

Exploration

EAST KOOTENAY, B.C.

Cline Mining awaits the decision

The controversial mine proposed for the Flathead region of B.C. is in limbo

by KEITH POWELL

Does the East Kootenay need another coal mine? That is the burning question that is getting more than a bit of attention these days as proponents and opponents jockey back and forth.

If history means anything, then the five existing coal mines in the Elk Valley have provided a solid track record of corporate and community responsibility. This is a track record that mining proponent **Cline Mining** is promising to continue.

Cline Mining CEO **Kenneth Bates** recently told *Mining & Exploration* that his company's proposed **Lodgepole** Coal Mine project would leave only a small footprint in the area and that the mine's location would give the company an environmental advantage. And, according to company chairman **Bill McKnight**, Cline Mining is very sensitive to all environmental concerns.

"We've taken extraordinary measures to make sure that this mine is environmentally sound," said McKnight. "This is going to be a very remarkable mine in terms of its lack of environmental impact."

Bill Bennett, the East Kootenay MLA and former minister of state for mining, has often expressed support for the solid track record of the Elk Valley coal industry. He reiterated this in his recent MLA's report.

"I strongly support the wise stewardship of the Flathead," he stated. "For anyone to suggest that it is impossible to mine coal without contaminating a river in close proximity is simply untrue. Fording River Mine is the second largest metallurgical mine in the world. The Fording River flows through the mine site and fishing in the very clean river is as good today as it ever was."

The economic benefits of a new mine in the East Kootenay often get lost in the emotional discussion. If the proposed Lodgepole mine passes its provincially

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Lodgepole
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TJP → Lodgepole

mandated environmental assessment, Cline Mining officials anticipate the operation could bring more than 240 new jobs to the region—and that is not including contract positions, which are estimated to be in the hundreds.

A representative of the East Kootenay Chamber of Mines recently pointed out that any decision should be a Canadian or B.C. decision, not one that is unduly influenced by international pressure. He also said that British Columbia has one of the world's toughest sets of mining and environmental assessment regulations.

"They (Cline Mining) are asked a lot of questions and they have to respond," said **Ross Stanfield**, president of the **East Kootenay Chamber of Mines**. "They won't get the permit if they can't answer the questions. It is important to use the process. People get to ask 'have you looked at this?' and 'have you looked at that?' Then they have to review all the letters and add to the checklist of things they need to comply with."

Cline Mining is currently awaiting the results of the government's environmental assessment. M

REVELSTOKE, B.C.

Mine meld

Selkirk Metals and Doublestar Resources are poised to join forces

by TANYA LAING MOORE

Selkirk Metals Corporation and Doublestar Resources Ltd. have been joint partners in the Ruddock Creek Property north of Revelstoke, B.C., since 2004. Now the two companies have announced their intent to merge, resulting in a combined holding of \$14 million in current assets and a strong suite of B.C. base metal mineral projects.

Should the merger be approved, Doublestar and Selkirk Metals are poised to complete the transaction in late June of 2007.

Gordon Keevil, who is the president of Selkirk Metals Corporation, stated: "This transaction, which is financially positive to Selkirk, will consolidate the working interest in the Ruddock Creek Property, putting Selkirk in a much stronger position to advance its exploration and ultimate development." M



Cline Mining Seeking Environmental Certificate

Cline Mining Corporation has commenced its application for an Environmental Certificate for a 2-million-tonne-per-year metallurgical coal mine on the Lodgepole property. The property is accessed 48 kilometres from Fernie, B.C. and 40 kilometres from Elko, B.C. by existing road routes and is planned for a minimum 20-year mine life. The company has introduced its plans for the project in public meetings. Cline looks forward to contributing to economic growth in Southeastern B.C. Details on the company and its other projects may be found at www.clinemining.com.

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Cline Trades on the Toronto Stock Exchange under the symbol "CMK"

Photo courtesy Stikine Gold Corporation



AT THE CORE OF IT: A geologist with Stikine Gold examines a piece of core drilled at the SD1 site of the Sullivan Deeps project going on near Kimberley, B.C.

KIMBERLEY, B.C.

Looking for mineralization

Stikine Gold Corporation continues to explore the Sullivan Deeps in the hope of finding a deposit similar to the original Sullivan Mine

by **WHITNEY BLACK**

When Teck Cominco's Sullivan Mine in Kimberley closed in 2001, it marked the end of over 100 years of mineral extraction. The mine was one of the largest in the world, with the value taken from it adding up to about \$47 billion at today's price rate. It is still to this day B.C.'s largest dollar-value mine.

Two years later, after coming to an agreement with Teck Cominco Limited, **Stikine Gold Corporation** began drilling on a site that lies four or five kilometres north of the original Sullivan Mine in the Mark Creek Watershed; they called the

project Sullivan Deeps 1 (SD1).

"We completed that and had great success because we intersected mineralization at the target depth that looked like Sullivan," said **Scott Broughton**, president and CEO of Stikine Gold. "The problem from a marketing point of view was that it

That would be an enormous discovery; it would resonate around the world

was a relatively thin intersection."

Broughton describes the Sullivan Mine as a fried egg: the thick yolk centre is what they are looking for, with the thinner white of the egg spreading out around it. SD1 was, in his words, part of the white of the egg.

Another hole was drilled, called SD2, but it was less successful with an even thinner section of mineralization. Thus, it took Stikine Gold some time to raise additional financing to proceed.

"The market really punished us for that; they thought this should be an easy thing to find," Broughton said. "Most mines are not found after the first or second drill hole."

Renewed hope

After Stikine Gold raised the necessary finances and found a drill to continue, the company began on SD3.

Drilling started on this site in October 2006, though there have been some challenges along the way. Following a delay in December due to a blockage in the drilling hole, the program continued. Broughton said the drill has performed outstandingly in the past few weeks.

"We're intersecting all the right geology and it's really only a matter of weeks now until we get down to that target depth we are looking for and seeing what we have," said Broughton.

The goal for Stikine Gold is to find a sister mine to the Sullivan Mine. They believe there is the possibility that the new mine they hope to find would have mineralization of a similar size and grade to the original Sullivan Mine.

"To us, this really means that we are hunting down another \$40-billion-sized target," Broughton said. "That would be an enormous discovery; it would resonate around the world." ▶

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