

Last week, Birch Mountain received additional funding through a CDN\$4 million loan advance on its secured debt facility with Brookfield Bridge Lending Fund Inc and has now drawn CDN\$12.5 million on the original CDN\$15.5 million facility. The company says the funds will be used for Muskeg Valley Quarry operations and general and administrative costs. In addition to funding sources, the company continues to pursue cost saving initiatives such as personnel restructuring, operating efficiencies, and overhead reductions.

## IMC Adjusts Coos Bay Resource Calculation

**Industrial Minerals Corp** (IMC) of Australia reports that drilling conducted earlier this year on its **minerals sands** property in Coos Bay, OR has resulted in an adjustment to its resource calculations. The drilling results indicated an additional 580,000 tons of ore, grading 31.5% heavy minerals, adjacent to the North Seven Devils deposit. These have been added to probable reserves of 490,000 tons, grading 34.8% heavy minerals.

An increase of 180,000 tons, grading 43.4% heavy minerals, was made to the measured resource of the South Seven Devils Deposit. These were added to probable reserves of 600,000 tons, grading 34.8% heavy minerals.

IMC notes that its applications for conditional use permits for its processing plant (*see ISN, June 25/07*) and associated mining sites were approved by the Coos County Planning Commission last month. However, a notice of appeal has been filed by a nearby property owner in relation to the mining sites' permit.

## Freeport Resources Moves to Pilot Plant Stage

Freeport Resources Inc of Vancouver, BC reports that it is in discussions with a number of parties following its request for proposals for the **Hutton Garnet Beaches**

project in northern Labrador (*see ISN, July 3/06*). Some of the parties are interested in the advancement of the project as a whole, while others are focused on specific aspects such as transportation, processing, marketing and distribution.

Freeport says the next step is to test the Hutton garnet at a pilot plant in order to prepare larger amounts of product for broader market testing. An in-depth transportation analysis, as part of an export market development plan, is being conducted in order to evaluate possible locations for the pilot plant.

Freeport is also studying the mode of extraction. Methods under consideration include pumping sand from shore to a barge or ship offshore, or possibly a tandem barge arrangement where a smaller barge could be beached and used as a portable dock, thereby limiting need for infrastructure on site.

## Zeox Completes Sodium Sulfate Mine Purchase

Zeox Corp of Vancouver, BC has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, **Nanostructured Minerals Corp**, has completed the acquisition of **Miller Western's** Palo sodium sulfate mine located near Whiteshore Lake, SK (*see ISN, June 11/07*). Assets acquired include 682 acres of land, mineral leases, buildings, plant and equipment, mobile equipment, and rail lines. Consideration paid for the acquisition was CDN\$1 million and the assumption of the financial obligations of approximately CDN\$279,000 for mining permits and bonds granted by the Province of Saskatchewan.

Zeox has also announced that it has entered into a Collaborative Commerce Agreement with **Catalina Biosolutions Inc** of Tucson, AZ. The company says the agreement provides strategic advantages with unique bio-remediation products specifically targeted at contaminated soils and water. Zeox notes that it is currently working on a clean water program for Asia with its partner **Logician Minerals Ltd** of Hong Kong (*see ISN, Sept 10/07*).