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CJK Milling Company (CJK) adopts Cyanide-Free Alternative for Leadville Mill facility

LEADVILLE, CO -- CJK Milling Company has announced plans to eliminate cyanide from its future metal extraction process at its Leadville, Colorado mill. The company will adopt Extrakt Process Solutions' non-toxic leaching technology as part of its operations, marking a significant shift toward environmentally friendly mining remediation practices.

"We've heard the concerns of the Leadville community regarding the use of cyanide, and we have made changes," said Gary Knippa, owner of CJK Milling. "We are partnering with Extrakt Process Solutions, which has developed a cyanide-free leaching technology that is innovative, safe and aligns with our commitment to environmental responsibility."

New Technology Sets a Green Standard

CJK Milling Company (CJK) has decided to implement [Extrakt Process Solutions' innovative TNS™ technology](#) at the Leadville Mill facility based on positive test results for its product.

"This robust solution addresses the complex challenges of metal recovery and tailings dewatering, all while reducing environmental impact," said William R. Florman, CEO of Extrakt. "Our system can boost mineral recovery, cut costs, and minimize the ecological footprint of mining operations."

A Collaborative Effort

The process was developed in partnership with Bechtel Energy Technologies & Solutions. The two companies are leveraging their combined expertise to design an efficient, cost-effective system prioritizing sustainability.

"We are fortunate to be working with Extrakt (extraktps.com), and their strategic partner, Bechtel Energy Technologies and Solutions (Bechtel.com). Extrakt's solid-liquid separation technology - TNS™, combined with Bechtel's trusted experience in engineering and delivering solutions worldwide, is a team that allows us to meet our sustainability commitments to Leadville and all the downstream communities."

CJK plans to remove over 1 million tons of acid-generating mine waste in and around California Gulch in Leadville. While considered uneconomical by miners at the time, the mine waste still contains economically viable quantities of gold and silver. Removing and restoring the mine waste, which currently leaches into the ground and surface water, will benefit the environment.

The Extrakt (non-cyanide) leach technology is an environmentally friendly approach to recovering valuable minerals from historic waste piles. The Leadville project will process up to

400 tons of legacy mine waste daily. The waste will be crushed and ground to a fine sand before leaching. This product will be leached using the TNS™ solid-liquid leaching technology, where metals are recovered in the solution.

The tailings produced by this process are virtually stripped of all metals, resulting in non-hazardous tailings. Since there are no metals in the tailings, the risk of metal leaching is eliminated, and the tailings can be used in non-hazardous applications such as covering landfills or producing construction materials such as building blocks or roofing tiles. The tailings will be filtered to remove water, which greatly increases their stability, and then placed in a lined tailings storage area while options for re-use are considered.

Local and Statewide Benefits

A new and innovative alternative to cyanide applications in mine remediation efforts has statewide implications and benefits. Colorado legislators are working on a bill to remove harmful mining waste and protect fish and habitats. Bill 4 would create a new permit process to facilitate the removal of mining waste piles and refuse. The reclamation-only permit would advance clean-up efforts to reduce the backlog of over 20,000 abandoned mines in Colorado. Using non-toxic substances to facilitate remediation and beneficial mineral reuse could help accelerate this process. See the [Colorado House news release](#).

“Waste and runoff from mine tailings can have detrimental impacts on downstream waters,” said Senator Jeff Bridges, sponsor of Bill 4. “The bill we advanced...will promote the cleanup of pollution-causing tailings while expanding economic opportunities for the companies that do these cleanups. By making a simple change to permitting processes and entering Colorado into the Interstate Mining Compact, we can expedite mining reclamation and ensure our environment remains clean and safe for future generations.”

“CJK strongly supports this bipartisan effort to restore and protect Colorado’s natural beauty, said Knippa. “We are confident this common-sense legislation will pass into law and look forward to sharing our Leadville Mill success to help clean up mine waste in our state.”

For more information, visit www.cjkmilling.com.

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