

NEWS RELEASE



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Imperial Reports First Quarter Production for Mount Polley and Huckleberry Mines

Vancouver (May 8, 2006) - **Imperial Metals Corporation (III-TSX)** reports first quarter production for its Mount Polley and Huckleberry mines. The Company's First Quarter Report is scheduled for release on May 15, 2006 and will be available on the Company's website: www.imperialmetals.com.

Mount Polley

Mount Polley mine production for the three months ended March 31, 2006 compared to December 31, 2005 is as follows:

(unaudited)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2006	Three Months Ended December 31, 2005
Ore milled (tonnes)	1,532,260	1,477,020
Ore milled per calendar day (tonnes)	17,025	16,055
Grade % - Copper	0.412	0.449
Grade g/t - Gold	0.249	0.255
Recovery % - Copper	82.07	82.66
Recovery % - Gold	65.72	69.56
Copper produced (lbs)	11,421,180	12,076,569
Gold produced (oz)	8,076	8,399
Silver produced (oz)	89,687	97,411

Milled tonnes were up at Mount Polley, and were near our targeted rate of 17,500 tonnes per day for winter months. Mill throughput in March exceeded 20,000 tonnes per day for 17 days, achieving 19,150 tonnes per calendar day for the month. Copper production in the 2006 first quarter was less than the 2005 fourth quarter. The copper grade delivered to the mill was less than expected, as fewer tonnes than planned were mined from the high grade portions of the Wight Pit. To increase the available tonnes from the high grade portion of the Wight Pit, one P&H 2100 shovel was moved from the Bell Pit to the Wight Pit, resulting in two shovels now operating in the Wight Pit, and one in the Bell Pit. Increased mill throughput and improved spring weather conditions are expected to increase production in the second quarter.

Huckleberry

Huckleberry mine production for the three months ended March 31, 2006 compared to March 31, 2005 is provided below.

(100% - Imperial owns 50%) (unaudited)	Three Months Ended March 31, 2006	Three Months Ended March 31, 2005
Ore milled (tonnes)	1,659,900	1,692,700
Ore milled per calendar day (tonnes)	18,444	18,807
Ore milled per operating day (tonnes)	19,943	21,107
Grade (%) - Copper	0.560	0.542
Grade (%) - Molybdenum	0.014	0.014
Recovery (%) - Copper	85.9	87.7
Recovery (%) - Molybdenum	22.3	26.6
Copper produced (lbs)	17,615,000	17,748,000
Molybdenum produced (lbs)	114,881	135,567

Exploration Update

In the Boundary Zone at Mount Polley, silver assays pending from the previously reported (ref: NR May 1, 2006) five holes drilled, were received and are provided in the following table. The silver grades encountered in the Boundary Zone are similar to grades being mined in the nearby Wight Pit.

Boundary Zone										
Drill Hole #	Azimuth	Dip	Total Length (m)	Interval from (m)	Interval to (m)	Interval Length (m)	Copper %	Gold g/t	Silver g/t	
ND06-05	0°	-90°	185.6	102.6	-	141.8	39.2	0.90	0.68	5.72
<i>and</i>				152.7	-	172.5	19.8	0.61	0.69	3.79
ND06-06	0°	-90°	150.6	4.9	-	13.6	8.7	1.13	2.25	7.65
<i>and</i>				40.0	-	62.5	22.5	0.37	0.40	2.86
<i>and</i>				77.5	-	112.3	34.8	0.98	1.12	6.49
ND06-07	0°	-90°	143.0	3.1	-	15.0	11.9	0.55	2.12	3.61
<i>and</i>				75.1	-	100.1	25.0	1.51	2.56	8.92
<i>including</i>				82.5	-	87.5	5.0	3.75	8.42	21.70
ND06-08	0°	-90°	181.7	50.0	-	102.1	52.1	0.49	0.54	3.65
<i>and</i>				130.1	-	144.6	14.5	0.67	0.92	4.17
ND06-09	0°	-90°	384.4	46.6	-	52.8	6.2	1.02	0.55	6.87
<i>and</i>				97.6	-	139.3	41.6	0.56	0.42	3.56

Patrick McAndless, P.Geo. is the Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 for the exploration program. Samples for the current diamond drilling program were analyzed at the Mount Polley Mine laboratory. A full QA/QC program using blanks, standards and duplicates was maintained for all samples submitted to the lab. Silver analysis will be completed at Acme Analytical Laboratory in Vancouver.

At Huckleberry, a program of twelve diamond drill holes is underway in the Main Zone Extension. The program is designed to provide geotechnical information for pit slope design, to fill in gaps in the current block model of the zone, and to expand the zone to the west. No drill results have been received to date. The zone is currently estimated to contain a mineable resource of about 13 million tonnes, and the extension could provide a source of mill feed to extend the mine life by about two years.

Imperial is a mine development and operating mining company based in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Company's key properties are the Mount Polley open pit copper/gold producing mine (100% interest) in central British Columbia, the Huckleberry open pit copper/molybdenum producing mine (50% interest) in northern British Columbia, and the development stage Sterling gold mine (100% interest) in southwest Nevada.

-30-

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