

## North American Minerals News

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## Freeport Resources planning Canadian garnet sand study

A junior Canadian minerals exploration company has come across what it believes could be an important commercial source of garnet on the Labrador coast of Canada.

Freeport Resources Inc., based in Vancouver, B.C., was formed in 1981 and has carried out a wide range of exploration projects. The company's current focus is in Eastern Canada where it had been, and still is, investigating potential diamond deposits in Labrador.

During a summer sampling program in 1997 Freeport came across a garnet sand deposit at Hutton which prompted the company to stake the Kanga east claims covering two alluvial garnet sand accumulations situated on tidewater.

Although it is early days for the project, Freeport is now planning to carry out a program of field work on the deposit this summer as well as continuing

analytical testing on the exact nature of the material.

At this stage in the investigation Freeport is unwilling to make any firm predications about the tonnages of material concerned but the deposit is believed to contain an average almandine garnet content of around 58% in the South Beach area and 22% in the North Beach area.

The South Beach location, which has the highest garnet concentrations, covers around 200,000 square meters as well as having considerable offshore potential as well. The North Beach covers an area of around 330,000 square meters.

In addition to the almandine garnet, Freeport is also investigating the potential of other minerals contained within the sand such as ruby garnet, zircon and possibly diamonds.

Freeport, which is currently looking at the logistics involved in developing the

project, will ultimately be looking for a joint venture partner if the decision is made to go ahead with development.

The company anticipates that if the deposit is put into commercial production, processing would be undertaken away from the site in order to lessen infrastructure costs, and that barging would be the primary cost involved in developing a mine.

Freeport is understood to have already been in discussions with a number of companies about the project.

Freeport, which has already spent in the region of C\$2.3m. on the Hutton beach sands project is also currently investigating a the Eaglet fluorite deposit in British Columbia. The company estimates that this could contain in excess of 1m. tons of material but considerably more extensive work is required to fully evaluate its potential.

## DuPont signs "no mining" agreement: funds needed to make it a reality

An unusual solution has been found down in Georgia to a very common industry problem. A dispute between DuPont and environmental groups and the US Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt over DuPont's plan to mine titanium ore on 38,000 acres near the eastern edge of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge has been resolved, with DuPont and others promising to forgo its right to mine the area as long as suitable financial compensation is forthcoming.

During the controversy DuPont called for the formation of a collaborative process study group encompassing environmental groups, county and local governments, native Americans, landowners, DuPont and others. Between them they have come up with a permanent solution that involves retiring the mineral rights in the area. This would require the calculation of a fair market value compensation figure which would be carried out by an independent entity.

As NAMN went to press it was reported that no agreement had been reached over the level of compensation. It is understood that DuPont believes a ball park figure of \$90m. is required for retiring the mineral rights, not all of which belong to DuPont but that this figure may not be acceptable to all parties.

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PEARL QUEEN PERLITE CORP. which operates a perlite mine and mill at Milford, Utah is up for sale. Monarch Financial of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Santini and Associates of Denver, Colorado have been retained to assist with facilitating the sale which includes around 40m. s.tons of mineable reserves. More details will follow next month.