

AJAX

A definition drilling program at the **Ajax mine (Afton Operating Corp.)** has returned good results according to mine geologist Scott Smith. Good assays have come from holes on the SE side of the Ajax west pit, within phase P3 and P4 of the mine plan. This may allow Afton to redesign and enlarge the final pit. In addition, massive albite alteration has been encountered in new drill holes on the south side of the Ajax east pit.

Blackdome

Claimstaker Resources and Aurizon Mines are busy at the **Blackdome mine** SW of Williams Lake. Aurizon geologist Andy Smith indicates they have done some underground rehab and are preparing to drift on veins identified by previous drilling. Soil sampling has been done to better locate nearby veins in preparation for a possible surface drilling program this fall. Aurizon must spend \$500K by January and then will make a decision to proceed with a \$1.5M program next year. They seem confident the mine can be put back into production next year. Aurizon is interested in looking at other gold prospects in BC.

HVC

Highland Valley Copper has nearly completed about 30 km of IP survey, mainly in the deep overburden-covered portions of the valley east of the mine gate (in the vicinity of the JA deposit). Overburden ranges from 130 m to over 300 m! The company is using a very high powered, Chilean-designed IP transmitter to get deeper penetration. HVC has also done limited drilling in the Valley pit and around JA.

Industrial Minerals

Pacific Bentonite has applied to the regional mine development committee for two bulk sample permits for their property near Hat Creek Coal. They propose mining 10,000 tonnes of red shale for sale as landscape rock and another 10,000 tonnes of bentonite. Proceeds from the sale of the shale will go to financing ongoing R&D on a bentonite-based geosynthetic liner that they are developing.

Craigmont

Craigmont Mines (M. Seven Industries) continues to produce about 60,000 tonnes per year of magnetite by processing old Craigmont tailings. They have filed a conceptual design to create a new tailings storage dam (on top of the old) which will allow the operation to continue for at least another 15 years.

Crow-Rea

Verdstone Gold/Amcorp Industries seem encouraged by sampling results from the **Crow-Rea (Lori)** moly property near Summerland. A Notice to do trenching has been received. Discovery Consultants is managing the project and has been staking up other nearby moly targets.

Spokane Resources has completed a drill program on the **Spokane-Rex Mountain** property near Lillooet. The program was successful in locating the vein structures. I will visit this property on Oct. 4.

LAND USE

On Sept. 13 Rick Meyers and I convinced IAMC to amend two proposed Study Area boundaries to exclude important exploration projects. About 1100 Ha of the **Rose-Munro Lake** property, owned by Almaden Resources Corp., were removed from the Darke-

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