

VOB → RG  
- Van.  
Raven  
886796

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

Created: 04-Jul-1996 04:17pm PDT  
Sent: 15-Jul-1996 12:26pm PDT  
From: Robert Pinsent of EI  
RPINSENT  
Title. District Geologist  
Dept: Employment & Investment  
Tel No: 660-0223

TO: See Below

Subject: SOUTHWESTERN REGION MONTHLY REPORT JULY I

EXPLORATION:

- Westmin Resources Ltd. still has production problems at Myra Falls as it continues to extract both waste and ore from the Gopher zone through the 18 level exploration drift. It has produced less "high-grade" ore than expected over the past few months. However, it should be able to route ore through draw points on the new 24 level haulage drift shortly, which should simplify matters and increase productivity. (visited).

Myra Falls

The company has completed a detailed environmental impact study on three proposed drill sites on Phillips Ridge, near the western end of its tenure holdings in Strathcona Park. BCParks has joint sign-off with MEI for work in the area and requested the report.

The company plans to drill four very deep holes from two sites for an aggregate depth of 7,000 metres. The \$1.5 million programme should provide stratigraphic information that will assist the company orient underground development required to explore the Marshall zone and the as yet untouched western end of the property. The drill programme must start in August if it is to be finished this year.

- Quinsam Coal has reached its design production capacity of 1.2 million tonnes of clean coal per year and has set its sights on 1.5 million tonnes! It has started development in the 4S area and it is permitting the 242 area which it hopes to develop this fall. The two new blocks will more than replace production lost when the 2S block closes this fall. (visited).

Coal

- Quinsam Coal has drilled the first six out of twenty proposed rotary holes in the Tsable Coal field south of Courtenay. The \$0.8 million programme is designed to double the current 11.0 million tonne reserve. Despite overburden drilling problems (sand and gravel) and variable coal recoveries the results are encouraging. The coal appears to be of good quality and uniform thickness, around 3.0 metres. (visited).

- Athabasca Resources is back drilling at Ladner Creek. It will drill approximately 25 holes for a depth of 4,750 metres over the next six weeks

Ladner Creek

**I N T E R O F F I C E   M E M O R A N D U M**

**Created:** 29-Nov-1996 08:53am PST  
**Sent:** 29-Nov-1996 09:47am PST  
**From:** Ted Hall of EI  
TJHALL  
**Title.** Regional Manager, Nanaimo  
**Dept:** Employment & Investment  
**Tel No:** 751-7375

**TO:** See Below

**Subject:** Southwest Region Update, November 29, 1996

**ISSUES:**

\* Investigation of the noise complaint at the Sechelt Pit (Construction Aggregates Ltd.) revealed the source of noise was likely an adjacent, illegal quarrying operation which has since shut down.

\* A draft permit amendment has been forwarded to Allard Contractors Ltd. for their pit operations on Pipeline Road; regional staff expect to meet on site December 10th to finalize permit conditions.

**FYI:**

\* Westmin have announced the layoff of 50 staff and hourly employees at Myra Falls, due in part to completion of construction projects on the Battle Zone and a planned reduction in mining production in 1997. Further expenditure cuts are planned in definition drilling and exploration programs.

\* Quinsam Coal have advised they are planning a bulk sampling program on the Tsable River project; an application will likely be submitted in December.

**ADMIN:**

\* Gail Burn's auxiliary term ends today. Special thanks to Gail, Trudy, Gloria and Margaret for getting the file conversion completed on target and for keeping us well organized during the move to 2080 Labieux Road.

Ted Hall  
Southwest Region

**Distribution:**

**TO:** Fred Hermann of EI ( FHERMANN )  
**TO:** Brian Parrott of EI ( BPARROTT )

→ Tsable R.  
127

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

Created: 25-Apr-1997 08:56am PDT  
Sent: 25-Apr-1997 12:49pm PDT  
From: Ted Hall of EI  
TJHALL  
Title. Regional Manager, Nanaimo  
Dept: Employment & Investment  
Tel No: 751-7375

TO: See Below

Subject: Southwest Region Update - April 25, 1997

ISSUES:

\* Joint MEI/MOF inspection made of road deactivation project on access road to Fandora Mine property in Clayoquot area; agreement reached on semi-permanent deactivation rather than permanent, however some stabilization of the site will be required for safety and environmental reasons as a result of improved public access. Section 17 funding may be sought for sealing of old adit and removal of abandoned gen-set and fuel drums from stream.

