

## Deepest Mine Shaft in the USA Complete

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for immediate release

**Mullan, ID** – Cementation USA Inc. has completed sinking the deepest shaft in the United States at the Lucky Friday Mine in Mullan, Idaho. With a finished diameter of 18 feet, the Lucky Friday #4 Shaft was sunk to a final depth of 9,587 feet below surface. The project is moving into the furnishing construction phase where shaft steel and the final conveyances will be installed. Project completion is scheduled for late 2016.

“The sinking of the Lucky Friday #4 Shaft is truly a world class achievement. Each of the many Hecla and Cementation employees, suppliers, and subcontractors that worked toward this moment should be very proud of what has been accomplished. Special thanks go to our client, Hecla Limited, for the tremendous safety and project support we’ve received. This support was integral to the incredible safety and shaft sinking records that have been achieved,” Justin Oleson, President of Cementation USA.

The Cementation group, which is currently sinking 15 shafts worldwide, has sunk the deepest single lift shaft in the world at South Deep Mine in South Africa, the deepest shaft in Canada at Kidd Mine D No.4 Shaft, the deepest single lift shaft in the United States at the Resolution Copper Project, and now the deepest shaft in the United States.

George Sturgis, Vice President – Project Development of Hecla Limited, stated, “Our partnership with Cementation to reach the bottom of 4 Shaft goes much deeper than 9,587 feet below the surface. We share the value of safety that has come before the changing priorities for the work, and the secure planning foundation provided by thorough engineering. Hecla’s 125th anniversary will be celebrated in many ways this year, reaching the bottom of 4 Shaft with Cementation is surely one of the best.”

“Reaching the bottom of #4 Shaft is an accomplishment that the Hecla/Cementation Project Team should be very proud of,” said Eric Smith, General Manager of Operations of Cementation USA. “The Project Team not only overcame many technical and logistical challenges, but also maintained an ethos of continuously identifying ways to enhance safety and project performance.”

Completion of this shaft is a major milestone for the historic Lucky Friday Mine which has been in operation for over 74 years. The shaft provides access to lower mining levels which increases operational flexibility and extends the life of the mine by 23 years. This milestone occurs in the same year that Hecla Mining Company is celebrating its 125th Anniversary.

The Lucky Friday #4 Shaft is a vertical shaft that begins underground, which makes it a Winze in mining terminology. A Winze is an internal shaft which requires the equivalent of a shaft headframe and hoisting system to be installed underground before the excavation activities can occur.



Hecla selected Cementation USA to sink the shaft, excavate accesses, stations and pockets, and install the related infrastructure, which include a state-of-the-art fully automated ~200 ton per hour material handling system, a 500 gallon per minute water pumping system, a centralized refrigeration system with 977 tons of cooling capacity, a batch plant, and other systems.

**About Cementation:**

Cementation is a mine and facilities contracting and engineering company. The company's design, engineering, procurement, and construction capabilities are fully integrated to deliver study, design, construction, and operation services within a seamless project cycle. Cementation USA Inc., Cementation AG, Cementation Canada Inc., Cementation Mexico, and Cementation Sudamérica S.A., are part of the Murray & Roberts Mining Platform with operations around the world. For more information on Cementation visit [www.cementation.com](http://www.cementation.com).

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