



NORTHERN NEIGHBORS

Compiled by Shane Lasley



COPPER NORTH MINING CORP. Jan. 21 said recent testing demonstrates that an agitated tank leach is the optimal recovery process for copper, gold and silver from oxide mineral resources at the Carmacks Copper Project in central Yukon Territory. A new process plan consists of three-stage crushing and rod mill grinding prior to placing ore in an agitated tank for leaching of copper oxides with weak sulfuric acid. Testing indicates 84 percent copper recovery with leach times of 16 to 18 hours. Utilizing waste heat from the sulfuric acid plant may further reduce the leach times. Following copper leaching, the solids are rinsed and pumped into a second set of agitated tanks for the addition of lime and cyanide for gold and silver extraction. Testing indicates a recovery of 80 percent for gold and 78 percent for silver over 48 hours at ambient temperatures. Higher leach temperatures provide potential for a significant reduction in leach time and further increases in recovery, and is under investigation. Residues from the cyanide circuit undergo cyanide destruction prior to deposition in a dry stacked waste facility, eliminating the need for a tailings pond. Beijing General Research Institute Mining and Metallurgy has begun design work for the new process plan as part of a prefeasibility study to be completed in mid-2015, before completing the feasibility study at year's end. Copper North said improved recoveries and bringing forward revenues from operations, as compared to a July 2014 preliminary economic assessment, shows an important improvement in project economics.

KAMINAK GOLD CORP. Jan. 20 reported assay results from drilling at Double Double, the highest grade of four gold deposits being evaluated at the Coffee gold project about 130 kilometers (80 miles) south of Dawson City, Yukon Territory, as part of an ongoing feasibility study. The objective of 6,850 meters of infill drilling in 47 holes at Double Double was to verify and upgrade the open-pit resources defined in a 2014 preliminary economic assessment from inferred to the indicated category. In addition to confirming the existing geological interpretation, Kaminak said drilling completed in 2013 and 2014 has delineated a previously unknown parallel mineralized structure – Double Double North – culminating in a 2014 intercept of 32.8 grams per metric ton gold over 6.1 meters from 39.6 meters depth. This high-grade intercept is located just outside the PEA pit shell, underscoring the potential for resource expansion. Additional highlights from 2014 drilling at Double Double include five meters grading 37.6 g/t gold in CFD093 and 33.53 meters of 5.07 g/t gold in CFR0713. Drilling is scheduled to resume at Coffee in February.

COLORADO RESOURCES LTD. Jan. 19 reported the acquisition of 661 hectares (1,633 acres) of property internal to the KSP gold-copper property in northwestern British Columbia. Colorado has an option to earn up to 80 percent interest in KSP from SnipGold Corp. The additional ground includes the Snip 2 claim acquired from Teck Resources Ltd.; and the Snow Minfile and Lake Minfile occurrences from private vendors. Colorado said it met 2014 payment and work commitments for KSP and roughly 75 percent of its 2015 work commitments for the property. With no other property obligations, the company said its treasury is in good shape to weather difficult financial times.

PRETIUM RESOURCES INC. Jan. 16 reported closing a C\$80.87 million private placement with Zijin Mining Group Co. Ltd. of 12.84 million Pretium common shares at C\$6.30 each. Pretium intends to use the proceeds to fund capital expenditures at its Brucejack gold project in northwestern British Columbia, including procurement of long-lead items and camp infrastructure. Shaoyang Shen of Zijin will be appointed to Pretium's board of directors.

CHIEFTAIN METALS CORP. Jan. 15 said British Columbia Minister of Environment Mary Polak has determined that the Tulsequah Chief Mine project near the Alaska border in west-

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Coeur Mining Inc. plans to release a new mine plan for Kensington in early 2015 that is expected to reflect higher grade, higher-margin production over the life of the Southeast Alaska gold mine.

PRODUCTION

SE output soars

Greens Creek, Kensington outperform silver, gold production predictions

By ROSE RAGSDALE

For Mining News

Thanks to higher grades and improved recoveries, Greens Creek and Kensington, the two producing mines located in the Alaska Panhandle, reported strong output in 2014 and outstanding results for the fourth quarter.

Record output at Greens Creek

At Greens Creek which is owned and operated by Idaho-based Hecla Mining Co., about 360 full-time workers carved some 7.83 million ounces of silver and 58,753 oz gold, as well as lead and zinc concentrates from the volcanogenic massive sulphide mine in 2014, milling ore at an average rate of 2,236 tons per day. The output exceeded the company's 2014 anticipated silver production of 6.5 to 7.0 million ounces and the mine's 2013 output of 7.45 million oz silver by 5 percent; 57,457 oz gold by 2 percent; zinc by 11 percent and lead by 33 percent.

In the fourth-quarter, Greens Creek produced 2.5 million ounces of silver and 15,289 ounces of gold, outpacing the mine's comparable 2013 production of 1.8 million ounces of silver and 14,722 ounces of gold by 34 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

The underground mine, which has operated for



PHILLIPS S. BAKER JR.

"Hecla's silver-equivalent production is the most in Hecla's history and higher than our guidance as all three mines are running well." —Phillips S. Baker Jr., president and CEO, Hecla Mining Co.

more than 22 years on Admiralty Island about 18 miles southwest of Juneau, is one of the world's largest primary silver producers. It contributed a substantial share of Hecla's overall production of precious metals in 2014, which totaled 11.1 million oz silver and 186,994 oz gold, up 24 percent and 56 percent, respectively, from comparable output in 2013. The company, which also operates the Lucky Friday mine in Idaho and Casa Berardi mine in Quebec, produced 34.44 million pounds zinc and 19.57 million lbs. lead, primarily at Greens Creek.

Hecla's silver-equivalent production for 2014 totaled 34.5 million oz, up 50 percent from 2013 and 142 percent from 2012.

"Hecla's silver-equivalent production is the most in Hecla's history and higher than our guidance as all three mines are running well," said Phillips S. Baker, Jr., Hecla's President and CEO. "The fourth-quarter performance of Greens Creek and Casa Berardi exceeded our normal production expectations as a result of higher grades and in addition, increased recoveries at Casa Berardi over the third quarter. Cash balances are essentially unchanged from the end of last year,

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