

# **Occurrence Details**

Occurrence Number: 105M 001 Occurrence Name: Keno Hill - Historic Occurrence Type: Hard-rock Status: Deposit Date printed: 8/5/2025 6:08:04 PM

# **General Information**

Primary Commodities: lead, silver, zinc Secondary Commodities: cadmium, gold, tin Aliases: Bellekeno, Elsa, Keno 700, Lucky Queen, Onek, Silver King Deposit Type(s): Vein Polymetallic Ag-Pb-Zn+/-Au Location(s): 63°54'35" N - -135°18'1" W NTS Mapsheet(s): 105M14 Location Comments: .5 Kilometres Hand Samples Available: No Last Reviewed:

### Capsule

#### Work History

\*This occurrence covers the exploration history of the Keno Hill area up to Feb 15, 2006 when Alexco Resource Corp finalized the purchase of all of United Keno Hill Mines' former assets. All exploration work completed since this time is catalogued under the appropriate occurrence i.e. Bellekeno (Minfile Occurrence #105M 082).

About 75% of the claims contained within the boundary are owned or controlled by United Keno Hill Mines Ltd and this area is called Occurrence No. 1. A large proportion of United Keno's claims are held under 21 year lease. Claims with mineralized veins within the area that are owned by others are numbered and described individually.

Placer gold was discovered in the area as early as 1895. The first recorded discovery of silver-lead is the Silver King vein on Galena Hill, found by J. Davidson and H.W. McWhorter in 1903 and highgraded in 1913 to 1915 under lease by J. Alverson and G. Hoffman, and later by T. Aitken and H. Munroe. In 1919, L. Beauvette discovered rich silver-lead ore (No. 9 vein) on Keno Hill. Beauvette's discovery was acquired by Yukon Gold Company Ltd, which formed a subsidiary, Keno Hill Ltd, in 1920 to mine it. This operation sparked a staking rush and much of Keno Hill and Galena Hill was staked by prospectors.

Treadwell Yukon Company Ltd entered the area in 1921 under the direction of Livingstone Wernecke and during the period from 1921 to 1923, acquired the better showings and began shipping hand-cobbed ore. Treadwell constructed a 136 tonne concentrator at the townsite of Wernecke on Keno Hill in 1924 and produced until 1933, principally from the Sadie-Ladue and Lucky Queen veins. The mill was moved to Elsa on Galena Hill in 1935 and treated ore mainly produced from the Calumet, Elsa, and Silver King Mines from 1936 to Oct/41, when operations ceased, partly due to falling metal prices and declining reserves, but mainly because of the unfortunate death of Wernecke in an aircraft accident. Prior to his death, Wernecke had managed to acquire for Treadwell virtually all claims covering veins of commercial value through a policy of assisting prospectors and paying top prices for significant discoveries. In 1945, Frobisher Exploration Company Ltd and Conwest Exploration Company Ltd formed Keno Hill Mining Company Ltd and purchased the holdings of Treadwell Yukon. In 1946, the company was reorganized as United Keno Hill Mines Ltd. What was initially considered a salvage program rapidly changed to full scale production upon discovery of the rich No. 3 vein ore at the Hector-Calumet Mine. Management was provided by Conwest until 1961 when its interest was purchased by Ventures Ltd. In 1962 the Ventures interest was transferred to Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd. A number of small companies have been active in the Keno Hill area from 1947 until present. Only two achieved a significant production. Galkeno Mines Ltd (formerly Mackeno Mines Ltd), on a property optioned from Consolidated Yukeno Mines Ltd (a merger of Yukon Galena Hill Mines Ltd, Silver Basin Yukon Mines Ltd and Yukeno Lead and Silver Mines Ltd), erected a small mine near Keno City and produced 107 million grams of silver from the McLeod vein system on Galena Hill from 1953 to 1956. The Galkeno claims and plant were sold to United Keno in 1958. The other production came from the Bellekeno Vein System on Sourdough Hill, where the first work was done by Murmac Lake Athabaska Mines Ltd (Murmac Keno Hill Mines Ltd). The property was later acquired by Bellekeno Mines Ltd, which produced 18 911 000 g of silver in 1953-54. Messrs. Campbell and Kennedy, financed by Newmont, carried out limited development in 1961 and the property was sold to United Keno in 1965. Other companies that were active in the area on property now held by United Keno include Packeno Mines Ltd, Duncan Ladue Mines Ltd, No Cash Keno Lead and Silver Mines Ltd, McOuesten Slope Mines Ltd, Klondike-Keno Mines Ltd, Macade Exploration Ltd, Onek Mining Company Ltd, Kenmayo Yukon Mines Ltd, Jersey Yukon Mines Ltd (Consolidated Jersey Mines Ltd), Magnum Copper Mines Ltd, Canex Placers, Centennial Mines Ltd, Peso Silver Mines Ltd, Silver Titan Mines Ltd, Brewis Red Lake Mines Ltd, Alberfield Oil and Gas Ltd, Consolidated Denison Mines Ltd, Yukon Northwest Exploration Ltd (a subsidiary of Leitch Mines Ltd), York Investments Ltd, Noranda Inc, Kerr-Addison Mines Ltd, Homestake Mining Company Ltd, Reserve Mining Company Ltd and Yukore Mines Ltd. In 1963, United Keno Hill commenced a systematic program of deep overburden sampling, bedrock mapping and shallow vein sampling, employing an Atlas Copco overburden drill. To the end of 1986, 527 448 m had been drilled in holes ranging up to 76.2 m in depth. In 1984, exploration drives were started to access the Bellekeno and Lucky Queen vein systems 76.2 m below the old workings.

