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Dear Mr. Shayanfar:

Exploration Program for the Falcon Mine Project

Snowden has been requested by Ironwood Gold Corp. to review the geologic data contained in supplied documents of previous exploration projects and recent reports on the Falcon Silver Mine, (Elko County, Nevada), mineral claims which are held or are under application. Snowden has not verified the ownership of the claims and has been asked to recommend a suitable, phased exploration program to advance the geological understanding of these claims.

The proposed project is located on the western slope of the Tuscarora Mountain in the Mount Blitzen Quadrangle, Nevada at the confluence of Dry Creek and Rock Creek. The area has a history of silver mining dating from the 1870's. In 1975 Phelps Dodge undertook an exploration program consisting of five shallow boreholes. However, it appears from the data that only two boreholes were actually drilled, sampled and assayed for gold and silver content. The depths of holes FM 1 and FM 2 are reported as 601 and 721 ft respectively and the cores were sampled and sequentially numbered on 10-ft. increments. From the data it was not possible to correlate the assay results with the drill logs.

Further exploration was carried out by Robert Shoemaker in 1980 by driving an exploration adit and cross-cut development for long-hole drilling to extend below the Falcon mine shaft and stope workings at the 100 level.

Work to date, within the project area has been at shallow depths identifying hydrothermal mineral deposits contained within the quartz in-filled joint and fault structures. These mineral intercepts typically are thin in section and low grade. Additional work since 2000 has identified a good potential for a Carlin-type gold deposit underlying the hydrothermal vein systems. Based on its review of the available data, Snowden agree with this conclusion and consider that the reported assay values are indicative of such mineralization. As a consequence, it is highly

recommended that an exploration program be carried out to test the presence of such a gold deposit.

It is speculated that the Carlin-type deposit may be located at approximately the 4,000 ft. elevation requiring 2,500 feet of core drilling per drill site. Snowden recommends a field program to test this potential which includes surface mapping, geophysical surveys (potential), and two phases of core drilling to test the target zone and understand its dimensions if encountered.

Very little organized geological work has been done to-date on the prospect although there are some significant "mine" openings including two shafts and one adit. Unfortunately these openings have not been maintained and the cost of rehabilitation may exceed the value to be obtained. For this reason, the following recommended program does not rely on access to the underground openings. The proposed program must be considered as indicative in scope and cost as Snowden have not visited the site nor has a comprehensive literature review been undertaken.

Literature review

It is suggested that a literature review be carried out using local government libraries and the internet to accumulate all the information pertinent to the project site and its environs. This will be necessary to create base maps of topography and regional geology.

The cost of this program element is estimated to be \$8,000 plus any living expenses incurred. This is based on a senior geologist spending a week visiting local government libraries.

Mapping and sampling

There has been no systematic mapping and sampling program undertaken on this site and it is proposed that 2, two man crews be sent to the field to map all outcrops for structure, formation, mineralogy, and alteration. From this data, a detailed geological/structure map of the region will be compiled that will guide all subsequent exploration. In parallel to this, a program of stream and grid sampling will be carried out to identify the presence of geochemical anomalies which may indicate the occurrence of hydrothermal activity.

The 12 week field program is estimated to cost \$275,000 based on the costs of 2 senior geologists and 2 junior geologist assistants plus their living costs, truck rental, assay costs and camp costs.

Geophysical programs

A geophysical investigation likely using induced polarization techniques (IP) may be indicated by the mapping and sampling program. It is recommended that this program be undertaken following the production of a geological map in order that the geophysical investigation is directed by the available geological data. In this way the IP survey will be used to confirm the results of the surface mapping.

The geophysical program cost cannot be estimated until there is more understanding of the terrain and the location of geophysical lines of investigation. For the purposes of this draft budget an allowance of \$150,000 has been included.

Drill program

It is recommended that a five-hole core program be budgeted for the first phase of the drill program. It is further recommended that this program utilize a triple barrel, wire-line diamond drill with an NQ rod system. Although this is a more expensive drilling technique, it is very important to have core available for formation, mineralogy and alteration mapping. This program can be considered "wild catting" and it is important to maximize the information made available at this early stage of exploration. For budget purposes, an average drillhole depth of 2,500 feet is assumed. The drillhole orientations will be specified such that valuable information on the fault/vein structures will also be gained.

