



Trading Symbol: **EP**
March 8, 2018
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12g3-2(b): 82-1669
Standard & Poor's Listed
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EMPIRE REPORTS ON POSITIVE LITHIUM BRINE ANALYSES AT FOX CREEK ALBERTA LITHIUM PROJECT

Empire Metals Corp. (“Empire”) is pleased to announce results from its Fox Creek Lithium Project in west-central Alberta, Canada. Empire is exploring at Fox Creek for potential to extract lithium (Li), potassium (K), boron (B), bromine (Br), iodide (I) and other elements of interest from saline formation water or “brine”. Brine occurs in natural-forming aquifers at depths of more than 3000 meters brine is currently pumped to surface as a waste by-product from actively producing oil & gas wells at Empire’s Fox Creek Lithium Project.

To better understand the aquifer system for the lithium production potential at Fox Creek, APEX Geoscience Ltd. (“APEX”) was commissioned by Empire to compile and interpret historical data towards target delineation. A review of geological and historical brine geochemical information produced three northwest-trending Devonian reef and/or oil & gas trends, one which features Beaverhill Lake Formation oil and gas production. This Beaverhill Lake trend has become a primary target for Empire’s sample program.

APEX initially collected 24 samples that were analyzed from brine underlying the Fox Creek Lithium Property. Brine samples were collected from wells that are currently being operated by two separate petro-producers. Brine was obtained from sample boot points or using a Mobile Test Separator Unit. Samples were analyzed at Maxxam Analytics laboratory located in Edmonton, AB. Maxxam complies with the data quality objectives of the International Standards Organization (ISO/IEC 17025). Analytical techniques used include inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectroscopy and ion chromatography.

Eleven of the 15 wells sampled yielded values greater than 75 mg/L Li. Average lithium content was 76.7 mg/L Li and ranged from 81.6 mg/L Li to 69.5mg/L Li. Data quality was assessed using average percent relative standard deviation (also known as the % coefficient of variation), or average RSD%. The RSD% of the duplicate samples for lithium is between 0.6% and 1.9%, which indicates excellent precision or reproducibility of the analytical results.

Other elemental values from the brine sampling program include: bromide values of between 420.0 mg/L Br and 470.0 mg/L Br (averaging 453.9 mg/L Br); potassium values of between 4,210 mg/L K and 5,180 mg/L K (averaging 4,664 mg/L K); boron values of between 143.0 mg/L B and 170.0 mg/L B (averaging 153.9 mg/L B); and iodide values of between 0.0 mg/L I and 24.0 mg/L I (averaging 9.6 mg/L I; see Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of selected elements from Empire Metals brine sampling program at the Fox Creek Lithium Projects in west-central Alberta.

Sample ID	Unique Well ID	Sample type	Depth (m)	Li (mg/L)	Br (mg/L)	B (mg/L)	I (mg/L)	Mg (mg/L)	K (mg/L)	Na (mg/L)	S (mg/L)
RE16-EPR-BHL001	00/09-03-061-19W5	Original	3,350.0	75.9	470.0	150.0	0.0	3,260	4,540	53,900	3,710
RE16-EPR-BHL002	00/13-02-061-19W5	Original	3,345.0	75.4	440.0	149.0	0.0	3,290	4,440	53,600	4,620
RE16-EPR-BHL003	00/10-10-061-19W5	Original	3,310.0	76.6	460.0	150.0	0.0	3,270	4,580	54,300	3,340
RE16-EPR-BHL006	00/13-10-061-19W5	Original	3,338.0	78.6	460.0	155.0	14.0	3,380	4,660	57,600	2,830
RE16-EPR-BHL007	00/16-16-061-19W5	Original	3,232.0	74.3	450.0	150.0	20.0	3,290	4,400	52,000	3,190
RE16-EPR-BHL008	02/05-15-061-19W5	Original	3,320.0	71.9	420.0	143.0	15.0	3,140	4,210	49,400	5,510
RE16-EPR-BHL009	00/14-16-061-19W5	Original	3,291.0	74.5	470.0	152.0	0.0	3,350	4,510	53,100	2,050
RE16-EPR-BHL011	00/06-21-061-19W5	Original	3,300.0	77.5	450.0	153.0	19.0	3,340	4,680	58,400	1,970
RE16-EPR-BHL012	00/07-30-061-19W5	Original	3,357.1	78.2	450.0	155.0	17.0	3,370	4,760	59,400	2,850
RE16-EPR-BHL013	00/13-12-062-20W5	Original	3,274.0	81.6	470.0	153.0	14.0	3,410	4,980	62,800	1,770
RE16-EPR-BHL016	00/05-13-062-20W5	Original	3,272.0	79.4	460.0	153.0	20.0	3,360	4,570	60,200	1,610
RE16-EPR-BHL017	00/01-23-062-20W5	Original	3,282.0	80.1	460.0	156.0	12.0	3,370	4,560	59,100	2,200
RE16-EPR-BHL018	00/12-32-061-19W5	Original	3,241.0	81.4	460.0	158.0	0.0	3,380	4,770	60,000	2,750
RE16-EPR-BHL023	00/10-15-059-18W5	Original	3472.6	69.5	420.0	168.0	0.0	2,810	5,080	50,500	6,000
			Minimum	69.5	420.0	143.0	0.0	2,810	4,210	49,400	1,610
			Maximum	81.6	470.0	168.0	20.0	3,410	5,080	62,800	6,000
			Average	76.8	452.9	153.2	9.4	3,287	4,624	56,021	3,171

The analytical results are interpreted as showing the Beaverhill Lake aquifer underlying the Fox Creek Property has a chemically homogeneous composition. Lithium values are comparable with historical results in the area, confirming Empire’s Fox Creek Lithium Project yields some of the highest lithium-brine values in Alberta and reiterates the aquifer underlying much of Fox Creek holds potential for commercially viable lithium-brine operations in the Fox Creek area. Empire is currently working with oil and gas producers on the defined Fox Creek Beaverhill Lake Formation trend to obtain larger brine samples for lithium extraction mineral processing test work and other exploration and development work relating to potential lithium production from the Beaverhill Lake Formation Brines.

Empire conducted additional metallic minerals exploration at Fox Creek in the fall of 2017 which it expects to report on in the Spring of 2018. This exploration included stream-sediment surface sampling to assist with assessing the precious, base and specialty metals and diamondiferous kimberlite potential on the Fox Creek Property.

Empire holds 70 to 100% interests to rights to lithium, potassium, boron, bromine, magnesium and other important elements from 758,384 acres in parts of 37 townships in the Fox Creek area of Alberta, Canada. The remaining 30% interest in Fox Creek is held by Blizzard Finance Corp. together with a 2.2% gross revenue royalty.

Empire is also very pleased to report it is now extending its ‘Well Permit’ for a further 2 year period and timing for assessment work filing for the balance of the Fox Creek Project have been extended to filing dates beginning December 3, 2018.

Empire also owns a 100% interest in the Buck Lake platinum, palladium and nickel discovery located 25 km west of Northern American Palladium’s ‘Lac des Iles mine’ near Thunder Bay,

Ontario, Canada, an interest in the Graphite West Project – a prospective hydrothermal graphite exploration target located immediately west of Zenyatta Ventures Ltd.’s Albany hydrothermal graphite deposit and the Gwyn Lake gold properties in Ontario.

The Technical content of this news release has been reviewed and approved by Mr. Michael Dufresne, M.Sc. P.Geol. (Alberta), P.Geol. (B.C.) and Mr. Roy Eccles, P.Geol. (Alberta), both of APEX Geoscience Ltd., an Independent Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101.

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