

**NEWS RELEASE****March 6, 2012**

Trading Symbols:

AMM :TSX, AAU : NYSE: AMEX

www.almadenminerals.com

**ALMADEN HITS 7.73 METERS OF 3.93 G/T GOLD AND 249.5 G/T SILVER (9.0 G/T AUEQ)  
ON MAIN IXTACA ZONE**

**Almaden Minerals Ltd. (“Almaden” or “the Company”; AMM: TSX; AAU: NYSE AMEX)** is pleased to announce results from the 2011 drilling program on the Company’s 100% owned Tuligtic project, Mexico with holes TU-11-81, 88, 93 and 94. Holes TU-11-81 and 88 were drilled on the Main Ixtaca Zone and holes TU-11-93 and 94 were drilled on the northeast extension located along strike and north of the Main Ixtaca Zone. Highlights from the current group of assays include the following intercepts (all significant assays are shown in the table below):

**Hole TU-11-88 MAIN IXTACA ZONE, SECTION 10550:**

75.07 meters @ 0.87 g/t gold and 59.5 g/t silver (2.1 g/t gold equivalent)

Including 39.26 meters @ 1.36 g/t gold and 91.2 g/t silver (3.2 g/t gold equivalent)

And 7.73 meters @ 3.93 g/t gold and 249.5 g/t silver (9.0 g/t gold equivalent)

**Hole TU-11-81 MAIN IXTACA ZONE, SECTION 10600:**

227.95 meters @ 0.46 g/t gold and 40.8 g/t silver (1.3 g/t gold equivalent)

Including 27.73 meters @ 1.08 g/t gold and 100.1 g/t silver (3.1 g/t gold equivalent)

And 10.75 meters @ 1.3 g/t gold and 101 g/t silver (3.3 g/t gold equivalent)

**Hole TU-11-93 NE EXTENSION, SECTION 11100:**

43.50 meters @ 0.14 g/t gold and 24.5 g/t silver (0.6 g/t gold equivalent)

Including 1.60 meters @ 1.44 gold and 548.7 g/t silver (12.4 g/t gold equivalent)

**Hole TU-11-94 NE EXTENSION, SECTION 11150:**

128.42 meters @ 0.43 g/t gold and 49.2 g/t silver (1.4 g/t gold equivalent)

Including 16.40 meters @ 0.66 g/t gold and 95.9 g/t silver (2.6 g/t gold equivalent)

and 22.30 meters @ 0.86 g/t gold and 87.2 g/t silver (2.6 g/t gold equivalent)

J.D. Poliquin, Chairman of Almaden commented, “We are very pleased with these new results which continue to confirm and show the Ixtaca zone to be a robust and wide system of veining with sections that carry high gold and silver grades. Including the veining of the newly discovered Ixtaca North zone, the Ixtaca vein system is wider than previously known. The new drilling on the Northeast Extension Zone show that robust mineralisation exists here as well. Drilling to date on the Ixtaca vein system shows good continuity of mineralisation in both horizontal and vertical dimensions.”

Almaden’s 2012 drilling program at the Ixtaca zone has now commenced and the Company currently has four drills operating on the project. Almaden plans to continue drilling operations throughout 2012. Below is a plan map, relevant sections and table of significant intervals which will be posted to the Company’s website ([www.almadenminerals.com](http://www.almadenminerals.com)).

