

TASEKO MINES LTD.

[TKO-CDNX; TKOCF-NASDAQ] 20,619,709 SHS.

HIGHER COPPER PRICE BODES - Robert Hunter, chairman.

WELL FOR BC MINE PROJECTS Taseko Mines Ltd., reports

improving copper prices and a stronger outlook for gold are viewed as encouraging for its two BC mining projects. Taseko is focused on re-starting its 80,000,000 pounds per year Gibraltar copper mine located near the City of Williams Lake and developing its Prosperity gold, copper project about 100 km southwest of Williams Lake.

Taseko acquired the formerly producing Gibraltar Mine six months ago when copper prices were about US \$0.62/lb. Today prices are about US \$0.84/lb. with the 15-month forward price at US \$0.88/lb. Gibraltar is the most efficient copper mine in Canada and will re-start when copper prices stabilize above US \$0.85/lb. Taseko is planning a major exploration campaign over the Gibraltar property this year which is expected to delineate significant additional copper resources.

The operating expertise of Gibraltar personnel is being used in the feasibility studies for the 675,000,000 tonne Prosperity deposit, containing 9,400,000 oz. gold, 3.5 billion pounds of copper. Taseko is seeking further mineral project acquisitions.

The Gibraltar Mine is expected to resume copper production this year after operations were interrupted in December 1998 due to unusually low copper prices. The weak copper market and opportunistic circumstances enabled Taseko in 1999 to acquire the large-scale, 35,000 tonnes per day open pit copper mine with a successful 27-year mine life. With production capacity of 80,000,000 pounds of copper and 700,000 pounds of molybdenum annually, employing 270 people, Gibraltar has at least 12 years of profitable production ahead of it. Current proven ore reserves contain 1 billion pounds of copper with estimated resources of an additional 3.6 billion pounds. Taseko management believes the property remains under-explored, with untested potential over about 70% of the leases.

An exploration program is planned for this year at Gibraltar starting with a property-wide induced polarization survey, the best technique to identify disseminated copper mineralization. In addition, a major drilling program will commence to upgrade copper resources to the ore reserve category.

A four-year mine plan has been developed for restarting operations. At a long-term average copper price of US \$1.00/lb., the plan is projected to yield \$10,000,000 a year in cash flow, and at US \$1.10/lb. copper, \$20,000,000 per year. The cash operating break-even cost of production is US \$0.84/lb. Taseko has negotiated downside price protection below this level relating to costs for electrical power, labour, concentrate sales and procurement of supplies.

At the Prosperity project, the use of larger-scale mining equipment is recommended similar to the Gibraltar Mine where 220-tonne trucks and 37-metre shovels have resulted in well-proven economies of scale.

Robert Dickinson, president, said; "The review team has recommended a 70,000 tpd milling rate over an operating life of 19 years is the optimum plan for the Prosperity project in the current market. Details of the operating and economic parameters, including estimated production levels and costs, will be fine-tuned as the metal markets strengthen." (SEE GCNL NO.41, 1Mar99, P.5 FOR PREVIOUS PROSPERITY PROJECT DATA & NO.141, 25Jul99, P.4 FOR GIBRALTAR MINE INFO)

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