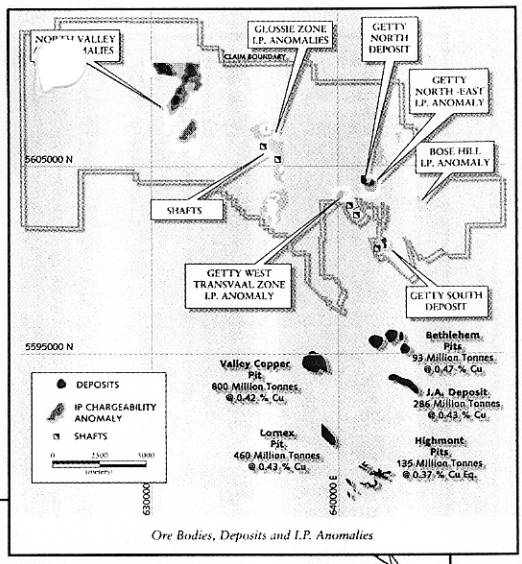
Getty Copper

Trying Out for the Big Leagues

By Julie Domvile

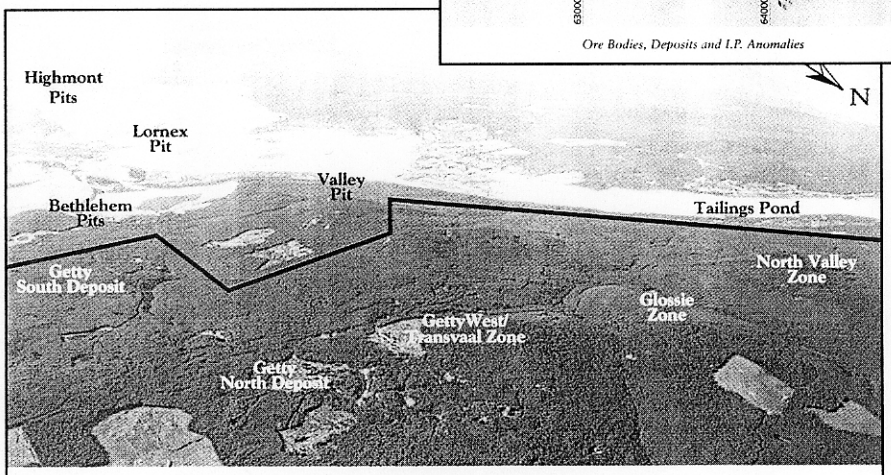


Ore Bodies, Deposits and I.P. Anomalies

The Getty Copper Corp. (GTY-VSE/TSE) story is one of the little guys getting a chance at joining the big leagues. The property in question, 212 square km of contiguous claims in the Highland Valley of B.C., is within spitting distance of nine major copper porphyry deposits, including one of the world's largest mining operations, the Highland Valley open pit. The big leagues.

The Getty property hosts two known deposits and several promising targets. The focus of the company's attention is the wholly owned Getty North porphyry deposit. The Getty North has been systematically drilled on NE sections 30 m apart producing a resource estimate of 72.1 million drill-indicated and inferred tonnes having an average grade of 0.31% Cu, including 10.03 million tonnes of drill indicated and drill inferred oxidized material having an average grade of 0.4% Cu and 44.4 million tonnes of sulphide-copper resource having an average grade of 0.37% Cu. The Getty North is currently at the pre-feasibility stage. Mechanical trenching is being conducted to expose the deposit and to obtain the bulk sample for the on-site leaching test.

The Getty South is next on the list of priorities. It is a breccia-hosted copper deposit approximately 550 m long and 260 m wide with an inferred resource of 36 million inferred tonnes having an estimated grade of 0.47% Cu, including 2-3 million inferred tonnes of subcropping oxidized material. The Getty South is held under a 50% joint-venture with Roak Industries.



Location of Getty Copper Corp. project in relation to Highland Valley Copper Mine open pits.

Both these deposits are located "within a well defined northerly trending structural zone which contains Bethlehem and later phase dykes and breccias, the Bethlehem deposits (93 million tonnes mined) and the very deep, unmined JA deposit (286 million tonnes)" according to a company report. The company plans a staged development approach to develop the two deposits.

Environmental baseline studies have been ongoing for three years, while water quality monitoring in local creeks and tributaries will continue for the duration of the mine.

Cathode copper will be recovered from the oxide mineralization through the heap leaching and solvent extraction-electrowinning (SX-EW) process, making "Getty Copper the first stand alone company to use the SX-EW extraction method in B.C.," says Dr. Vic Preto, Director and Consulting Geologist. The SX-EW technology is less capital cost intensive and produces the highest quality (99.99% pure) cathode copper on site at a low production cost.

The SX-EW process is an electrically intensive system. The projected cost of power to this mine will be approximately 20% of the annual process operating expenses. Getty Copper has submitted a proposal for the newly announced B.C. Power for Jobs Program. A break on the hydro bill would amount to approximately $430,000/year.

The mine expects to create 63 full time jobs with an annual payroll of $3.5 million. Getty Copper is toying with the concept of establishing a value-added industry on site to process the pure copper. Dr. Preto believes this is the right avenue to pursue, not only for Getty Copper but also for the province. "We cannot go on being hewers of wood and drawers of water. B.C. has major resources but it is against the wall if it stays as an exporter of raw materials."