



Canada: CARMACKS COPPER MINE IN YUKON TERRITORY

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Vancouver-based exploration and development company Western Copper Corporation announced it has nearly completed the permitting phase and will be able to commence construction of the Carmacks Copper Mine Project in summer 2009. The Carmacks Copper Mine Project is located about 120 miles north of Whitehorse, Yukon, and valued at US \$129 million. This project creates many prime export opportunities for American firms in supplying cost effective products and services.

Based on Western Copper's May 2007 feasibility study, the Carmacks mine will have a minimum of six years of productive life with primary extraction of copper. The annual ore production rate is projected at 1.7 million tons per annum, extracting 14,500 tons per annum of LME Grade-A Copper Cathode. Ore extraction will be carried out through open-pit mining, with copper extraction using heap leaching and the solvent extraction/electro-winning (SX/EW) process. Trace amounts of silver and gold are also present in cores drilled on the mine site.

The Yukon Territory is underserved by railways and thus most products will be shipped through the port of Skagway in Alaska, and then to the mine site via railway or truck. Refined ores will also be shipped from Skagway. In order to connect with the government-maintained Freegold Road, Carmacks Copper Project will require eight miles of road and infrastructure improvements to widen the pre-existing survey road. Seven miles of 138 kV transmission lines in order to hook up with the Yukon Energy Commission (YEC)'s energy grid will also be required, as well as the construction of an on-site electrical substation. The project will require 8600 cubic feet of water a day, which will be acquired from bedrock-confined aquifers underlying the nearby Williams Creek drainage. Potable water will come from a packaged treatment plant.

Depending on whether housing can be found in the nearby village of Carmacks, Western Copper may also need to build temporary housing for its employees, the number of which is projected to peak at 112 in most productive years. There is no anticipated opposition from the locals or the Yukon Government and Western Copper has outreach and reclamation programs in place in accordance with Yukon law.

Opportunities for US Firms:

This project presents extensive opportunities for US firms. Located just four degrees longitude south of the arctic circle, the average winter temperature is -13 to -22 Fahrenheit, with as extremes as cold as -58 Fahrenheit. While on very cold days work may stop, the Carmacks Mine will require equipment capable of operating in extreme winter conditions, including equipment for digging, drilling, heating, and ore extraction. Supplies and equipment used in the heap leaching and solvent extraction/electro-winning (SX/EW) extraction processes, including crushers, cathodes, sulphuric acid, and radial stackers, as well as materials and equipment in constructing a solvent extraction plant and an electro-winning plant are needed.

Opportunities for U.S. firms may also be presented with the need for shelter for the project's approximately 100 workers, who will need temporary shelter and everyday appliances. Temporary structures will also be required for use as a project office and related administrative buildings at the project site.

An on-site packaged treatment plant will also be required for potable water. The project will also require seven miles of 138 kV transmission lines, appropriate towers, equipment, and supplies for construction of an electrical substation, as well as wiring and hookups for equipment and structures on the project grounds.

U.S. companies interested in business relationships with representatives, distributors, government contacts, or licensing partners, should consider taking advantage of trade development programs offered by the U.S. Commercial Service.

For More Information

The U.S. Commercial Service in Vancouver, Canada can be contacted via e-mail at: Judy.Simonite@mail.doc.gov; Phone: 604-685-3382; Fax: 604-687-6095; or visit our website: www.buyusa.gov/canada

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