

Polaris Minerals Corp Profiles 1997

"What They Won't Tell You . . ."

***2012 Note: This "Polaris Profiles" page caused Marco Romero such anger that in 2003 he faxed a 40-page *Writ of Summons* to the Nuxalk hereditary chiefs, threatening to sue them if the page was not removed from the Nuxalk House of Smayusta website. In fact, these short bios reveal very little of the brutal human rights abuse and environmental devastation that are the true legacy of the mining corps and their profit-obsessed head honchos.**

Marco Romero (founder, president and director)

Long time henchman for the mining industry, starting out as an assistant geologist for Rio Tinto in BC. Founder of Shangri-la Minerals, co-founder and executive director of Eldorado Gold Corp. Romero claimed that Eldorado's La Colorada gold mine was a prime example of sustainable mining but according to a researcher from the University of Texas (El Paso): "the cyanide solution pumped onto the leach pads cover quite a big area of the property. The enormous areas designated for future waste dumps exceeds in a very big scale the production and mining areas." Romero was also senior vice president for Ivanhoe Mines, formerly known as Indochina Gold Fields (IGL). IGL was run by Robert "Toxic Bob" Friedland, one of the most brutal mining tycoons in the world. IGL operated primarily copper mines in countries where political conflicts over resources are at its worst, including Burma and Indonesia. IGL is closely linked to Fiji's Emperor Gold Mines which is notorious for its disregard of its workforce, and for violations of land rights and the environment.

Roman Shklanka (chairman and director)

Former chairman and shareholder of Sutton Resources. Sutton is responsible for the killing of over 50 people as a result of mining activities in Bulyanhulu, Tanzania. Amnesty International reported: "Men were buried alive when the Canadian mining company [Sutton] bulldozed small-scale mines" to make room for the company's larger mining activities. Shklanka had a key role in the acquisition of the Bulyanhulu Project. Sutton was later taken over by Barrick Gold. Shklanka also worked as vice president of exploration for Placer Dome, a company that conspired with the former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Placer Dome was responsible for the biggest man-made environmental disaster in the history of the Philippines, the Boac River Disaster of 1996. This atrocity polluted much of the Boac River with millions of tons of tailings, displaced 20,000 villagers, and poisoned the environment near the village of Marinduque and other areas. In a separate incident, Placer Dome dumped mineral tailings directly into Calancan Bay. Until this time, most of the 15,000 villagers made a living from fishing. The turbulence caused by continuous surface dumping drove away many species of fish, making fishing impossible. In a separate incident in 1992, a burst dam on the Mogpog River in the Philippines killed two children and flooded an entire village. Placer Dome's offenses were not limited to the Philippines: mine explosion in 1994 at Mount Waruwarii, Papua New Guinea, killed 11 workers - the worst single mine disaster in the country's history.

Harry Sutherland (vice president of finance)

Chief financial officer of Manhattan Minerals Corp., notorious for its aggressive gold extraction in the NW Peruvian Andes, including protected areas in Piura. To no avail, local communities protested against the destruction of their agricultural lands. Sutherland was also vice president of finance for Eldorado Gold Corp., manager of finance for Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting and chief financial officer of Imperial Metals Corp.

Michael Beley (director)

Was vice president and director of Bema Gold Corp. In 1998 Bema Gold, through its subsidiary Yarnell Mining Company (YMC), proposed to tear down a whole mountain for its gold at Yarnell, Arizona, by using seven million pounds of cyanide, well known as an extremely deadly poison. A nearby retirement community resisted these plans. Beley was also manager and principal of Manex Mining and exploration geologist for Phelps Dodge, one of the biggest copper mine multinationals in the world.

Gary Nordin (director)

Chief consulting geologist and a director of above mentioned Eldorado Gold Corp. He also worked for the above mentioned Bema Gold Corp.

John Purkis (director)

Employed by Inmet Mining. Inmet holds 18 percent of the Ok Tedi Mine in Papua, New Guinea, which dumped 80,000 tons of contaminated waste rock and tailings per day into the Ok Tedi and Fly Rivers. A 1995 United Nations Environmental Program report identified massive environmental impacts in that area. Stephen D'Esposito, president of the Mineral Policy Center in Washington, DC, stated: "This is an example of a mine that should never have been built." Purkis also worked for GENEL Dominicana, Cyprus Anvil Mining and is vice president of Atna Resources.

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