Hole #	From (m)	To (m)	Interval (m)	Au (g/t)	Ag (g/t)	AuEq (g/t)	AgEq (g/t)
TU-11-81	18.00	31.30	13.30	0.16	11.8	0.4	20
TU-11-81	79.35	307.30	227.95	0.46	40.8	1.3	64
and	173.13	200.86	27.73	1.08	100.1	3.1	154
and	173.13	177.30	4.17	2.47	101.4	4.5	225
and	188.00	200.86	12.86	1.44	178.3	5.0	250
and	241.55	245.00	3.45	2.95	372.6	10.4	520
TU-11-81	259.10	307.29	48.19	0.61	46.6	1.5	77
and	259.10	269.85	10.75	1.30	101.0	3.3	166
TU-11-88	109.00	113.00	4.00	0.37	50.8	1.4	69
TU-11-88	120.00	127.80	7.80	0.33	58.9	1.5	75
TU-11-88	150.40	170.50	20.10	0.32	26.7	0.9	43
including	167.62	170.50	2.88	1.41	103.8	3.5	174
TU-11-88	181.50	256.57	75.07	0.87	59.5	2.1	103
including	216.70	255.96	39.26	1.36	91.2	3.2	160
and	238.55	246.28	7.73	3.93	249.5	9.0	452
TU-11-93	68.50	112.00	43.50	0.14	24.5	0.6	31
including	87.00	103.60	16.60	0.16	46.2	1.1	54
TU-11-93	160.18	170.50	10.32	0.25	97.3	2.2	110
including	162.50	164.10	1.60	1.44	548.7	12.4	620
TU-11-93	196.90	205.00	8.10	0.19	16.6	0.5	26
TU-11-94	45.00	54.00	9.00	0.21	13.0	0.5	23
TU-11-94	89.10	91.60	2.50	0.33	86.8	2.1	103
TU-11-94	104.78	233.20	128.42	0.43	49.2	1.4	71
including	119.30	159.70	40.40	0.41	79.0	2.0	99
and	143.30	159.70	16.40	0.66	95.9	2.6	129
and	154.90	159.70	4.80	1.02	122.2	3.5	173
and	171.60	193.90	22.30	0.86	87.2	2.6	130

### About the Ixtaca Property

The 100% owned Ixtaca zone is a blind discovery made by the Company in 2010. The main Ixtaca zone of veining is thought to have a north-easterly trend. Holes to date suggest that the Main Ixtaca Zone is sub vertical with local variations. This interpretation suggests that true widths are approximately 60% of intersected widths. The drilling completed to date has traced mineralisation over 1,000 meters along this northeast trend. Based upon observations at surface and of core as drilling progresses, there seems to be a variety of veinlet orientations within the Main Ixtaca Zone however overall the zone is interpreted to be subvertical and striking at 060 Azimuth.

Mr. Norm Dircks, P.Geo., a qualified person ("QP") under the meaning of NI 43-101, is the QP and project manager of Almaden's Ixtaca program and reviewed the technical information in this news release. The analyses reported were carried out at ALS Chemex Laboratories of North Vancouver using industry standard analytical techniques. For gold, samples are first analysed by fire assay and atomic absorption spectroscopy ("AAS"). Samples that return values greater than 10 g/t gold using this technique are then re-analysed by fire assay but with a gravimetric finish. Silver is first analysed by Inductively Coupled Plasma - Atomic Emission Spectroscopy ("ICP-AES"). Samples that return values greater than 100 g/t silver by ICP-AES are then re analysed by HF-HNO<sub>3</sub>-HClO<sub>4</sub> digestion with HCL leach and ICP-AES finish. Of these samples those that return silver values greater than 1,500 g/t are further analysed by fire assay with a gravimetric finish.

Blanks, field duplicates and certified standards were inserted into the sample stream as part of Almaden's quality assurance and control program which complies with National Instrument 43-101 requirements. Gold

equivalent (“AuEq” or “Gold Eq.”) and silver equivalent (“AgEq” or “Silver Eq.”) values were calculated using silver to gold ratios of 50 to 1. The ratio of 50 to 1 was used for the sake of consistency with past news releases. Intervals that returned assays below detection were assigned zero values. Metallurgical recoveries and net smelter returns are assumed to be 100% for these calculations.

### **About Almaden**

Almaden is a well-financed (cash, gold inventory and equity investments totalling approximately \$47.2 MM as of January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012) mineral exploration company working in North America. The company has assembled mineral exploration projects, including Tuligtic, through its grass roots exploration efforts. While the properties are largely at early stages of development they represent exciting opportunities for the discovery of significant gold, silver and copper deposits as evidenced at Ixtaca. Almaden’s business model is to find and acquire mineral properties and develop them by seeking option agreements with others who can acquire an interest in a project by making payments and exploration expenditures. Through this means the company has been able to expose its shareholders to discovery and capital gain without the funding and consequent share dilution that would be required if the company were to have developed these projects without a partner. The company intends to expand this business model, described by some as prospect generation, by more aggressively exploring several of its projects including the Ixtaca Zone.

