

# SIGMA LITHIUM ANNOUNCES FILING TECHNICAL REPORT WITH OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC RESULTS OF THE INTEGRATED PHASE 1 & 2 PROJECTED PRODUCTION: AFTER-TAX NPV OF US\$5.1 BILLION & AVERAGE ANNUAL FREE CASH FLOW OF US\$595 MILLION; CONTINUES EVALUATING PHASE 3

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The phased expansion scenario will potentially position Sigma Lithium as the world's fourth largest lithium producer.
  - Run-rate combined production of 531,000 tpa (72,200 tpa LCE) of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium.
  - Expected to be among the lowest cost lithium producers globally with average cash costs of US\$454/t (CIF China).
  - Combined average annual free cash flow of US\$595 million over the 13-years of operation.
- Sigma Lithium is in construction of a greentech lithium processing plant integrated with its own lithium ore feedstock:
  - The Company is fully funded to production for remaining Phase 1 capex of US\$111 million.
  - Phase 1 remains on schedule and on budget to begin commissioning by year-end 2022.
  - Phase 2 Greentech Plant and mine capex is estimated at US\$76 million.
  - Detailed engineering and feasibility level geotechnical workstream are being initiated at Phase 2.
  - Therefore, construction of Phase 2 is expected to begin once Phase 1 initiates commissioning.
- The technical report projects results for an integrated, multi-stage approach to development of Phase 1 and Phase 2 production of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium as follows:
  - $\circ$  Combined after-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> of US\$5.1 billion.
  - Combined after-tax IRR of 589%.
  - $\circ$  13-year project life (fully integrated with both Phase 1 & 2 mines).
- Sigma Lithium's integrated technical report encompasses *just two* initial production phases of the Grota do Cirilo Project (Phase 1 and Phase 2). Sigma Lithium continues to work on the remaining six former artisanal mines within its properties in order to prepare them for potential development.
  - <u>Phase 1 Feasibility Study</u> contemplates the Greentech Plant fully integrated with the Phase 1 mine, both currently in construction:
    - Expected to produce 270,000 tpa of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium (36,700 tpa LCE).



- Estimates annual steady-state free cash flow of US\$455 million over the 8 years of operation.
- After-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> of US\$2.6 billion, IRR of 571% over an 8-year operating life, and payback period of just 3 months.
- Average All-In Sustaining Costs projected to be US\$459/t (cash production costs plus royalties and transportation costs CIF China)
- <u>Phase 2 Pre-Feasibility Study</u> evaluates a second "twin" Greentech Plant fully integrated with the Phase 2 mine:
  - Expected to produce an additional 261,100 tpa of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium (35,500 tpa LCE).
  - Estimates annual steady-state free cash flow of US\$342 million over the 12 years of operation.
  - After-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> of US\$2.4 billion, IRR of 764% over a 12-year operating life, and payback period of just 2 months.
  - Average All-In Sustaining Costs projected to be US\$453/t (cash production costs plus royalties and transportation costs CIF China)
- <u>Phase 3 preliminary economic assessment</u>: targeted for summer 2022, with the goal of planning a potential Phase 3 production expansion from its existing estimated 59 million tonnes of mineral resources (50.3 million tonnes of measured and indicated mineral resources and 8.6 million tonnes of inferred mineral resources).
- Combined Phase 1 + Phase 2 has the potential to be one of the lowest-cost operations globally of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium.
  - Significant cost advantage from vertical integration with Sigma Lithium's 33.6 million tonnes of estimated high-grade mineral reserves.
  - $\circ~$  Phase 1 spodumene ore feed grade of 1.55% Li\_2O, Phase 2 spodumene ore feed grade of 1.37% Li\_2O.
  - Average FOB Cash Costs of US\$340/t (FOB Greentech Plant, at operation's truck bay).
  - Average CIF Cash Costs of US\$454/t (CIF China).
- Sigma Lithium is expected to produce the world's most environmentally responsible lithium:
  - $\circ$   $\,$  100% of the tailings to be dry stacked.
  - 100% clean, renewable hydro power.
  - 100% of the water recirculated/reused in the plant and sourced from a river with "high chemical levels of raw sewage contamination".
- Grota do Cirilo is located in Brazil, a tier-1 metals and mining operating jurisdiction with existing complete infrastructure: transmission power lines, roads and ports.
  - Close proximity to the emerging Atlantic supply chain for electric vehicles in North America and Europe.



