

Seabridge Drilling Confirms Promising Gold Target at Iskut Project

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TORONTO, Nov. 20, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Seabridge Gold (TSX:SEA) (NYSE:SA) announced today that its first exploration program on the Quartz Rise target at its 100%-owned Iskut Project in northwestern British Columbia has been completed and all assay results are in hand. Ten core holes were completed this year totaling 4,459 meters.

This year's drilling found evidence of a gold-bearing intermediate sulfidation epithermal system beneath the Quartz Rise lithocap as anticipated. Intercepts included 1.5 meters grading 8.26 g/T gold in QR-17-01 and 1.5 meters grading 74.1 g/T gold in QR-17-07. Sampling of a cliff face north of Quartz Rise returned very high grades ranging from 1.49 to 125.3 g/T gold. An economic source for these gold concentrations was not found in the 2017 drilling but the data acquired in this year's program has defined a target (see below) which could account for these high grade results. A second exploration program is being planned for next year to pursue this target.

This year's drilling was designed to test a graben feature discovered during surface work on the Quartz Rise lithocap. This graben appears to have constrained the most intense hydrothermal alteration in the area of the lithocap. Drilling focused on the southeastern portion of the graben. Next year's work will include additional geophysical surveys and drilling along strike of this graben to the northwest. Drill tests will be orientated to optimize intersections with northeast structures and stratigraphic intervals which this year's program has determined to be the most favorable for higher gold concentrations.

Rudi Fronk, Seabridge Chairman and CEO, commented that "in our first program at Quartz Rise, our exploration team has successfully found the right environment for a high-grade epithermal gold deposit. The system at Quartz Rise has all the earmarks we were looking for and we think we have enhanced the potential for a significant discovery. Further geophysical work completed at the end of this year's program suggests which part of the system should be targeted next year. Iskut's similarities with KSM are persuasive and this knowledge should help us zero in on the potential at Quartz Rise."

Program Description

The program at Quartz Rise began with geological mapping which featured a shallow northeast dipping sequence of Jurassic felsic volcanic rocks deposited unconformably on Triassic marine sedimentary rocks. This is the geological time break that has proved to be productive elsewhere in the region. The entire section of volcanic rocks shows leaching and textural destruction consistent with acidic alteration within an extensive lithocap emanating from an intrusive center. Similar lithocaps host rich epithermal gold systems in some of the world's best mining districts. A pair of graben-forming faults (labeled #6 and #9) identified in the Jurassic volcanic rocks was mapped in detail, surface sampled and surveyed using short-wave infrared (SWIR) instrumentation to define the areas of most intense alteration. This work led to three specific questions to be answered by drilling:

- Did the graben faults act as conduits for mineralizing fluids?
- Can receptive units be identified within the volcanic stratigraphy?
- Is there a preferred direction within the graben and lithocap with potential to host an intermediate sulfidation epithermal occurrence?

Graben Faults

The graben-forming faults were suspected to be significant precious-metal fluid pathways; they were traceable over several kilometers and they projected into the historical Johnny Mountain Mine where they are recognized as controlling gold distribution within the mine. The best indication that these faults helped to focus gold came from an intersection in QR-17-06; here the #6 fault returned a 3.8 meter interval of 6.52g/ T gold. Elsewhere in hole QR-17-04, a silica breccia zone adjacent to the #9 fault contained anomalous gold concentrations. We have concluded from these results that the graben-forming faults are likely an integral part of the mineralizing system but are not the primary depositional sites for precious metals at Quartz Rise.

Receptive Volcanic Units

The volcanic stratigraphy established from surface mapping and drill holes shows a series of coarse lithic tuff flows intercalated with densely welded flows, incestuous porphyritic sills and tuffaceous sedimentary rocks. In Quartz Rise, the coarse lithic tuff tends to show much more intense leaching and acid alteration than do the densely welded tuff, sills or sedimentary rocks. In several drill intersections, the tuffs directly below the densely welded units or sills contain intervals of anomalous gold, specifically holes QR-17-2 and QR-17-7. These results indicate that the coarse lithic tuff units were permeable to hydrothermal fluids and could represent permissive units for deposition of precious metals.

Vectoring Towards a New Target within the Quartz Rise Graben

Compilation of surface mapping and drill hole geology shows a clear trend of decreased hydrothermal alteration toward the south and east. This is defined by the intensity of acid alteration, better preservation of original volcanic textures and diminishing pathfinder geochemistry. The opportunity for discovery therefore appears to improve to the north and west of the Quartz Rise area, toward historical mining. Furthermore, it has become evident that the northwest trending graben structural pattern does not account for the best gold values found in this year's program including holes QR-17-01 (1.5 meters grading 8.26 g/T gold) and QR-17-07 (1.5 meters grading 74.1 g/T gold) as well as sampling of a cliff face north of Quartz Rise which returned very high grades ranging from 1.49 to 125.3 g/T gold.