In Jan/89 the mine was closed due to low silver prices. Ore reserves (proven and probable) at the end of 1988 were 292 196 tonnes grading 960 g/t silver and 4.6% lead, plus an additional 109 618 tonnes of possible ore grading 1213.7 g/t silver (United Keno Hill Mines Ltd, Annual Report 1989, these figures are not National Instrument 43-101 compliant and are considered historic). In 1989, Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Ltd high-graded 221 tonnes containing 1 580 991 g silver and 120 295 kg lead from an open pit on the Shamrock Vein, while J.B. O'Neill, M. Swazinski and partners each mined about 150 tonnes of slightly lower grade material from the No. 9 and Shamrock K veins, respectively.

In 1990, Archer, Cathro high-graded over 100 tonnes from open pits on the Lucky Queen Keno #3 and Keno #9 veins. Average grades were over 13 713 g/t silver on the Lucky Queen vein and 6 856 g/t silver on the Keno #9 vein. BLM Mines purchased a large interest in United Keno Hill Mines in 1990. United Keno Hill Mines Ltd carried out environmental work, rehabilitation of the mill and development work on the Bellekeno Mine in 1991.

New staking in the Keno Hill area in 1990 included Tue claims No. 1 and No. 2 (YB03916) and Fall Two cl 1-10 (YB03835) immediately south of Gambler Lake, staked for W. Howden in Aug/90, and John cl 1-11 (YB03897) and Jack cl 1-8 (YB03908) staked by R. Holway in Oct/90. In Feb/91, Skygold Resources acquired a 50% interest in Keno cl 4-7 (YB03717 and 100% interest in the Fall claims. The Fall claims lapsed in Jul/91.

In Dec/93, United Keno Hill Mines Ltd incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary (Bannister Inc) to start a program of surface and underground drilling on the Keno and Galena Hill properties. United Keno Hill Mines examined the technical and economic feasibility of resuming commercial production at Elsa in 1993.

In 1994, historic exploration data from the property was reviewed, compiled and digitized to produce a multi-dimensional model of the geology of the area; exploration was carried out in the Silver King, Husky Southwest and Bellekeno areas using both reverse circulation and diamond drilling. Seven holes (reverse circulation and diamond drilling) confirmed the down dip of continuation of mineralization and encountered three previously new mineralized zones at the Silver King mine in 1994. At Silver King mine, an IP survey was carried out, underground workings were dewatered and rehabilitated in preparation for the winter program and several hundred feet of drifting were completed. At Bellekeno mine, an IP survey and 5334 m of shallow exploration drilling were completed. Drilling at Bellekeno extended the northeast strike extension of the 51 vein and identified a new zone - the 48 East - between the 500 and 700 levels.