VANCOUVER, CANADA -- (May 26, 2022) - SIGMA Lithium Corporation ("Sigma Lithium" or the "Company") (NASDAQ: SGML, TSXV: SGML), dedicated to powering the next generation of electric vehicles with environmentally sustainable and high-purity lithium, is pleased to announce the filing of its Phase 1 DFS and Phase 2 PFS Update of the NI 43-101 Technical Report (the "Consolidated Technical Report") for its 100% owned Grota do Cirilo Project (the "Project" or "Grota do Cirilo"). The Consolidated Technical Report incorporates the Phase 1 Feasibility Study and a Phase 2 Pre-Feasibility Study, and demonstrates robust combined economics, highlighted by a combined after-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> of US\$5.1 billion and combined after-tax IRR of 589%.

"With Phase 1 funded and in construction, we are delighted to share our progress on Phase 2 and the combined economics of this fully-integrated lithium project" says Ana Cabral-Gardner, Co-CEO and Co-Chairperson of Sigma Lithium. "We remain focused on delivering Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium for the electric vehicle supply chain, while continuing to focus on lifting the most vulnerable members of our local communities in Vale do Jequitinhonha, Brazil"

The Consolidated Technical Report considers a fully integrated and environmentally sustainable production of battery grade high purity lithium concentrate ("**Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium**"), with feedstock spodumene ore sourced from its **Phase 1** and **Phase 2 lithium deposits**. The combined operation increases average run-rate production to 531,000 tpa of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium. Additionally, Grota do Cirilo's operating life has been extended by more than 50% to 13 years with the addition of Phase 2 production from the initial 8 years in the Phase 1 Feasibility Study.

The Consolidated Technical Report estimates US\$76 million of additional capital expenditures to build a "second production line" to produce Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium in a Phase 2.

The key factors influencing the robust Consolidated Technical Report economics include:

- high average feed grades of 1.55% Li<sub>2</sub>O for Phase 1 and 1.37% Li<sub>2</sub>O for Phase 2; and
- the superior recovery rates achieved by the greentech plant in the dense media separation ("**DMS**") circuit of 65.0% for Phase 1 and 57.9% for Phase 2.

The Company expects to announce an updated mineral resource estimate in the second quarter of 2022, with the goal of determining the potential for a further production expansion ("**Phase 3**"). A Preliminary Economic Assessment on Phase 3 is expected to be completed at the end of the second quarter or early in the third quarter of 2022.

The Company has filed the Consolidated Technical Report and it is available on SEDAR (<u>www.sedar.com</u>), EDGAR (<u>www.sec.gov</u>) and the Company's corporate website. The Consolidated Technical Report is NI 43-101 compliant and was issued on May 25, 2022. The Consolidated Technical Report was prepared for Sigma Lithium by: Homero Delboni Jr., MAusIMM, Promon Engenharia; Marc-Antoine Laporte, P.Geo, SGS Canada Inc; Jarrett Quinn, P.Eng., Primero Group Americas; Porfirio Cabaleiro Rodriguez, (MEng), FAIG, GE21 Consultoria Mineral; and Brian Talbot, FAusIMM, Rtek Pty Ltd.

### **Integrated Economic Analysis**

The Grota do Cirilo Phase 1 and Phase 2 after-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> and after-tax IRR of US\$5.1 billion and 589% were calculated based on an average annual production run-rate of 531,000 tonnes of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium and a 13-year operating life. A financial summary for the Project is included in Table 1 below, which demonstrates the robust economics for the production of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium for the following concentrations of lithium oxide: 6.0%, 5.5% and 5.2%.



