

CASE STUDY

LOOKING FOR GOLD WHILE STAYING GREEN



“Fordia’s Eddy WTS has helped us reduce our environmental impact. Their solution is unique and their technical support is second to none.”

*Philippe Berthelot
Vice President of Exploration*

The growing number of environmental restrictions and municipal regulations has left drilling and mining companies alike aiming to find ecologically friendly ways to deal with residues and to reduce their water consumption. Fordia’s customer, Alexandria Minerals Corporation, has been in the market to find a solution to comply with environmental regulations to be able to continue drilling in a sustainable fashion.

Needs

Alexandria Minerals Corporation is a growth-oriented Canadian gold exploration and development company with properties located in the mining districts of Val-d’Or, Quebec, Red Lake, Ontario and Snow Lake-Flin Flon, Manitoba. Alexandria’s focus is on its flagship property, the large Cadillac Break Property package in Val-d’Or, which hosts near-surface, gold resources along the prolific, gold-producing Cadillac Break. The Cadillac Break Property Group stretches for 35 km along the Cadillac Break, a regional fault zone that has produced some 100,000,000 ounces of gold since the early 1900’s.

Arsenic is a natural element distributed throughout the Earth’s crust and is sometimes found as an impurity in metal ores. It typically occurs in arsenopyrite, a mineral often associated with gold, where it is a by-product of gold mining operations. In order to prevent arsenic contamination of water resources during and after gold mining, regulatory agencies are requiring gold mining companies to comply with increasingly restrictive arsenic standards.

In the case of Alexandria Minerals, arsenic had been found in their drill core samples, as well as in the residue and drill cuttings from their drilling operations. In order to continue drilling and processing drill core, the water the company uses requires treatment and cleaning, and the residue requires separation and proper disposal.

Solution

Until recently, water treatment systems for the mining industry were very expensive, very large machines with limited efficiency and functionality. Fordia developed a Eddy water treatment system (WTS) that was easy to transport and easy to operate. Following a suggestion from Fordia’s Val-d’Or team, Alexandria Minerals Corporation decided to try the Eddy WTS from Fordia.

The primary function of the Eddy WTS is to separate cuttings from water. Once the water is treated and cleaned, it can be re-used so that a minimal amount of additional water is required. Up to 80 per cent of the water can be recovered and re-used which is ideal for sites where water may be scarce.

Once the cuttings are isolated, they can be disposed of in environmentally approved ways, such as bagging them in special tubes and transporting them off site.

Results

Thanks to Fordia’s Eddy WTS, Alexandria Minerals Corporation now complies with all local environmental regulations, enabling them to continue exploring new sites. The company was most impressed with the significant reduction in the amount of water required for their operation. They also appreciated the affordability and transportability of the Eddy WTS. It is automated, simple to use and requires little training.

Visit www.fordia.com for more information about their Eddy Water Treatment System and to learn about other drilling solutions.



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