



Province of
British Columbia

NEWS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND
PETROLEUM RESOURCES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1990:09

March 5, 1990

WINDY CRAGGY MINE PROPOSAL STARTS REVIEW

Victoria, B.C. -- Geddes Resources' Windy Craggy Project has taken a major step under British Columbia's Mine Development Review Process by filing its Stage I report, Mines Minister Jack Davis announced today.

The proposed copper/cobalt/gold/silver mine is located in northwestern British Columbia near the Yukon-Alaska borders and Geddes has plans for a 20-year, 500-person open pit mining operation starting in 1994.

Geddes' Stage I report, which describes the project's technical data, environmental impacts and socio-economic issues, has been filed with the province's Mine Development Steering Committee, responsible for review of all new mining proposals in B.C.

Newspaper ads are being placed in local papers in B.C., the Yukon and Alaska to notify the public that the report has been received.

"We expect greatest public interest in the proposed 100 kilometre access road which at one point crosses the Tatshenshini valley," said Davis.

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"Because the region has important economic development as well as recreational values, government has already given partial funding to study road options and environmental impacts," said the minister.

The Mine Development Review Process is a staged project review which includes government agencies, native groups, and the interested public in a comprehensive reporting and consultation process. Since 1976, the Mine Development Review Process has given environmental reviews to 140 projects ranging from the large coal mines in northeast and southeast B.C. to small size, short-lived gold mines in the province's active northwest region.

Members of the public in B.C. and elsewhere who are interested in the review of the Windy Craggy project can receive information now. As the process continues, there will be further opportunities for public consultation.

For further information contact:

Irwin Henderson
Director of Communications
and Public Affairs
(604) 387-5178



MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES
AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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1990:19

May 8, 1990

WINDY CRAGGY MINE GETS FULL PUBLIC REVIEW

Victoria, B.C. - Mines Minister Jack Davis today announced that the proposed Windy Craggy mine will undergo an extensive environmental assessment, including an independent public review.

"Right now, Windy Craggy is in B.C.'s Mine Development Review Process," said Davis. "I expect that, as with the proposed Cinola mine on the Queen Charlotte Islands, there will be joint federal-provincial public hearings after detailed plans have been filed."

The mine proposal by Geddes Resources calls for a twenty-year-plus copper/gold/silver/cobalt mine employing 500 persons, located in the far northwest corner of British Columbia, near the Alaska and the Yukon borders.

"The Windy Craggy deposit, discovered in 1958, is of world-class size in a richly mineralized region," said Davis. "The largest B.C. gold nugget on record was discovered near there, and the region boasts more than 80 documented finds of a large range of valuable minerals -- copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc, tungsten, barite and gypsum.

"Creating acceptable multiple-use plans for the area is a high priority," said the Minister. "The Tatshenshini River is used by international commercial river-rafting companies and the region has high recreational value. Therefore, in planning for the development of the area's mineral resources, we will keep the public and government agencies in British Columbia, the Yukon and Alaska fully involved."

The Windy Craggy Stage I report was filed last January. A potential problem identified in the report is acid drainage from the mine's open pits and rock-dumps which could pollute lakes and watercourses if not prevented. Initial review by government agencies shows that the acid drainage threat has not been eliminated.

"Provincial policy requires that the environment must be completely protected from the potential threat of acid drainage," said the Minister. "The company has been told it must do further research and revise its mine plan for further scrutiny. The independent public review will not begin until this revised plan has been submitted."

A public information tour of B.C., Yukon and Alaskan communities is underway by the company; government staff will be present to explain the Mine Development Review procedures.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Irwin Henderson
Director of Communications
and Public Affairs
(604) 387-5178

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NEWS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES
AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1991:64

September 17, 1991

WEISGERBER SETS MULTIPLE-USE REVIEW FOR WINDY CRAGGY MINE PROPOSAL

Victoria - Energy and Mines Minister Jack Weisgerber today announced plans for the further review of the proposed Windy Craggy copper mine in the extreme northwest corner of B.C.

"Before public hearings take place, I believe that we must develop and thoroughly evaluate a multiple-use plan for the area, along the lines recommended by the Wilderness Advisory Committee's 1986 report," said Weisgerber.