\* Coquitlam Sand & Gravel have applied for MELP approval to divert Fulton Creek away from Allard's Pit "A", which should minimize further flood damage in this area. MELP have not responded to application to date.

\* Comox-Strathcona Regional District have raised concerns regarding staking of new ground in LIA on Quadra Island; no Notices of Work received to date.

FYI:

\* VIMDRC will be meeting with Tsable River Coal Corp. on April 29th to review 90,000 tonne Tsable River bulk coal sample program.

\* On-site meeting for South Wellington coal tailings project scheduled for April 30th to review outstanding MELP and Nanaimo Regional District concerns.

Ted Hall  
Southwest Region

Distribution:

TO: Fred Hermann of EI ( FHERMANN )  
TO: Brian Parrott of EI ( BPARROTT )  
TO: Ron Smyth of EI ( RSMYTH )  
TO: Denis Lieutard of EI ( DLIEUTARD )  
TO: Tom Carter of EI ( TCARTER )  
TO: Richard Booth of EI ( RBOOTH )

→ Reg. Mgr.  
- Nanaimo

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

Created: 02-May-1997 09:16am PDT  
Sent: 02-May-1997 11:07am PDT  
From: Ted Hall of EI  
TJHALL  
Title. Regional Manager, Nanaimo  
Dept: Employment & Investment  
Tel No: 751-7375

TO: See Below

Subject: Southwest Region Update - May 2, 1997

ISSUES:

\* Pipeline Road gravel pit issues have taken the spotlight this week: (i) Coquitlam S & G application to divert Fulton Creek hit regulatory roadblock at MELP; regional office may approve diversion as part of mine plan instead; (ii) attempts to broker a deal between Coquitlam S & G and Allard for remediation of Pit A have been unsuccessful so far; legal action may be only recourse; (iii) erosion of Cewe's M-Pit has resulted in complaint of public safety and trespass issues from Westbild subdivision; again legal action has been threatened; (iv) FOI requests and media enquiries being dealt with.

\* Regional staff responded to complaints of noise, dust, traffic and hours of operation at Lake Erroch Quarry; pit was being operated in compliance with permit; residents have threatened civil disobedience.

*Macktush*

\* Road deactivation activities on the Macktush property have led to allegations of damage to exploration trenches, drillsites and equipment owned by SYMC Resources; meeting of MEI, MOF, MacMillan Bloedel and SYMC planned for May 5th to review issue.

FYI:

*Tsable*

\* VIMDRC met with Tsable River Coal Corp.; application for 90,000-tonne bulk sample from Tsable River property is expected in 2 weeks.

*Mac Smith  
(Coal)*

\* VIMDRC also met with Pacific West Coal Ltd.; application for mining of old coal waste on Mac Smith property in South Wellington is progressing; revised application with additional detail is expected in 6 weeks.

ADMIN:

\* Carol Howell visited Nanaimo office to review permitting and other admin procedures with regional staff.

TOS → Reg. Mgr  
- Nanaimo

I N T E R O F F I C E   M E M O R A N D U M

Created: 13-Jun-1997 10:10am PDT  
Sent: 13-Jun-1997 12:22pm PDT  
From: Ted Hall of EI  
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Title. Regional Manager, Nanaimo  
Dept: Employment & Investment  
Tel No: 751-7375

TO: See Below

Subject: Southwest Region Update - June 13, 1997

ISSUES:

*Sumas*  
\* The Concerned Citizen's of Sumas Mountain have indicated that the City of Abbotsford will not issue a soil removal permit for the proposed Western Rock Quarry, which is presently under review by MEI. If confirmed, this will again put the ministry toe to toe with local government (and the public) in a conflict over permitting of quarry operations.

*Tsable R.*  
\* A public meeting in Union Bay to review the proposed Tsable River Coal bulk sample program drew a large crowd of local residents opposed to the project. Further public meetings will likely be required to resolve issues related to truck traffic, noise, etc.

\* Regional staff are reviewing an incident at Garibaldi Granite where an employee drank from an unlabelled bottle of methyl hydrate. The worker was hospitalized but apparently suffered no long term effects.

