

CONFIRM:

DNR

COMMIS-

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2/12/03

Alaska State Legislature

Senate Resources Committee

Senator Scott Ogan, Chair

Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Kim Elton
Senator Georgianna Lincoln
Senator Ralph Seekins
Senator Ben Stevens
Senator Tom Wagoner



State Capitol, Room 103
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182
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REPORT ON CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS

February 12, 2003

The Honorable Gene Therriault
President of the Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear President Therriault:

In accordance with AS 39.05.080, the Senate Resources Committee reviewed the following and recommends the appointment be forwarded to a joint session for consideration

Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources – Thomas E. Irwin

This does not reflect an intent by any of the members to vote for or against the individual during any further sessions.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Senator Scott Ogan in cursive.

Senator Scott Ogan, Chair

Handwritten signature of Senator Fred Dyson in cursive.

Senator Fred Dyson

Handwritten signature of Senator Ben Stevens in cursive.

Senator Ben Stevens

Handwritten signature of Senator Kim Elton in cursive.

Senator Kim Elton

Handwritten signature of Senator Tom Wagoner in cursive.

Senator Tom Wagoner

Handwritten signature of Senator Ralph Seekins in cursive.

Senator Ralph Seekins

Handwritten signature of Senator Georgianna Lincoln in cursive.

Senator Georgianna Lincoln

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THOMAS E. IRWIN

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Summary

Over thirty years of experience in the natural resource industry - evaluating, designing, permitting, and operating properties for mining and milling of gold, silver, molybdenum, copper, tungsten, and tin ores. This includes an in depth knowledge of large, cold weather operations and a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of management, safety, employee relations, financial, and environmental aspects of a property.

Management Priorities

Integrity - Communications - Leadership - Problem Solving - Motivating - Team Building - Loyalty

Professional Experience

August 2001 – Present *Vice-President Business Development, Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc., Kinross Gold.* Responsible for new project permitting, business development, and governmental and public relations as related to Kinross activities in Alaska. The team successfully obtained the permits for expansion of the True North Mine. Initiated tourism and the rock business at Fort Knox.

October 1999 – August 2001 *General Manager, Fort Knox Mine, Kinross Gold.*

Responsible for permitting, construction, and start-up of the True North Mine and operation of the Fort Knox Mine. True North permits were received in less than one year. Mine start up, bridge construction, and 10-miles of road construction were completed on schedule and budget during the winter. First ore was hauled from True North to Fort Knox in 2.5-months after receipt of permits. The two mines achieved a new safety record of 1.25-million man-hours without a lost time accident, even with training 100-new employees. Gold production was on plan and operating costs were 10-percent below plan. The mill set new tonnage and world class run time records. Fort Knox and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game received the State of Alaska Reclamation Award in 2000 for reclamation in Fish Creek. Operating and reclamation success resulted from teamwork with emphasis on training and continuous improvement programs.

November 1996 – October 1999 *Operations Manager, Fort Knox Mine, Kinross Gold.*

Responsible for start-up and operation of the Fort Knox mine and mill. All goals were exceeded in start-up and the first year of operation. Gold production was 13-percent above plan and operating costs were 20-percent below plan with zero lost time accidents. This success resulted from building the proper management team for Fort Knox, selection and training of Fort Knox employees, and development and implementation of viable operating and maintenance programs.

April 1992 – November 1996 *Vice-President, Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc.*

Responsible for technical aspects of the Fort Knox Project. This included the project footprint; project description; ore reserve evaluation; mine design; metallurgical testing; process design; technical support for permitting; and participation in engineering, construction, and pre-commissioning of the facilities. The project was successfully designed to operate in a sub-arctic environment and process up to 50,000 tons of ore per day.

October 1988 – April 1992 *General Manager, Sleeper Mine, Amax Gold Inc.*

Managed all activities at the Sleeper Mine. Sleeper was the "flagship" property of Amax Gold, Inc. Accomplishments included development of a new mine and expansion of the mill and heap leach facilities to yield an increase of 50,000 ounces of gold per year. Significant improvements were achieved in employee, community, and regulatory relations. Sleeper won AMAX Inc.'s Most Improved Safety Award in 1989 and Sentinel of Safety Award in 1990. Received recognition from the Nevada Department of Wildlife in 1992 for concern and care of Nevada's wildlife resources.

