



## NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley

### Chandalar startup set for 2015

Goldrich Mining Co. Jan. 7 reported that Goldrich NyacAu Placer LLC, a 50-50 joint-venture between Goldrich and NyacAU LLC, spent roughly US\$3.6 million on development activities at the Chandalar placer gold project in northern Alaska during 2014. The work included relocation of the placer recovery plant to a lower and broader part of the valley, construction of new water ponds and expansion of the plant. The expanded facility includes a new grizzly feeder with an expected capacity of about 600 cubic yards per hour, which will be realized as gravel screens and gold recovery tables are added in stages through 2016. To meet this increased capacity, seven additional 40-ton rock trucks will be transported to the mine site this winter. The plant is scheduled to be ready for commercial production by June. Additionally, Goldrich said the results of a radiometric and magnetic survey flown in 2014 show a potassium-thorium anomaly that is associated with magnetic anomalies to form a circular kilometer-scale feature in the highlands above the Chandalar placer deposits that is consistent with an intrusive body at depth and is central to a trend of lode quartz-gold occurrences.

### Tonsina survey data released

The Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys Jan. 2 published data from a 2014 Tonsina electromagnetic and magnetic geophysical survey, which will better define the extent and location of platinum group element-bearing ultramafic rocks in areas lacking outcrop, increase structural knowledge of the area, and improve geologic mapping. The survey covers about 690 square kilometers (266 square miles) of the Valdez Quadrangle with high-quality, 400-meter-line-spacing data. The survey was completed in the area of the Dust Mountain and Bernard Mountain mafic-ultramafic complex, roughly 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Glennallen. Geophysical Report 2015-1, which contains the Tonsina survey data, is available at no charge at [www.dggs.alaska.gov/pubs/id/29169](http://www.dggs.alaska.gov/pubs/id/29169). DGGS said this new information is designed to stimulate new private-sector exploration, discovery and, ultimately, development and production in the region. All new data releases and past projects are available at [www.dggs.alaska.gov](http://www.dggs.alaska.gov).

### ALASKA



SHANE LASLEY

A well-equipped 2,400-square-foot main viewing area is one of the many perks Alaska's Geological Materials Center will offer to those wanting to peruse the extensive library of rocks to be archived at the new expansive location in Anchorage.

# Big move for GMC

New location will offer more research bang for mineral exploration buck

By ROSE RAGSDALE

For Mining News

**I**t's official! The Alaska Geologic Materials Center (GMC) is set to make the long-awaited move to its new, larger Anchorage quarters on April 6, weather permitting.

The center, a unit of the Alaska Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys within the state Department of Natural Resources, is the repository for geologic materials collected from across Alaska, and then catalogued, stored and studied.

Visitors to the center, primarily representative of companies, state and federal agencies, and academia, examine hardrock core, petroleum cuttings and miscellaneous rocks along with related maps and can even cut small samples to take with them.

Known colloquially as a "library for rocks," the GMC is maintained and managed by the State of Alaska with support from various cooperating government agencies including the U.S. Geological Survey, federal bureaus of Land Management and Ocean Energy Management, Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and private industry.

The center was established in 1984, but has long outgrown its original 6,000-square-foot building in Eagle River, overflowing since the early 1990s into 60 substandard storage containers with no heat or lighting to house hundreds of thousands of rock samples.

After a couple of delays in recent months, the GMC is set to move this spring to a refurbished 110,000-square-foot climate-controlled space that formerly housed a Sam's Club warehouse. The state spent two years and \$24.5 million to purchase and renovate the building. It had originally planned to spend nine years and nearly \$45 million to build a new facility for the repository.

"That's going to be an unbelievable facility. It



SHANE LASLEY

The new GMC quarters at 3651 Penland Parkway in Anchorage will provide 110,000 square feet of climate-controlled space to store and study a trove of geologic materials collected from across Alaska.

will lay out Alaska's mineral wealth for the world," DNR Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels told Mining News Jan. 13.

The move could take up to 12 weeks to complete.

GMC curator Ken Papp said the entire collection of more than 100,000 boxes of rocks will initially fill 30,000-40,000 square feet, or about one-third of the new location, depending on the size of several new donations of core expected before the move. This should leave ample space for future growth, he said.

Goldrich Mining Corp., for example, recently donated 22 pallets of hard-rock core from its Chandalar mining property in northern Alaska. The contribution to the GMC included 14,863.5 feet of core from 25 boreholes drilled in 2011.

By volume, the collection comprises 14 million feet of core and samples. Most of the material comes from oil and gas exploration and production wells, but the center also boasts quite a few hardrock samples from 1,800 exploration holes, along with coal, geothermal and other types of

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### COLUMN

## Pebble Project win tickles funny bone

By J P TANGEN

Special to Mining News

**R**ecently, in litigation pending before the federal district court in Anchorage, the Pebble Project withstood an attack seeking to defeat the project's opposition to what may be called the Massacre of 2012. When the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated its Bristol Bay Watershed study under the theoretical authority of Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act, it was immediately criticized on the grounds that the report was generated on the basis of advice from certain biased Green NGOs or "GreNGOs" (not to be confused with gringos – North

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