THE RED DOG DEPOSIT, NORTHWESTERN ALASKA:
DISCOVERY, DELINEATION, DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

T. C. Mowatt, J. Dygas, C. Gibson

INTRODUCTION

The Red Dog mineral deposit is located about 90 miles north of Kotzebue, Alaska. Ore reserves approximate at least 85 million tons, with grades of 17.1 percent zinc, 5.0 percent lead, and 2.5 ounces of silver per ton. There are also indications of additional mineralization of similar character in the vicinity, as well as elsewhere in the region. Geologic terranes similar to the Red Dog environs persist to the north and east, and occurrences of base and precious metal mineralization have been reported at several locations, particularly within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (e.g., Drenchwater, Kiviktort, Story Creek). These, as well as geochemical anomalies across the region, remain to be elucidated in terms of resource potential.

The history of events which led to recognition, delineation, and development of Red Dog affords an important example for similar future endeavors, in context of present and future concerns and directions regarding continuing need for mineral resources to meet the requirements of society.

ABSTRACT

The Red Dog mineral deposit is located about 90 miles north of Kotzebue, Alaska. Ore reserves approximate at least 85 million tons, with grades of 17.1 percent zinc, 5.0 percent lead, and 2.5 ounces of silver per ton. There are also indications of additional mineralization of similar character in the vicinity, as well as elsewhere in the region. Geologic terranes similar to the Red Dog environs persist to the north and east, and occurrences of base and precious metal mineralization have been reported at several locations, particularly within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (e.g., Drenchwater, Kiviktort, Story Creek). These, as well as geochemical anomalies across the region, remain to be elucidated in terms of resource potential.

The history of events which led to recognition, delineation, and development of Red Dog affords an important example for similar future endeavors, in context of present and future concerns and directions regarding continuing need for mineral resources to meet the requirements of society.