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Business Services Industry

Hecla's La Camorra Mine Producing At Record Rates

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Business Editors, High-Tech Writers

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho--(BUSINESS WIRE)--June 27, 2000

Hecla Mining Company (HL & HL-PrB: NYSE) today announced record production for the months of April and May at its La Camorra gold mine in eastern Venezuela.

Hecla acquired the mine one year ago from Monarch Resources.

The mine produced 17,930 ounces of gold during the months of April and May. Total production at La Camorra for the first five months of the year was 36,760 ounces of gold, putting La Camorra well on its way to achieving a goal of 80,000 ounces of gold in 2000. Production costs remain low, with an average cash cost per ounce of \$190 for the year to date. As the year progresses, Hecla expects costs per ounce to come down even further at La Camorra.

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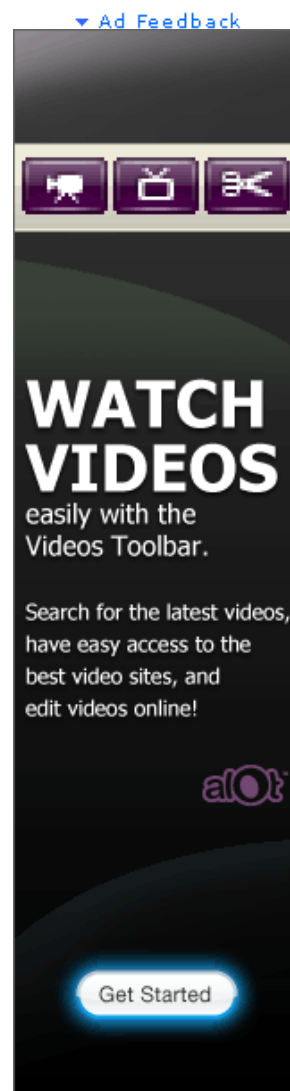
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The mining grade at this Venezuelan underground gold mine is rich, averaging 0.77 ounce per ton in April and 0.82 ounce per ton in May. The current grades are significantly higher than originally forecast, and the company has reason to believe the grade will stay in the 0.60 to 0.80-ounce per ton range for the remainder of the year.

In addition to improvements in production at La Camorra, an emphasis on safety has continued to improve the mine's safety record, with both April and May being accident-free.

Hecla is conducting both surface exploration and development drilling programs at La Camorra, and expects to convert gold resources into the proven and probable reserve category this year. At the beginning of this year, the mine had approximately 314,000 ounces of proven and probable gold reserves and another 267,000 ounces of gold in the "other resource" category. According to Roger Kauffman, Hecla's executive vice president and chief operating officer, both lateral and underground exploration potential at La Camorra are excellent. He said, "We are currently exploring for lateral extensions of the Betzy vein. Following drilling there, we will continue our exploration from the surface on adjacent land concessions held by Hecla as soon as we receive the proper permits. Meanwhile, previous deep drilling results show ore-grade intercepts, indicating the vein goes much deeper than the area contained in the current operating plan."

La Camorra is located in a greenstone volcanic belt within the Precambrian shield of Venezuela. The ore occurs in discontinuous shoots along the steeply dipping Main and Betzy veins, which run from the surface to more than 1,300 feet below sea level. Approximately 350 employees work at the La Camorra mine.

Hecla Mining Company, headquartered in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, has operations and projects in North and South America. One of the nation's primary silver producers, Hecla also mines gold and is a major supplier of ball clay, kaolin and feldspar.

Statements made which are not historical facts, such as anticipated payments, production, sales of assets, exploration results and plans, costs, prices or sales performance are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and involve a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected, anticipated, expected or implied. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, metals price volatility, volatility of metals production, industrial minerals market conditions and project development risks. Refer to the company's Form 10-Q and 10-K reports for a more detailed discussion of factors that may impact expected future results. The company undertakes no obligation and has no intention of updating forward-looking statements.

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