



## Progress Report #12

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

I am pleased to bring you up to date on CREEN-related activities since our last Progress Report, #11 (April 23<sup>rd</sup>), in which we highlighted the Federal Government's Budget announcement of \$23 million pledged, over 5 years, to rare earth and chromite technological development via Natural Resources Canada. You'll recall *Economic Action Plan 2015* primary focus is to address the technical challenges of separating and processing rare earth elements for use in advanced manufacturing applications and products. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2015/docs/plan/budget2015-eng.pdf>

### **REE/Chromite Roundtable with Natural Resources Minister**

Minister of Natural Resources Hon. Greg Rickford, accompanied by Marian Campbell Jarvis, NRCan's Assistant Deputy Minister invited a small group of 12 (eight REE representatives, 4 from the Chromite sector) to participate in a roundtable on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The Minister was keenly interested in the "how to" achieve effectiveness and efficiency in bringing REE and chromite production into service and that commercialization is the only acceptable outcome. The REE contingent was comprised of Greg Andrews (Search Minerals), Boyd Davis (Kingston Process Metallurgy), Ian London (CREEN), Dirk Naumann (Quest Rare Minerals), Al Shefsky (Pele Mountain), Vlad Papengelakis (UofT), and Steve Wilson (SGS). The roundtable was convened in Toronto during National Mining Week.

### **Post-Roundtable NRCan – CREEN meeting:**

Steve Wilson, Boyd Davis and I subsequently met with the CANMET leadership (May 27<sup>th</sup>) to discuss plans and considerations for the then-upcoming Technical Workshop (June 23<sup>rd</sup> - see below). Discussed were best approaches to the establishment of a program Steering Committee and Technical Committees, and identification of matters to effectively and efficiently delivering on the five year program (e.g. contracting out and accelerated procurement processes, intellectual property, etc.)

### **Canadian REE R&D Initiative –Technical Workshop**

NRCan convened a technical Workshop on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Ottawa. This was essentially the fourth such annual workshop, the first being held in June 2012. The workshop, attended by some 45 technical and policy-related specialists from across industry, service providers, academia and government, discussed the evolving REE market dynamics and advances over the past year and their implications this has on the priorities identified during the 2014 CREEN-NRCan Workshop. It is understood that

NRCan staff is in the process of preparing a detailed report from the 2015 Workshop in the next few weeks.

### **COM16 REE Symposium**

After three successful REE Symposia at the MetSoc's COM12, 13 and 14, the next REE-focused symposium will be convened at COM16, which is being held in conjunction with the XXVIII International Mineral Processing Congress in Québec City (September 11-15, 2016). The International Mineral Processing Congress has been in existence for more than sixty years and has been a major driving force for the promotion of scientific and technical knowledge in mineral processing and extractive metallurgy. The congress is truly international in scope with delegates from all parts of the world deliberating and collaborating on critical issues facing the mining and mineral processing industry globally. Over 1,500 mineral processing experts, academics and industry professionals from more than 60 countries are expected. Canada last hosted the IMPC in 1982.

The Organizing Committee for the COM16 REE Symposium is being chaired by Niels Verbaan of SGS Canada. The Call for Papers is open until the end of August 2015. Details can be found at <http://www.impc2016.org/en.aspx> . To submit an Abstract, just click on <https://security.gibsongroup.ca/impc/abstract-submission.php>

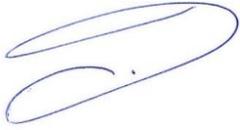
### **Other Business**

**ERECON** – After about 8 months the European rare earth Competency Network ('ERECON') report is out. Highlights, including international R&D collaboration, thoughts on financing PFS and FS reports, recognize that potential interventions need to be considered in the context of a globalized REE industry. They also mention the importance of international collaboration. As previously reported, CREEN was invited to speak on Canada's perspective and actively participate in ERECON's two major Workshops in June and October 2015. [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/specific-interest/erecon/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/raw-materials/specific-interest/erecon/index_en.htm)

**UK NERC REE Program** - The SoS RARE project, one of the winners of the previously reported UK competition and officially launched on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, aims to understand the mobility and concentration of neodymium and HREEs in natural systems, and to investigate new processes that will lower the environmental impact of REE extraction and recovery. It brings together an interdisciplinary team of researchers (Camborne School of Mines (CSM), the British Geological Survey (BGS) and University of Brighton) to look at aspects of REE geology, chemistry and metallurgy, and will study both conventional REE deposits and ion adsorption clays. CREEN provided a letter of support to the SOS Team proposal, with discussions initiated among McGill, Queens and Canadian Minerals Societies looking into specific collaborative initiatives.

CREEN will keep you informed as we learn more and lay-out specific initiatives that will help Canada realize its REE industry/economic potential.

As always, I hope you find these progress reports helpful. Please feel free to contact CREEN with any suggestions you may have.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. M. London', written in a cursive style.

Ian M London P.Eng, MBA

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