



Kappes, Cassiday & Associates

*Laboratory Statement of
Qualifications*

Metallurgical Process Technology

Date:
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KAPPES, CASSIDAY & ASSOCIATES

(KCA) has been performing commercial testing services aimed at providing data for the heap leaching of gold and silver ores since 1972.

While widely known for its heap leach expertise, KCA's staff is experienced with testing and designing a wide range of metallurgical processes.

Since 1992, KCA has conducted bio-oxidation testing programs on refractory ores for several clients in Nevada and West Africa.

KCA's laboratory capabilities now extend beyond its traditional focus on gold/silver metallurgy. KCA conducted all of the process development testwork including pilot plant testing that formed the basis for the very complex ITOS Chloride Leach Plant in Bolivia which recovers silver, copper, lead and antimony. Recently, KCA completed a US\$1 million dollar research and flowsheet development project for a copper-silver-manganese orebody in Peru.

KCA's laboratory services group now includes a full-service analytical laboratory. The analytical group is operated commercially under the name of Florin Analytical Services. The analytical services team offers a wide range of analytical techniques including ICP-AES, Flame-AAS and Fire Assay.

For additional information please contact :
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FACILITIES

KCA occupies a 40,000 square foot building that rests on three acres of land just north of Reno, Nevada. The building, acquired in 1994, was purchased to address the expanding needs of Kappes, Cassiday & Associates. The laboratory division of KCA maintains its complete sample preparation, wet-analytical and bench-scale processing divisions within this building.

The lab is capable of receiving samples of up to 40 tonnes, on pallets, in barrels or in bulk. Sample preparation of bulk samples can be completed utilizing a Bobcat Front End Loader, a large gasoline engine driven Jaw Crusher as well as smaller laboratory-scale crushers, screen decks, mills and pulverizers.

The laboratory maintains the following major equipment items:

- 1- 10X12 Jaw Crusher
- 2-4X6 Jaw Crushers
- 2-10-inch Cone Crushers
- 2-Standard Bico Disc Grinders
- 2-Standard TM Ring and Puck Pulverizers
- 2-Gilson Screen Decks
- 4-Tyler Roto-taps
- 1-Standard Bond Ball Mill
- 1-Denver Lab Flotation Machine
- 2-WEMCO Flotation Machines
- 2-High Temperature Tube Furnaces
- 7-Jar Mill Rolling Tables
- 2-Perkin Elmer Flame-AAS Units
- 1-Perkin Elmer ICP-AES
- 1-Perkin Elmer Mercury Analyzer (FIMS)
- 1-3 inch Knelson Bowl Concentrator
- 1-No. 13 Wilfley Table (Sand Table)
- 1-Deister Table (Finishing Table)
- 4-Gas and or electric drying ovens
- 1-Flotation Pilot Plant, capacity 0.2 metric tonnes per hour
- 1-Williams and Wilson Fire Assay Furnace
- 3-Cress Fire Assay Furnaces



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KEY PERSONNEL

The staff at KCA constitutes a team of professionals with varied technical abilities, especially adapted to work on projects requiring a complete range of laboratory services. The permanent staff consists of 35 people in the United States, Peru and Australia. KCA has employed temporary staff exceeding 100 people during peak periods of pilot scale testing and field construction projects. Key professional personnel are briefly introduced below:

DANIEL W. KAPPES, President, is a mining and metallurgical engineer and has been associated with the company since 1972. Dan is a recognized authority on precious metals heap leaching and has presented several technical papers on the subject. In addition to work on numerous small projects, he has directed laboratory and field testing on several projects that have subsequently become major precious metal mines.

MICHAEL W. CASSIDAY, Vice-President, is a metallurgical engineer and has been associated with the company since 1978. Mike's primary expertise is in the management of field projects. Mike has been associated with the management of several mining start ups and heap leach field test projects throughout the world.

RANDALL A. PYPER, General Manager KAPPES, CASSIDAY & ASSOCIATES AUSTRALIA (KCAA), holds a Masters' degree in metallurgical engineering. Before joining the KCA staff, Randy was Chief Metallurgist of the 2500 ton per day agitated leach plant and 3000 ton per day heap leach facility of Carlin Gold Mining Company (Newmont Gold Company). His earlier professional background includes production and process engineering for PPG industries, Lake Charles, Louisiana, and mining chemicals technical service and development for the Dow Chemical Company at Walnut Creek, California.

