



NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley



SHANE LASLEY

Looking south, the Raintree West deposit lies in the valley about 1,500 meters east of the Whistler deposit outcropping from the ridge in the foreground. Brazil Resources, the new owner of the Whistler property, commissioned a maiden resource for Raintree West totaling 2 million gold-equivalent ounces, including the value of the copper and silver in the deposit.

Raintree West delivers additional gold-copper resource to Whistler

Brazil Resources Inc. May 17 reported an inaugural mineral resource estimate for the Raintree West deposit at its Whistler copper-gold project, located about 95 miles (150 kilometers) northwest of Anchorage, Alaska. Located 1,500 meters east of the Whistler deposit, Raintree West is one of several porphyry centers identified on the district-scale Raintree property. The Raintree West deposit has been subdivided into two zones: A, a block-cave zone that extends from a depth of 100 meters; and B, which runs to a depth of 250 meters and is considered an open-pit zone. Using a gold-equivalent cut-off grade of 0.6 grams per metric ton, Zone A contains 51.76 million metric tons of inferred resource averaging 0.68 g/t (1.13 million ounces) gold; 3.74 g/t (6.22 oz.) silver; 0.1 percent (114.13 million pounds) copper. At a gold-equivalent cut-off grade of 0.3 g/t, Zone B contains 31.68 million metric tons of inferred resource averaging 0.4 g/t (409,000 oz.) gold; 5.39 g/t (5.49 million oz.) silver; and 0.06 percent (41.91 million lbs.) copper. When you calculate the value of the copper and silver, this comes to 2 million gold-equivalent-oz. of inferred resources in the two zones at Raintree West. This adds to the 2.25 million gold-equivalent-oz. in the indicated category and 3.25 million gold-equivalent-oz. inferred identified at the Whistler deposit; plus 444,000 gold-equivalent-oz. in the indicated category and 1.13 million gold-equivalent-oz. inferred identified at Island Mountain, another deposit located on the expansive Whistler property about 14 miles to the south. "We are pleased to report this maiden NI 43-101 resource estimate for the Raintree West deposit, which builds on the multimillion-ounce gold resource reported over the last year on the Whistler Project," said Brazil Resources CEO Garnet Dawson. "In conjunction with advancing our existing project portfolio, the company continues to evaluate resource-stage projects in the Americas for potential acquisition."

Growing copper resources outlined in Bornite report

NovaCopper Inc. May 16 filed a National Instrument 43-101-compliant technical report that describes 913 million pounds of indicated copper and 5.45 billion lbs. of indicated copper identified, so far, at the Bornite project in Northwest Alaska. This marks a 410 percent increase in indicated copper and 517 percent increase in inferred copper since NovaCopper had its first resource calculated for Bornite in 2012. At a 0.50 percent copper cut-off grade, Bornite is estimated to contain 40.5 million metric tons of in-pit indicated resources averaging 1.02 percent (913 million lbs.) copper for 913 million pounds of contained copper; and 84.1 million metric tons of in-pit inferred resources averaging 0.95 percent (1.8 billion lbs.) cop-

see NEWS NUGGETS page 14

TRANS-BOUNDARY MINING

Protecting state waters

Alaska delegates call for Ottawa-D.C. to weigh in on BC-AK mining concerns

By SHANE LASLEY

Mining News

Alaska's congressional delegation is once again soliciting greater Obama Administration involvement in the potential development of numerous mines being considered on northwestern British Columbia waterways that drain through Southeast Alaska.

"Like most Alaskans, we strongly support responsible mining, including mines in Southeast Alaska, but Alaskans need to have every confidence that mining activity in Canada is carried out just as safely as in our state," the trio of Alaska lawmakers penned in a May 12 letter to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

Following a report earlier this month by British Columbia's auditor general, however, Alaska senators Lisa Murkowski, Dan Sullivan and Rep. Don Young, all Republicans, do not feel that such a confidence in neighboring B.C.'s mining oversight is warranted.