A prefeasibility completed in Feb/96 demonstrated that the Bellekeno and Silver King mines could be returned to production. In 1996, the decline at Bellekeno was extended 325 ft to test downward projection of the deposit. Diamond drilling at the Silver King mine tested the no. 3 vein. Rescan Engineering completed a feasibility study on the property in Oct/96. United Keno Hill Mines received a Type A production water licence for the property in 1998, which completed its environmental permitting requirements; however, in Feb/2000, the company was forced to apply for creditor protection. In Sep/2001, AMT Canada Incorporated purchased the Elsa property, but defaulted the terms of its purchase and was divested of its claims and assets.

In Sep/2004, the Yukon Supreme Court approved the plan of the court-appointed receiver to sell the assets of the bankrupt United Keno Hill Mines. In Jun/2005, Alexco Resource Corporation was selected as the preferred purchaser of the assets of United Keno Hill Mines. In Feb/2006 Alexco finalized a purchase agreement with the Federal and Yukon governments. As part of the agreement Alexco assigned its interests in the purchase agreement to its wholly owned subsidiary, Elsa Reclamation and Development Company Ltd. In addition to purchasing all of the assets of United Keno Hill Mines Ltd and UKA Minerals Limited, the subsidiary entered into Sub-Agreement with Alexco, the Federal and Yukon governments in respect of the pre-existing environmental condition and the environmental care and maintenance and reclamation of the United Keno Hill Mines site. As part of the Sub-Agreement, the Federal Government indemnified Elsa Reclamation and Development Company Ltd and UKA Government hired Elsa Reclamation and Development as a paid contractor to assume responsibility for the environmental care and maintenance of the site. On February 15, 2006 the Supreme Court of the Yukon Territory granted a vesting order approving the sale of assets to Alexco and its subsidiary Elsa Reclamation and Development Company Ltd.

#### Capsule Geology

More than 65 mineral deposits and prospects have been identified within the Keno Hill district. All of the mineable silver veins to date occur in an area 26 km long and 1 to 6.4 km wide. Most of the deposits except the Sadie-Ladue vein are confined to the Mississippian Keno Hill Quartzite. This quartzite is about 700 m thick and is structurally overlain by phyllite and sericite schist of the Late Proterozoic-Early Cambrian Hyland Group, and underlain by graphitic schist, phyllite and sericite schist of the Devonian to Mississippian Earn Group. The sequence is cut by greenstone sills which consist predominantly of meta-diorite and have yielded a U-Pb age of 232.2 ± 1.5 Ma (Triassic).

The metasedimentary rocks strike east-west and dip 20 to 30 south. In the Keno Hill-Galena Hill area they form the south flank of the McQuesten anticline. The deposits consist of mineralized vein faults 0.3 to 30 m wide in the Keno Hill quartzite. These faults strike northeast and dip steeply southeast. Metasedimentary rocks frequently show left-lateral offsets of more than 150 m across these faults, which strike northeast and dip steeply southeast. The ore zones are cut by steep unmineralized cross faults which strike northwest and show right-lateral offsets ranging from 1 m to 610 m, and by bedding plane thrust faults which demonstrate up to 30 m of movement.

Mineralization consists of argentiferous galena, freibergite (argentiferous tetrahedrite), and pyrargyrite (ruby silver) along with sphalerite, pyrite and minor polybasite, stephanite, argentite and native silver. The silver to lead ratio varies from 3:1 to 11:1 depending on the tetrahedrite content. Siderite is the main gangue mineral.

The veins are oxidized to depths of 3 to 150 m below surface, forming minerals such as limonite, pyrolusite, cerussite and anglesite. Two stages of veining are recognized. The earlier stage deposited quartz, pyrite, some arsenopyrite, sulphosalts and a trace of gold prior to movement on the vein faults. After the movement on the faults, siderite, galena, sphalerite, pyrite, freibergite and pyrargyrite were deposited. Ore shoots have the form of simple and sheeted veins and breccia zones with strike and dip dimensions of 30 to 335 m, and widths of 0.3 to 30 m.

