

HECLA MINING CO/DE/

FORM 8-K (Unscheduled Material Events)

Filed 3/9/2001 For Period Ending 2/27/2001

Address	6500 N MINERAL DRIVE SUITE 200 NONE COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho 83815-9408
Telephone	208-769-4100
CIK	0000719413
Industry	Gold & Silver
Sector	Basic Materials
Fiscal Year	12/31

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report
(Date of earliest event reported): February 27, 2001

Hecla Mining Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-8491

82-0126240

(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

6500 Mineral Drive
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

83815-8788

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(208) 769-4100

(Registrant's Telephone Number)

Item 5. Other Events.

On February 27, 2001, Hecla Mining Company (the "Company") issued a news release announcing that it had entered into a definitive stock purchase agreement with Imerys USA, Inc. regarding the sale of the Company's wholly owned subsidiaries, Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Company and K-T Feldspar, for a purchase price of \$62.5 million.

The news release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.

Exhibit 99 - News Release dated February 27, 2001

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

HECLA MINING COMPANY

By: /s/ Michael B. White

Name: Michael B. White

Title: Vice President - General Counsel

Dated: March 8, 2001

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Title

Exhibit 99 - News Release dated February 27, 2001

**HECLA SIGNS AGREEMENT TO SELL INDUSTRIAL MINERALS
SUBSIDIARIES TO IMERYS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2001

COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO - Hecla Mining Company (HL & HL-PrB: NYSE) today announced it has entered into an agreement to sell its wholly owned subsidiaries, Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Company and K-T Feldspar, to Imerys USA, Inc., for a price of \$62.5 million, subject to customary post-closing adjustments. The transaction includes the ball clay, kaolin and feldspar operations of Hecla, and is expected to close during the first week of April, subject to regulatory approval.

Arthur Brown, Hecla's chairman, president and chief executive officer, said, "The proceeds from the sale of K-T Clay will be sufficient to pay off a \$55 million bank debt we have coming due in April. Paying off the debt will enhance our balance sheet and give us some cash on hand."

Hecla had earlier sued Zemex Corporation of Toronto, Canada, for refusing to close on the purchase of K-T Clay's ball clay and kaolin operations. Brown said, "Hecla is continuing the court proceeding against Zemex, seeking damages incurred from Zemex's failure to purchase K-T Clay as agreed."

The sale of K-T Clay focuses Hecla on its 110-year heritage as a silver and gold producing company. Brown, referring to the current long cycle of depressed precious metals prices, said, "We continue to be optimistic that an upturn in precious metals prices is coming soon. Meanwhile, we are watching all expenditures very carefully, and are considering avenues of growth such as business combinations with other companies and development of exploration properties."

Hecla Mining Company, headquartered in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, is one of the United States' best-known silver producers. The company also produces gold and has precious metals operations in Alaska, Idaho, Mexico and Venezuela.

Statements made which are not historical facts, such as anticipated payments, production, sales of assets, exploration results and plans, costs, prices or sales performance are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, and involve a number of

risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected, anticipated, expected or implied. These risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, metals price volatility, volatility of metals production, industrial minerals market conditions and project development risks. Refer to the company's Form 10-Q and 10-K reports for a more detailed discussion of factors that may impact expected future results. The company undertakes no obligation and has no intention of updating forward- looking statements.

Contact: Vicki J. Veltkamp, vice president - investor and public relations, 208/769-4144

Hecla's Home Page can be accessed on the Internet at:

<http://www.hecla-mining.com>

End of Filing

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