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Nevada Copper in advanced exploration stage at Pumpkin Hollow

■ Looking at production by 2011-12 if work progresses well; full employment could go to 200-400

By Keith Trout
News Editor

The Nevada Copper Corporation is developing what it considers "Nevada's next major copper mine" in the Pumpkin Hollow area southeast of Yerington and is ready to go into the advanced exploration stage, with hopes to be producing copper within several years.

Officials from Nevada Copper, a public company, gave a report on the mine's status to the Yerington City Council during a recent meeting.

"We're excited to see something happen out there," said Yerington Mayor Doug Homestead after the presentation.

Consultant Tim Dyer responded, "It shows there's a serious effort going on."

The Pumpkin Hollow project is also referred to as "Nevada's Next Copper Mine" in Nevada Copper Corporation literature.

In response to a question from the audience, Nevada Copper's Joe Kircher, chief operating officer and vice president, said the scope of the mine would depend on the operations, but could rise from 200 to 400 people.

Currently most of the employees working at the mining site in the "Walker Lane mineralized belt of Western Nevada" are with contracted drilling companies.

The current schedule is for the mine site to be in production in 2011-12, but Kircher said, "We have a lot of hurdles to clear between now and then."

Much of the report was given by a consultant hired by the company, Dyer of The Mines Group, which specializes in permitting and environmental design

of mines.

Also present was Greg French, the project manager at Pumpkin Hollow.

At one point he said he felt the mine and Yerington was a good match, as Yerington was looking for economic development and it has infrastructure in place in the form of a number of approved subdivisions that remain to be filled.

The corporation completed a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) in March and the report was positive, with that PEA turned in to securities regulators in Canada. NCC plans to start a definitive economic study in the fourth quarter of 2008. NCC announced "robust economic results" from the PEA.

Most of the mining initially planned to be done would be underground and it would be later in the mine's life that an open pit would be used, officials said.

NCC has been steadily doing exploration

drilling in recent months. In January the company increased the drilling from 12,000 meters to 15,000 meters and then announced in May it was expanding drilling from 15,000 meters to 40,000 meters.

The mine has two drills going "around the clock" with the third drill to be added within a month.

Dyer said mining has changed significantly in the past 20 years and especially in the 50-plus years since the Anaconda mine opened, with machinery much larger, for one, and environmental issues have changed significantly. He added, "It's very high-tech" with many computers.

He said Nevada Copper's had a "quite accomplished" technical team working on the project thus far.

Pumpkin Hollow is 100 percent owned by NCC, which increased its stake from 12 square miles to 21 square miles in unpatented mining claims in the past year.

The exploration work thus far has discovered copper, gold, silver and iron, with copper by far the largest. The company reported "measured and indicated resources totaling 4 billion pounds of copper plus additional inferred resources of 3.9 billion pound copper resources and associated 144 million ton iron, 1.3 million ounces of gold and 57 million ounces of silver," estimated as of last October.

NCC is working on many permits, including a special use permit with Lyon County and many with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (water pollution control permit, reclamation permit, surface water infiltration permit, etc.).

The purpose or objective of the advanced exploration phase is to provide detailed information on the location, nature and extent of the mineralizationk associ-

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ated with the east underground mineral deposits identified with surface drilling performed since the 1960s by others and since 2006 by NCC.

Most of the high grade underground copper deposits were iden-

tified by the company, with these in the advanced exploration stage. There are other copper and iron open pit deposits on the west side of the property.

Pumpkin Hollow was first discovered by U.S. Steel in 1960 and explored by other companies before it was bought by a company that became Nevada Copper Corp. in 2005, with work beginning at the site in 2006.

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