"We recognize the substantial concern centred on potential impacts on the wilderness and recreation values of the Tatshenshini River," added the minister. "Therefore, a multiple-use plan is needed to ensure that resource development in the area does not detract from wilderness and recreational values. I expect that we can develop this plan within 12 months."

The proposal by Geddes Resources Ltd. to develop a world-scale copper deposit as a 20-plus-year mine was first made in 1988. The mining plan has been revised to reduce environmental risks as the project review has continued. The mine-site is 30 kilometres from the Tatshenshini River.

"The Stage I review including comments from government agencies, native and public groups in B.C., Canada, the Yukon and Alaska will be made public shortly," said the minister. "The next stage will see further technical review to determine what is necessary for the mine to meet all applicable environmental standards and regulations."

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- 2 -

The project's next phase will be mandated under British Columbia's newly-introduced Mine Development Assessment Process.

"We will continue to work closely with the public and representatives of other jurisdictions to ensure a fully integrated and publicly responsive review," said Weisgerber.

Detailed review plans will be finalized after the Stage I comments have been circulated. Technical concerns focus on potential acid drainage, impacts on glaciers, seismic stability, and the effects of proposed road and slurry pipeline access.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Irwin Henderson, Director
Communications and Public Affairs
(604) 387-5178



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NEWS RELEASE

YES → Windy
Craggy

For Immediate Release
145
August 18, 1995

Ministry of Employment and Investment
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

PROVINCE REACHES AGREEMENT WITH ROYAL OAK MINES

VICTORIA—The provincial government and Royal Oak Mines have come to terms on an integrated agreement that provides for compensation on the Windy Craggy claim in the Tatshenshini Park, and which will lead to the development of two new mines, Kemess South near Houston and Red Mountain near Stewart.

The announcement was made today by Employment and Investment Minister Glen Clark.

“Fair compensation for the Windy Craggy claim was a promise I made when my government created the Tatshenshini Park,” said Premier Mike Harcourt. “That promise has been kept in a way that will bolster the already improving fortunes of B.C.’s mining industry and create over 550 direct jobs and 1,000 indirect and induced permanent jobs for the next twenty years.”

The \$103.8 million package includes \$26 million in compensation, as well as \$17 million for mine development, \$3.5 million for training and skills development, \$46 million for power line installation and \$11.3 million for other related infrastructure. All values are in today’s dollars. In addition, all payments beyond the direct compensation are conditional on Royal Oak developing the mine.

The comprehensive package settles and extinguishes the Windy Craggy claim and enables Royal Oak Mines to undertake investments in excess of \$500 million in the Kemess South and Red Mountain deposits.

“This partnership with Royal Oak Mines is an important investment in resources, infrastructure and people,” said Clark. “It is a classic example of our jobs and investment plan, *Investing In Our Future: A Plan For B.C.*, in action, which will result in a major boost to a critical sector of the B.C. economy and providing quality, family-supporting jobs in northern B.C. This just shows that when government and the private sector work together – everybody benefits.”

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- 2 -

"This agreement is a solid indication of government's commitment to the mining industry in B.C. - a commitment to support the jobs and benefits generated by development in B.C. including our rural areas," said Mines Minister Anne Edwards.

"Today our minerals industry is worth more than \$2.6 billion a year. The development of Kemess South and Red Mountain is yet another example of the increasing vitality of B.C.'s mining industry, following close upon the opening of the Eskay Creek gold and silver mine earlier this month," she said. "Along with the reopenings of the Gibraltar, Afton and Similco mines, and the potential openings of the Tulsequah Chief zinc-copper-silver-gold deposit and the Huckleberry copper deposit, currently undergoing environmental assessment, it is becoming increasingly clear that B.C.'s mining industry is undergoing a renaissance."

Kemess South is a 210-million tonne copper-gold-silver deposit. Red Mountain is a 1.5-million tonne gold-silver reserve. Both projects are subject to approval under the Environmental Assessment Act.

- 30 -

Contact: Don Zdravec
Assistant Director
Communications Division
Ministry of Employment
and Investment
(604) 356-8712

Laura Stringer
Director of Communications
Ministry of Energy, Mines and
Petroleum Resources
(604) 952-0152