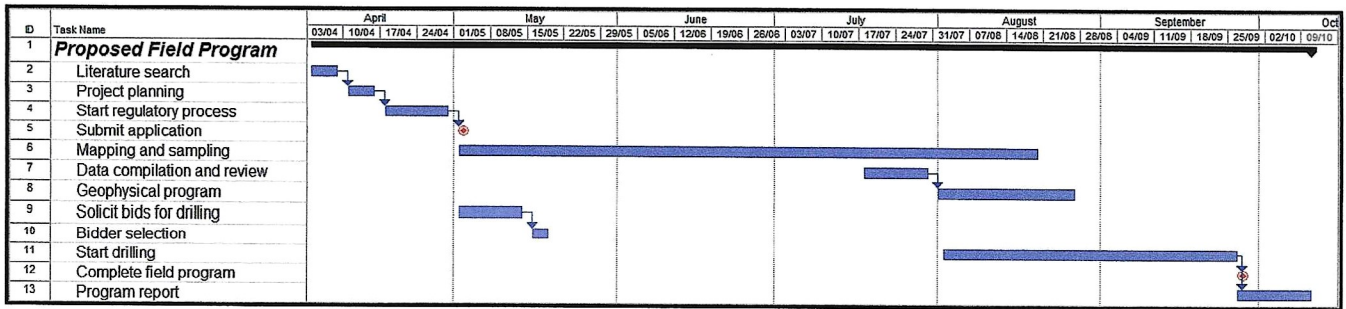
The drill program is estimated to cost \$1,500,000 on the basis of a telephone quotation of \$110.00 per foot of drilling. Assuming a penetration rate of 150 feet per day, the program will take over 60 days to complete and this means drilling must commence by September 1 in order to be completed prior to shutdown due to heavy snowfall. It is assumed that only 10% of the core will be split and assayed in 5 foot intervals. The cost elements of the drill program estimate include; drill cost, geologist cost, camp cost, core boxes, core splitting, assay costs, truck rental and core storage.

Recommended program cost estimate

The total estimated cost for this exploration program is:

Item	Cost (US\$)
Literature review	10,000
Permitting	100,000
Field Program	
Field mapping	275,000
Geophysics	150,000
Drilling	1,500,000
Sub Total	2,035,000
Project Management	200,000
Data Analysis & Reporting	30,000
Total Budget Estimate	2,265,000

The schedule for completing this program assumes that work commences immediately to complete the literature search and start the regulatory process for licensing the drill holes. This process can take months and it is critical that all permits be in place prior to August 1.



I trust this brief summary of a proposed exploration program for the Falcon Silver Mine claims is suitable for your purposes and if you have any questions I will be pleased to answer them.

Yours sincerely,

Murray Lytle, P.Eng.
Divisional Manager

Franco-Nevada Reports on Ken Snyder Mine Operations, Reserves and Outlook

RENO, Nevada, Feb. 1 - Franco-Nevada Mining Corporation (TSE:FN) owns 100% of the Ken Snyder Mine at Midas in northern Nevada. Since commercial production began in the first quarter of calendar 1999, the Ken Snyder Mine has provided a strong contribution to the Company's record earnings and cash flow. For the latest nine month results, the Ken Snyder Mine generated US \$25.3 million or over 25% of the capital cost of the Midas project. Franco-Nevada has a fiscal year end on March 31st and the following annualized projections are based on the Company's fiscal year.

Operations

Production at the Ken Snyder Mine for the nine months ended December 31st totaled 185,037 ounces of gold equivalent. 168,148 tons of ore were milled at an average rate of 588 tons per day with a head grade of 1.15 equivalent ounces per ton. The mill recovered 95.9% of contained ounces. Cash operating costs were US \$96 per equivalent ounce while total production costs including depreciation and amortization expenses, state tax and reclamation costs were US \$142 per equivalent ounce.

For the three months ended December 31st, production totaled 45,264 ounces of gold and 441,106 ounces of silver for an effective production of 54,086 gold equivalent ounces. 55,110 tons of ore were milled at an average rate of 562 tons per day with a head grade of 1.02 equivalent ounces per ton. Mill recovery, at 96.0% of contained gold equivalent ounces continued to be excellent. Cash operating costs were US \$106 per equivalent ounce while total production costs including depreciation and amortization expenses, state tax and reclamation costs were US \$151 per equivalent ounce.