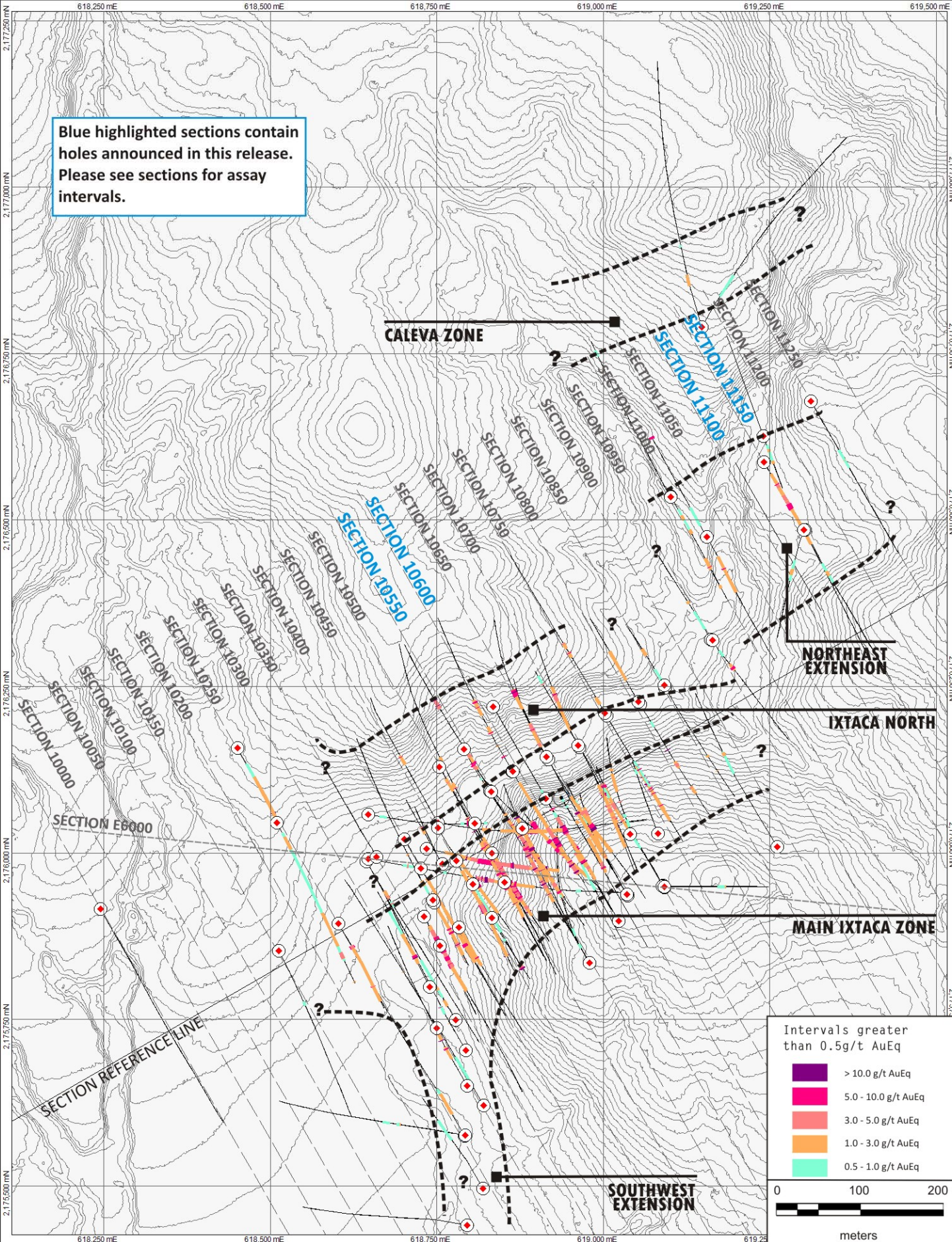
On Behalf of the Board of Directors

“Morgan Poliquin”

Morgan J. Poliquin, Ph.D., P.Eng.  
President, CEO and Director  
Almaden Minerals Ltd.

