

Specogna

Additional drilling has begun at Harmony on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Five holes are being drilled to follow up on anomalies and metallurgical testing is underway on the samples obtained last month.

LAND USE PLANNING

The Lakes LRMP has been approved by the Prince Rupert IAMC for forwarding to LUCO and on to the ADM's Committee for approval. This was a very long and difficult process to work through and it is anticipated that Joan will be briefed regarding mineral issues during January.

The BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines has apparently indicated that it is withdrawing from participation in all LRMP processes. This could have a major impact on LRMP tables in the Northwest, especially the Cassiar Iskut/Stikine. Confirmation of this decision to be sought.

Concerns have been raised regarding a recent Commercial Backcountry Recreation proposal which covers the majority of northwestern B.C. The proposal is for a mountain guiding/rock climbing operation. The applicant does not seek exclusivity, however he does expect "meaningful consultation on other uses of the landscape features" and seeks "protection in various degrees up to and including exclusivity where other types of tenure would have an adverse impact" on his operation. This proposal is in the referral process and will be followed closely.

GENERAL

Smither office had a food drive for the Christmas Community hamper and staff donated approximately 200 pounds of food. Thanks to everyone who donated, the Xmas spirit lives on.

From the NW Region and all of the staff, Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Wally Bergen

Regional Manager, Northwest Region
Ministry of Energy and Mines, Mines Branch
Phone (250) 847-7385 Fax (250) 847-7603
<mailto:wally.bergen@gems4.gov.bc.ca>

Bergen, Dec. 23/98