



# ROCKEX MINING CORPORATION

CSE: RXM

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## ROCKEX MINING FILES

### UPDATED PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

#### FOR HBI PRODUCTION ON ITS 100% OWNED LAKE ST. JOSEPH PROJECT

**October 27, 2015** – Toronto, Ontario - Rockex Mining Corporation (“**Rockex**” or the “**Corporation**”) (CSE: **RXM**) is pleased to announce that it has filed on SEDAR the updated Preliminary Economic Assessment (“**PEA**”) on the Corporation’s 100% owned Lake St. Joseph Project (“**Lake St. Joseph**”) in northwestern Ontario. The PEA was prepared by CIMA+ (“**CIMA**”) for the production of 4.3 million tonnes per year of hot briquetted iron (“**HBI**”). The results of the PEA were first announced by Rockex in a comprehensive news release issued on October 14, 2015. Both the PEA and the initial news release can be viewed on Rockex’ SEDAR profile at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com) and Rockex’ corporate website at [www.rockexmining.com](http://www.rockexmining.com)

Highlights of the PEA Include:

- \$ 9.42 Billion Net Present Value (pre-tax) using a 6% discount rate
- \$ 6.85 Billion Net Present Value (post-tax) using a 6% discount rate
- \$ 6.58 Billion Net Present Value (pre-tax) using an 8% discount rate
- \$ 4.67 Billion Net Present Value (post-tax) using an 8% discount rate
- 22.5% Internal Rate of Return (pre-tax)
- 19.5% Internal Rate of Return (post-tax)
- 3.7 year undiscounted payback (pre-tax)
- 4.1 year undiscounted payback (post-tax)
- Initial Investment of \$3.772 billion (not including sustaining capital)
- Total cost of production estimated at \$135.35/tonne of HBI
- Resource Estimate of an Indicated Mineral Resource of 1.287 billion tonnes at 28.39% Fe, plus an Inferred Mineral Resource of 108 million tonnes at 31.03% Fe.
- Life of Mine Production of 4.3 million tonnes of HBI per year for 30 years, with an expected metallization of 94% Fe.
- Low strip ratio of 0.51 to 1

\* Unless otherwise expressly stated all references to currency, are references to Canadian currency. The PEA uses a currency exchange rate of US\$0.85 = Cdn\$1.00.

“We are very pleased with the results of the updated PEA. The release of this economic report is a major milestone for Rockex and marks the culmination of many years of work by our team. This PEA presents Lake St. Joseph’s strong economic potential and confirms management’s belief in the quality of the deposit and overall project. Furthermore, this PEA is a critical valuation and marketing document that will give Rockex excellent positioning for hosting the first HBI plant in Canada, which we are confident will attract negotiations with a strategic partner,” said Armando Plastino, Rockex’ Chief Executive Officer.

#### Summary

The PEA is based on the production of 4.3 million tonnes of HBI per year at a grade of 94% total iron (“**Fe**”) at the Rockex Lake St. Joseph Project in northwestern Ontario. The average run of mine feed of 17.3 million tonnes per year used is based on mill recovery of 80% from the Eagle Island deposit operating year-round. The life of mine of 30 years is based on 512 million tonnes of in-pit resources at a grade of 28.9% Fe which uses less than half of Eagle Island’s estimated Indicated Resources of 1.287 billion tonnes at a grade of 28.39% Fe, allowing the opportunity for continuing production for many years following the 30-year life of

mine used for the PEA. The PEA contemplates a process whereby iron ore concentrate will be transferred by pipeline to a pelletizing plant and HBI plant to be built near Sioux Lookout, Ontario. The plant is expected to produce 4.3 million tonnes per year of HBI. Initial capital expenditures are estimated to be \$3.772 billion. The PEA uses an average operating cost of \$135.35 per tonne of HBI, and assumes an HBI sales price of US\$ 350 per tonne FOB Sioux Lookout. Calculated Net Present Value for the Lake St. Joseph Project is \$9.42 billion (pre-tax) using a 6% discount rate and \$6.58 billion (pre-tax) using an 8% discount rate. The PEA is based on the 2013 independent mineral resource estimate completed by Met-Chem Canada Inc. (“**Met-Chem**”) which defined 1.287 billion tonnes of Indicated Resources at a grade of 28.39% Fe and 108 million tonnes of Inferred Resources at a grade of 31.03% Fe. The resource is summarized in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Summary of Mineral Resource Estimate (2013)**

Mineral Resource Category	Metric Tonnes (Billion)	Fe (%)
Indicated	1.287	28.39
Inferred	108	31.03

The updated PEA (2015) is based on the same basic mining method and processing flow sheet utilized in the original (2013) PEA; however, the updated PEA evaluates the economic impact of further processing the mine’s production to HBI as an end product in place of pellet feed concentrate. As illustrated in Table 2 below, the updated PEA (2015) further improves the project economics relative to the previous study.

**Table 2: Comparison of the Original (2013) and Updated (2015) PEA**

Category	PEA 2013 (Fines)	PEA 2015 (HBI)	
<b>Production Rate</b>			
Pellet Feed Concentrate (Mtpa)	6.0	6.0	
Pellet (Mtpa)	-	6.1	
HBI (Mtpa)	-	4.3	
<b>Projected Mine Life (yrs)</b>	30	30	
<b>Commodity Price Assumption</b>			
Pellet feed, FOB Sioux-Lookout (\$US/t)	105	-	
HBI, FOB Sioux-Lookout (\$US/t)	-	350	
<b>LOM Revenue (M\$)</b>	19,812	52,683	
<b>Initial Capital (M\$)</b>	1,559	3,772	
<b>Working Capital (M\$)</b>	48.1	129.6	
<b>Sustaining Capital (M\$)</b>	543	538	
<b>Closure Cost (M\$)</b>	65.7	65.7	
<b>Average Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$/t of pellet feed</b>	<b>\$/t of pellet feed</b>	<b>\$/t of HBI</b>
Mining cost	12.76	12.76	17.88
Concentrator & tailings cost	18.05	18.05	25.29
Concentrate dewatering cost	1.83	-	-
Railroad	0.20	0.20	0.28
General & administration cost	3.79	4.52	6.33
Pelletizing cost	-	-	19.13
Briquetting cost	-	-	66.44
<b>Total Operating Cost (\$/tonne)</b>	<b>\$36.63</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$135.35</b>

