, on whether to proceed with the mill.

The 50-50 joint venture project would include a 258,000 tonne news-

print machine and initially employ 160 people. The companies are considering two locations, West Sacramento and Turlock, southeast of Oakland. MacMillan said both are close to major population centres and could also draw on recyclable material from Southern California.

California has legislated purchasing preference for recycled paper in state agency contracts and requires publishers and commercial printers to buy 25 per cent of their newsprint with at least 40 per cent recycled content. By the end of this decade, 50 per cent recycled content will be the rule.

MacMillan is already involved in a de-inking and recycling plant that is scheduled to open in Vancouver later this fall. The Newstech plant is expected to absorb all of the available waste newsprint from Vancouver and the surrounding area. MacMillan and Vancouver-based Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd., co-sponsors of that project, have contracted to take all of Newstech's output.

That means a shortage of waste newsprint for B.C. producers, which will have to comply with legislation such as California's when it becomes law in other areas. And that projected shortage has fuelled a debate over whether to import old newspapers from more populous regions to mix with virgin pulp here, or to set up shop closer to the newspaper supply.

MORE...

## B.C. to support Curragh development

BY ALLAN ROBINSON

Mining Reporter

B1

Curragh Resources Inc. has won the support of the British Columbia government to proceed with the \$140-million development of the Stronsay lead and zinc project, but financing is not yet in place and the question of ownership is unresolved.

Development of the Stronsay project in northern British Columbia will make Curragh one of the top four producers of lead and zinc concentrates in the Western world, Curragh said.

Yesterday, at the outset of a provincial election, the B.C. Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources said it has "reached agreement in principle" to spend \$37-million on transportation facilities to help Curragh develop the Stronsay mine.

Final environmental approvals, the first under the new B.C. environmental legislation, are also said to be under way, the government said.

The government's \$37-million contribution includes \$12-million for an air strip, \$10-million for a rail link to an all-weather barge on Wiliston Lake in order to remove the ore, and \$15-million for bulk terminal facilities at Squamish.

Clifford Frame, chairman of Toronto-based Curragh, estimates that the direct capital costs of the project will be \$140-million and the company will need another \$20-million in working capital. Construction of the 3,500-tonne-a-day mine and mill is to begin in the spring of 1992.

However, Mr. Frame said, there could be changes in the eventual

ownership of Stronsay Corp., the company developing the project located 240 kilometres northwest of Fort St. John. Curragh owns 70 per cent of Stronsay and Asturiana De Zinc SA, a Spanish zinc smelter, owns 30 per cent.

Mr. Frame said Curragh and Asturiana have been involved in what he described as "friendly" discussions that could lead to the two companies winding up their interlocking ownership positions. Along with its 30-per cent interest in Stronsay, Asturiana owns 5 per cent of Curragh. Curragh, in turn, owns 20.8 per cent of Asturiana.

Mr. Frame said Curragh and Asturiana are considering breaking up because they have been unable since 1989 to reach an agreement to create a joint international marketing organization to carry out metal sales activities. For Curragh this was to be an important part of its continuing relationship with Asturiana.

Mr. Frame said both Curragh and Asturiana support a continuing relationship in which Curragh would supply concentrate to the smelting company.

Mining analysts say Curragh has been looking for joint venture partners for both the Stronsay (formerly known as Cirque) and Sa Dena Hea (formerly known as the Mt. Henderson) projects.

Curragh is also trying to raise \$55-million through the issue of 11-per cent convertible debentures to spend on the development of its Faro mines in Yukon. None of this money will be allocated to the Stronsay project, Mr. Frame said.



MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES  
AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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1991:67

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1991:67

- 2 -

- maximize water recycling and minimize the use of fresh water;
- monitor water quality and fisheries impacts associated with the project;
- hire an environmental officer to monitor environmental effects during construction;
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- continue to work with the Kaska Dena Nation, Carrier-Sekani Tribal Council and their members to ensure that Indian concerns are included and local bands benefit economically during project construction and operation.

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For further information contact:

Irwin Henderson, Director  
Communications and Public Affairs  
(604) 387-5178



Province of  
British Columbia

ENGINEERING AND  
INSPECTION BRANCH

Ministry of  
Energy, Mines and  
Petroleum Resources

# MEMORANDUM

To: Selected Members  
Mine Development Review Process  
(See Distribution List)

August 7, 1991

File: 1514-20/Stronsay

**Re: Stronsay Project - Stage I Addendum Review**

On July 3, 1991 the Stronsay Corporation distributed its Stage I Addendum report to key MDRP agencies for review and a decision on project approval-in-principle. The addendum is to address issues raised by key agencies at the conclusion of a preliminary review of the company's January, 1991 Stage I submission. It should be noted that, on July 6, 1991 Rescan Environmental Services Ltd. distributed an erratum sheet for page 4-45 of the addendum.

As a result of the preliminary Stage I review, it was agreed that an independent geotechnical consultant would be retained by the province to conduct a review of specific geotechnical and related sections of the addendum.

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources has retained the professional services of Mr. C.O. Brawner, who has recently completed a review of the company's Stage I submission. Mr. Brawner has now also completed his review of the addendum based on terms of reference developed by District MEMPR staff, in consultation with Rescan. The terms of reference are attached for your information (memo from D. Miller to N. Ringstad, 1991-07-29). Mr. Brawner's geotechnical review is also attached for your information.

The Ministry of Environment, having reviewed the terms of reference for Mr. Brawner, has raised several additional questions that should be addressed in the independent geotechnical review (memo from A. Phillips to N. Ringstad, 1991-08-07 - attached). Mr. Brawner has been requested to review these issues and provide his assessment as soon as possible. The results of this further review will be faxed to you as soon as they are received

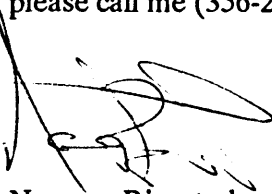
In the meantime based on Mr. Brawner's review, you are requested to focus your agency's review of the addendum on those issues raised by your agency that were not covered by the independent geotechnical review. We should do whatever is reasonable to expedite the review. I am sure that Mr. Brawner's assessment should substantially reduce the volume of addendum material required to be reviewed by key agencies.

|          |             |     |   |
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The Stronsay Corporation is still encouraging an expedited review of the addendum, and a decision on project approval-in-principle. The company has recently submitted to the Ministry of Environment, permit applications for refuse disposal (domestic), effluent discharge from the tailings impoundment, air discharge from the primary underground raises, and a water licence for domestic and industrial consumption from Cache Creek. As well, a Rescan is currently completing a detailed reclamation plan to be soon reviewed by the Reclamation Advisory Committee. Permitting agencies are encouraged to expedite the review of permit applications as the company may still wish to make use of this summer's construction season.

An overall review deadline of August 20 has been set. This gives a total review period of approximately six weeks from the time of receiving the addendum directly from the company.

I appreciate every effort your agency can make to meet this deadline and cooperate in the completion of the Stage I review. If you have any questions or require more information, please call me (356-2229).



Norman Ringstad  
Chairman  
Mine Development Steering Committee  
c/o Resource Management Branch  
Mineral Resources Division

cc: R. McGinn  
Steve Wuschke  
Tom Schroeter  
Nicholas May

attach: Terms of Reference - Geotechnical Review  
C.O. Brawner Geotechnical Review  
Ministry of Environment Supplemental Terms of Reference

#### Distribution

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Dave Turner  
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