

MINING AT ROBINSON

Alta Gold commenced mining at the Robinson Gold Project in 1985 after a ten year lease from Kennecott Copper Corporation (KCC) was obtained. Mining began at a very modest rate of 30,000 tons/month in 1985, increased to 110,000 t/mth in 1986, 140,000 t/mth in 1987, and 750,000 t/mth in 1988. 1989 will again experience an increase in production with a scheduled mid-summer expansion from the current 800,000 t/mth to approximately 1.2 million t/mth. Three major factors are responsible for the increase in production: increased strip ratio for millable material, approval from KCC to heap leach low grade material, and an increase in reserve ounces resulting from an aggressive exploration program.

The pit operates on a 20 hr. - 7 days per week work schedule. Mine production utilizes one 14 cubic yard and two 7 cubic yard Caterpillar Front End Loaders in conjunction with nine 50 ton Wabco Haulpaks. Two Crawler mounted blasthole drills provide for the blast holes and samples with Ammonium Nitrate being loaded via a bulk powder truck. Two additional 14 cubic yard Loaders and four 85 ton Haulpaks are scheduled for arrival in mid 1989.

Currently the mine uses four ore grade cutoff schemes: material ranging between .010 and .020 oz./ton is processed at a Run-of-Mine heap facility, .021 to .050 oz./ton material is processed at a crushed heap leach (-1 1/2"), and ore ranging between .051 to .130 oz./ton and .130 oz./ton and higher are stockpiled to provide the 1,200 tons per day carbon-in-pulp mill a constant head grade of .100 oz./ton.

At present, ore is produced from the Northwest Ruth deposit, Starpointer deposit, and the KCC South Dump tailings in which gold ore was prestripped from the Ruth copper deposit and discarded as waste. The JD Hill, Twin Peaks, and Ada ore deposits will be put into production in late 1989.