

K S gets permit to build facility in B.C. port

BY SCOTT LARSON, THE STARPHOENIX APRIL 2, 2015



Potash from the K+S Potash Canada GP Potash Mine near Bethune will be shipped to a new handling facility in B.C.

Photograph by: Troy Fleece, Leader-Post, The StarPhoenix

K+S Potash Canada (KSPC) has been given the green light to construct a handling and storage facility in Port Moody, B.C., where potash from its Legacy Project mine near Moose Jaw will be shipped.

"The permit for the port facility is another step forward for the Legacy Project," said Dr. Ulrich Lamp, president and CEO of K+S Potash Canada. "The port facility will allow K+S to export potash produced at the Legacy mine site in Saskatchewan to international clients in developing regions."

The Legacy Project mine is scheduled to begin production in the summer of 2016.

Pacific Coast Terminals (PCT) received the permit from Port Metro Vancouver (PMV). The permit calls for the modification of PCT's existing facility, which includes the construction of a railcar unloading

building and potash storage warehouse, and upgrades to the water treatment facilities and ship-loading equipment.

In April 2014, PCT and KSPC signed a long-term agreement for the handling and storage of potash products from the Legacy mine site.

The facility in Port Moody will have the capacity to hold more than 150,000 tonnes of potash, and the warehouse will be three football-fields in length. Construction has started at the site and is scheduled to be completed to coincide with the opening of the Legacy mine in 2016.

"Contractors have started mobilizing the site, but no major construction has started yet," said Meaghan Dubois, senior communications specialist with KSPC, but added construction is set to begin in the next few of weeks.

The Legacy mine will be the first new greenfield potash mine built in Saskatchewan in nearly 40 years and is projected to reach twomillion tonnes of production capacity by the end of 2017.

KSPC has a long-term, volume-based deal with CP Rail to ship the potash from the mine to Port Moody.

"The plan is for CP to construct a 30 km Belle Plaine spur line linking the Legacy site to the existing CP trackage near Belle Plaine," Dubois said.

KSPC will also construct a 14 km line that links to the Belle Plaine spur along with a six km storage track.

Freight trains as large as 177 cars and five locomotives will travel twice a week from the mine to the Port Moody port.

"The plan is to have the rail and the port completed close to the same time the site is commissioned, which is the summer of 2016."

KSPC is also beginning the process of hiring about 150 people, primarily in maintenance and for operators.

© Copyright (c) The StarPhoenix