



Province of
British Columbia

Crystal Peak
882179

NEWS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND
PETROLEUM RESOURCES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1990:48

August 28, 1990

CRYSTAL PEAK GETS EXPLORATION APPROVAL

Victoria, B.C. - Mines Minister Jack Davis today announced approval of mineral exploration and reclamation programs for Polestar Exploration Inc.'s Crystal Peak garnet project. The program has been approved to obtain information required by the province's Mine Development Steering Committee.

The project is located 32 kilometres southwest of Penticton and lies partly in the Apex Mountain recreation area -- one of 11 provincial recreation areas selectively opened to mineral exploration in 1989.

Polestar's programs were reviewed by the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Parks and other government agencies. As well, input was considered from persons affected or interested in the program.

The company's work will be inspected by key government agencies to ensure that it meets standards of reclamation and environmental protection for mineral development within recreation areas.

"As normally required by my Ministry, the company will post a bond to ensure reclamation and revegetation of land disturbed by mining and the protection of waterways," said Davis.

"Polestar will also file an annual report of all work done."

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In a parallel move, the B.C. Parks Ministry is studying recreation values in the surrounding Apex/Nickel Plate Lake area and will develop a master plan for the area.

"Polestar will make information available to the ministry planning study," said Ivan Messmer, Parks Minister and MLA for Boundary-Similkameen. "This joint approach will let us integrate environmental and economic factors later this year when we make decisions on the project and on recreation land use."

Last fall, Polestar submitted a prospectus on its proposed project and held an open house to provide the public with an opportunity to review its proposal. Following a full review of the prospectus the company was directed to begin collection of Stage I information. The next step in the B.C. Mine Development Review Process requires Polestar to submit a Stage I report, which will address government and public concerns.

The company proposes to produce an industrial grade garnet. The garnet would be marketed primarily as a sand-blasting material, environmentally preferable to silica sands and smelter slags. Start-up could be as early as 1991, if approvals are obtained and the project is feasible.

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For further information contact:

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

TGS → BC ~~Envir. Info~~
Crystal Peak.

B.C. Environmental Information Institute

Box 5253, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4B5 (604) 683-5133 Fax (604) 685-8697

September 24, 1991

Dear Member;

The mining industry plays an important role in British Columbia and a number of our members have been asking that we examine this industry. Numerous suggestions were made as to specific mining issues that could be addressed and the directors decided to initiate a case study on two specific projects. These projects are;

- 1 The Crystal Peak Garnet Project, just south of Penticton, being developed by Polestar Exploration Inc.
- 2 The Windy Craggy Project, in the extreme North West corner of British Columbia, being developed by Geddes Resources Ltd.

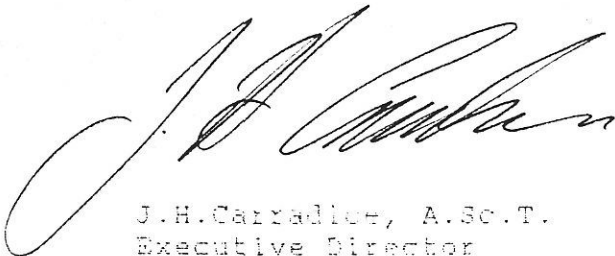
We have finished our review of the Crystal Peak Garnet Project and a detailed report of our findings is attached.

Work is progressing on our review of the Windy Craggy Project and we expect our report to be ready for distribution in late October.

During the course of working on these projects we were made aware of a new brochure produced by the Mining Association of British Columbia. We found this brochure to be useful and particularly appreciated the summary of the Mine Development Assessment Process. A copy of the brochure, which you may find interesting, is included in this mailing.

If you have any suggestions with respect to environmental study projects you would like to see the Institute pursue or if you have any specific questions with respect to any of the current environmental issues please write or give us a call. If you get the answering machine please be patient. We are often out of the office but we will get back to you.

Best Regards



J.H. Carradice, A.Sc.T.
Executive Director



Province of
British Columbia

Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources

MEMORANDUM

October 23, 1991

File: 15100-20/Crystal

To: See Distribution List

Re: Crystal Peak Public Meeting

I would like to confirm the Open House and public meeting to be held on Monday, October 28, 1991, at the Penticton Convention Centre in Salons B and C. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the technical review of the Crystal Peak project with the public.

The Open House will be held from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. Government staff who conducted the technical review of the project should attend the Open House to discuss the review of the project with the public.

The public meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by government and will be chaired by Mr. Ken Youds, as an independent facilitator. Representatives from Polestar will also be attending.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or Anne Currie (356-2209).

A. Currie

for Norman Ringstad, A/Director
Mine Development Assessment Branch

NR:AC:sf

cc: Tom Schroeter
Vic Preto

Gil Scott
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MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES
AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TBS → Crystal Peak

1991:65

September 17, 1991

CRYSTAL PEAK GARNET PROPOSAL TECHNICAL REVIEW COMPLETED

Victoria - Plans for a public meeting on the proposed Crystal Peak Garnet Project, located partly in the Apex Recreation Area near Penticton, were announced today by Energy and Mines Minister Jack Weisgerber.

"A report summarizing the technical review by provincial government agencies will be released," said the minister. The report details the comments and management strategies relating to the project's impacts. These include environmental factors such as water quality and water management--as well as visual, noise and dust impacts and effects on recreation and tourism. Copies of the report will be available at the Penticton Government Agent's Office and at City Hall later this week.

Owing to the proximity to the highly-used Apex Alpine ski development, the impact of the proposed garnet operation on tourism has been in the forefront of public concern. "Accordingly, an open house followed by a public meeting will be held in late October," Weisgerber added. "This will give the public the time necessary to review the summary report and a further opportunity to provide input before the government makes a decision on the proposed project."

Polestar Exploration Inc. proposes a six-week-per-year garnet quarry and a year-round processing plant, creating more than 50 local jobs and supplying garnet for use as a substitute for sand in abrasive blast cleaning. There is enough raw garnet to supply a 25-year operation.

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Early in the review process, in response to public concerns over visual, noise and hydrological impacts, the company brought forward new plans. These moved the proposed quarry, mill and access road from the north flank of Mount Riordan to the mountain's west flank, reduced the planned quarrying season, and relocated the preferred processing plant-site one kilometre away from the recreation area.

The project entered the B.C. Mine Development Review Process in 1989 and a Prospectus, Stage I Report and other technical documents have been published and given co-ordinated reviews. The Parks ministry held an open house on its draft area master plan and a number of Information Letters have been circulated to keep the public informed.

Details on the date and location of the open house and public meeting to be held in Penticton will be provided in the local newspaper.

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For further information contact:

Irwin Henderson, Director of
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Phone (604) 387-5178

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