

# CIRI finds gold

The discovery of "significant deposits of gold, zinc, copper and lead," on land owned by the Cook Inlet Region, Inc., was announced last week.

The deposits are located on land known as the Johnson River prospect, 12 miles from Tuxedni Bay, about 140 miles southwest of Anchorage, across Cook Inlet from Homer.

The find is part of an exploration and development agreement between CIRI and Anaconda Minerals Company, a division of Atlantic Richfield Co.

Preliminary drill holes revealed 30 feet of mineral deposits,

which assayed at 1.2 ounces per ton of gold and 24.8 percent zinc, with minor copper and silver value. Another hole had 150 feet assaying .6 ounces per ton of gold and 9.4 percent zinc with 2.8 percent lead and 1.7 percent copper.

The exploration phase of the find will continue this summer to determine if the entire find is as promising as the initial test holes.

Another exploration site, at Difficult Creek, six miles northeast of the Johnson Prospect, has shown 15 feet assaying 15.4

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# CIRI finds gold, zinc at Johnson River

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percent lead, .3 ounces per ton gold and 2.3 ounces per ton silver. More test drilling will occur this year to determine the extent of the mineralisation.

If the test holes show enough minerals to warrant a mine operating start-up, jobs will be opened to CIRI shareholders, according to CIRI President Roy Huhndorf and Heatwole. The Johnson River project should yield 100 jobs during mine construction and operations.

Anaconda and CIRI would

have to begin an extensive training program to train those workers if they used state residents because there currently is no mining operation of that size in Alaska, said Heatwole.

The Johnson River project is very promising because of its location, "a few miles from Cook Inlet, near the tidewater and

near the Tuxendi Bay for a possible port.

After the determination of the quality of the deposits are made, then a study of the cost of "infrastructure" construction would be made. That would include the cost of transportation systems, power systems, housing if necessary and other

matters all play on the decision of whether the deposit would be profitable.

The deposit is on CIRI land but is near land selections made by several CIRI Region villages—Tyonek, Seldovia, Ninilchik, and Salamantoff are "in the running" for those selections, said Huhndorf.

He said he expects no difficulty from the Kenai Borough which is the area government body in charge of that land, for the mining to start if desired.

Neither man would estimate the possible money that could be earned from the deposit nor would they give the profit margin needed to make the mine a go.