#### Table 1: Phase 1 & 2 Financial Summary

Base Case Phase 1 & 2	6.0% Li2O	5.5% Li2O	5.2% Li2O
Economic Analysis			
After-Tax Net Present Value (@ 8% Discount Rate)	US\$4.0 Billion	US\$5.1 Billion	US\$5.4 Billion
After-Tax Internal Rate of Return	495%	589%	624%
Revenues, Cash Flow and Capex			
Operating Life	13 years	13 years	13 years
Battery Grade Lithium Run-Rate Production	440,400 tpa	531,000 tpa	561,700 tpa
Lithium Carbonate Equivalent Run-Rate Production	65,300 tpa LCE	72,200 tpa LCE	72,200 tpa LCE
Average Annual Revenue	US\$756 M	US\$915 M	US\$968 M
Average Annual After-Tax Free Cash Flow	US\$472 M	US\$595 M	US\$637 M
Costs per tonne of Lithium			
Total Cash Cost at Production	US\$399/t	US\$340/t	US\$325/t
All-in Sustaining Cost (CIF China)	US\$515/t	US\$455/t	US\$440/t
Phase 1 Lithium Recovery Rate (DMS)	60.4%	65.0%	65.0%
Phase 2 Lithium Recovery Rate (DMS)	50.9%	57.9%	57.9%
Integrated Costs (per tonne of lithium)			
Mining costs	US\$236/t	US\$194/t	US\$184/t
Greentech Plant Processing costs	US\$69/t	US\$57/t	US\$54/t
G&A costs	US\$30/t	US\$25/t	US\$24/t
Transportation costs (Mine to CIF China)	US\$114	US\$114	US\$114
Spodumene Mined Feedstock for Greentech Plant			
Total quantity mined	33.6 Mt	33.6 Mt	33.6 Mt
Annual run of mine (ROM)	2.6 Mtpa	2.6 Mtpa	2.6 Mtpa

Table 2 below highlights the robust Phase 1 only standalone economics for the production of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium for the following concentrations of lithium oxide: at 6.0%, 5.5% and 5.2%.

#### Table 2: Phase 1 Only Financial Summary

Base Case Phase 1 Only	6.0% Li2O	5.5% Li2O	5.2% Li2O
Economic Analysis			
After-Tax Net Present Value (@ 8% Discount Rate)	US\$2.2 Billion	US\$2.6 Billion	US\$2.8 Billion
After-Tax Internal Rate of Return	482%	571%	606%
After-Tax Payback Period	3 months	3 months	2 months
Revenues, Cash Flow and Capex			
Operating Life	8 years	8 years	8 years
Battery Grade Lithium Run-Rate Production	230,000 tpa	270,000 tpa	285,600 tpa
Lithium Carbonate Equivalent Run-Rate Production	34,100 tpa LCE	36,700 tpa LCE	36,700 tpa LCE
Average Annual Revenue	US\$575 M	US\$675 M	US\$714 M
Average Annual After-Tax Free Cash Flow	US\$376 M	US\$455 M	US\$485 M
Costs per tonne of Lithium			



Total Cash Cost at Production	US\$386/t	US\$339/t	US\$324/t
All-in Sustaining Cost (CIF China)	US\$506/t	US\$459/t	US\$444/t
Lithium Recovery Rate (DMS)	60.4%	65.0%	65.0%
Integrated Costs (per tonne of lithium)			
Mining costs	US\$229/t	US\$195/t	US\$185/t
Greentech Plant Processing costs	US\$65/t	US\$56/t	US\$53/t
G&A costs	US\$21/t	<b>US\$18/t</b>	US\$17/t
Transportation costs (Mine to CIF China)	US\$119/t	US\$119/t	US\$119/t
Spodumene Mined Feedstock for Greentech Plant			
Total quantity mined	11.8 Mt	11.8 Mt	11.8 Mt
Annual run of mine (ROM)	1.5 Mtpa	1.5 Mtpa	1.5 Mtpa
Spodumene ore feed grade LOM average	1.55%	1.55%	1.55%

Table 3 below highlights the robust Phase 2 only standalone economics for the production of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium for the following concentrations of lithium oxide: at 6.0%, 5.5% and 5.2%.