The decline in grade and increase in costs resulted from lower than expected head grades and higher than anticipated mining dilution on the Colorado Grande vein. In December, independent consultants presented preliminary reconciliation and data reviews and recommended changes to grade control practices, material handling and mine production accounting. These measures are being implemented. Franco-Nevada and Dynatec, as contract mine operator, are implementing further steps as appropriate including, (i) changes to site management, (ii) changes to certain underground mining equipment, (iii) implementing an enhanced preventive maintenance program and (iv) establishing a targeted pay incentive program. Early indications are that these measures are having a positive impact and further measures may be implemented.

Operating Outlook

Based on production to date, Franco-Nevada is estimating production from the Ken Snyder Mine for its first full fiscal year of production ending March 31, 2000 to be approximately 230,000 ounces of gold equivalent. This compares to the 250,000 ounces of gold equivalent previously projected in the original 1997 feasibility study and this year's operating plan. Cash operating costs for the fiscal year are projected to be approximately US \$100 per equivalent ounce. The Ken Snyder Mine continues to provide a strong contribution to

Franco-Nevada's earnings and cash flow.

The previously announced US \$2 million expansion of the mill production capacity to 1,000 tons per day is on schedule and on budget. Improvements to the crushing circuit have been completed, the new 350 ton per day verti-mill is currently being installed and concurrent modifications are being made to the CCD thickener and Merrill-Crowe circuits. The expansion should be fully operational by June 2000 and will provide additional operational flexibility and the ability to further increase production with any sustained improvement in the gold price. The Company has not yet completed its production plans for fiscal 2001, pending the current operational review. Management is confident of the ability of the Ken Snyder mine to produce in excess of 250,000 ounces of gold equivalent per annum.

Exploration

During calendar 1999, US \$3.3 million was spent on surface exploration efforts at the Midas property mostly in close proximity to the Ken Snyder Mine. A total of 144,887 feet were drilled in 141 core and reverse circulation holes. Since inception, some 988 exploration and development holes totaling over 178 miles have been drilled on the Midas property. For calendar 2000, the Midas surface exploration budget has been set at US \$1.8 million reflecting the already large resource and reserve base and the focus on improving operations.

Resources and Reserves

The Company has reviewed previous resource estimates for the Ken Snyder Mine with its outside consultants taking into account the preliminary reconciliation and data review. Until the results of the recently implemented corrective measures have been quantified and other reviews completed, Mine Development Associates has reduced its estimation of the measured and indicated resources which has resulted in a decline in estimated proven and probable reserves.

At the Ken Snyder Mine, calendar year-end 1999 proven and probable reserves are 3.0 million tons grading 0.816 ounces per ton of gold and 9.835 ounces per ton of silver for a 1.013 ounces per ton gold equivalent grade. Contained gold reserve ounces are 2.45 million ounces and contained silver reserve ounces are 29.47 million ounces for 3.04 million ounces of gold equivalent. This compares to 3.74 million ounces that were estimated at the end of calendar 1998. The same category was estimated at 2.75 million ounces at the end of 1997. Reserves have been calculated utilizing a 0.25 ounce per ton cutoff grade and a ratio of 50 to 1 for converting silver grades into gold equivalent.

Exploration at Ken Snyder in calendar 1999 was successful in adding additional inferred resource ounces but not enough to fully compensate for both mined ounces and for the reduction in the measured and indicated resources. Global Ken Snyder resource categories including reserves at the end of 1999 are estimated at 4.8 million tons grading 1.33 ounces per ton for 6.41 million ounces of gold equivalent. This resource combined with other Midas property resources brings global Midas resources to 7.5 million ounces of gold equivalent which is 9% lower than last year. The majority of the global

resource estimate is expected to convert into proven and probable reserves.

Franco-Nevada is the leading precious metals royalty company and by market capitalization the fifth largest gold company in the world. The Company has royalty interests in the world's major gold camps and a total royalty portfolio spanning 5 million acres in six countries. Franco-Nevada has growing profits, remains debt free and fully unhedged, and has over \$1 billion of working capital and marketable securities.

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For further information: David Harquail, Senior Vice President, Tel: (416) 480-6497; Andre Douchane, Vice President of Operations, Tel: (775) 829-9108; <http://www.franco-nevada.com>