TERENCE E. ALBERT, Manager of Laboratory Services and has been associated with KCA since 1991. He brings to the KCA team laboratory test work experience including flotation testing, gravity concentration, and cyanidation. As manager of laboratory operations, his primary functions are to oversee the operation of the Reno laboratory, to set up field laboratory projects for client companies, and to oversee the process control of field operations. In addition to work on

numerous small projects, he has directed field sampling programs and laboratory testing studies on several projects that have subsequently become major precious metal mines.

W. ROBERT ROSE, Manager-South American Projects, is a mining engineer with start up and operations experience in heap leach projects for leaching both ore and tailings, and in gold placer mines. As manager for South American projects, Bob was involved in the design and construction supervision of the Potosi project in Bolivia. He recently managed the preparation of two bankable feasibility studies for heap leach operations in Mexico for the San Francisco and Moris projects. These two projects have subsequently received financing for the commencement of construction.

CARL E. DEFILIPPI, Senior Engineer/Project Manager, holds a Masters' degree in Metallurgical Engineering and is certified as an Environmental Manager for the State of Nevada. Prior to joining the staff at KCA, Carl was the General Mill Foreman at Newmont Gold Company's 9000 ton per day CIP mill and was involved in all phases of the start up of that mill. He had extensive experience with Newmont Gold as a senior metallurgist at their 2500 ton per day agitated leach plant and 3000 ton per day heap leach facility. He has also been involved in the management and construction of field heap leach tests in Nevada and South Dakota.

DANNY L. POOL (Associate Status), Process Metallurgist, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. He has had more than 30 years of laboratory and pilot scale research experience with the United States Bureau of Mines and has authored or co-authored over 20 publications. He has performed extensive studies on the oxidation of carbonaceous materials, the agglomeration of fine and coarse gold ores for heap leaching and the recovery of gold by carbon adsorption and electro winning. His vast experience also includes the construction and operation of a fused salt cell for the recovery of zinc from a chloride bath and the agglomeration of tailings to decrease acid drainage.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

1. List of Mineral Processing Services Offered:

Flotation: KCA typically runs flotation tests in conjunction with the evaluation of gold ores. We maintain one laboratory Denver flotation machine and a one tonne/day pilot plant complete with ballmill, tailings filters and a bank of 7 Denver #5 Sub-A cells.

Cyanide Leaching. KCA specializes in cyanide leaching of gold and silver ores and maintains complete facilities for bottle roll, agitated tank and column leach tests.

Gravity Concentration. KCA typically runs gravity tests in conjunction with the evaluation of gold ores. We have a laboratory size Knelson concentrator and two lab-sized concentrating tables.

Bulk Grinding/ Sample Preparation. We have a 16" x 48" rod mill for preparation of large quantities of ground pulp. We have a loose association with MEG labs in Reno which maintains a large ceramic ball mill for preparation of high-volume iron-free pulps.

Acid Leaching. KCA completed all aspects of lab testing and complex flowsheet design of the Itos chloride leach plant in Bolivia. At this plant lead, antimony, copper, tin and silver are processed. KCA has also completed the preliminary lab testing and flowsheet development program for the Berenguela Peru copper-silver-manganese deposit.

Controlled Reactor Leaching. Part of the Berenguela program included a complete atmosphere-controlled, instrumented 5-liter leach system for leaching with acidic sulfur dioxide. Along with many other test parameters, gas inflow and outflow were continuously monitored. KCA is equipped to run this type of complex leaching test on a variety of chemical systems.

Roasting. KCA maintains a Lindberg tube furnace, a set of fire assay furnaces, and a 2-liter resistance heated crucible furnace for running a variety of high temperature reactions.

Analytical Support. Florin Analytical Laboratories is an independently operated commercial laboratory operated

within the KCA lab complex. Florin maintains rigorous standards of quality control to ensure its position as a high-quality commercial laboratory. Florin equipment includes a P-E ICP; two P-E AA machines, a – mercury analyzer, and a complete wet chemistry laboratory.

2. Facilities Location and Ease of Access. KCA maintains a United States Agricultural Department permit to import samples from overseas. U.S. Customs can clear samples at Reno's International Airport. Trucks containing bulk samples can be driven directly into KCA's laboratory. We maintain a 30 x 40 ft x 20 ft high room with a smooth concrete floor specifically for the handling of large bulk samples. Facilities include a 10 x 12 inch jaw crusher for reduction of large samples.