#### Table 3: Phase 2 Only Financial Summary

Base Case Phase 2 Only	6.0% SC	5.5% SC	5.2% SC	
Economic Analysis				
After-Tax Net Present Value (@ 8% Discount Rate)	US\$1.9 B US\$2.4 B		US\$2.6 B	
After-Tax Internal Rate of Return	601%	764%	813%	
After-Tax Payback Period	2 months	2 months	2 months	
Revenues, Cash Flow and Capex				
Operating Life	12 years	12 years	12 years	
Battery Grade Lithium Run-Rate Production	210,400 tpa	261,100 tpa	276,100 tpa	
Lithium Carbonate Equivalent Run-Rate Production	31,200 tpa LCE	35,500 tpa LCE	35,500 tpa LCE	
Average Annual Revenue	US\$436 M US\$541 M		US\$573 M	
Average Annual After-Tax Free Cash Flow	US\$260 M US\$342 M		US\$366 M	
Costs per tonne of Lithium				
Total Cash Cost at Production	US\$408/t	US\$340/t	US\$325/t	
All-in Sustaining Cost (CIF China)	US\$521/t	US\$453/t	US\$437/t	
Lithium Recovery Rate (DMS)	1S) 50.9%		57.9%	
Integrated Costs (per tonne of lithium)				
Mining costs	US\$240/t US\$194/t		US\$183/t	
Greentech Plant Processing costs	US\$72/t US\$58/t		US\$55/t	
G&A costs	US\$37/t US\$30/t		US\$28/t	
Transportation costs (Mine to CIF China)	US\$110/t US\$110/t		US\$110/t	
Spodumene Mined Feedstock for Greentech Plant				
Total quantity mined	<b>21.8 Mt</b>	<b>21.8 Mt</b>	<b>21.8 Mt</b>	
Annual run of mine (ROM)	1.8 Mtpa	1.8 Mtpa	1.8 Mtpa	
Spodumene ore feed grade LOM average	1.37%	1.37%	1.37%	



Grota do Cirilo's average revenue and operating costs per tonne of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium are outlined in Table 4 below. The lithium prices forecasted are based on the Benchmark Mineral Intelligence curve of battery grade lithium hydroxide (LiOH) shown in Figure 1, with the price of the Battery Grade Sustainable lithium calculated based on a fixed percentage of 9% of the LiOH price. This is based on an average Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium price of US\$3,159/t for 2022 to 2026, with a long-term Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium price of US\$1,710/t from 2027 to 2035.

#### Figure 1: Battery Grade LiOH & SC Price Forecast (US\$/t)



#### Table 4: Grota do Cirilo Integrated Estimated Revenue and Operating Costs

Estimated Revenue, Operating Cost and After-Tax Earnings	Annual Average Economics <sup>(1)</sup> (13 Year Operating Life)	
	(US\$ MM)	(US\$/t)
Gross Revenue	\$915	\$2,247
Less: Realization costs	(\$26)	(\$63)
(-) CFEM Royalty	(\$18)	(\$45)
(-) Other Royalties	(\$7)	(\$18)
(-) Commercial Discount	-	-
Net Revenues	\$889	\$2,184
Less: Site Operating Costs	(\$159)	(\$390)
(-) Mining	(\$79)	(\$194)
(-) Processing	(\$23)	(\$57)
(-) Transport	(\$46)	(\$114)
(-) Selling, General & Administration	(\$10)	(\$25)
(-) Depreciation	(\$27)	(\$67)
EBIT	\$703	\$1,727
% EBIT Margin	79%	79%
(-) Taxes	(\$107)	(\$263)
After-Tax Earnings	\$596	\$1,463
% After-Tax Earnings Margin	67%	67%



(1) Based on the production of Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium at 5.5%

Given the relatively low capital intensity of the Project, the after-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> shows low sensitivity to changes in capex, BRL/USD exchange rate and operating expenses. Grota do Cirilo's after-tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> is more sensitive to variations in Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium prices, as reflected in Figure 2 below.



