

THE AMERICAS

Canada

Central South, First Coal Corp.

First Coal Corp. is developing its Central South property in northeastern British Columbia, where it has more than 90,000 ha. under tenure licence or application. Historic resources are estimated at 1.6 billion t, primarily met coal. Central South is typical of the region and characterised by steeply dipping seams. Its measured, indicated and inferred resources identified to date exceed 78 million t of medium volatile coking and PCI coals. First Coal's innovative mining technique uses the Addcar Any Dip highwall mining system to extract coal from the highwalls of excavated trenches, resulting in minimal surface disturbance and a low strip ratio. Extraction of a bulk sample began in December 2009. Once the Small Mine Permit Application is approved, coal production will begin at a rate of 245,000 tpa. Planned startup is in early 2011. Subject to permitting and financing, production is anticipated to gradually increase to 3 million tpa.

Highvale coal mine, TransAlta

Six Liebherr T 282 B diesel electric 363 t haul trucks were purchased by TransAlta as key components in changing the mine from a pure dragline operation to a dragline/pre-strip operation using ultra class trucks for increased production requirements.

A major factor contributing to the success of the Liebherr T 282 B trucks at the mine was the company's onsite support. Highly trained and attentive service personnel ensured that this new fleet of trucks would have the proper preventative maintenance, scheduled maintenance and prompt emergency service to achieve high availability throughout the year. The same support team responsible for the assembly of the trucks was assigned to perform their maintenance and to provide training to TransAlta's service personnel.

On a site with extreme cold temperatures for over a third of the year, the maintenance and service support was important. Engine preheat and heated dump body systems

provide additional levels of complexity to the truck and must be maintained in top condition.

Liebherr also unveiled a new downtime and availability tracking tool to be used in conjunction with service support. The Availability Portal was designed to standardise the way Liebherr receives downtime data and to improve and simplify the existing process of analysing that data.

Keephills 3, EPCOR

McLanahan received an order for a 36 x 72 in. primary DDC-sizer, two 24 x 72 in. tertiary DDC-sizers and two DF56-14 drag feeders for Keephills 3, Edmonton, Alberta.

Peace River Coal

McLanahan received an order for a RF50-46 reclaim feeder and 9 x 16 ft rotary coal breaker from Peace River Coal, Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.

Raven underground coal project, Compliance Energy Corp.

Compliance Energy Corp.'s Raven underground coal project in the Comox coal basin of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, has measured and indicated coal resources of 39 million t. Up to another 59 million t of inferred resource is anticipated to be upgraded once the bankable feasibility study is completed in Q2 2010. With partners ITOCHU Corp. and LG International, this predominantly met coal project anticipates that construction of a mine will commence in Q1 2011, with production of 2.2 million tpa of raw coal beginning in mid-2012 and a mine life of over 20 years. The project's area covers 3100 ha. of a potential 29,000 ha. held by the joint venture.

South 50 project, NuCoal Mining (Pty) Ltd

NuCoal's primary area of interest is the South 50 project, with over 2 million acres in Southern Saskatchewan, that has, by historical data, a resource in excess of 5 billion t. The data is from 4631 holes drilled in the 1980s by the federal and provincial

Governments. The data has been analysed and a drill programme is underway to reconfirm the resource.

The project proposes to install ten 15,000 bbls/day trains that will enable the venture to mine 56,000 tpd of lignite coal.

NuCoal controls one of the largest defined lignite/sub-bituminous C grade coal deposits in North America. It is advancing discussions with stakeholders who can build, operate and project finance a project of this scale. The company will use a modular design approach to produce transportation fuels and other products (electricity, chemicals and fertilizers) that will be self-sustaining, environmentally clean and produce all of its own power.

Colombia

Prodeco coal operations

Caterpillar recently produced its 50,000th rigid-frame off-highway truck – a milestone achieved at the Decatur, Illinois, plant where such trucks have been produced since 1963. It is a 777F, a versatile 91 t capacity truck that sees application in heavy construction, quarry and aggregates, and mining.

The 777F is destined for Prodeco coal operations in Colombia. The Prodeco group is Colombia's fastest growing coal exporter, producing high quality steam coal at a rate of more than 12 million tpa. Expansion plans call for production to reach 22 million tpa. The 777F will be the 112th 777 delivered to Prodeco. In total, 61 new 777F trucks and 22 new Cat 789C trucks will go to Prodeco to expand the haulage fleet.

Mexico

Hermosillo cement plant, FIVES FCB France

FIVES FCB France commissioned Bedeschi to supply a lateral luffing stacker STK 19/1000 for 340 tph and lateral scrape reclaimers PALS 100/26+4 for 41 tph coal storage at its 3500 tpd cement plant in Hermosillo in the northwest of Mexico.

The machine was delivered in April 2009 and erection was scheduled for summer 2009.