The ore zones appear to be associated with one or more of the following features: the junction of two or more veins; cymoid loops; areas where the fault changes dip; adjacent to and in the footwall of cross faults; areas near the Quartzite-Hyland Group contact. K-Ar dating returned a 90 Ma age for the mineralized vein faults (Sinclair et al. 1980), which may be related to granitic intrusions of similar age located north and south of the Keno Hill district. Metal zonation is indicated in a study of tetrahedrite compositions (Lynch (1989)), which showed silver/copper and iron/zinc ratios increasing away from the Mayo Lakes pluton. Elevated gold values occur in deposits peripheral to Keno Hill (Husky SW, Silver King and Moth veins), and in quartz veins containing gold and silver occur further away at Mt Hinton and Dublin Gulch. Sphalerite in the Keno Hill district contains between 0.01 and 0.1% unrecoverable tin. Most mining to date has occurred at depths of less than 90 to 150 m below surface, except the Hector-Calumet which was mined to 366 m below surface. A number of rezones continue below the deepest levels mined. Early prospecting was supplemented by ground slucing, and hand panning to detect concentrations of galean in overburden. Soil geochemical response in the area is poor, and is impaired by 3 to 30 m of glacial overburden on the lower slopes. Geophysical surveys from EM to gravity surveys are limited by the presence of graphitic schist horizons in the quartzite and conductive clays within the numerous fault zones. The most successful exploration method has involved testing bedrock with fences of rotary-percussion holes, followed up by diamond drilling.

Underground development and diamond drilling were completed at the Bellekeno and Silver King mines during 1995 and 1996 resulting in the calculation of a mineral resource totalling 856 624 tonnes grading 1 029 g/t silver, 4.8% lead and 3.9% zinc. Within the resource the company identified a mineable reserve of 471 869 tonnes grading 1 131 g/t silver, 6.6% lead and 5.0% zinc (none of these figures are National Instrument 43-101 compliant, figures from United Keno Hills Mines Ltd - Second Quarterly Report 1997). The mineable reserve was estimated to provide for a three-year mine plan.

The following table summarizes the production history of the Keno Hill camp, which is Canada's second largest producer of silver. Almost 50% of the total has come from the Elsa, Keno (No. 9), Lucky Queen, Silver King, Sadie-Ladue and Husky Mines.

Years Company \*Tonnes milled Silver (g) Lead (kg) Zinc (kg) 1921-1941 Treadwell 588 503.4 1 533 087 282 44 008 249.0 1953-1956 Galkeno 102 408.8 117 818 551 5 396 968.6 2 816 255 1953-1954 Bellekeno 10 499.9 27 961 517 1 573 419.5 166 552 1941-1982 Others 841.9 8 314 145 480 322.0 6 322 1946-1988 United Keno 4 170 169.0 5 081 831 991 222 163 088.0 150 209 254 1921-1988 Total 4 872 423.0 6 769 013 486 273 622 047.0 153 198 383

\*uncertain where these figures are from but they are close to figures published by Cathro (2006).

Over 1.8 million kg of cadmium and nearly 100 000 g of gold have also been recovered. Recovery of zinc was discontinued from 1979 to 1985 due to low assays and high treatment costs. A strike from 10 Sep/80 to 31 May/81 severely curtailed production in both 1980 and 1981. Low silver prices forced the mine to close from 13 Jul/82 to 4 Aug/83. The United Keno production data includes 683.3 tonnes mined in 1982-84 under a lease on the Sadie-Ladue vein and 312.6 tonnes under a lease on the Shamrock vein, both managed by Archer, Cathro & Associates (1981) Ltd. Production totalled 8 553 431 g silver and 1 472 072 kg lead.

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ALEXCO RESOURCE CORP., News Release, 10 Feb 2006; 11 Jul 2006; 20 Nov 2006; 25 Jan 2007; 8 Feb 2007, 30 Jan 2008; 9 July 2008; 18 Sept 2008; 21 Jan 2009; 15 Oct 2009; 11 Nov 2009; 18 Nov 2009; 1 Dec 2009.

