

THE DAILY COURIER

Princeton's Copper Mountain Mining Welcomes Arrival of Secondary Crusher Major Parts

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The Copper Mountain Mine, located near Princeton, was commissioned in the summer of 2011 and was the first base metals mine to commence production in B.C. in over a decade. The opening of the mine represented a significant injection of economic benefits to the community of Princeton.

The Copper Mountain Mine is the largest employer for the town of Princeton and currently has about 415 employees.

Since commissioning, the mine has achieved significant operational improvements however it has not been able to consistently operate at design output levels of 35,000 tonnes per day due to the toughness of the ore.

During 2013, an engineering study was completed that confirmed the installation of a secondary crusher would ensure that the mill would operate consistently at the designed throughput rate of 35,000 tonnes per day.

The secondary crusher will process all of the ore entering the mill to below one and one half inches in size, thereby allowing ore to flow faster and more easily through the front end of the process plant which will result in more copper production.

The capital cost of this large secondary crusher is \$40 million, and it is being transported all the way from Bucharest, Romania. Management at Copper Mountain are confident that the crusher will improve mill output, which will improve mine profitability, thereby sustaining employment and stability for the town of Princeton for many years.

Management at Copper Mountain selected the FL Smidth Raptor 2000, which is the largest cone crusher on the market, and fit for the most demanding high tonnage applications because it is a proven technology.

Currently, construction of the secondary crusher is well underway and on schedule for a summer 2014 start up.



The secondary crusher will be in a separate facility located in front of the process plant near the coarse ore stockpile, equivalent in height to a ten-storey building.

Initial foundation work is being completed and once the main part of the secondary crusher arrives on site for placement on the thick concrete foundations, the building will be built up around it.

Component pieces of the crushing unit are extremely large and heavy so they are scheduled to arrive on site separately for assembly.

The component parts of the Raptor 2000 are so heavy that they had to be shipped from Italy to the Port of Halifax for offloading on to land and then transported via train to arrive in Kamloops where they will then be loaded onto specialized "Over-sized load" trucks for transport to the mine.

Even all the bridges that are being crossed have to be reengineered to ensure that the move can be made safely and the bridges can withstand the weight.

The Lower Main frame is the largest component piece of the secondary crusher and weighs a little over 100 tonnes. Due to its weight and size, special permits and a specialized transportation truck are required to safely move this piece of equipment to the Copper Mountain Mine site.

Cranes were used to load the Lower Main Frame from the rail car to the transportation truck, which will then transport the piece to the mine site over a 4 day period at night time to avoid traffic on the roads.

The highway will be partially blocked off in sections during its travel to the mine site, so an extensive traffic management plan is in place. The total distance from Kamloops to Copper Mountain Mine is approximately 200km. The lower main frame will travel at a rate of 10kmh for five hours each night. Once the piece arrives at the mine, it will be lifted into position for installation into the foundation.

Residents of Princeton and employees at Copper Mountain are particularly excited about the successful implementation and timing of the installation of the secondary crusher. Once the secondary crusher is fully operational, the mine will be capable of processing more ore and will operate consistently over 35,000 tonnes per day with a long term goal to produce 100 million pounds of copper per year.