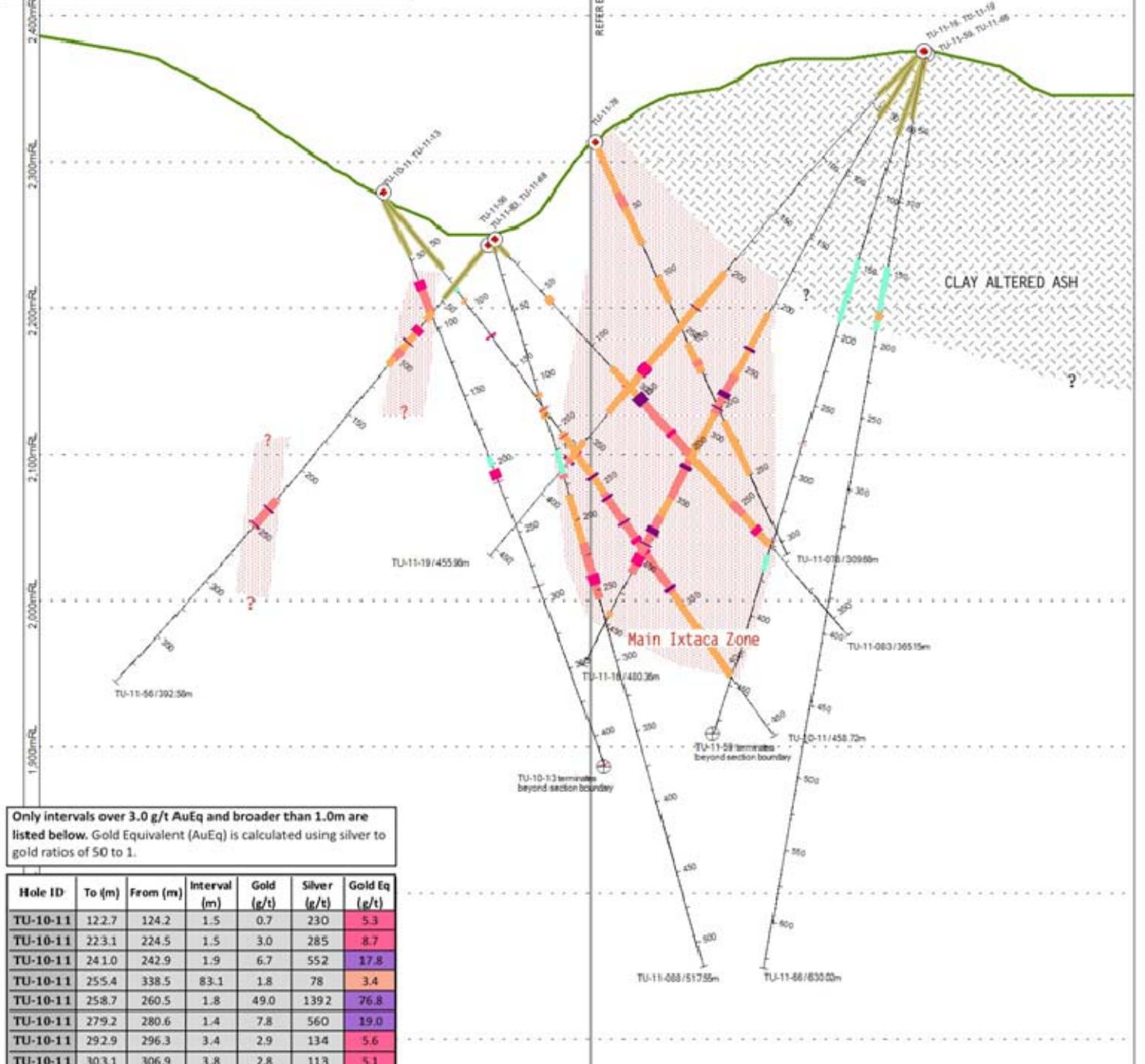
*Neither the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) nor the NYSE AMEX have reviewed or accepted responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of the contents of this news release which has been prepared by management.. Except for the statements of historical fact contained herein, certain information presented constitutes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and Canadian securities laws. Such forward-looking statements, including but not limited to, those with respect to potential expansion of mineralization, potential size of mineralized zone, and size and timing of exploration and development programs, estimated project capital and other project costs and the timing of submission and receipt and availability of regulatory approvals involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual results, performance or achievement of Almaden to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, among others, risks related to international operations and joint ventures, the actual results of current exploration activities, conclusions of economic evaluations, uncertainty in the estimation of mineral resources, changes in project parameters as plans continue to be refined, environmental risks and hazards, increased infrastructure and/or operating costs, labour and employment matters, and government regulation and permitting requirements as well as those factors discussed in the section entitled "Risk Factors" in Almaden's Annual Information form and Almaden's latest Form 20-F on file with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. Although Almaden has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially, there may be other factors that cause results not to be as anticipated, estimated or intended. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate as actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Almaden disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, other than as required pursuant to applicable securities laws. Accordingly, readers should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements.*