KCA's 40,000 square foot building occupies three acres of land. Sufficient indoor and outdoor storage are available on-site so that bulk samples can be retained for several years if necessary.

3. Names of Key Personnel. Professional staff is listed in other areas of the Statement of Qualifications. The following key people are not listed: Our lab assistant manager, Jim Defilippi, has been with us for over 20 years and regularly travels to overseas field locations to take samples or oversee tests. Two other technicians, Ken Gonzales and Leo Toral, have been with us for over ten years. Mike Bigelow, chief assayer for Florin, has been with Florin or its predecessor company (Legend Labs) for 7 years. These four people are thoroughly experienced in setting up and supervising tests, and in taking and processing samples. In addition to these persons, Florin labs has two experienced senior instrument technicians.

4. Where are analytical facilities located? Florin Analytical Labs is located on the premises of the KCA metallurgical testing laboratory at KCA's main office in Reno, Nevada. For outside analytical work, various other commercial mineral analytical labs are located in the Reno area.

5. List of clients and projects that became operating mines. KCA has done the primary laboratory testing on at least 50 properties which became operating mines. A list of some of these with references is attached.

6. Maximum Size of Samples? We can easily process samples of 30 tonnes or more. Our largest crusher permits size reduction of samples containing 10-inch rocks, and we can of course manually reduce larger rocks. A large available floor area and a specific bulk sample room allow us to do careful prepping and



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cone-and-quarter splitting of large samples.

We have two leach columns set up for gold cyanide or acid copper leaching, which are 4 ft diameter and up to 20 ft high. These columns can hold 12 tonnes of ore.

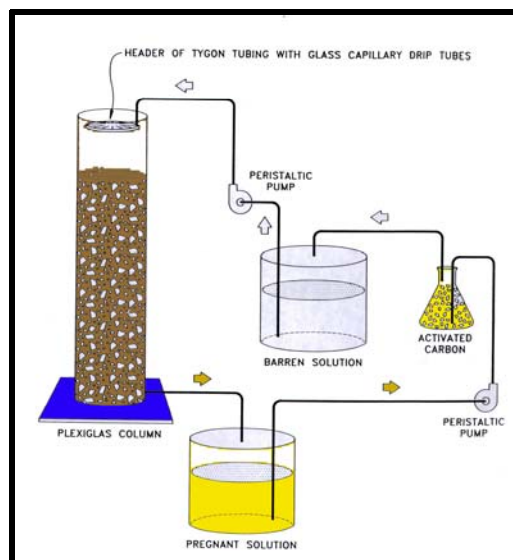
7. How long are samples retained and how are they disposed of? KCA normally retains all samples for at least one year. Prior to disposing of samples the client is contacted to confirm his intentions. Disposition of samples depends on the nature of the sample. Often the sample is returned to the client. "Chain-of-Custody" monitoring and hazardous waste disposal is available where required. Liquid samples from testing are usually reduced by evaporation, and solids disposed of in a hazardous waste landfill. KCA follows all applicable regulations and monitoring requirements.

8. What quality assurance procedures are employed? All assays are duplicated to ensure that the highest quality analyses are reported. For the analysis of solutions, duplicate analyses are completed utilizing separate techniques when possible. Standard addition analyses are completed and analyses with spikes are run. In the case of solid samples, duplicate pulps and or carbon samples are submitted to two separate commercial labs for analysis. As much as 10 percent of the solid samples are re-submitted for assay to a third commercial laboratory. As much of the data relates directly to bench-scale tests, heads and tailings are checked routinely and compared with other tests on similar type material. Mass balances for each test are examined closely and tests re-run as required.

9. How is project work scheduled and kept on track? KCA labs has been providing commercial testing services since 1972, and has developed a system of checks and balances including regular review of activities and results by senior management. Where necessary (but this is unusual), a formal computer-based project scheduling system can be employed.

10. How long does it take to issue reports? For typical test programs, interim reports are issued weekly. KCA normally tries to issue final reports within two to three weeks after all final data are available. Because much of the analysis is done in-house, data on complex bench-scale tests can be available within a day or two of test completion.

