

claims," Teichroeb said, adding that he would not provide details of those claims or what the city's defence may be.

→ Prosperity
886577

Copyright 2006 chilliwack

top _____ MINING

Mineral Tenure Act - BC Landowners Rights, CKNW Nightline, 20-Jun-2006 20:08

MINERAL TENURE ACT - Kurt Yakelashek, a spokesperson for the BC Landowners Rights Group, joins Michael Smyth to discuss the details of the Mineral Tenure Act of 2002 and whether it favours the mining industry against the rights of private land owners. Yakelashek says the law allows companies and individuals to stake claims on privately owned property and conduct mineral explorations, regardless of any objections and/or the lack of permission from the land owners. Furthermore, it is apparently easy and affordable to obtain a licence over the Internet, and the claims provides mineral owners with 24-hour year-round access to the property.

top _____ MINING

Mineral Tenure Act - Minister Bennett, CKNW, 20-Jun-2006 20:21

BILL BENNETT joins Michael Smyth to discuss the growing concerns over the Campbell government's amendments to the Mineral Tenure Act, which critics believe favours the mining industry against the rights of private land owners. While opponents complain the law allows companies and individuals to stake claims on privately owned property and conduct mineral explorations without the permission of the land owners, Bennett says the practice of obtaining subsurface rights is 150-years-old and mediation is available when the two owners cannot reach any agreement. Furthermore, Bennett says the province has the right to revoke permits if holders are not conducting legitimate prospecting business. With calls.

top _____ MINING

Williams Lake Tribune, Page A01, 20-Jun-2006

Taseko Going for gold in 2010

By Sage Birchwater

If everything fell into place without a glitch there could be a new copper/gold mine in production near Taseko Lakes by as soon as 2010.

"That's if everything went perfectly," says Scott Jones, general manager of project development for the Prosperity Project of Taseko Mines Limited.

Jones and Taseko's public affairs director Brian Battison dropped by the Tribune yesterday and laid their cards on the table.

"We hope to build a new mine in the region that involves \$800 million in capital investment and will create 550 direct jobs and 1,280 indirect jobs," Jones continues.

The initial lifetime of the mine is 22 years, he says. And compared to Gibraltar Mine which employs

274 direct employees, it's twice as big.

Battison extols the virtues of the company and the project.

"It's a B.C. company and we're mining people. It's a long life project mining low grade ore. That means the wealth of the project comes over a long period of time."

He says the deposit identified so far is 1.2 billion tons.

"We'll probably mine half of it."

Jones gives a short history of the Prosperity Project.

"Taseko acquired the property in the late 1960s and Hunter Dickenson acquired Taseko in the 1990s and did about \$55 million in diamond drilling, engineering and environmental assessment."

Then he says, like other copper mining operations in British Columbia, the Prosperity Project went on the shelf in 2000 with the plummeting copper prices. Last year with copper prices rebounding the company got the project going again.

"We're redoing the feasibility study and filling in any gaps in our environmental assessment work," Jones says. "We aim to complete that by April of 2007."

Jones and Battison both say that public consultation is a key component to the environmental assessment.

"We're not just looking at the physical environment, we're looking at the social and socioeconomic aspect as well. We want to include the traditional use knowledge of the land into the scientific model."

The spinoffs of a mine in the Teseko Lakes area is obvious to Williams Lake, 125 kilometres away, says Jones.

"Williams Lake becomes a destination service centre for mining, coupled with two other mines in the region."

Asked how enthusiastic Xeni Gwet'in First Nations is about the project, Jones is careful not to overstate his case.

"We're talking to Xeni Gwet'in on a regular basis. We're asking them to be involved and support assessment process and be knowledgeable so that their concerns are taken into account. We're in the process of having meetings with them."

He says they have agreed to participate in the assessment process even though that doesn't guarantee they support the mine.

Jones enthusiastically describes the zero discharge operation.

"None of the water that goes through the tailings will leave the mine site."

With the open pit of the mine located downstream and immediately adjacent to Fish Lake, will mean the loss of the lake.

“We’re required to provide some kind of compensation for that,” says Battison. “We need to create new, viable fish habitat in the neighbourhood.”

As far as the environmental assessment process goes, Jones says the company has an obligation to prove that the project can be done safely, and ensure it can make money at the same time.

A key to the project going ahead is public approval and acceptance, Jones says.

With the proliferation of mountain pine beetle attacked forests throughout the region, he argues that the mine would provide good economic bridging while the lumber industry endures a fall down of timber supply.

“A project like this will help offset the loss of pine beetle jobs.”

Back to the time frame.

For the project to be in production by 2010 it would mean getting approvals in place by next year.

“If everything went perfectly we could get started developing the property by the end of 2007.”

Part of this would be an electrical transmission line stretching 125 kilometres from Dog Creek across the Fraser River to the property near Taseko Lakes.

“So we’re on a quest to get feedback,” Jones repeats. “We’re in the process of gathering data for the environmental assessment to put in the report.”

Jones invites interested parties to contact his office at 250-392-3100 in Williams Lake or the Taseko Mines Limited office in Vancouver at 604-684-6365 or www.tasekomines.com.

Copyright 2006 tribune

top

ELECTRICITY AND
ALTERNATIVE
ENERGY

A "Site C" situation,

Chetwynd Echo

Fri 16 Jun 2006

Byline: Evan Saugstad

Many times over the course of a year, the District of Chetwynd and the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) receive and listen to delegations as part of our meetings.

Usually, delegations come to present new or updated information that is of interest to the council or board, or they come to ask for support of a particular issue, cause or concern, or in some cases, they