Blue highlighted sections contain holes announced in this release. Please see sections for assay intervals.



# SECTION 10550

Looking NE (+/-25m)



Only intervals over 3.0 g/t AuEq and broader than 1.0m are listed below. Gold Equivalent (AuEq) is calculated using silver to gold ratios of 50 to 1.

Hole ID	To (m)	From (m)	Interval (m)	Gold (g/t)	Silver (g/t)	Gold Eq (g/t)
TU-10-11	122.7	124.2	1.5	0.7	230	5.3
TU-10-11	223.1	224.5	1.5	3.0	285	8.7
TU-10-11	241.0	242.9	1.9	6.7	552	17.8
TU-10-11	255.4	338.5	83.1	1.8	78	3.4
TU-10-11	258.7	260.5	1.8	49.0	1392	76.8
TU-10-11	279.2	280.6	1.4	7.8	560	19.0
TU-10-11	292.9	296.3	3.4	2.9	134	5.6
TU-10-11	303.1	306.9	3.8	2.8	113	5.1
TU-10-11	333.9	336.4	2.5	6.3	237	11.0
TU-10-13	64.9	89.0	24.1	1.4	99	3.4
TU-10-13	64.9	72.1	7.2	2.6	193	6.4
TU-11-16	235.3	237.2	1.9	3.7	776	19.2
TU-11-16	256.5	286.6	30.1	1.5	164	4.8
TU-11-16	269.3	273.7	4.4	4.3	577	15.9
TU-11-16	281.8	282.8	1.1	18.2	2250	63.2
TU-11-16	317.2	351.5	34.3	1.7	95	3.6
TU-11-16	326.3	329.3	3.0	6.1	602	18.2
TU-11-16	338.9	349.1	10.2	2.9	72	4.3
TU-11-16	365.9	409.4	43.5	1.6	119	4.0
TU-11-16	374.2	378.8	4.5	4.2	280	9.8
TU-11-16	386.7	387.7	1.0	6.9	524	17.4
TU-11-16	395.6	403.0	7.4	2.5	208	6.6
TU-11-19	285.6	294.1	8.6	3.0	185	6.7
TU-11-19	287.2	292.0	4.8	4.6	273	10.1
TU-11-19	305.9	308.4	2.4	1.6	161	4.8
TU-11-19	369.2	372.1	2.9	3.5	419	11.8

Hole ID	To (m)	From (m)	Interval (m)	Gold (g/t)	Silver (g/t)	Gold Eq (g/t)
TU-11-56	73.3	78.5	5.3	5.3	78	6.8
TU-11-56	85.7	86.7	1.0	6.0	413	14.2
TU-11-56	92.7	100.0	7.3	1.9	101	3.9
TU-11-56	226.2	251.0	24.9	0.7	163	4.0
TU-11-56	234.1	235.4	1.3	2.5	853	19.5
TU-11-56	248.5	249.4	1.0	13.9	2577	65.4
TU-11-78	37.0	48.0	11.0	2.0	101	4.1
TU-11-78	163.7	167.4	3.7	1.8	155	4.9
TU-11-83	146.1	200.2	54.1	2.3	106	4.4
TU-11-83	146.1	154.1	8.0	9.8	493	19.7
TU-11-83	179.7	183.0	3.3	6.4	83	8.1
TU-11-83	244.7	255.5	10.9	2.0	98	3.9
TU-11-83	267.5	272.3	4.8	3.2	94	5.1
TU-11-88	167.6	170.5	2.9	1.4	104	3.5
TU-11-88	216.7	256.0	39.3	1.4	91	3.2
TU-11-88	238.6	246.3	7.7	3.9	250	9.0

