# Volumetric Production Payments

Non-Dilutive Commodity Finance



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#### **How Volumetric Production Payments ("VPP") Work**

- Investor makes an initial up-front payment in order to receive a percentage of the commodity produced at a specific project for the life of mine
- Investor makes a subsequent fixed payment for each measure (i.e. ounce) of produced commodity (i.e. gold) upon delivery from the mine



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#### **Benefits of a VPP Deal**

- VPP funding is a very attractive form of financing (cheaper than equity and safer than debt)
- Debt financing is risky and unpopular with shareholders, especially in a risk-averse market environment
- Minimize equity dilution
  - Cost of equity can be very expensive and too dilutive
- Very flexible in application
- VPPs generally have tax benefits



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#### Why VPP is Superior to Equity

- **CAPACITY** :: Sufficient equity financing can be difficult to obtain for companies with limited liquidity especially prior to production.
- **DILUTION** :: VPPs avoid heavy equity dilution in a poor market.
- **BEFORE FINANCING** :: Market rumours of large equity issuances result in share price being driven down. This does not occur with a VPP.
- **AFTER FINANCING** :: The number of shares issued will result in a supply of shares being sold, driving down the share price. This does not occur with a VPP.
- WARRANTS:: Most equity offerings are issued with warrants, creating a perceived overhang in the market after closing. No such warrants are required in a VPP financing.



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#### Why VPP is Superior to Debt

- **TIMING** :: Debt can take 4 to 12 months or more to complete before funding. A VPP funding can only take 8-12 weeks before funding (including all technical and legal due diligence).
- **COVENANTS** :: Debt has tight financial covenants, the violation of which can result in the banks seizing the financed mine. A VPP has no such covenant.
- FEES:: Investor does not charge "upfront fees" in a VPP financing.
- **INVESTORS** :: In a risk averse market environment, investors are focusing on debt free companies. A number of debt free producing gold companies are still trading at NAV multiples.

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#### **VPP Partners**

These companies have all successfully financed themselves using VPPs by selling the following percentages of their production:

| Company                | Production % | Up-Front Payment (USD) |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Goldcorp (2 VPPs)      | 29%          | \$997M                 |
| Lundin Mining (2 VPPs) | 20%          | \$162M                 |
| Glencore Int. AG       | 28%          | \$285M                 |
| European Goldfields    | 27%          | \$58M                  |
| Farallon Resources     | 15%          | \$80M                  |
| Aurcana Corporation    | 30%          | \$25M                  |
| Alexco Resources       | 25%          | \$50M                  |
| FNX Mining             | 20%          | \$400M                 |
| Redcorp Ventures       | 15%          | \$90M                  |
| First Uranium Corp.    | 13%          | \$125M                 |
| Silvercrest Mines      | 20%          | \$12M                  |
| Luna Gold Corp.        | 17%          | \$17.8M                |

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#### **Contact Us**

To learn more about VPP and how it could work for your project contact us.

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