Over the course of her two-year investigation, B.C. Auditor General Carol Bellringer found that the province's "expectations for a robust compliance and enforcement program within the (Ministry of Energy and Mines) and (Ministry of Environment) were not met."

She said both regulatory agencies had gaps in the resources and tools needed to ensure mine operators complied with environmental regulations – limitations that increase the environmental risks from mines under their stewardship.

"During the course of this audit, these risks became a reality and disaster occurred when the tailings dam at Mount Polley failed – releasing approximately 25 million cubic meters of wastewater and tailings into adjacent water systems and lakes," Bellringer wrote.

The Alaska delegation worries that a similar occurrence in one of the three watersheds upstream of the Southeast Alaska Panhandle – Stikine, Taku and Unuk – would hurt fisheries, tourism and the Native peoples of the region.

Growing concerns

The 2014 tailings dam breach at Imperial Metals Corp.'s Mount Polley Mine accentuated the growing concerns many Alaskans have about the potential development of a number of large copper deposits in Northwest B.C. located upstream of Southeast Alaska.

"Because water runs downhill, it is Alaska that is likely to be most affected by any action that takes place on the Canadian side of the border," Alaska Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott said during a Nov. 4 luncheon speech at the Alaska Miners Association convention in Anchorage.

Imperial Metals' Red Chris copper-gold mine, which is located upstream of Alaska, reached commercial production in 2015. Another six Northwest B.C. projects located in the transboundary region – Brucejack (Pretium Resources), Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (Seabridge Gold), Schaft Creek (Copper Fox Metals-Teck Resources), Galore Creek (Novagold-



CAROL BELLRINGER

"We must, at the very least, ask for Canada's commitment to help protect the pristine waters of Southeast Alaska – to match our commitment to baseline water quality monitoring, and to consider other ways to ensure the full protection of our world-class fisheries."

— Alaska congressional delegation

Teck), Kisault (Avanti Mining) and Tulsequah Chief (Chieftain Metals) – are near or in permitting.

This list does not include a growing number of exciting, earlier-stage mineral projects being explored in the prolific Golden Triangle region of Northwest B.C.

In their letter to Secretary Kerry, the Alaska delegation suggests that the U.S. State Department should encourage officials in Ottawa and Victoria to take into consideration the potential cumulative impacts on trans-boundary waters while considering permits for mines upstream of Alaska.

"We must, at the very least, ask for Canada's commitment to help protect the pristine waters of Southeast Alaska – to match our commitment to baseline water quality monitoring, and to consider other ways to ensure the full protection of our world-class fisheries," the delegation wrote in the letter to Kerry.

The trio of Alaska lawmakers suggested that the International Joint Commission, an organization formed in 1909 to deal with U.S.-Canada trans-boundary water issues, is one option to ensure that Alaskans' interests are protected.

Increased cooperation

Involving the International Joint Commission has been a back-burner idea considered during discussions between Alaska and British Columbia. The neighboring jurisdictions, however, expressed a preference to work out trans-boundary mining concerns at the state-provincial level.

Leaders laid the framework for this increased cooperation in a memorandum of understanding signed by the neighbors Nov. 25.

"British Columbia and Alaska share a lot of common interests that transcend borders and a long history of working together. This MOU provides for more collaboration and cooperation to ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement for our shared environment – and a better future for people on both sides of the border," B. C. Premier Christy Clark said upon signing the document.

"As we work to improve our state's economy, it is important that we actively reach out and foster good relationships with our trading partners and neighbors with whom we share so much in common," added Alaska Gov. Bill Walker.

For its part, the B.C. government is implementing recommendations by the province's Auditor General Office and an independent panel of experts that investigated the cause of the Mount Polley dam failure.

B.C. Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett said "the Mount Polley disaster, despite being unprecedented in modern B.C. history and despite the hidden, sub-surface cause of the accident, is evidence

see STATE WATERS page 13