**LEGEND:**

Intervals greater than 0.5g/t AuEq

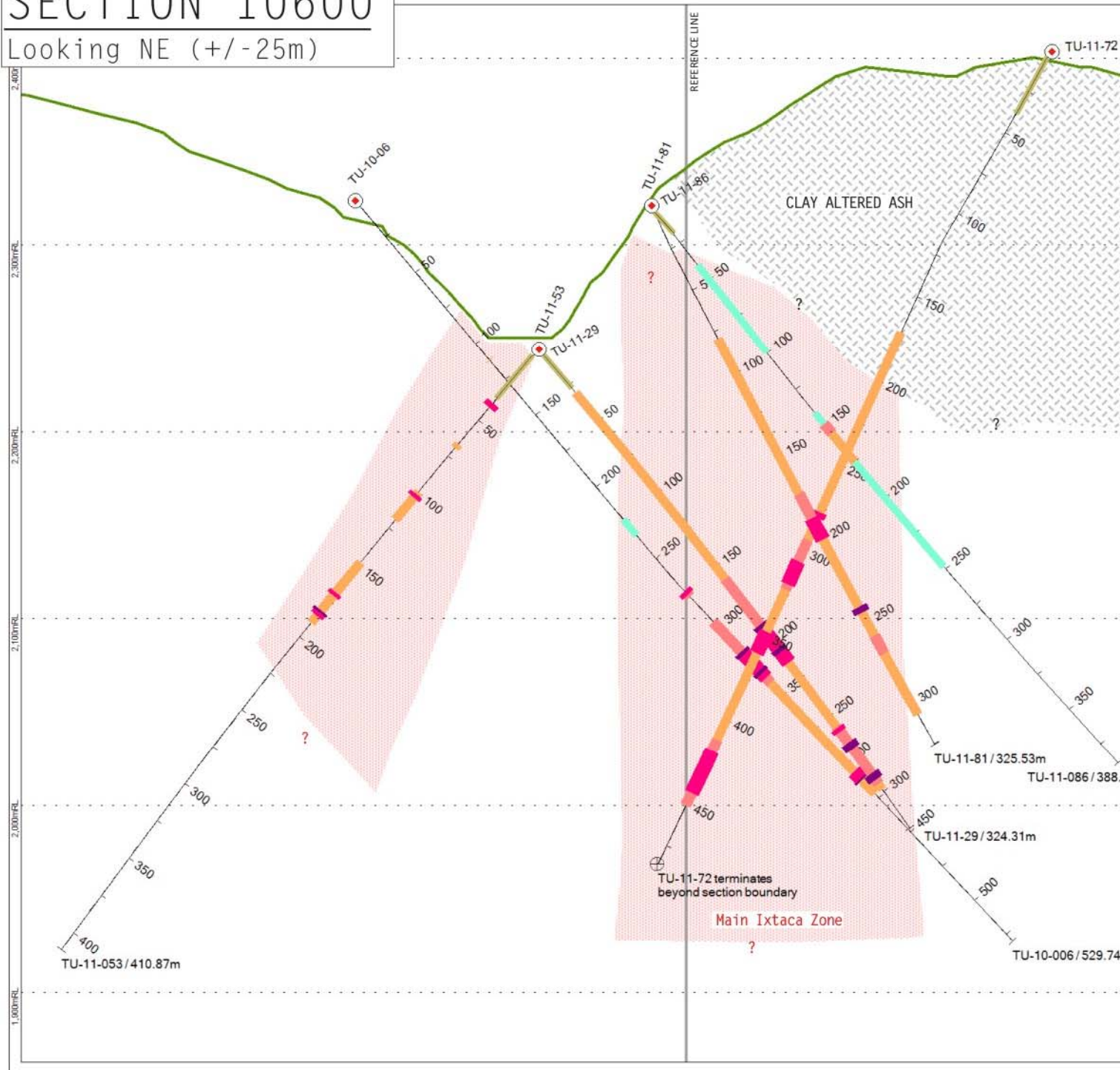
- > 10.0
- 5.0-10.0
- 3.0-5.0
- 1.0-3.0
- 0.5-1.0

Overburden

# SECTION 10600

Looking NE (+/-25m)

Only intervals over 1.0 g/t AuEq are listed below.  
Gold Equivalent (AuEq) is calculated using silver to gold ratios of 50 to 1.



