

Three companies start program at B.C. gold bet

VANCOUVER — A major work program is under way at the Richfield gold property 25 miles north of Houston, B.C. Mountain West Resources, Sirius Resource Corp. and Esso Resources Canada are involved in the joint venture program which has been budgeted at \$708,000 for three phases.

The phase one program has largely been completed. It consisted of data compilation, relogging and sampling of several past drill holes, an evaluation of previous geophysical work and a geochemical orientation survey.

The next phase has been budgeted at \$326,000 and will comprise 18,000 ft of reverse circulation drilling divided into two parts. Approximately 75 holes are planned and the time between the programs will allow proper data compilation and a redirection of drilling if necessary. Diamond drilling is planned in the third phase to follow up on the reverse circulation program.

Drill-indicated reserves are now 170,000 tons grading 0.12 oz gold and 5.6 oz silver. Of the four holes completed earlier this year to expand reserves, two encountered the gold-bearing horizon. The third hit the edge of the zone suggesting it is curving to the northwest, says the joint venture. A fourth hole to the north encountered mineralization in a new zone or a new ore shoot within the original zone.

Mineralization is interpreted as occurring within a fault-related epithermal system and the objective of the phase two program is to explore for additional shoots along strike of the fault zone, the companies say.

Multinational at Toadoggone

VANCOUVER — Exploration work is under way at Multinational Resources' Toadoggone area property north of Smithers, B.C. The first phase program will include more than 5,000 ft of diamond drilling in the B zone to firm up and expand reserves indicated by last year's program.

At the annual meeting, William B. Clancey, president, also predicted "an agreement would be finalized in the very near future" for the Baker mill. Multinational has the right of first refusal on the facility from Du Pont of Canada which previously ran the now dormant mining operation.

Discussing the 1987 exploration program, Dr N. C. Carter, consulting geologist, noted that snow conditions in much of the area were unusually heavy. But he confirmed they were making good progress and more than 2,100 ft of drilling (six holes) had been completed by the annual meeting.

The eastern extension of the B zone is being tested at various levels and he said the zone appears to have "a top to it" and is steeper than originally thought. The first phase program should be completed in another few weeks. Geophysics is planned to test for extensions along strike.

Construction work has started on the Omenica mine road which will be used by Cheni Gold Mines to develop its Lawyers property. Mr Carter has heard talk that the road might be open for heavy equipment haulage sometime in August. This could speed up a proposed underground program at the Baker mine and allow the project to run year-round, he said.

Westar given okay for Falcon coal bet

Westar Mining has been given Stage 1 approval-in-principle for the proposed Falcon development at its Greenhills coal project in B.C.'s Elk Valley.

The announcement was made jointly by Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Minister Jack Davis and Environment Minister Bruce Strachan, chairman of the environment and land use committee of the B.C. cabinet.

The project involves mining 1.9 million tonnes of raw coal over the next three years and construction of a waste dump at the site, about eight kilometres northeast of Elkford.

"This approval is based on a concern for the long-term viability of the mine under difficult economic conditions and the security of the 500 workers employed there," said Mr Davis.

Golden Pacific takes on B.C. bet

Golden Pacific Resources says it has an agreement in principle with a B.C. company to acquire a 51% interest in a 50-claim block in the Caribou mining division of B.C.

It adds it has also purchased three claims in the Skeena mining division of the province. Both deals are subject to the approval of the Alberta Stock Exchange, Golden Pacific says.

On the Caribou division property, Golden Pacific says past work has outlined a high grade silver vein averaging 26 oz silver per ton, over a length of 1,400 ft, and a galena vein, high in silver content, over 2,000 ft in length.

Old reports on the Skeena division claims indicated high grade gold values, the company says.

Richard Schmidt, chairman of Golden Pacific, has been appointed president to fill the vacancy left by the June 23 death of President John D. Porter.