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YUKON EXPLORATION AND GEOLOGY 1982, p. 154-156; 1983, p. 207-208, 1996, p. 13; 1997, p. 12.

YUKON NEWS, 20 Aug/1990; 22 Aug/1990.

#### Work History

Date Work Type		Comment
12/31/1994	Drilling	Twenty-four holes, 4,071 m. At Silver King mine
12/31/1994	Drilling	One hundred and seventeen holes, 7,602 m. At Silver King mine (1869 m, 18 holes) and Bellekeno (5733 m, 109 holes)
12/31/1994	Ground Geophysics	At Bellkeno.

12/31/1991	Studies	
12/31/1991	Development, Surface	At the Bellkeno Mine.
12/31/1991	Development, Underground	At the Bellkeno Mine.
12/31/1990	Development, Surface	High-grading of surface veins.
12/31/1989	Development, Surface	High-grading of surface veins, approximately 621 t.
12/31/1988	Development, Underground	Ongoing mining. Mining ended at years end.
12/31/1986	Development, Underground	Ongoing mining.
12/31/1985	Development, Underground	Ongoing mining.
12/31/1984	Drilling	From 1963 through 1984, 527,448 meters of rotary drilling.
12/31/1984	Geology	
12/31/1984	Development, Underground	Drifting on Bellkeno and Lucky Queen veins.
12/31/1941	Development, Underground	End of mining due to depressed metal prices.
12/31/1933	Development, Underground	Started large scale mining.
12/31/1924	Development, Surface	Treadwell Yukon Company Ltd constructed a 136 tonne concentrator.
12/31/1923	Trenching	
12/31/1923	Development, Underground	Hand-cobbed ore.
12/13/2006	Other	Sale finalized.
12/13/2005	Other	Property sold to Alexco Resources.
12/13/2004	Other	Court appointed receiver allowed to place property for sale.
12/13/2001	Other	Assets purchased by ATM Canada Inc.
12/13/2000	Other	Company enters creditor protection.
12/13/1996	Studies	
12/13/1996	Development, Underground	Decline extended at Bellekeno.
12/13/1946	Development, Underground	Mining resumed.

# Assessment Reports that overlap occurrence

Report Number	Year Title		Worktypes	Holes Drilled	Meters Drilled
<u>096732</u>	2014	Assessment Report Describing Metallurgical Test Pits, Metallurgical Auger Drilling, Geotechnical Auger Drilling, Geotechnical Study, Environmental Baseline Studies, Heritage Evaluation, and Water Quality and Climate Monitoring Surveys	Auger - Drilling, Water - Geochemistry, Metallurgical Tests - Lab Work/Physical Studies, Environmental Assessment/Impact - Studies, Geotechnical - Studies, Heritage/Archeological - Studies	9	96.77
<u>094943</u>	2006	2006 Geological, Aerial Photography and Orthophoto Assessment Report on the Keno Hill Property	Electromagnetic - Airborne Geophysics, Magnetic - Airborne Geophysics, Interpretation - Airphotography, Orthophoto - Airphotography, Digitizing Data - Pre-existing Data, Photogrammetry - Remote Sensing		
<u>090564</u>	1979	Geological, Geochemical, and Geophysical Report	Rock - Geochemistry, Silt - Geochemistry, Soil - Geochemistry, Bedrock Mapping - Geology, EM - Ground Geophysics, Seismic - Ground Geophysics, Research/Summarize - Pre-existing Data		

## **Related References**

Number	Title	Page(s)	Reference Type	Document Type
<u>ARMC00</u> <u>7452</u>	Heavy metal content of the stream and spring waters - Keno Hill area		Property File Collection	Geochemical Map
<u>ARMC00</u> <u>7465</u>	Claim group map - Keno Hill area			Geoscience Map (General)
ARMC00	Penort - Mayo mining district		Property File	Penart