June 1988 – October 1988 *Assistant General Manager, Sleeper Mine.*

Managed operating functions of the property. Met or exceeded all production and operating goals.

September 1985 – June 1988 *Manager, Climax Mine, AMAX Inc.*

Responsible for the Climax Mine in a period of declining molybdenum product price and demand. Climax operations included an open pit and underground mines, five crushing plants, milling, a by-product plant, and a large tailing and water facility. Even with a production cap, efficiencies were improved and operating costs were reduced by 10-percent. This was obtained by optimizing operations and by working cooperatively with three labor unions to reduce restrictive work rules.

November 1982 – September 1985 *Mill Superintendent, Climax Mine.*

Responsible for operation and maintenance of all crushing, milling, and tailing facilities. Climax processed 50,000 tons of ore per day. Major accomplishments included development of a high grade product, product quality increased by 10-percent; improvements to the by-product plant, tungsten recovery increased by 4-percent; and design and construction of a waste water treatment and discharge facility, water treatment costs were reduced by 90-percent while water quality was improved and capacity was quadrupled to 9,000 gallons per minute. All production targets were met or exceeded. Also participated on an AMAX team to evaluate several other properties.

November 1976 – November 1982 *Chief Metallurgist/Crusher Foreman/Mill Foreman/Project Manager.*
Each area provided additional responsibilities and training.

June 1976 – November 1976 *Consulting Mill Superintendent, Canada Tungsten Mining, Corp.*

On loan from Climax to work on serious metallurgical problems with the new underground ore. All issues successfully resolved leading to a profitable property. Recovery was increased by 40-percent and product quality by 15-percent.

January 1974 – June 1976 *Group Leader, AMAX Research and Development.*

Supervised several research programs relating to new equipment, process development, and operating improvements. Several projects were at Climax and Canada Tungsten.

October 1969 – January 1974 *Research Associate, AMAX Research and Development.*

Participated in numerous plant and pilot plant test programs.

April 1969 – October 1969 *Research Engineer, Hazen Research, Inc.*

Conducted laboratory and pilot plant leach tests.

June 1968 – April 1969 *Mill Engineer, Climax Mine.*

Performed engineering tests in the molybdenum oxide leach plant and front line supervision in the mill.

Professional Affiliations

Currently a member of the Alaska Minerals Commission; President of the Council of Alaska Producers; Board Member of the Alaska Miners Association; and member of the Executive Board, Board of Directors, and Co-Chairman of the Resource Committee for the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. Also served on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Alternative Revenue Commission. Member of AIME and served as a member of the AIME Metallurgical Education Committee and the National Science Scholarship Nominating Committee. Previously a member of the Colorado and Nevada Mining Associations including four years on the NMA Board of Directors and one year as Chairman of the Board.

Education

BS Mineral Engineering – Chemistry, Colorado School of Mines, 1968.

Additional courses in management training, reagent chemistry and handling, economics and financial analyses, and personnel protection and safety.

Personal Information

Married 35 years, 2-grown children, 3-Alaska born grandchildren

Excellent health

Tom and Sharon, his wife, both enjoy flying, boating, snow machining, cross country skiing, hiking, photography, and the outdoors.

Community Activities

Involved with Village Ministry

Volunteer with Love Inc.'s Annual Creative Gift Bazaar

T-ball coach



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

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January 22, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Ogan, Chair
Resources Committee

FROM: Kirsten Waid *KW*
Acting Secretary of the Senate

SUBJECT: Governor's Confirmations

Pursuant to Article III, Section 25 of the Alaska Constitution, President Therriault has referred the following names for legislative confirmation to your committee for a hearing, recommendation and report:

Commissioner - Department of Environmental Conservation
Ernesta Ballard
Appointed: 12/09/2002

Commissioner - Department of Natural Resources
Tom Irwin
Appointed: 01/17/2003

KW/lc
Resumes attached