

FIELD TRIP REPORT

HIGHLAND VALLEY COPPER

October 28-29th, 2010



SEG-GAC Student Chapter
The University of British Columbia



SEG – UBC Student Chapter Trip to the Highland Valley Mine – October 28-29th, 2010

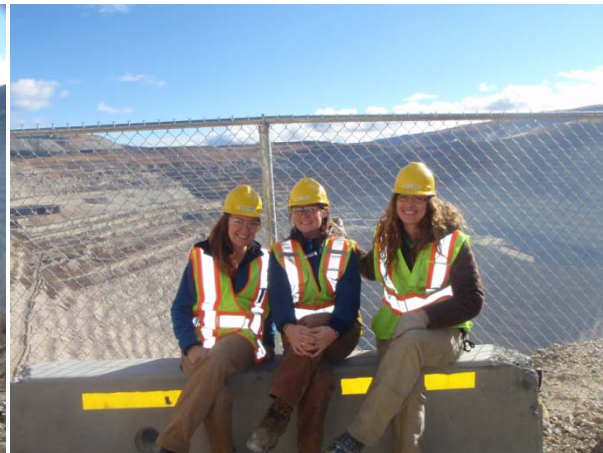
In the fall of 2010 the SEG-UBC Student Chapter organized a collaborative student-industry field trip to the Highland Valley Copper mine. Eleven students and one staff member from UBC were joined by five industry participants from Goldfields and Richfield Ventures Corp. On October 29th the group drove to the Highland Valley Mine where they met with mine geologist Gerald Grubisa. Gerald provided an introduction to the geology of the district, along with a history of the mine and an overview of active mining operations.

Trip participants were then led on a guided tour of the current mining operations. On the way to the Valley Pit, the tour group stopped along an active face to examine fresh exposures of chalcopyrite and molybdenite mineralization. The Valley Pit itself provided an excellent feel for the true size and scale of the massive open pit mining operation. Gerald described how the technique of buttressing was being used to extract more ore from the upper walls of the pit. The tour ended with a ‘bang’ as participants were fortunate to witness a blast at the Lornex Pit. After the blast, several seconds passed before the sound of the explosion was heard at the pit lookout.

The Highland Valley Copper Mine is a classic example of large-scale open pit mining in British Columbia. The tour was an excellent opportunity for trip participants to view the deposit geology and witness the scale of the mining operations. The SEG-UBC student chapter is grateful to Teck for the opportunity to tour a mining operation so close to home. We look forward to similar opportunities in the future.



The Valley Pit



UBC Students enjoying the view
at the Valley Pit