

#### Case Studies of Sustainable Water Treatment Solutions for Acid Rock Drainage









- Background about BioteQ
- Water treatment technologies
  - Metal recovery
  - Sulphate removal
- Case studies
  - Water quality
  - Life cycle costs
  - Profits from waste

## BioteQ Environmental Technologies



- BioteQ specializes in wastewater treatment to remove or recover dissolved metals and/or sulphate in mining, power generation, and oil & gas operations
- We convert wastewater into a useful resource, producing saleable by-products and clean water for re-use or recycle
- We reduce or eliminate sludge, and the associated environmental liability
- We have been in commercial production since 2001





We work with the world's leading resource companies, utility operators, and regulators:

Xstrata Barrick Vale Inco Cameco Newalta Jiangxi Copper Freeport-McMoRan Capstone Mining Teck Corp. EPCOR Aditya Birla Koza Gold Breakwater EcoMetales US EPA

Strategic alliances: Newalta Lanxess Eco

**EcoMetales** 



# Drivers for mine water treatment



- Reduce environmental liability, comply with regulations
- Improve water conservation and re-use because of scarce water resources
- Reduce life cycle costs of water treatment by applying lower cost alternatives and generating revenue from recovered byproducts









# BioteQ's water treatment technologies



#### Sulphide precipitation technologies

 Selectively recover dissolved metals: (Cu, Ni, Zn, Co, Cd, Pb, Hg, As, Sb, Mn)

#### Ion exchange technologies

- Sulphate removal
- Iron and aluminum recovery
- Specialty metal recovery (Co, Ni, Mo, Re, Si, Ba, St, Se)

### Metal Recovery Technologies In Mine Water Treatment

# Sulphide Precipitation Technologies



#### **BioSulphide**®, **ChemSulphide**®

- Selectively recover dissolved metals from wastewater
- ➤ Cu, Ni, Zn, Co, Cd, Pb, Hg, As, Sb, Mn
- Produces clean water for recycle or discharge
- No sludge product for disposal
- Lower life cycle costs

#### BioSART™

Gold applications -- metal recovery and cyanide regeneration





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## Benefits of sulphide metal recovery



- Reduces or eliminates waste sludge
- Reduces long-term liabilities
- Lowers life cycle cost of water treatment
  - Lower capital and operating costs
  - Generates revenue from metal byproducts
- Produces clean water that meets strict water quality criteria for discharge or re-use
  - Can be integrated with existing lime plants

### **Case Studies**

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### Case study 1: Raglan ChemSulphide® plant



- Build-own-operate project for Xstrata Nickel at an active nickel mine
- Plant operating since 2005
- Capital cost = Cdn \$1.8 million (2005)
- 240 m<sup>3</sup>/hr (1,050 usgpm) capacity
- Recovers saleable nickel sulphide from mine runoff, produces no sludge
- Discharge directly to receiving environment





Removed from environment & recycled off-site





Parameter	Feed Chemistry	Effluent Targets	Actual Results
рН	6.4 to 8.0	6.0 to 9.5	7 to 8
Nickel	13 to 30 mg/L	0.50 mg/L	<0.25 mg/L
Total suspended solids	Variable	15 mg/L	< 1 mg/L

Project goal: comply with strict water quality regulations





#### Eliminates sludge, recovers saleable metal by-product



#### 10 Year NPV of Life Cycle Costs - Raglan

Cost	Sulphide	HDS Lime + Ferric
Project Development	similar	similar
Capital Cost (plant)	\$1,700,000	\$2,500,000
Operating Costs: Fixed Costs Variable Costs	\$6,034,000 \$1,152,000	\$6,034,000 \$2,087,000
Environmental Liability (sludge disposal)	0	?
Total Costs (NPV 10yr)	\$8,886,000	\$10,621,000
Less: Revenues	\$1,402,000	0
Net Life Cycle Costs	\$7,485,000	\$10,621,000

\*Note: discount rate = 3%

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## Case study 2 – Wellington Oro, CO



- BioteQ's ChemSulphide® process reviewed & accepted by US EPA
- Closed silver-zinc mine that produces ARD
- Plant commissioned December 2008
- Capacity = 150 usgpm
- Produces a saleable zinc-cadmium sulphide and clean water for discharge



Parameter	Feed Chemistry	Effluent Targets	Actual Results
рН	6.19	6.5 to 9.0	6.65
Cadmium	0.112 mg/L	0.004 mg/L	<0.0005 mg/L
Zinc	270 mg/L	0.225 mg/L	<0.05 mg/L

Project goal: comply with strict water quality regulations



Wellington Oro results – compared to lime		
	Sulphide	Lime
Plant capacity (max)	150 gpm	150 gpm
Sludge volume (avg flow)	0	390,000 gal/yr

Saleable zinc



178,000 lb/yr 55% Zn dwb 30% moisture, friable cake

Eliminates sludge, recovers saleable metal by-product

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#### **10 Year NPV of Life Cycle Costs – Wellington**

Sulphide	HDS Lime
\$330,000	\$330,000
\$1,650,000	\$2,525,000
\$495,000 \$415,000	\$495,000 \$370,000
0	\$1,838,000
\$2,890,000	\$5,558,000
(\$85,000)	0
\$2,805,000	\$5,558,000
	Sulphide   \$330,000   \$1,650,000   \$495,000   \$495,000   \$415,000   \$2,890,000   \$2,890,000   \$2,805,000

\*Note: discount rate = 3%

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## Case study 3: Dexing BioSulphide® Plant



- 50/50 joint venture between BioteQ and Jiangxi Copper Co. at an active copper mine
- Plant commissioned in 2008
- Capital cost = Cdn\$3.6 million (2008)
- Up to 1,200 m<sup>3</sup>/hr (5,300 usgpm) capacity
- Recovers copper from wastewater originating from waste dumps and low-grade stockpiles





Removed from environment & recycled off-site



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Parameter	Feed Chemistry	Effluent Results
рН	2.1 to 2.6	7 to 8
Copper	60 – 250 mg/L	<0.01 mg/L
Fe <sup>3+</sup>	908 mg/L	-
Fe <sup>2+</sup>	386 mg/L	<0.1 mg/L

Project goal: maximize resource recovery and provide discharge quality water



# Dexing Annual Operating Results



- Capital cost \$US 8.2 million
- Water treated:
  - ➢ 5 to 10 billion liters per year
- Metal recovered:
  - > 1 to 2 million lbs Cu/year
  - > 100,000 to 200,000 lbs Ni-Co/year
- Mechanical availability = 97%
- Payback less than 2 years

### New Developments in Water Treatment Technologies





- Specialty metal recovery:
  - Co, Ni, Mo, Re, Si, Ba, St, Se
- > Fe/Al recovery
- Sulphate removal (CaSO<sub>4</sub>, MgSO<sub>4</sub>)





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- Reduce contaminant concentrations to meet strict water quality regulations
- Produce clean water and saleable byproducts
- High water recovery (>99%)
- No sludge product for disposal
- Lower life cycle costs compared to RO
  - Lower capex & opex
  - Lower energy footprint









- BioteQ applies innovative technologies and operating expertise to solve challenging water treatment problems
- We work with resource companies, utility operators and regulators to:
  - reduce the life cycle cost of water treatment,
  - eliminate sludge liability,
  - recover saleable by-products to generate revenue, and
  - maximize water recovery for re-use



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Award

Corporations



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Development