11. Frequency of invoices and special billing requirements? KCA normally invoices the client monthly and expects payment within 30 days of issue of the faxed invoice. However, on intense testing programs for clients who pay late, KCA may invoice more often.



For additional information please contact :

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SAMPLE SHIPPING INFORMATION

Kappes, Cassiday & Associates (KCA) maintains a large shipping and receiving department. When shipping large sample groups, KCA can help arrange for consolidation and freight forwarding. Shipments of samples to KCA can be completed by air, ship or truck. When shipping samples to KCA, the shipment should be consigned as follows:

Kappes, Cassiday & Associates
7950 Security Circle
Reno, Nevada 89506 U.S.A
Attention: Terry Albert
Telephone: 775 972 7575
Facsimile: 775 972 4567
USDA Soil Permit No. S-56322

Geological Samples for Analysis Only. No Commercial Value.

The shipment should be accompanied by a commercial invoice. The commercial invoice should state that the shipment is geologic material for analysis only. The value identified on the commercial invoice (for U.S. Customs Purposes) for the shipment should be US\$0.10/kilogram of material. KCA maintains a United States Department of Agriculture permit that allows material to be shipped to KCA from outside of the U.S.A. The permit number is S-56322, and this number should be included on the commercial invoice.

When the samples are in Reno, KCA's Broker can be notified so that the shipment can be cleared through Customs. The information for KCA's Broker is as follows:

Griffin Transport Services, Inc.
1095 Spice Islands Dr., #100
Sparks, Nevada 89431
Telephone: 775 331 8010
Facsimile: 775 331 6745

FAX pre-alerts for the shipment can be sent to KCA's offices in Reno as well as to Griffin Transport.

If shipping into the United States by air or truck, the material can be shipped in bond to Reno, Nevada and then cleared through US Customs in Reno. KCA or Griffin Transport can assist with any documentation required for the shipment to clear Customs.

SAMPLE DISPOSAL

Samples received by Kappes, Cassiday & Associates are retained by KCA for a period of not more than one year following completion of the test program. Following project completion, at the request of the client, the samples can be returned (at cost) to the project location.

Disposal by KCA is completed utilizing Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) protocols. Typically the material is characterized and then sent to the appropriate land-fill. KCA reserves the right to back-charge the project for any reasonable cost associated with waste disposal.



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PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

KAPPES, CASSIDAY & ASSOCIATES specializes in an integrated, practical approach to mining projects, and can provide a complete range of services from preliminary project evaluation through operations management. A list of projects that illustrates KCA's range of capabilities is presented below.

BERENGUELA—SOMINBESA

Dates: 1997 to present

Location: Peru, South America

Kappes, Cassiday & Associates is completing a detailed laboratory test program for this large manganese, copper and silver ore-body. Final feasibility studies will be completed on Berenguela in 2001, with production to commence by 2005.

LA QUINUA—Newmont

Dates: 1999 to present

Location: Peru, South America

KCA completed detailed laboratory testing to examine the relationship between heap stacking and permeability. KCA is currently involved in an on-going field program at La Quinua that is examining field agglomeration, stacking and permeability.

PIERINA—Barrick

Dates: 1999

Location: Peru, South America

KCA's laboratory completed agglomeration testwork on material from Pierina and examined the relationship between heap stacking and permeability.

SAN MARTIN—Glamis

Dates: 1998 to present

Location: Honduras, Central America

KCA completed laboratory testwork which was then utilized in a feasibility that examined the economics of processing the material at San Martin via heap leaching methods. The project is currently under construction and KCA is completing construction of the Turnkey ADR Plant for Glamis. The project is set to begin production in late 2000.

YATELA—AngloGold

Dates: 1998 to Present

Location: Mali, West Africa

Kappes, Cassiday & Associates completed laboratory testwork that resulted in the completion of a full bankable feasibility study that examined the amenability of processing the Yatela ore via heap leach methods. The project is currently under construction and KCA has several long term contracts with AngloGold to act as owners representative during construction and start-up. The project is set to begin production in early 2001.

TAPARKO—High River Gold

Dates: 1998-1999

Location: Burkino Faso, West Africa

KCA completed laboratory testwork on this material to determine its amenability to heap leaching or milling.

GROSS ROSEBEL—Cambior

Dates: 1998

Location: Suriname, South America

KCA completed laboratory scale testwork to determine the ores amenability to heap leaching.