Hole ID	To (m)	From (m)	Interval (m)	Gold (g/t)	Silver (g/t)	Gold Eq (g/t)
TU-10-06	273.3	277.5	4.3	1.4	130	4.0
TU-10-06	273.3	276.0	2.7	2.1	203	6.1
TU-10-06	295.6	421.8	126.2	0.9	62	2.1
TU-10-06	295.6	340.7	45.1	1.4	92	3.2
TU-10-06	317.5	336.7	19.2	2.8	160	6.0
TU-10-06	317.5	319.7	2.2	6.7	475	16.2
TU-10-06	331.6	336.7	5.1	5.5	242	10.3
TU-10-06	405.9	412.1	6.2	2.6	209	6.7
TU-10-06	410.9	412.1	1.2	6.8	482	16.5
TU-11-29	30.4	299.0	268.5	0.6	40	1.4
TU-11-29	158.2	214.4	56.2	1.2	86	3.0
TU-11-29	188.9	214.4	25.5	2.3	134	5.0
TU-11-29	188.9	191.4	2.5	4.5	385	12.2
TU-11-29	204.7	207.4	2.7	10.8	534	21.5
TU-11-29	257.1	295.5	38.3	1.8	107	3.9
TU-11-29	258.0	260.6	2.6	3.5	107	5.7
TU-11-29	267.8	271.8	3.9	4.2	386	11.9
TU-11-29	288.6	292.7	4.1	4.7	256	9.8
TU-11-53	37.9	41.1	3.2	1.5	244	6.4
TU-11-53	99.7	119.4	19.7	0.4	37	1.2
TU-11-53	101.5	103.7	2.2	2.9	243	7.7
TU-11-53	148.5	190.5	42.0	0.6	49	1.6
TU-11-53	169.5	171.5	2.0	2.9	279	8.5
TU-11-53	182.0	185.5	3.5	2.6	238	7.4
TU-11-53	182.0	183.4	1.5	5.7	553	16.8
TU-11-72	170.9	451.0	280.2	0.8	49	1.8
TU-11-72	277.5	281.0	3.5	3.1	174	6.6
TU-11-72	294.0	323.0	29.0	2.4	103	4.5
TU-11-72	306.3	320.1	13.8	4.5	156	7.6
TU-11-72	347.9	360.6	12.7	2.1	169	5.5
TU-11-72	411.7	451.0	39.3	1.6	107	3.7
TU-11-72	418.2	443.6	25.4	2.1	144	5.0
TU-11-81	79.4	307.3	227.9	0.5	41	1.3
TU-11-81	173.1	200.9	27.7	1.1	100	3.1
TU-11-81	173.1	177.3	4.2	2.5	101	4.5
TU-11-81	188.0	200.9	12.9	1.4	178	5.0
TU-11-81	241.6	245.0	3.4	2.9	373	10.4
TU-11-81	259.1	269.9	10.8	1.3	101	3.3
TU-11-86	149.0	175.0	26.0	0.5	40	1.3
TU-11-86	149.0	155.3	6.3	1.4	91	3.2

