



April 19, 2011 PM

Hecla Mining Company Provides Its Sixth Update on the Fall of Ground Which Occurred at the Lucky Friday Mine on April 15, 2011

New Information

1. As we advanced in the 15 stope we encountered conditions that prevented the rescue teams from safely installing timber supports and removing rock and debris blocking the stope. While additional planning is being done to determine how we could safely continue accessing the area through the 15 stope by utilizing timber support and material removal, we have initiated work on alternative plans.
2. We have begun excavating a 220 foot drift north of the 15 stope and have advanced 24 feet in the last 24 hours. In addition, we are planning to develop a second 182 foot drift north east of the 15 stope, which would begin excavation upon plan approval and completion of proper site preparation. The drifting procedure is a standard mining method which involves blasting the rock with a jumbo drill, removing the material with muckers to a muck bay, and supporting the newly exposed ground.
3. A diamond drill was mobilized on April 18 to a location to the north on the same underground level as the 15 stope. We have completed the drill hole, which was 180 feet in length. A borehole camera put into this hole has enabled us to verify that there is a void within the area, although we cannot at this time estimate the size or extent of the void.
4. In addition, a 46 foot drill hole was completed, through the rubble pile in stope 15, into an area that is estimated to be close to the location of the final mined face. This drill hole provides additional information on voids in the stope. The combination of the two drill holes has allowed us to introduce fresh air into the void.

A sketch of the location of the incident and the nature of work we are doing is posted on the homepage of our website at www.hecla-mining.com.

Background Information

1. We sympathize with the family, friends and employees of the Lucky Friday during this difficult time. We are 100% focused on the rescue efforts.
2. The Lucky Friday mine has been in operation for 69 years. It's a deep underground silver, lead and zinc mine located in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District in northern Idaho. We currently have 275 employees and approximately 100 contractors.

3. A localized fall of ground occurred on April 15 at approximately 5:30 pm in a section of the underground mine at 6150 feet below surface on a vein that is 2200 feet long. The 15 stope which is one of the mining areas along that vein is 152 feet long. The fall of ground is approximately 75 feet from the entrance of the 15 stope. We do not know the length of the fall of ground. The ground that fell is up to 25 feet high and 20 feet wide.
4. Two Hecla employees were working in the area where the fall of ground occurred. One employee is safe and we have not had communication with the other, who is Larry Marek, 53 years old with over 30 years experience in the mining industry. Larry has been working for the Company for 12 years.
5. Our employees' safety and that of the rescue teams is a top priority for us. Rescue efforts for Larry continue.
6. We are calling on all available resources and currently have sufficient materials and equipment needed on-site to safely implement rescue efforts.
7. The Company is working extraordinarily hard to reach Larry and will continue making every effort as long as it takes, using safe methods in the process in order to avoid risk to the rescue teams.
8. Rescue crews are working 24 hours a day in two 12-hour shifts. Updated information on rescue efforts is only provided at the end of every shift in order not to impede rescue efforts.
9. While our primary concern is Larry, the Company is also very concerned for his family, loved ones and for his co-workers. We are in communication with the family and have been keeping them up-to-date. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends. The Company has also made available professional support and emotional counseling for the family and employees.
10. Our current focus is 100% directed to rescuing the miner and ensuring the safety of the rescue team. We will investigate the causes after rescue efforts are complete.
11. The Lucky Friday mine is in full rescue operation, and is not presently engaged in mining operations.
12. Communications are being coordinated with all relevant authorities, including local, state, regional and federal officials and emergency service organizations. MSHA is on site.
13. We deeply sympathize with the family, employees and overall situation and are doing all that is possible to progress with rescue operations in a safe and expedited manner.
14. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and loved ones. At the request of Larry's family and friends, we would ask that you respect their privacy. The Company appreciates everyone's understanding and support.

15. Additional information including video footage with Mr. Baker providing an update on the rescue efforts at Lucky Friday mine and sketches of the underground location and nature of the work we are doing can be found on the homepage of our website at www.hecla-mining.com.
16. The Company will provide the next update on progress made with our rescue effort on April 20.
17. Should you have any follow-up questions, please contact Stefany Bales at (208) 659-0974.