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Exploration & Development Planned for Bralorne Mine

The Bralorne gold mine in British Columbia, once the largest producer of gold in the province, will soon be the site of renewed exploration activity. **Bralorne Resources Limited**, owner of the mine, and **E & B Explorations Inc.** have reached an agreement for exploration and development of the Bralorne claims, with the intention of ultimately reopening the mine as a joint venture.

The Bralorne mine is situated about 170 km north of Vancouver, in the Bridge River Valley. Production began at the mine in 1931 and continued for 40 years. During that time, Bralorne and the adjacent Pioneer mine produced more than 4 million ounces of gold with

aggregate sales value of more than \$144 million. By 1971, however, increasing costs of mining at progressively greater depths had made further operation uneconomic, and the mine was closed.

Under terms of the new agreement, E & B will spend \$1 million on exploration and development of the property by March 31, 1981, and may elect to commit up to \$5 million by June 30, 1983, earning up to an undivided 50 per cent working interest in the property, depending on the level of expenditure. E & B will operate the property during the exploration period. Once E & B has ceased to earn interest in the property, operations will be conducted under a

joint-venture operating agreement to be negotiated.

Bralorne Resources Limited is now an energy company with executive offices in Calgary. The company explores for and produces oil and natural gas in Canada and the United States, and it manufactures and supplies products and services to energy-related industries worldwide. E & B Explorations Inc. is part of the Geomex Group, which invests in mineral and petroleum explorations and production through a number of limited-partnership joint ventures. E & B has offices in Vancouver, Denver and Calgary.

Background

Gold was discovered at the confluence of Bridge River and Cadwallader Creek in the 1880s, and claims were staked at Bralorne in the 1890s. However, production was intermittent until Pioneer Gold Mines of B.C. was incorporated in 1928. Bralorne Mines Limited was incorporated in 1931 and the first gold brick was shipped in March 1932.

The two mines, Bralorne and Pioneer, although adjacent operations, operated independently until they merged in 1959. The Pioneer mine was closed in 1960, but production continued at Bralorne until 1971.

Bralorne Resources Limited retained its 133 Crown-granted mineral claims on more than 3,800 acres at Bralorne, B.C.

At the time of its closing, the Bralorne mine was the only remaining underground gold mine in B.C. and one of the deepest in Canada. Serviced by a tunnel running into the mountain, and by three vertical underground shafts, the mine had more than 90 km of horizontal underground tunnels and more than 40 levels. The deepest shaft provided access to gold-bearing quartz veins almost 2 km below the surface.

As the price of gold rose during the 1970s, Bralorne undertook a number of studies to re-evaluate the mine's potential. The most current report on the mine, prepared earlier this year, suggests that accessible reserves of about 150,000 tons grading about 0.31 ounce of gold per ton are available for mining above the 26th level.



The Bralorne gold mine and mine office in the 1930s.