West High Yield's Barry Baim on Bringing Magnesium Production Back to North America

written by InvestorNews | June 4, 2026

For nearly two decades, West High Yield Resources Ltd. (TSXV: WHY) has been advancing a project that, until recently, occupied a relatively obscure corner of the critical minerals conversation.

That may be changing.

As governments across North America race to secure domestic supplies of strategic materials, magnesium is quietly attracting renewed attention from analysts, manufacturers, and policymakers. The metal's role in lightweight transportation, battery technology, aerospace applications, and industrial manufacturing has become increasingly difficult to ignore. Yet despite its importance, North America currently has no meaningful primary magnesium production.

That supply gap is where West High Yield Resources believes it has an opportunity.

In a recent InvestorTalk interview, Director Barry Baim outlined what could become one of the most significant milestones in the Company's 18-year history: the transition from permitting to production at its Record Ridge project in British Columbia.

According to Baim, the Company expects to complete the remaining conditions associated with its Mines Act Permit by mid-June. If those milestones are achieved as anticipated, ground disturbance

could begin as early as July, placing the Company on a path toward initial commercial activity later this year.

For a junior mining company, moving from permit approval to construction is a rare achievement. For a magnesium developer, it is even more unusual.

“We hope to have all conditions that were associated with the Mines Act Permit completed by mid-June,” Baim said. “That’s a trigger point to allow us to start ground disturbance, hopefully as early as July.”

The timing is notable.

Critical minerals discussions have largely focused on lithium, copper, rare earths, uranium, antimony, and tungsten. Magnesium has received considerably less attention despite being classified as a strategic material in multiple jurisdictions and despite China’s dominant position in global supply.

Baim argues that magnesium’s appeal stems from the sheer breadth of its applications.

The metal is increasingly used in vehicle lightweighting programs, reducing overall weight and improving energy efficiency in both conventional and electric transportation. Researchers are also examining magnesium's role in next-generation battery chemistries, where it may contribute to improved safety profiles, lower costs, faster charging times, and longer operating lives.

"Magnesium plays a role in so many verticals," Baim noted during the interview.

The Record Ridge project is not solely a magnesium story.

The deposit contains magnesium, silica, nickel, and iron-bearing material, providing exposure to several industrial and technology supply chains simultaneously. According to the Company, approximately 94% of the ore can be utilized during processing, with the remaining material suitable for construction applications.

That level of resource utilization stands in contrast to many conventional mining operations, where only a small percentage of extracted material ultimately becomes a marketable product.

Perhaps equally important is the project’s location.

Mining projects often face substantial infrastructure costs before production can begin. New roads, power transmission, workforce accommodations, and transportation corridors can add hundreds of millions of dollars to development budgets.

Record Ridge appears to avoid many of those challenges.

The project requires only a short 1.8-kilometre access road. Power infrastructure runs through the property, natural gas is available nearby, and multiple communities with mining experience are located within commuting distance.

“We have power basically running through our property. We have natural gas adjacent to our property. We have a proximate workforce in the area,” Baim explained.

These advantages could significantly reduce initial capital requirements while accelerating the timeline toward production.

The grade profile is another factor attracting attention.

According to Baim, the magnesium content averages approximately 24.65%, a figure he describes as high-grade within the context of magnesium-bearing deposits. Combined with recoverable silica, nickel, and iron products, the project offers multiple potential revenue streams from a single ore body.

The Company has also secured a definitive offtake arrangement for its initial production.

Under the agreement, ore containing magnesium, silica, nickel,

and iron will be processed offshore during the first two years of operation. Baim stated that the arrangement is expected to generate more than US$30 million annually during that period while allowing the Company to evaluate future expansion opportunities and potential North American processing solutions.

That processing question may ultimately become one of the most important aspects of the story.

Throughout the critical minerals sector, the discussion has increasingly shifted from mining toward refining, separation, and downstream manufacturing. Whether the material is rare earths, lithium, graphite, or magnesium, control of processing capacity often determines who captures the greatest economic value.

Baim believes North America will eventually require domestic magnesium processing infrastructure and indicated that discussions have already occurred with various provincial and state jurisdictions regarding future extraction facilities.

For now, however, investors will be watching a much nearer-term catalyst.

If the remaining permit conditions are completed in June and construction begins in July, West High Yield Resources could soon join a very small group of critical minerals companies that have successfully crossed the often difficult divide between resource definition and commercial production.

In a critical minerals market increasingly focused on secure North American supply chains, that transition may prove to be the Company’s most significant achievement yet.

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