<b>Manpower Requirements</b>		
Mine	180	180
Concentrating & Tailings	114	114
Concentrate dewatering	36	-
General & administration	49	89
Rail	6	6
Pelletizing	-	127
Briquetting	-	200
<b>Total Manpower</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>716</b>
<b>Pre-Tax Economic Indicators</b>		
NPV @ 8%	2,217	6,577.5
IRR (%)	20.7	22.5
Payback (yrs)	4.2	3.7
<b>Post-Tax Economic Indicators</b>		
NPV @ 8%	1,553.7	4,672.6
IRR (%)	18.1	19.5
Payback (yrs)	4.4	4.1

## HBI

The updated PEA (2015) is based on the transformation of iron ore concentrate into HBI as an end product to supply the North American electric arc furnace industry and grey foundry industry. HBI is considered to be a cleaner, higher quality, finished iron product for the steel industry. HBI is an ideal, high quality alternative to scrap steel, which is a vital component in the steel manufacturing process. The HBI process requires access to an abundant and low cost source of natural gas. Rockex' proximity to the TransCanada Natural Gas Pipeline and year-round transportation infrastructure positions the company well for the manufacturing of HBI to supply the North American market in the United States immediately south of the Great Lakes and in Canada.

## Pre-Feasibility and Opportunities

Management believes ongoing test work and feasibility trade-off studies will further improve the overall capital and operating costs of the project. Rockex recently entered into a Co-operation Agreement with Danieli & C., a large multi-national engineering and technology firm with expertise in the design and construction of HBI plants. Rockex' management team, in collaboration with Danieli & C., will continue to market and promote the project to potential strategic partners, financiers and final product off-takers that can support Rockex' plans for the preparation of a bankable feasibility study.

## Qualified Persons

The PEA was prepared under the supervision of Jean-Sébastien Tremblay, Eng. of CIMA. Mr. Tremblay is a Qualified Person as defined by NI 43-101.

Met-Chem's Yves A. Buro, Eng., and Schadrac Ibrango, P.Geo., Ph.D., are responsible for validating the geological interpretation and the database and for the mineral resources estimate.

Georgi Doundarov, P.Eng., is responsible for supervising the mineral processing and metallurgical test work and the recovery methods.

Met-Chem's Jeffrey Cassoff, Eng., is responsible for supervising the mining.

Michel L. Bilodeau, Eng., is responsible for the economic analysis.

All of the Qualified Persons cited above are independent of Rockex within the meaning of NI 43-101, *Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects*, of the Canadian Securities Administrators and have reviewed and approved the contents of this news release.

### **About CIMA+**

CIMA is an internationally renowned consulting engineering firm established to provide all phases of geology, mining, mineral processing and engineering services throughout the world. From its headquarters in Montreal, CIMA offers the mining industry professional expertise that covers scoping, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, basic and detailed engineering, procurement and construction management, training, start-up, commissioning and operations assistance.

### **About Rockex**

Rockex is a Canadian exploration company focused on developing high quality iron ore assets strategically located in areas largely under explored, and that host significant mineral potential. Its core asset the Lake St. Joseph Project which includes the Eagle Island Deposit, as well as additional potential deposits at Wolf Island and Fish Island. Rockex holds a 100% interest in its Lake St. Joseph project which is comprised of 13 contiguous mining claims that cover a vast geographic area of approximately 2,592 hectares, located approximately 100 kilometres northeast of Sioux Lookout and 80 kilometres south-southwest of Pickle Lake in northwestern Ontario.

Rockex also holds a 100% interest in two other iron projects in relative close proximity to Eagle Island deposit: (i) East Soules Bay, a property consisting of 4 contiguous mining claims and 1 non-contiguous mining claim, in and along the eastern end of Lake St. Joseph, approximately 40 kilometres east of Rockex' Eagle Island Iron Project, and (ii) the Root Lake Project, a property consisting of 5 contiguous claims.

In addition, Rockex holds a 100% interest in a fifth iron project in Northwestern Ontario, the North Spirit Lake Property in the Buckett Lake and Hewett Lake Townships, Red Lake Mining Division, District of Kenora, consisting of eight contiguous mining claims, approximately 170 km northeast of Red Lake, Ontario.

Please visit the Corporation's website at [www.rockexmining.com](http://www.rockexmining.com)

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*This news release may contain or refer to forward-looking information. All information, other than statements of historical fact, that address activities, events or developments that Rockex believes, expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements, including statements regarding the estimated resources, grades, recovery rates, production rates, rates of return, capital costs, operating costs, products, sales prices and other aspects of the PEA. This forward-looking information is subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties beyond Rockex' ability to control or predict that may cause actual events or results to differ materially from those described in such forward-looking information. Any forward-looking information speaks only as of the date on which it is made and, except as may be required by applicable securities laws, Rockex disclaims any intent or obligation to update any forward-looking information, whether as a result of new information, future events or results or otherwise. Although Rockex believes that the assumptions inherent in the forward-looking information are reasonable, forward-looking information is not a guarantee of future performance and, accordingly, undue reliance should not be placed on this forward-looking information due to the inherent uncertainty thereof.*

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