A secondary and subordinate northeast structural orientation has subsequently been defined which is orthogonal to the graben faults and preferentially localizes intervals of high-grade gold. The 2017 Quartz Rise drilling plan was not designed to evaluate this northeast orientation. An IP survey was conducted late in the 2017 program to pursue this idea and its chargeability features provide indirect confirmation of favorable northeast structures which will be targeted in next year's program.

Selected 2017 Assay Data

Table of selected drill hole intersections and cliff face samples from 2017 Quartz Rise Program

Drill Hole	Total Depth (m)	From (m)	To (m)	Width (m)	Au g/T	Ag g/T
Intersection on Graben Faults						
QR-17-06	753.0	340.5	344.3	3.8	6.52	1.3
QR-17-04	540.0	271.0	280.0	9.0	0.48	4.4
Intersection in Permissive Stratigraphy						
		160.6	166.5	5.9	0.59	3.4
		237.0	246.0	9.0	0.95	1.2
QR-17-02	504.0	277.5	283.6	6.1	1.74	1.4
		306.0	313.0	7.0	0.56	1.4
QR-17-07	501.0	202.5	210.0	7.5	0.71	0.2
Drill Intersection and Surface Samples on North East Structures						
QR-17-01	329.5	218.5	220.0	1.5	8.26	6.5
QR-17-07	501.0	25.0	26.5	1.5	74.10	6.3
CS-1	Sample weight 1.54kg				1.49	0.4
CS-2A	Sample weight 0.72kg				125.3	31.6
CS-2C	Sample weight 0.55kg				10.5	3.9
CS-2D	Sample weight 4.23kg				4.05	3.1

The results provided in the table above are early-stage and insufficient to establish a true thickness of the mineralized zones. These intervals are provided as an illustration of specific environments encountered in the program and do not represent all the precious metal intervals from the drilling program. Additional drilling will be required to determine the relevance of the widths of drill hole intervals reported here.

Exploration activities by Seabridge at the Iskut Project are being conducted under the supervision of William E. Threlkeld, Registered Professional Geologist, Senior Vice President of the Company and a Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101. Mr. Threlkeld has reviewed and approved this news

release. An ongoing and rigorous quality control/quality assurance protocol is employed in all Seabridge drilling campaigns. This program includes blank and reference standards. Cross-check analyses are conducted at a second external laboratory on at least 10% of the drill samples.

Seabridge holds a 100% interest in several North American gold projects. The Company's principal assets are the KSM and Iskut Projects located near Stewart, British Columbia, Canada and the Courageous Lake gold project located in Canada's Northwest Territories. For a full breakdown of Seabridge's mineral reserves and mineral resources by category please visit the Company's website at <http://www.seabridgegold.net/resources.php>.

None of the Toronto Stock Exchange, New York Stock Exchange, or their Regulation Services Providers accepts responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

This document contains "forward-looking information" within the meaning of Canadian securities legislation and "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. This information and these statements, referred to herein as "forward-looking statements" are made as of the date of this document. Forward-looking statements relate to future events or future performance and reflect current estimates, predictions, interpretations, expectations or beliefs regarding future events and include, but are not limited to, statements with respect to: (i) the graben feature constraining the most intense hydrothermal alteration in the area of the lithocap; (ii) the belief that the exploration team has successfully found the right environment for a high-grade epithermal gold deposit and that Quartz Rise has the potential for a significant discovery; (iii) the graben-forming faults likely being an integral part of the mineralizing system but not the primary depositional sites for precious metals at Quartz Rise; (iv) the coarse lithic tuffs possibly representing permissive units for deposition of precious metals; and (v) the opportunity for discovery improving to the north and west of the Quartz Rise area.

All forward-looking statements are based on Seabridge's or its consultants' current beliefs as well as various assumptions made by them and information currently available to them. Although management considers these assumptions to be reasonable based on information currently available to it, they may prove to be incorrect. Many forward-looking statements are made assuming the correctness of other forward looking statements.

Forward-looking statements involve various risks and uncertainties. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the Company's plans or expectations include the risk that the interpretations of the geologic formations at the Quartz Rise area do not conform to the geologic models that are the foundations for such hypotheses and other risks outlined in statements made by the Company from time to time in the filings made by the Company with securities regulators. A detailed cautionary statement outlining the forward looking statements in the mineral reserves and mineral resources reported by the Company, as well as assumptions and risks relating to them appears on its website. The Company disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as otherwise required by applicable securities legislation.

We caution readers not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements as a number of important factors could cause the actual outcomes to differ materially from the beliefs, plans, objectives, expectations, anticipations, estimates assumptions and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

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