The Henderson Molybdenum Mine and the CSM Edgar mine

TECHNICAL TOUR 5  Thursday 2 July 2020

This tour involves underground guided tours of the Henderson Molybdenum Mine near Empire Colorado and the CSM Edgar Mine (CSM Experimental Mine) at Idaho Springs Colorado. Due to capacity constraints at the mines, the tour participants may be divided into two groups. Group A will visit the Henderson Mine followed by the CSM Edgar Mine, while Group B will visit the CSM Mine first followed by the Henderson Mine.

As a subsidiary of Freeport-McMoRan, the Henderson Mine is the largest primary producer of molybdenum in the world. In operation since 1976, Henderson has produced more than 160 million tons of ore and 770 million pounds of molybdenum during the past 27 years. The Henderson Mine is located in Clear Creek County on the east side of the Continental Divide, in the beautiful Rocky Mountains fifty miles west of Denver, Colorado. However, the Henderson Mill is located on the west side of the Continental Divide, fifteen miles from the mine in Grand County. The Mine and the Mill are connected by the world's longest conveyor of its kind; a fifteen-mile elevated belt that passes underneath the Continental Divide through an old train tunnel and then above ground to the Mill. In 1999, the company received an Environmental Awareness Award from the United States Forest Service for the design, engineering, construction and implementation of this overland conveyor system.

In the 1870s, the Edgar mine, the Colorado School of Mines Experimental Mine, was one of the many mines in the Colorado Mineral Belt that produced high-grade silver, gold, lead and copper. Today, as an underground laboratory for future engineers, it produces valuable experience for those who are being trained to find, develop, and process the world’s natural resources.