2019 has been an eventful year for Lithium Americas as we continue to inform our neighbors and stakeholders throughout the State of Nevada, about the strategic importance and potential economic benefits of the Thacker Pass Project. In October, U.S. Senator for Nevada, Catherine Cortez Masto, toured our Process Research Facility in Reno with Jon Evans, CEO, Lithium Americas, Alexi Zawadzki, President of North American Operations, and staff to learn more about the metallurgical process and project. The Thacker Pass Project is currently on track to begin construction during the first half of 2021.
A MESSAGE FROM
ALEXI ZAWADZKI, PRESIDENT
NORTH AMERICAN OPERATIONS
LITHIUM AMERICAS CORP

As 2019 draws to a close I’d like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our neighbors and stakeholders who have taken interest in learning about our project, offered goods or services, or expressed an interest in joining our workforce. I have made it a point to personally reach out to answer your questions, deal honestly with potential concerns and provide transparency.

The Lithium Americas team has made tremendous progress in moving the Thacker Pass Project forward, including the completion of a Plan of Operations (which forms the basis of the permitting process, expected to conclude in 2020) and construction and operation of a process research facility in Reno. We have also established an office in Winnemucca and brought on Maria Anderson as our new Community Relations Manager.

Thacker Pass is committed to modern mining principles- sustainability, transparency and engagement. By conscious design, Lithium Americas is targeting the most sustainable mining and chemical process possible with the goal to produce the world’s first carbon neutral lithium products. This task is not easy, but it’s an important one. Through extensive recycling, we plan to reduce water consumption by approximately 50% from the original plan. Air emissions are targeted to be captured to the maximum extent possible. A proposed cogeneration plant will be designed to turn waste heat into carbon-free electricity, which is expected to generate sufficient power for the entire mine and chemical processing facility. The sustainability aspects of our design is a point of pride for the Lithium Americas team.

Lithium Americas is excited to have partnered with North American Coal (through their wholly-owned subsidiary Sawtooth Mining), to design and operate the mining aspects of the project. NACoal has been mining in the United States for over 100 years and has an industry-leading safety record. Lithium Americas is also working with The Industrial Company (TIC) to complete a definitive feasibility study for the project. TIC has designed and built significant mining infrastructure throughout Nevada.

Thacker Pass is expected to require up to 400 employees during operations, and about three times that during construction. We are working with federal funding sources to provide training opportunities for the local workforce to ensure people have the right skills when we need them. In addition, Lithium Americas has entered into a project engagement agreement with the Fort McDermitt Tribe to facilitate training, jobs and advance economic opportunities.

I’m also pleased to announce that we have reached our goal in establishing the largest sagebrush restoration research fund in the United States in partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno. This fund has resulted in significant advancements in practical rehabilitation and restoration tools, such as coated seed technology.

It has been a busy year. Looking forward, Lithium Americas is on track to commence construction in 2021, pending permits and financing. On behalf of everyone at Lithium Americas, thank you for your interest and support and we wish you a happy holiday season and wonderful 2020.
LITHIUM AMERICAS FINALIZES AGREEMENTS FOR MINE DESIGN, ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND RECLAMATION SERVICES FOR THACKER PASS

Lithium Americas finalized a partnership with Sawtooth Mining, LLC, a subsidiary of North American Coal Corporation, in September. The agreement calls on Sawtooth Mining to provide mine engineering, construction, reclamation services and various mine equipment for the Thacker Pass project. NAACO has 100+ years of mining experience along with construction of five surface mines in the past nine years. Sawtooth Mining will also provide Lithium Nevada $3.5 million in cash to advance the project and up to $1.5M of in-kinds engineering services for mine design. While in construction, Sawtooth Mining will invest up to $50 million to acquire mobile equipment needed to complete Phase I of the Thacker Pass project.

LITHIUM AMERICAS PARTNERS WITH THE INDUSTRIAL COMPANY

Lithium Americas recently contracted with The Industrial Company (TIC) - a division of the Kiewit Corporation, to provide engineering design for the Thacker Pass plant, water supply infrastructure, electrical workings, and general site layout. TIC and Kiewit are renowned for building safe, environmentally sustainable and efficient mines and processing facilities throughout Nevada. They are also skilled at providing an experienced workforce for their projects in rural Nevada.

Northwest edge of the proposed Thacker Pass project pit approximately 60 miles north of Winnemucca. Construction is scheduled to commence during the first half of 2021.
LITHIUM AMERICAS WELCOMES MOST RECENT TEAM MEMBER

Lithium Americas is pleased to announce that Maria Anderson has joined its team and will serve as Community Relations Manager. She has vast experience in community relations and human resources having spent the past 12 years working in those areas in the mining industry, including positions within the Nevada operations of Barrick and Newmont Mining.

Maria will take on the important role of providing regular communication and interaction with Lithium Americas’ neighbors and stakeholders. She’ll also help establish essential job training programs specific to positions that are scheduled to become available in 2021, during planned project construction, and in 2023 when Thacker Pass operations are scheduled to begin. In 2007, Maria received a Bachelor of Applied Sciences, Management in Technology degree from Great Basin College in Elko.

Maria is originally from Elko where she and her husband Scott raised their daughters Aubree and Jovahnna. She enjoys time with family and friends, the great outdoors, and traveling to various countries to meet new people and learn about their cultures.

Please take a moment to say hello to Maria and congratulate her on her new job. She’ll be based at Lithium Americas’ newly opened Winnemucca office at 91 Melarkey Street #3. The office should be open most weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
THACKER PASS PROJECT
PERMITTING UPDATE

Lithium Americas’ Thacker Pass Project Plan of Operations was submitted in August 2019 and accepted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in September 2019. The BLM is an agency within the United States Department of the Interior, a federal executive department of the U.S. government, responsible for the management and conservation of public lands and natural resources. Lithium Americas expects a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be issued by the BLM in January 2020.

The NOI is the official announcement by the BLM that it will take the next year to assess the environmental impacts of the project, collect and consider public input, and weigh the benefits of the proposed project before issuing a record of decision (RoD). A positive RoD is required before construction can begin. Based on the timing and results of the RoD, Lithium Americas is tentatively scheduled to commence construction of the Thacker Pass mine and processing facility in 2021.
PROCESS RESEARCH FACILITY

Lithium Americas began running bulk ore through its new process research facility located in Reno in early 2019. The facility contains pilot-scale equipment representing key unit operations of the lithium extraction process. To date, over 20 tons of ore have been processed at the facility, generating essential data to be used for engineering and design of the full-scale plant. In addition to the process equipment, the facility has all the latest analytical instrumentation for in-house data generation and quality management. There are six full-time staff between the facility engineers, operators and analytical technicians.

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