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Hellyer pilot plant a success: Intec

Tuesday, 17 August 2004
Andrea Hayward

INTEC has wound up its pilot plant program for the Hellyer Metals project, labelling it a success, with extractions corresponding to 77.3% of in-situ metal over three pilot plant campaigns and 83.2% of in-situ metal extracted in the best performing pilot plant campaign.

Average percentage metal extractions during the program were 99.0% lead, 98.8% zinc, 93.5% copper, 91.2% silver and 32.8% gold.

Intec estimated the Hellyer tailings dam contains about \$1.7 billion of in-situ metal at current metal prices and the US dollar Australian dollar exchange rate.

Two additional campaigns have been completed on a blend of Hellyer tailings with electric arc furnace (EAF) dust.

Intec said in addition to high metal extractions, the successful pilot plant campaign on blended feed material demonstrated there were significant technical and economic benefits to the Hellyer metals project from the co-treatment of Hellyer tailings with other zinc-bearing oxide residues.



Intec managing director
and chief executive Philip
Wood

The Hellyer pre-feasibility study is due for completion this week and will present the evaluation of two cases – a base case to provide treatment solely of Hellyer tailings and an enhanced case providing for the co-treatment of Hellyer tailings and zinc bearing residues such as EAF dust.

Intec expect the enhanced case to demonstrate significant additional technical and economic advantages over what it describes as an already robust base case.

Intec said commercial arrangements would be sought out nationally and internationally, during the development phase of the Hellyer metals project with the owners and/or producers of zinc bearing residues such as EAF dust.

Intec will commence a five week campaign to complete a two tonne sample of refractory gold material provided by Barrick Gold Corp to verify the laboratory gold recoveries at continuous pilot plant scale to characterise the engineering aspects of the Intec process.

Shares in Intec were trading up more than 5% at 9.9c on the ASX in early afternoon trade.

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