

JUNIOR MINING

Resurrection of a gold mine in Nova Scotia?

Ressources Appalaches says it could start mining in 2014 with an Industrial Permit in hand, and \$7.5m in funding set for release to refurbish a mill.

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HALIFAX, NS (MINEWEB) -

I'll be watching what Ressources Appalaches (TSX-V: APP) can make of its Dufferin gold mine in Nova Scotia now it has an Industrial Permit to mine. Past owners have had a few kicks at the operating can, but the deposit has never really gained traction as a solid gold mine.

Dufferin has a history of short-lived mining attempts. The question now is can Ressources Appalaches make more of it?

The junior, whose management I couldn't reach by phone on Wednesday afternoon, has dewatered old workings and aims to refurbish an existing 300-tonne-per-day-mill and start mining at a rate between 20,000 to 25,000 ounces gold a year in 2014. The rapid re-start is to be funded by a \$10 million loan from Lascaux Resource Capital that Ressources Appalaches arranged earlier this year. The industrial permit from the government of Nova Scotia was one of the main conditions Ressources Appalaches had to meet for Lascaux to release the bulk of funds.

These proceeds are something to watch for now.

In the past couple decades there's been a few attempted restarts. The details are in a NI-43-101 project report by MineTech. To recap: in the early 1990s Seabright Explorations came close to bringing Dufferin to production before suspending operations.

Then Dufferin Resources took over and milled some 1,400 tonnes from one of the deposit's Bendigo-like saddle reefs in 1994, but soon closed up shop the following year. Fast forward to the 2000s, Azure Resources tried to make a go of it again, refurbishing the mill, processing some 23,144 tons ore, producing some 1,600 onces gold and 20,000 tons waste rock. Recoveries were reportedly low at 54 percent.

Ownership passed on to Jemma Resources which produced about 1,600 ounces gold from tailings, but it ultimately optioned the property off to Ressources Appalaches in 2008.

One historic resource estimate in the early 1990s pegged the deposit at 152,000 tonnes @ 12 g/t Au. But - and this is interesting - Ressources Appalaches has done a fair bit of expansion drilling in the past five years, which is evident on page 16 of their most recent presentation. While Ressources Appalaches does not report a resource, it appears it has hit some high grades in extensions to the saddle reef veins of the Dufferin gold deposit.

Assuming Ressources Appalaches improves on historic milling performance, these might just help the Dufferin gold mine leave behind a history of false starts. We shall soon see.

Topics: GOLD, RESSOURCES APPPALACHES, NOVA SCOTIA, DUFFERING GOLD MINE

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