**LEGEND:**

Overburden

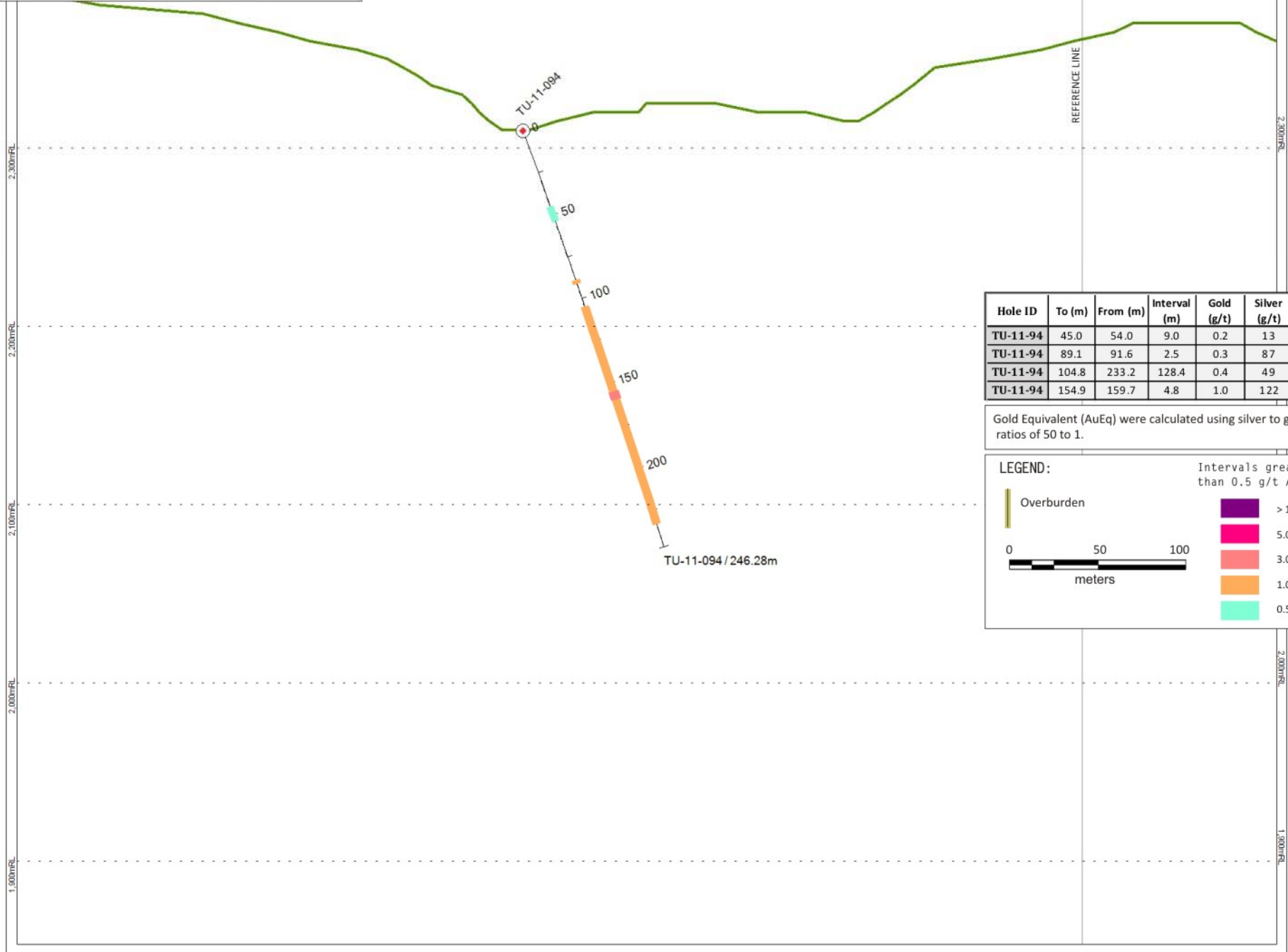
0 50 100 meters

Intervals greater than 0.5 g/t AuEq

- > 10.0
- 5.0 - 10.0
- 3.0 - 5.0
- 1.0 - 3.0
- 0.5 - 1.0

# SECTION 11100

Looking NE (+/-25m)



Hole ID	To (m)	From (m)	Interval (m)	Gold (g/t)	Silver (g/t)	Gold Eq (g/t)
TU-11-94	45.0	54.0	9.0	0.2	13	0.5
TU-11-94	89.1	91.6	2.5	0.3	87	2.1
TU-11-94	104.8	233.2	128.4	0.4	49	1.4
TU-11-94	154.9	159.7	4.8	1.0	122	3.5

Gold Equivalent (AuEq) were calculated using silver to gold ratios of 50 to 1.

**LEGEND:**

Overburden

0 50 100 meters

Intervals greater than 0.5 g/t AuEq

- > 10.0
- 5.0 - 10.0
- 3.0 - 5.0
- 1.0 - 3.0
- 0.5 - 1.0

# SECTION 11150

Looking NE (+/-25m)

