



## NEWS NUGGETS

Compiled by Shane Lasley



Crews return to camp after field work at the Pebble Mine project. The 2017 field program is focused on collecting the additional environmental and engineering data to finalize permit applications for this world-class copper project in Southwest Alaska.

### Readying Pebble for permitting

Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. Aug. 11 reported that it is working toward the finalization of the design concept and necessary documentation to initiate permitting for its Pebble Mine project in Southwest Alaska. This work includes a field program to collect additional environmental baseline data for proposed infrastructure such as access routes, port and ferry landing sites with the objective of characterizing the existing conditions for engineering design and permitting purposes. Wetland mapping of the proposed mine site and the project's supporting infrastructure areas will also be conducted. At the same time, the engineering team is focused on investigating a number of project alternatives in order to finalize the permit application package for Pebble. The engineering work includes the consideration of smaller mine concepts, including site layouts and waste management facilities; alternate ore treatment options; transportation corridor to the south of Lake Iliamna, including road and ferry options; facilities associated with the new transportation corridor; a port facility on Cook Inlet, southeast of Lake Iliamna; water treatment plants; and a gas-fired power plant and associated gas line. This engineering work, along with the supporting field program, is targeting the preparation and submission of a complete permitting package under the federal National Environmental Policy Act. Alongside its engineering and field work, the Pebble Partnership, owned by Northern Dynasty, is carrying out stakeholder engagement activities in Alaska to advance and strengthen relationships with Alaska Native partners and broader stakeholder groups, as well as people in political and regulatory offices in Juneau and Washington D.C. "Through our numerous stakeholder initiatives, the company seeks to create a science-based project design more responsive to stakeholder concerns that bring benefits to local residents, businesses and Alaska Native village corporations, and energizes the economy of Southwest Alaska," Northern Dynasty penned in its second quarter financial report. Over the past 16 years, roughly US\$762 million has been invested in the geological, environmental, engineering and other work needed to prepare the world-class Pebble mine project for permitting. Northern Dynasty's near-term goals are to secure a project partner(s) with the financial resources to contribute to permitting, building and operating a world-class mine at Pebble; and initiate federal and state permitting in 2017.

### More 2017 drilling at Pyramid

CopperBank Resources Corp. Aug. 14 announced plans to expand its 2017 drill program at the Pyramid copper-gold-molybdenum project on the Alaska Peninsula. The company had already expanded the originally planned 1,500-meter initial phase of drilling by adding a second rig. Following a site visit by CopperBank's technical team and consultants from SRK

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MILLROCK RESOURCES INC.



Millrock Resources is managing a roughly 3,000-meter drill program aimed at the upgrading and potentially expanding the historical gold-copper resource at the Stellar property in Southcentral Alaska to modern standards.

### EXPLORATION

# Bold moves pay off

Exploration ramps up on Millrock gold, copper properties in Alaska, BC

By SHANE LASLEY  
Mining News

With roughly US\$5 million of exploration being carried out on its projects in Alaska, British Columbia and Mexico this year, Millrock Resources Inc. is beginning to reap the benefits of the upswing in the mining sector.

"During the industry downturn, Millrock moved boldly to grow its property portfolio," said Millrock President and CEO Greg Beischer. "Now that metal prices and investor sentiment have improved, we are ramping up exploration efforts significantly."



GREG BEISCHER

This ramp up of exploration includes 2017 field programs at the Liberty Bell and Stellar projects in Alaska; Oweege Dome and Willoughby projects in northern British Columbia; and La Navidad and El Picacho projects in Mexico.

### Stellar drilling

The biggest exploration program slated for this year is being carried out on the Stellar gold-copper project in Southcentral Alaska.

Earlier this year, Millrock traded its ownership of Stellar to facilitate a deal that merged Stellar with Caribou Dome, a high-grade copper property immediately to the east.

In exchange for Stellar, Millrock gained a 10.6 percent stake in Coventry Resources, an Australia-based junior that now owns both Stellar and Caribou Dome.

The main deposit at Copper Dome hosts 2.8 million metric tons of total resource (measured, indicated and inferred) averaging 3.1 percent (190 million pounds) copper.

Numerous other high-grade copper targets have

been identified along an 11-mile stretch of Caribou Dome, prospects that trend onto the neighboring Stellar claims.

The Stellar claims cover the Zackly copper-gold skarn deposit, which hosts a historical resource of 1.54 million metric tons grading 4.5 g/t (218,944 oz) gold and 2.9 percent (66.9 million lb) copper.

Bringing these two assets together provides Coventry a roughly 22-mile-long stretch of highly prospective ground just north of the Denali Highway.

Upon completion of a three-company deal to merge the neighboring properties— which also involved Vista Minerals, another Australian explorer that was earning rights on the Stellar property — and raising roughly AU\$5.5 million to explore them, Coventry is now in the process of changing its name to Polaris Minerals Ltd.

Millrock, which has decade of experience exploring Alaska and knows the Stellar property well, is managing the 2017 program. This work is expected to include 3,000 meters of drilling primarily focused on drilling in around the Zackly deposit with the aim to upgrade the historical resource to JORC standard, the Australian equivalent of the NI 43-101 standards in Canada.

"We've got pretty high-grade gold-copper historic resource in the ground at Stellar and we're going to re-drill that to bring it up to modern resource standards. Additionally, we'll use a second drill to test the geophysical conductors along strike," Beischer told Resource Digest.

The second rig could expand upon the high-grade copper and gold.

Millrock and Polaris are also hoping to get drill to Mars, a large copper-gold prospect at the western edge of the property and right next to a promising copper prospect on the Caribou Dome side of the merged land package.

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