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ITOS - Barex Empresa Minera, S.A. (BAREMSA) - COMIBOL

Dates: 1992 - present

Location: Bolivia, South America.

Itos is a US\$ 8.5 million, 600 tonne/day agitated leach plant designed to recover precious metals and base metals from previously processed flotation tailings using a complex acid leach process. Phase I of the project will recover silver and antimony. Later phases of development will include the recovery of lead, copper, and tin. KCA's role began with laboratory testing, process development, and preparation of a feasibility study, and progressed to include all engineering, procurement, construction management, start up services, and operations management. The project began operations in the middle of 1996.

TARKWA - Gold Fields Ghana

Dates: 1994 to 1999

Location: Ghana, West Africa

The Tarkwa Heap Leach Project is a US\$ 120 million, 13 million ounce open pit gold mine expected to begin operation in January 1998. Phase I of the project, processed ore by heap leaching at a rate of 10,000 tpd; this was successfully doubled to 20,000 tpd 2 years after completion of Phase I. KCA's involvement began with advising Gold Fields Laboratories regarding metallurgical testing procedures, followed by preparation of a preliminary design and cost study for the heap leach operation. This was followed by preparation of the heap leach portion of a bankable feasibility study. KCA then executed all process design, from crushing through doré production. KCA maintained engineers on site during the construction process to advise and assist Gold Fields and their EPCM contractor. During commissioning, and for some time thereafter, KCA engineers trained Gold Fields personnel in operation of the heap leach. Once routine operation has been achieved, KCA will provide periodic review and assistance to optimize operations after routine operations were achieved.

MIZEK - Steppe Gold Resources Limited

Dates: 1996 to 1998

Location: Kazakstan

KCA conducted a complete laboratory testing program including bottle roll, agglomeration and column leach tests for this heap leach project. KCA then completed a definitive feasibility study for a 4000 tonne per day heap leach facility. All elements of mining, processing, and infrastructure were included in the study. KCA provided detailed engineering and construction management services for site earthworks, including the leach pad and process ponds.

CHOQUELIMPIE - Sociedad Contractural Minera Vilacollo

Dates: 1992 - 1996

Location: Chile, South America

This 7 million tonne gold heap leach is located at an altitude of 4600 meters (15,000 feet) in northern Chile. KCA provided engineering, procurement and construction management services for the washing of and subsequent gold recovery from the heap. KCA was responsible for the complete metallurgical process design and management of commissioning operations. In October 1994, KCA entered into a 2-year contract to provide complete project management services. Precious metals production was on track with projections.

SAN FRANCISCO - Geomaque Explorations Ltd.

MORIS - Manhattan Minerals

Dates: 1993 - 1994

Location: Northern Mexico

KCA completed laboratory studies for both of the operations in Northern Mexico, and continued providing services throughout operations both at the lab in Reno as well as in the field.

KCA produced bankable feasibility studies for both of these heap leach projects located in Northern Mexico. Both projects are currently in production.



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PUQUIO NORTE - Comsur, S. A.

Dates: 1992 - 1997

Location: Bolivia, South America

Laboratory testing and a complete feasibility study, including mining, for the installation of a 1000 tonne per day heap leach for this project were conducted in 1992 and 1993. Expanded reserves changed the scope of the project from heap leaching to milling. KCA then produced a bankable feasibility study, including mining, for the installation of a 1500 tonne per day CIL mill at Puquio Norte. KCA provided design of the cyanidation circuit and fabricated the stripping and regeneration sections and provided installation and start up supervision.

BREWERY CREEK - Loki Gold Corporation

Dates: 1990 - 1994

Location: Yukon Territory, Canada

KCA performed the laboratory testing on this 2.3 million tonne per year heap leach project including large (600 mm x 6 m) column leach tests. KCA also completed the engineering and design of the processing facilities which were incorporated into a feasibility study, and was responsible for the processing section of an initial environmental evaluation document that was required by the local regulatory agencies. The harsh winter climate in the Yukon made the design of the heap leach facilities an interesting challenge. This project began operation in the summer of 1996.

SANTA ROSA - Greenstone Resources Ltd.