### Figure 2: Grota do Cirilo After-Tax NPV<sub>8%</sub> Sensitivity Analysis to Price Changes (US\$ billion)

### **Capital Expenditures**

In addition to the remaining US\$111 million pre-production Phase 1 capex (which is already fully funded), the Consolidated Technical Report estimates US\$76 million of additional capex to build a "second production line" to produce Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium process in a Phase 2. This Phase 2 expansion is expected to be constructed during the first year of production for Phase 1 at the Project, with Phase 2 production expected to commence in the second year of production.

The Phase 1 capex was estimated at a FEL3 level of engineering detail, whereby the engineering firms provided **pricing quotations** from qualified suppliers for all areas of construction (summarized in Table 5 below).

This FEL3 quoting exercise was led by the procurement teams at Promon Engenharia Ltda., for infrastructure, services, buildings and bulk earthworks; Primero Group Ltd ("Primero") for crushing plant and DMS plant; and GE21 Consultoria Mineral ("GE21") for mining.

The pre-production Phase 2 capex to construct the "second production line" (including all direct and indirect costs and contingencies in each line item) is summarized in Table 5 below and was estimated with an accuracy of  $\pm 25\%$ .

 Primero provided the estimates related to infrastructure, services, buildings, bulk earthworks, crushing and DMS. GE21 provided the estimates related to mining capex.

#### **Table 5: Capex to Commercial Production**

Item	Phase 1 (Year 1) (1)	Phase 2 (Year 2) (2)
	(US\$ M)	(US\$ M)
Mine	\$8.5	\$2.3
Process Plant	\$69.8	\$53.9



Total Capex to Commercial Production	\$110.9	\$75.7	
Capex already Disbursed During Construction	(\$20.7)	-	
Tax Incentives (Savings)	(\$5.9)	(\$3.5)	
Working Capital During Plant Commissioning	\$6.1	\$1.0	
Operational and ESG Expenses During Construction	\$9.8	\$3.2	
Substation & Utility Power Supply	\$7.4	-	
Engineering Services	\$19.2	\$11.6	
Environmental Equipment (Water & Dry Stacking)	\$16.6	\$7.3	

(1) The operating life capital is estimated at US\$3.2 M (including contingency) for replacement of key plant components over the Phase 1 operating life, considering the modelled operating life and useful life of major equipment items. The sustaining capex is mainly for the crushing area and allows for crusher rebuilds (replacements).

(2) The operating life capital is estimated at US\$166.9 M and includes capitalized stripping of US\$56.7 M in year 6, US\$52.9 M in year 7 and US\$50.8 M in year 8.

### **All-In Sustaining Cost**

The operating cost estimate is based on an owner-operated model with contract mining. Table 6 below shows the anticipated average operating costs over the operating life.

Mining costs were estimated based on a quoted proposal from a large Brazilian mining contractor, selected after an extensive tender process by the Company and its mining consultant, GE21.

Grota do Cirilo Battery Grade Sustainable Lithium is forecasted to have very low All-in Sustaining Costs (CIF China) of US\$455/t, mainly as a result of the following:

- high-grade and low impurities, as well as large crystal mineralization of the spodumene feed;
- high recoveries achieved in the green tech plant DMS;
- low overall processing costs of the DMS, resulting from its streamlined processing circuit (with less
  processing steps), therefore utilizing less electricity, water and chemical ingredients than a typical lithium
  flotation plant; and
- low local G&A costs in Brazil.

Grota do Cirilo's mining costs have decreased from the standalone Phase 1 operation partially as a result of a lower Phase 2 strip ratio (waste mined per ore mined) of 12.5 versus the Phase 1 strip ratio of 16.6.

### Table 6: Grota do Cirilo Operating Cost Estimate

Operating Cost Category	US\$/t SC
Mining	\$194
Processing	\$57
G&A	\$25
Royalties	\$63
Total Cash Cost (FOB)	\$340
Transport & Ocean Freight Costs	\$114
Total Cash Cost (CIF China)	\$454
Sustaining	\$2
All-In Sustaining Cost (CIF China)	\$455



### **QUALIFIED PERSONS**

The mining and mineral reserve estimates in this news release has been reviewed and approved by Porfirio Cabaleiro Rodriguez P.Eng, Mining Engineer of GE21 Consultoria Mineral Brazil. Mr. Rodriguez is a Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 and is independent of Sigma Lithium.

