

Something big is happening around Penobsquis

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for immediate release

NORTH BAY – Anyone travelling on Highway 1 from Sussex to Moncton cannot help but notice something big is happening around the small town of Penobsquis, New Brunswick. The Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan (PotashCorp) has run their Penobsquis Mine there for years, but recently it has committed over \$1.6 Billion in capital investment to build a new mine, the Picadilly Mine, directly across the highway from their existing mine. This is a substantial investment that will create both temporary and additional full time jobs in the area. In a recent speech at a Canadian Institute of Mining Conference in Bathurst, Mr. Cecil Freeman, Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources, referenced the project and noted that this kind of investment is large enough to noticeably impact New Brunswick's gross domestic product numbers and is a very important economic driver in the province.

One of the most visible aspects of this project has been erected. The first of two headframes has been constructed onsite. General Contractor, Cementation Canada and FCC Construction are managing the mine access portion of the plant construction, and last week the construction of the concrete headframe tower for the service shaft was completed. The headframe slipform specialist sub-contractor J-Sons out of North Dakota carried out the slip forming with concrete supplied by Lafarge Canada. The headframe as it now stands is 306 feet high and took over 5,200 m³ of concrete and 500 tons of rebar to construct. Many weeks of planning and preparation were required prior to the commencement of the headframe construction and safety was the main consideration in the construction. Actual concrete placement using the slip forming technique commenced August 26, 2009 and by September 9, 2009 the concrete placement was complete. The headframe is an impressive structure and still requires installation of structural steel and services before it can be used to commence the shaft sinking. When steel installation is complete the headframe will reach its final height of 320 feet. As with any major construction project, the work was a real team effort between PotashCorp, Cementation, FCC, J-Sons, and the many other contractors that supported the project. Cook Engineering did the headframe design, with Stantec and Cementation designing collar and foundations, and Cementation designing the mine shaft itself.

Cementation Project Manager John Hafidson said "Constructing this structure safely in a 15-day period took the hard work and skills of a number of people".

Now that the service shaft headframe is up, the team will focus on the production shaft headframe, a similar tower construction of the same height that will be erected later this year, only a few hundred feet from the headframe that just went up.

Congratulations to PotashCorp and all the project team on the safe and successful construction of the first Picadilly Project headframe.

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