<u>7467</u>	Report - Prayo mining usuret	Collection	керон
<u>ARMC00</u> 7468	Report on the Coral-Wigwam group - Galena Hill	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC00</u> <u>7469</u>	Report on the Shamrock group - Keno Hill	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC00</u> <u>7470</u>	Summary report on Mayo custom lead smelter including four producing properties	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC00</u> <u>7471</u>	Report on milling plant for Mayo ores - Supplemental to previous reports on the Mayo mining district	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC00</u> 7483	Operating procedure at United Keno Hill Mines Ltd.	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4846</u>	Letter Re: property submission - Minexco Inc Silver claims, Dawson M.D., Keno Hill area	Property File Collection	Miscellaneous Company Documents
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4864</u>	Claim map - Rio Plata Silver Mines Ltd. N.P.L.	Property File Collection	Geoscience Map (General)
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4773</u>	Report - Gold Queen property	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4862</u>	Plan of survey of Premier, Dorothy, Tagish, Skookum, Cheechako, Papoose, Bra, Birch, Spruce Tillicum, Something Fr. & Wimpy Fr. mineral claims - Situated on the north-east slope of Galena Hill in the Mayo mining district	Property File Collection	Geoscience Map (General)
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4860</u>	Report on Rio Plata Silver Mines Limited - 1964 operations and development	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4870</u>	Report on Rio Plata's Golden Queen property, Keno Hill, Y.T Including assay report A.3-P.2-65 25310	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4847</u>	Report: Gold Hill No. 2, Silver Queen, Silver Basin No. 3 - Keno Hill, Mayo division of Dawson mining district, Yukon Territory	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4858</u>	Prospectus - Rio Plata Silver Mines Ltd. (N.P.L.) - Including reports on the Formo and Haggert Creek claim groups	Property File Collection	Report
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4859</u>	Notes on the holdings of Rio Plata Silver Mines in Silver Basin, Keno Hill, Yukon Territory	Property File Collection	Miscellaneous Company Documents
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4872</u>	Sketch map and notes - Rio Plata - Gold Queen	Property File Collection	Geoscience Map (General)
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4839</u>	Sketch plan map of Gold Queen showing - Rio Plata Silver Mines - Keno Hill - Mayo mining district, Y.T.	Property File Collection	Geoscience Map (General)
<u>ARMC02</u> 0124	News release - Assay results of drilling on Marg property and location map of Mayo M.D. properties	Property File Collection	News Release
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4871</u>	Correspondence re: Rio Plata holdings	Property File Collection	Miscellaneous Company Documents
<u>ARMC01</u> <u>4748</u>	Current operations at United Keno Hill Mines	Property File Collection	Report

## **Resource/Reserve**

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Reported as mineable reserve. Not 43-101 compliant. Referenced in United Keno Hill Mines Ltd - Second Quarterly Report 1997. Available on SEDAR. Cut-off not reported.								
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Reported as mineable reserve. Not 43-101 compliant. Referenced in United Keno Hill Mines Ltd - Second Quarterly Report 1997. Available on SEDAR. Cut-off not reported.								
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eported as mineable reserve. Not 43-101 compliant. Referenced in United Keno Hill Mines Ltd - Second Quarterly Report 1997. Available on SEDAR. Cut-off not reported.								
292,196	292,196		No	No	Unknow			
This is a historical reserve. Not National Instrument 43-101 compliant. Also 109 618 tonnes of possible ore grading 1213.7 g/t silver.; United Keno Hill Mines Annual Report 1989. Historical reserves reported at end of 1988 by company. Company closed in Jan/89.								
n S 292	e on S 292	5EDAR. 2,196	SEDAR. Cut-off not 1	2,196 No	2,196 No No			

1	988	UNITED KENO HILL - TOTAL (OPEN PIT & UNDERGROUND)	Historical Estimate	zinc	4.6 %	292,196		No	No	Unknown
	This is a historical reserve. Not National Instrument 43-101 compliant. Also 109 618 tonnes of possible ore grading 1213.7 g/t silver.; United Keno Hill Mines Annual Report 1989. Historical reserves reported at end of 1988 by company. Company closed in Jan/89.									