The technical and scientific information related to geology and mineral resource estimate in this news release has been reviewed and approved by Marc-Antoine Laporte P.Geo., M.Sc., of SGS Geological Services. Mr. Laporte is a Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 and is independent of Sigma Lithium.

The financial information in this news release has been reviewed and approved by Brian Talbot BSc Engineering (Chemical), FAusIMM. Mr. Talbot is a Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 and is independent of Sigma Lithium.

The technical and scientific information related to DMS recoveries in this news release has been reviewed and approved by Jarrett Quinn, P.Eng., Primero Group Americas Inc. Mr. Quinn is a Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 and is independent of Sigma Lithium.

### ABOUT SIGMA LITHIUM CORPORATION

Sigma Lithium (NASDAQ: SGML, TSXV: SGML) is a Canadian company dedicated to powering the next generation of electric vehicle batteries with environmentally sustainable and high-purity lithium.

Sigma Lithium is currently in construction at its wholly owned Grota do Cirilo Project in Brazil, which includes a stateof-the-art, green-tech processing plant that uses 100% renewable energy, 100% recycled water and 100% dry-stack tailings. The project also represents one of the largest and highest-grade hard rock lithium spodumene deposits in the Americas. Since inception, Sigma has devoted itself to strong ESG practices, from its ongoing support of local communities to its goal of achieving net zero by 2024. For more information about Sigma Lithium, visit https://www.sigmalithiumresources.com/

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### Sigma Lithium

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## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This news release includes certain "forward-looking information" under applicable Canadian and U.S. securities legislation, including but not limited to statements relating to timing and costs related to the delivery of additional incremental production at varying grades, NPV, IRR and payback estimates, increase in after tax cash flow, expected strip ratios, potential to be among the lowest cost producers in the industry, production, operating and capital cost estimates (including sustaining costs and improvements in respect thereof), all estimates and assumptions relating to the economic analysis and financial summary including but not limited to revenue and production estimates, operating life, plant recoveries and feedstock estimates, lithium prices, mineral resource and mineral reserve estimates (including assumptions and estimates used in preparing the mineral reserve and mineral resource estimates), Phase 3 projections, economic development in the jurisdictions in which Sigma Lithium operates, the general business and operational outlook of the Company, and other forward-looking information. All statements that address future plans, activities, events, estimates, expectations or developments that the Company believes, expects or anticipates will or may occur is forwardlooking information, including statements regarding the potential development of mineral resources and mineral reserves which may or may not occur. Forward-looking information contained herein is based on certain assumptions regarding, among other things: general economic and political conditions; the stable and supportive legislative, regulatory and community environment in the jurisdictions where the Company operates; anticipated trends and effects in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic; the military conflict in Ukraine and related sanctions; demand for lithium, including that such demand is supported by growth in the electric vehicle market; the Company's market position and future financial and operating performance; the Company's estimates of mineral resources and mineral reserves, including whether mineral resources will ever be developed into mineral reserves; and the Company's ability to develop and achieve production at its mineral projects.

Although management believes that the assumptions and expectations reflected in the forward-looking information are reasonable, there can be no assurance that these assumptions and expectations will prove to be correct. Forward-looking information inherently involves and is subject to risks and uncertainties, including but not limited to that the Company may not develop its mineral projects into a commercial mining operation; the market prices for lithium may not remain at current levels; and the market for electric vehicles and other large format batteries currently has limited market share and no assurances can be given for the rate at which this market will develop, if at all, which could affect the success of the Company and its ability to develop lithium operations. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. The Company disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking information, whether because of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law. For more information on the risks, uncertainties and assumptions that could cause our actual results to differ from current expectations, please refer to the current annual information form of the Company and other public filings available under the Company's profile at www.sedar.com.

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