

Buzz brewing around coal seam in eastern Sask.

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The buzz created by finding what appears to be a large seam of thermal coal in eastern Saskatchewan has created some market traction for a Saskatoon junior exploration company.

People who have invested in Wescan Goldfields Inc. (WGF on the TSX Venture) have seen their shares quadruple in value in the past month after the company announced it was seeking a land position 50 kilometres northeast of the town of Hudson Bay, where Goldsource Mines Inc. of Vancouver created a national stir by finding bituminous coal after drilling holes in what it believed might be a kimberlite deposit.

While the Vancouver-based Goldsource saw its stock jump 2,100 per cent since its announcement, Wescan has not stood still either, seeing its stock rise from below 20 cents a share to around 80 cents.

Earlier this week, Wescan was provided with a "letter of comfort" from Saskatchewan Energy and Resources, stating the majority of the coal permit applications made on behalf of Wescan are "first in line" and will be given priority. Wescan states the land mass of those priority claims totals 2,300 square kilometres, with some of that land partially surrounding the Goldsource land.

In the past month, the discovery of high-grade thermal coal in eastern Saskatchewan has twice been on the front page of The Northern Miner, the national weekly newspaper that covers Canada's mining companies.

All of the activity so far is based on Goldsource's reporting of core samples from two holes drilled this winter that showed a coal seam at least 25 metres thick, the equivalent depth of a seven-storey building.

Prior to getting interested this spring in the coal play, Wescan Goldfields had exploration projects in both gold and uranium in northern Saskatchewan. Its Jojay gold project is in the La Ronge gold belt.

Most of Wescan's mineral properties were spun off a portfolio of gold properties that were owned by Shore Gold Inc. when that company moved four years ago to concentrate on its Fort a la Corne diamond play.

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