

## Exploration

### Quaker, Little River In The Philippines

A consortium of three companies, Quaker Coal Mining (60%), Little River Goldfields (30%) and Jovian Investments (10%), has recently signed a memorandum of agreement with PNOC-EDC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Philippine National Oil Co. for the purpose of exploring PNOC-EDC's permits near Alicia, Zamboanga del Sur in the southern Philippines. The consortium can earn an 80% interest in the project by spending some \$4.0 million. PNOC-EDC has the option to purchase back a 15% interest. Little River will manage the field activities and Quaker would operate an eventual mine.

The joint venture area covers about 17,000 ha, comprising a granted prospecting permit of 3,000 ha and an adjoining application area of 14,000 ha. Previous work by PNOC-EDC led to the discovery of gold occurrences near the village of Payongan, including several outcrops carrying significant gold values (5 to 115 g/t gold). Since 1989, PNOC-EDC has spent about \$1.0 million on exploration and drilling (22 holes for 4,000 m).

Mineralisation is of epithermal origin, hosted in volcanic rocks believed to be products of ancient eruptions associated with the nearby Mt Kaladis, a stratovolcanic complex. A large core diamond drilling programme will test extensions to the inferred resource (3.4 Mt of 2.5 g/t Au and 11.4 g/t Ag), and provide more detailed definition in areas already drilled.

### Bulgaria Opens Prospecting Door

According to a recent report in the Bulgarian Economic Review, Bulgaria's National Assembly Economic Committee has approved new legislation permitting concessions for a 30 year period to companies prospecting for minerals in the country. Each concession will be restricted to 25 km<sup>2</sup>.

### CanAlaska To Panama

Vancouver-based CanAlaska Resources has acquired 100% of the Panamanian exploration company, Alluviales de Panama. Alluviales holds two mineral concessions in east-central Panama, Sierra del Mar and Ipeti and the 21,500 ha Calobre concession in the west central area of the country. The Sierra del Mar and Ipeti sites are located 100 km east of Panama City in an area where a U.N. funded exploration programme identified epithermal gold and copper

porphyry style mineralisation. At Calobre, a mineralised belt in post-palaeozoic volcanic rocks extends beyond the concession boundaries and hosts the Minas Santa Rosa deposit being developed by Greenstone Resources and the Remance mine, Panama's largest gold operation.

CanAlaska's exploration plans include airborne mapping and geophysical surveys, geological and geochemical mapping and follow-up trenching and drilling. In order to complete the 100% purchase of Alluviales, CanAlaska must make staged payments of \$US250,000 and issue up to 200,000 of the company's shares in increments of 50,000 based on positive exploration results.

### Monopros Into Slave Lake

Members of the Slave Diamond Syndicate (Gerle Gold, Norcal Resources, Tenajon Corp. and Westley Technologies) have signed an agreement with DeBeers' subsidiary Monopros by which it may earn a 60% interest in lands held by syndicate members. Monopros may earn its interest by spending \$C7 million in exploration within three years, the first \$2 million funding an exploration programme to be carried out by Gerle Gold under Monopros' supervision for completion by May 31, 1995. The programme will include indicator mineral sampling, ground magnetic surveys and approximately 3,700 m of drilling, all to proceed concurrently.

### Minas Gerais Diamond Search

Vancouver-based Southern Copper Corp. has applied to the Brazilian Department of Mines for 400,000 ha of mining claims in support of its diamond exploration programme in the Coromandel area of southern Minas Gerais, Brazil. The claims cover its Cristais project located approximately 300 km south of the town of Coromandel and were selected on the basis of detailed geological correlations and aeromagnetic survey data. These studies indicated alluvial diamond occurrences and magnetic anomalies that revealed numerous ultramafic rocks which may host diamonds.

The Cristais project is located along strike from Southern Copper's Corrego d'Anta project where kimberlite indicator minerals were recognised. A 200 t bulk sample from Corrego d'Anta is currently being tested for micro diamonds.