FYI:

\* A two-day technical forum on the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan was held in Nanaimo. Extensive revisions to the interim technical report are planned by mid-summer, in response to pressure from environmental and community resource groups as well as to proposed changes in the Forest Practices Code. MEI will have ongoing input to the final report through the IAMC.

*1* \* BHP have announced the sale of most of the remaining infrastructure at the Island Copper Mine to Royal Hoyalas Specialty Wood Products, a joint venture of the Quatsino Band and two Vancouver Island wood manufacturers. Royal Hoyalas will establish a sawmill and lumber kiln on the 30-hectare plant site, utilizing existing mine buildings and facilities, including the deep sea dock. Phase I will see construction of the sawmill, which will employ 40 persons, within a year, with further expansion to follow.

TCS → Reg. M.

I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

Created: 18-Sep-1997 05:18pm PDT  
Sent: 18-Sep-1997 05:43pm PDT  
From: Ted Hall of EI  
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Title. Regional Manager, Nanaimo  
Dept: Employment & Investment  
Tel No: 751-7375

TO: See Below

Subject: Southwest Region Update, September 18, 1997

ISSUES:

\* Garibaldi Alpen Resorts were surprised to find a permitted dimension stone operator (Northwest Landscape Supply) preparing to carry out his approved mining program on their proposed Garibaldi ski resort. Garibaldi have an interim agreement with the Province for the ski development, but the mineral tenure was not listed as a prior right. Garibaldi may seek an injunction to delay the mining, which is scheduled to commence on September 22nd.

\* Baker Road quarry carried out further audiometric testing at their proposed quarry on Saltspring Island; permitting decision will be finalized upon receipt of consultant's report.

\* A stop work order was issued on Mill Bay Storage, for exceeding the initial approval, failing to comply with orders, and operating a gravel pit without a permit. Operation has been a source of public and local government complaints; operator has history of ignoring Mines Branch inspectors.

\* Blue Grouse Copper Mine was inspected; one major stope opening ordered sealed for public safety.

FYI:

\* Westmin Thelwood Valley and Myra Ridge exploration programs are proceeding smoothly; efforts of G. Carriere were critical to getting BC Parks cooperation.

\* Mines Branch working with Regional District of Nanaimo to identify funds for aggregate study.

\* T'Sable River Coal have submitted final documents in application for bulk coal sample program; permitting decision expected in early October, but program may be delayed by lack of funding.

\* Coquitlam Sand and Gravel and Allard Contractors have completed water diversion works on Pipeline Road to control future flooding

TGS → Reg. Mgr  
- Nanaimo

I N T E R O F F I C E   M E M O R A N D U M

Created: 02-Sep-1997 09:42am PDT  
Sent: 02-Sep-1997 10:08am PDT  
From: Ted Hall of EI  
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Title. Regional Manager, Nanaimo  
Dept: Employment & Investment  
Tel No: 751-7375

TO: See Below

Subject: Southwest Region Update - August 29, 1997

ISSUES:

\* Local landowner opposed to Cassidy Gravel Pit has written to newspaper and is seeking injunction against permit issuance; main concern is potential damage to domestic water wells; applicant has provided favourable groundwater study; permit issuance anticipated following field checks by hydrologist.

\* Coquitlam S & G were given approval to construct Fulton Creek diversion to Mantle Creek following lengthy and difficult consultations with MELP and DFO; target for completion is September 15th; this should prevent future flooding and washouts on Pipeline Road.

\* T'Sable River Coal have still not submitted final documents for bulk sample program approval; R. Pinsent reports program may be postponed until next year when the new Island Highway will have advanced to the point that local access issues can be resolved.

\* Vancouver Forest District have already implemented referral process for proposed road deactivations under WRP, putting pressure on MEI to finalize internal procedures and put contractors in place.

FYI:

\* R. Pinsent reports encouraging results to date from active 21-hole drill program on First Choice Industries/Knob Hill property.

Ted Hall  
Southwest Region

Distribution:

TO: Peter Ostergaard of EI	( POSTERGAARD )
TO: Fred Hermann of EI	( FHERMANN )
TO: Ron Smyth of EI	( RSMYTH )
TO: Denis Lieutard of EI	( DLIEUTARD )