



Island Copper Mine



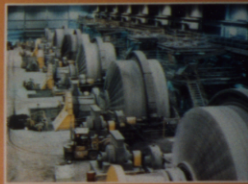
Aerial view of Island Copper shows the open pit and adjacent mill, lab, shops and warehouse.



This elevation view of the pit shows how the mine has developed since 1971.



Electric-powered shovel loads a 770-ton haul truck.



Grate mills grind ore into powder in first stage of the milling process.

**BHP MINERALS
CANADA LTD.**

Island Copper Mine is owned and operated by BHP-Utah Mines Ltd., a subsidiary of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company of Australia. The first mining claims were staked in May, 1963 and operations began in 1971. In its highest production year, the mine employed approximately 300 people in the mining, milling, maintenance, warehouse, administration and laboratory operations.

The ore body originally contained 280 million tons of ore. In its highest production year, the mine removed 174,000 tons of ore and waste rock daily. The ultimate dimensions of the pit will be 1 1/4 by 1/4 miles (520 acres) to a depth of 1,300 feet. The height of the working "benches" is 40 feet. Ore and waste rock are broken by explosives, then loaded into 770-ton

capacity diesel-electric haul trucks. The loading shovels have 15 cubic yard buckets which can hold 25 tons of broken rock. Waste rock is trucked to a remote disposal area on Rabbit Flats.

The trucks originally hauled the ore to a crusher located outside the open pit area near the concentrator. In 1986, the in-pit mobile crusher and a conveyor system were installed. This system now carries the crushed ore through a 2,800 foot tunnel to the concentrator stockpile. The 54-inch conveyor travels 820 feet per minute.

In the concentrator, ten grinding mills use 3 and 4-inch diameter steel balls to grind the ore to powder size. The largest mills are 34 feet in diameter, weigh 600 tons, are driven by two 3,500-horsepower motors and process

300 tons of ore per hour. The concentrator has a capacity of 90,000 tons per day. After grinding, the ore is processed to separate the valuable minerals from the non-valuable, producing concentrates for sale.

In its highest production year, the mine delivered 290,000 tons of copper concentrate to smelters in Japan and Taiwan, and 4,600 tons of molybdenum concentrate to customers in the U.S. and Europe for use in hardening steel.

Island Copper has an active environmental department, monitoring its surroundings and maintaining a reclamation program which, year by year, is reestablishing the mined areas.

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