### Huckleberry Drilling

Vancouver-based New Canamin Resources has received additional assay results from an infill drilling programme being carried out on the East zone of the Huckleberry porphyry copper property. Located about 100 km southeast of Kitimat in

British Columbia, the property has drill-indicated reserve of some 72 Mt averaging greater than 0.6% copper, with credits for gold, silver and molybdenum. A 12,200 m infill drilling programme on the East zone began in February and should be completed fairly shortly.

Assay results from hole 94-180 gave almost 2.2% copper over 45 m from a depth of 34 m. From 34 m to 274 m depth, the hole averaged 0.8% copper.

### Victoria Exploration Underway

Major General Resources has begun a \$C1 million exploration programme of its 567,000 ha claims on Victoria Island, N.W.T., Canada. Victoria Island is underlain by the northern extension of the Slave Craton which is known to host diamondiferous kimberlites in the southern part of N.W.T. Major General's exploration will focus on numerous circular magnetic anomalies identified by an airborne geophysical survey. They will be examined using geological mapping, till and lake-bed geochemical sampling, and ground or very low level helicopter magnetic measurements.

### GSI Field Reports

The Geological Survey of India, reporting its 1993/94 field exploration programme, has discovered several large mineral occurrences in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan the Survey revealed an estimated resource of 495 Mt of lead-zinc mineralisation with a combined metal content ranging 4%-7%; 2.3 Mt lead-zinc grading 12% zinc and 1% lead; and 1 Mt of low grade mineralisation grading 0.7% copper. In Madhya Pradesh the Survey found 1.7 Mt of ore grading 2.1 g/t gold in Karnataka and three new kimberlites were discovered in the Raipur district. In addition, 1.16 Mt grading in excess of 20% manganese was also discovered.

For trade or business enquiries about these discoveries contact Mr V. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Shastri Bhawan, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi, India 110001. Tel: (+91 11) 385173. Fax: 386402.

### Preliminary Results From Bolivar State

Tombstone Explorations, a Vancouver-based company, has released the results of a diamond drilling programme carried out on a 2 km<sup>2</sup> geochemical and geophysical anomaly within its Anacoco/Anaconda gold concessions in Bolivar State, Venezuela. To date 15 diamond drill holes, averaging a depth of 200 m, have intersected sulphide mineralisation. The mineralisation is associated with a series of tectonically controlled sub-parallel zones displaying intensive carbonate/sericite alteration.

Tombstone interprets the results as suggesting a very large tonnage potential. Drilling is continuing to test the western lobe of the geophysical/geochemical anomaly and the southern strike extension of the main mineralised zone.

### Avocet Increases Malaysia Reserves

Avocet Ventures has delineated a reserve of 500,000 t of oxidised gold mineralisation in its Manik Ridge property located in north central Pahang State, Malaysia. Samples from Manik indicate a gold grade of 2-3 g/t, and have been subjected to a leach test in Australia which confirmed 84% recovery of contained gold after a three-week treatment. The feasibility of a 1,000-1,500 t/d operation to generate cash-flow by mid-1995 is being examined. The results are in addition to the preliminary resource of 2.6 Mt grading 2.7 g/t announced previously.

### Blue Emerald Finds Opals

Toronto-based Blue Emerald Resources has reached an agreement to acquire over 2,000 ha in the Vernon area of British Columbia where several opal discoveries were made last year. Three localities containing opals are known on the claims and others have been found on adjoining properties. The opal occurs in vesicles and fracture void infillings in basalt and andesite rocks and display a wide range of colours. The discovery of multiple finds leads Blue Emerald to suspect the presence of a large opal field, similar to those in Australia. The agreement calls for Blue Emerald to pay the vendors 100,000 shares in common stock, \$C60,000 in cash and expend \$C300,000 in exploration over three years.

## Development

### Stillwater Expansion

Stillwater Mining Co. has received approval to expand the Nye Pt-Pd mine in Montana and to construct a base metals refinery in nearby Columbus where the company has a smelter. Expansion costs are estimated at some \$US50 million. The company plans to double ore production capacity to 1,800 t/d, and will be able to produce a copper and nickel sulphate solution from precious metals residues.

### Tiwai Point Upgrade

Comalco New Zealand plans to spend \$NZ400 million to upgrade the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter. The investment will upgrade the technical capability and competitiveness of the smelter, increase production from