

NO.145(1992)
JULY 28, 1992

George Cross News Letter

"Reliable Reporting"

B.C. MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

POLESTAR EXPLORATION INC. (PSE-V)

POLESTAR GARNET PRODUCTION - A consultants' report aimed at helping resolve land-use issues surrounding Polestar Exploration's Crystal Peak Garnet proposal was released 24Jul92 by Energy and Mines Minister Anne Edwards and Environment, Lands and Parks Minister John Cashore.

The 100-page report, prepared by public consultation specialist Ken Youds and economist Ken Peterson, was commissioned March 1992 to consider the project, proposed in the Apex Recreation Area, 32 km west of Penticton.

Youds and Peterson were asked to give additional information, aid government in examining Polestar's proposal. They were not asked to recommend on whether the project should be given government approval.

Its main findings are: - the Crystal Peak garnet deposit is of unusually high concentration. No comparable occurrence is known at this time in the region or elsewhere.

- the quarry and milling operations would have "a perceivable but not an intolerable negative impact" upon recreation, especially if quarrying stayed within the proposed four-to-six week mid-spring period.

- year-round low-level noise from milling and the noise of truck traffic through Apex Village are the chief outstanding technical issues.

- the cost-benefit analysis did not show clear-cut

grounds to reject Polestar's application on the basis of potential impacts on the ski operation--there are significant uncertainties about the economics of the ski operation with or without the mine.

-aboriginal representatives are opposed to the project in principle.

-18 measures to harmonize land uses with the Polestar proposal are suggested.

The ministers will study the report. The complete report is available at Penticton City Hall, 171 Main Street or the Mine Development Assessment Branch in Victoria at (604)356-2212.

82ESW 102