Electric Power Grid coming to the GOLDEN TRIANGLE...

In British Columbia Canada they call it "The Golden Triangle" because of the great geological potential of several world class mineral deposits discovered in the area.

The British Columbia Provincial Government in conjunction with the Federal Government of Canada, has recently approved the construction of a 200-mile high-voltage power line into the GOLDEN TRIANGLE. Funded in part by the Canadian Government, this line will deliver much needed, affordable electricity to the communities of northern British Columbia (communities, which at the moment, rely on expensive diesel-powered generation).
The new high-voltage power line called the Northwest Transmission Line, is scheduled to cut right through the heart of one of the most isolated (and untapped) gold mineralization areas in Canada. This is a huge pocket of underground gold formations known as the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE" and a mineral-rich zone that has been virtually off-limits to mining companies for the past 150 years because of its remote location and lack of industrial-grade power infrastructure.

Says Robert Stevens, of the Association for Mineral Exploration in British Columbia: "The region to be severed by the Northwest Transmission Line, (which currently lacks sufficient electrical infrastructure), is often called the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE" because of the great geological potential of several world class mineral deposits in that area."

Right now, a group of small mining companies control the majority of the land in the GOLDEN TRIANGLE. In the next 12-24 months when the new power grid is scheduled to go online, one of the greatest untapped sources of wealth in Canada will finally be open for mining. Each of these companies is in control of deposits worth several times the current value of their business.

There have been several attempts at mining the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE" over the years. In 1919, a group of Wall Street business tycoons purchased an interest in a start-up mining operation near Stewart, British Columbia, a secluded trading outpost in the GOLDEN TRIANGLE area.

The investors were a "who's who" of New York businessmen, the Guggenheim brothers (the ultra-rich Swiss mining family), the Keith-Untermeyer interests of New York and the American Smelting and Refining Company, took a three-fifths stake in the remote mining property.

The new venture was far from a "safe bet." The region was regularly covered with more than 75 feet of snow a year (in fact, Stewart, B. C. once held the world record for the amount of snowfall in a single season, 100 feet), the "easiest" way to reach the area was by riverboat and there was no electric power grid, roads, or mining infrastructure to speak of.

But despite the obstacles, the miners struck gold. The Premier Gold Mine as it was called, quickly became one of the most lucrative mining projects of the day. The Premier Gold Mining Company returned as much as 200% on the stock market between 1921 and 1923 and was paying out an incredible 32% by the end of 1925.

In 1923, the Christian Science Monitor called the property, "one of the greatest silver and gold mines in the world." But the costs of running a massive mining operation in such a remote location eventually caught up with the company. The cost of generating electricity, for example, which came from Premier's own diesel-run power plant, was highly dependent on the price of oil (and the cost to transport it), making the deposit extremely difficult to mine economically. The mine was eventually shut down, even though all the gold hadn't yet been mined!
Since that time, there have been only a small handful of companies that have successfully ventured into the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE". In the early 1990s, for example, shares of a tiny exploration company called Stikine Resources soared from $1 to $68 in 18 months after it discovered the $1.7 BILLION Eskay Creek gold deposit, a 6,700% gain.

In the mid-1990s, shares of a company called Prime Resources soared more than 636% after it tapped the super-rich Snip gold deposit. According to a 2009 British Columbia mining report, less than 1% (.0006%) of the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE" has been mined to date.

In 1962, the Bronson Slope property, a massive 2.6 million ounce gold deposit in the heart of the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE" was discovered, (note that a one-million ounce deposit is considered huge). But, to this day, it remains totally untouched.

Then in 1965, the Schaft Creek deposit was unearthed, an even bigger deposit that holds more than 4.5 million ounces of gold. Again, it's just been sitting there for the past 40+ years. The value of the gold in these 2 deposits alone is estimated at more than $2 BILLION.

So how can such huge gold deposits remain untouched for so long? Quite simply, because the entire northern half of British Columbia has no electrical grid infrastructure that can handle the development of these huge mining operations! In other words, without an electrical grid, there's NO cheap way to bring power to the region and power the gold mines.

Says the Mining Association of British Columbia: "The lack of a power line is a serious impediment to exploration in the area and development of project opportunities." In fact, as recently as 2007, work on the Galore Creek property in the Golden Triangle was halted due to the high cost of building and operating a mine in the region. Galore Creek is a massive resource holding as much as 12 million ounces of gold. Today, it sits idle and waiting for power to arrive.

In 2009, a report by the Mining Association of British Columbia made a startling discovery. In short, they found that a government-funded hydro-electric power line would not only allow these huge mineral deposits to finally get tapped at a super-low cost (saving significantly from conventional electrical grids), but it would also provide a huge return on the government's investment.

According to the report, the estimated cost to build the state-of-the-art power line is $600 million, even if the government funded a small percentage of that, the investment would bring in more than $300 million per year, potentially for the next 20 YEARS or more, in tax revenue.

That's why, in late 2009, the British Columbia Provincial Government approved the construction of a power line that will deliver cheap, affordable electricity to the GOLDEN TRIANGLE region.
Map of Northwest BC showing 10 key mining projects and infrastructure
In short, this new power line is going to make it so much easier for companies to mine the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE". It's called the Northwest Transmission Line and it will finally pave the way for a small group of companies who've managed to secure the majority of the land in the region.

The Northwest Transmission Line will connect to the existing electricity grid in Terrace, British Columbia. From there it will run 200 miles north through the heart of the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE" and come within just a few miles of more than a dozen of the world's richest untapped mineral deposits.

For example, the new electrical grid will bring power to the Bronson Slope project, the 2.6 million ounce gold deposit described earlier. Bronson slope contains more than just gold. A lot more, it also contains 16 million ounces of silver and 695 million pounds of copper.

The new electrical line will also bring power to the Schaft Creek deposit, the 4.5 million ounce gold deposit (the deposit that's been sitting idle since 1965). There are also 32 million ounces of silver and 4.8 billion pounds of copper in Schaft Creek. Says the firm's CEO: "The construction of the power line provides critical infrastructure important for the development of the Schaft Creek project and is integral in realizing Schaft Creek's full potential."

It's the same story with the Galore Creek deposit too. The value of the minerals in Galore Creek (after production costs) is estimated at more than $3.4 BILLION.

These are just a couple of the companies that are developing properties in the "GOLDEN TRIANGLE" over the next few years. This area is perhaps the most important, basically untouched; mineral-rich region on Earth and this soon-to-be completed power line is going to turn this region into THE big story in the mining world.

As the time to mine these huge deposits gets closer, word will eventually leak out to the mainstream press and to the investing masses. That's when the share prices of these tiny stocks will really start to move.

Eskay Mining Corporation currently holds 46,400 hectares of mineral tenure beside and south of the original Eskay Creek Mine and stands to be a beneficiary of the new power grid.

March 2010 GOLDEN TRIANGLE UPDATE: We have just learned that the first crucial steps in constructing the Northwest Transmission Line have been taken. The British Columbia Transmission Corporation (the group building the line) has submitted the environmental assessment application to the Environmental Office. The Canadian government has even offered to provide $10 million towards the application process.

**We are now one-step closer to this "GOLDEN TRIANGLE story" going mainstream.**

Portions of this article were originally published by Matt Badiali of the S&A Resource Report.