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**For immediate release****December 7, 1989****WINDY CRAGGY PROJECT ROAD ACCESS STUDY**

Victoria, B.C. - Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Jake Epp and B.C. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Jack Davis today announced funding for road access planning studies to the Windy Craggy mineral property in northwestern B.C.

"Funding of up to \$50,000 is being made available under the federal-provincial Mineral Development Agreement, which helps promote responsible resource development in B.C.'s mining sector," said Mr. Epp.

The Windy Craggy property, located in the Haines Triangle of northwestern B.C. near the Yukon-Alaska border, contains a large copper ore body with traces of cobalt, gold and silver. A 30-year mine, employing 600 workers, is envisaged by the owners, Geddes Resources Limited.

The proposed road corridor would connect the existing Highway 3, from within British Columbia's borders, with the Windy Craggy site and would be approximately 100-140 kilometres long, depending on which of several route options is selected.

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"Access is the key to the economic viability of mining in the remote parts of B.C.'s northwest," said Mr. Davis. "We intend to develop a road proposal that has minimal impacts on the area's highly-valued wilderness recreation potential."

Studies will focus, in particular, on bridge location and design and the visual impacts of the road and bridge within the Tatshenshini Valley. Outside the valley, potential impacts on the regional Dall sheep population and other wildlife values will also be evaluated.

The Windy Craggy project is now in B.C.'s Mine Development Review Process which integrates the economic, social and environmental review of all major mining projects in the province. Once the access studies are complete, they will contribute to the company's Stage I submission, to be filed with the Mine Development Steering Committee early next year.

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