Dates: 1991 - 1993

Location: Panama, Central America

KCA conducted a feasibility study for this 1.33 million metric tonne per year heap leach project. KCA working with several other consulting firms, produced a final study that included all aspects of environmental permitting, geology, mining, processing and infrastructure. KCA also provided construction management services for a small heap leach test pad that was constructed during the "wet season" to determine the feasibility of constructing production leach pads during prolonged periods of wet weather in Panama.

GIRILAMBONE - Nord Resources

Dates: 1991 - 1992

Location: Queensland, Australia

KCA conducted agglomeration tests and provided the design of the leach pads, solution storage ponds, conveyor stacking system and heap piping for this copper heap leach project. A senior KCA engineer was onsite to assist with construction and start up of the leaching and stacking facilities.

SANSU - Ashanti Goldfields Corp Ltd.

Dates: 1989 - 1990

Location: Ghana, West Africa

The Sansu mine is a 100,000 tonne per month gold heap leach operation located in a tropical, high rainfall environment. KCA was responsible for all aspects of the testing, design, water balance and leaching concepts. Once the project was approved, KCA provided design engineering, fabrication, procurement supervision, installation services, and a complete modular 125 cubic meter per hour carbon recovery plant. Following start up, KCA provided one year of supervision/training.

POTOSI - Comsur, S.A.

Dates: 1985 - 1990

Location: Bolivia, South America

Potosi is a 1000-TPD dry grind/heap leach project. The process included a three-stage crushing circuit, a dry grind ball mill, an agglomeration drum, a conveyor and stacking system, and a 150 cubic meter per hour Merrill-Crowe recovery plant. This heap leach project is unique in that the mined ore is fine crushed to 8 mesh and then reduced in size by dry grinding to 20 mesh prior to agglomeration for heap leaching. KCA provided the original design and construction supervision and the engineering supervision for subsequent expansion from 500 to 1000 TPD. KCA also completed conceptual design for further expansion.



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QUALITY ASSURANCE

At KCA we understand that a valid metallurgical and or analytical determination is the culmination of a large number of steps and the efforts of a number of people. KCA employs a quality control program that emphasizes utilizing the correct techniques and routine discussion of these techniques by our professionals and technicians.

KCA extensively employs random duplication of assays, spiking and common-element dilutions, and analysis by alternative methods to ensure that the results that we report are accurate and reliable.

Every solid sample that is submitted for assay from KCA is submitted to two separate commercial laboratories. The laboratories are currently ALS-Chemex in Reno and Florin Analytical Services LLC (a member of the Kappes, Cassiday Group of Companies).

Environmental analyses of solutions are completed utilizing both EPA and NDEP certified laboratories. Currently KCA utilizes Great Basin Environmental and Sierra Nevada Environmental for this work. Florin Analytical Services is currently seeking State of Nevada Certification for metals. In addition, Florin is currently seeking certification through ISO9000.

REPORTS OF TESTWORK

KCA prides itself on preparing quality, complete metallurgical test program reports. Draft reports are typically available within two to three weeks after completion of the program and final reports are completed after review by the client company.

Interim reports are available on a weekly basis as the program proceeds. These interim reports are required as most metallurgical programs require a lot of discussions between both the laboratory as well as the client/project manager as the program develops and data are received. By establishing good lines of communication with the client, KCA feels that a higher quality product can be achieved and that the final product will be of greater value as the program develops and the project develops into an operating mine.

INVOICING

Kappes, Cassiday invoices projects on a monthly basis, typically invoicing for work actually completed in the previous month. Long term projects are billed on a time and materials basis based upon percent completion. Laboratory programs are typically bid/proposed on a "not to exceed" basis with change orders being issued as the program develops, if necessary. Assay analyses not completed by KCA in-house are added to the invoices at cost. Shipping, handling and telephone charges are added at cost and are detailed in the monthly invoices.

Payments are due within 30 days of the date noted on the invoice. Payment schedules can be altered if approved by KCA in advance.

KCA reserves the right to withhold any test data obtained if payments are past due.

PROJECT SCHEDULING

Scheduling of Projects is coordinated by the Manager of Laboratory Services. Larger projects are outlined and scheduled utilizing a Gantt Chart (Microsoft Project). Each project is reviewed weekly by the laboratory staff to ensure that all aspects of the program are initiated and finalized in a timely manner. Most projects are initiated within three (3) days of sample receipt, and testing is started within one week of sample receipt.