

26-May-2016 Energy Press

# “The only lithium mining project in the world which went into production in Jujuy”

Nicolás Galli, Manager of ASA NOA, member of Alex Stewart NOA, an important laboratory located in Jujuy and representative of Casemi in the Chamber of Mining, mentioned the mining potential in Jujuy and the potential for the lithium in the province

Mining of lithium: “of the 15 projects there were around the world 6 years ago, the only one which went into production is in Jujuy”.

Jujuy al día® – During an interview with our journal, Nicolás Galli, Manager of ASA NOA, member of Alex Stewart NOA, an important laboratory located in Jujuy and representative of Casemi in the Chamber of Mining, mentioned the mining potential in Jujuy and the potential for the lithium in our province.

He also mentioned the expectations of being able to work side by side with the government, in regard to environmental policies and analysis of the situation of different exploitation fields.

In declarations to the newspaper JUJUY AL DÍA®, Nicolás Galli stated that “we began this development in the year 2005, and we have several years of experience in the analysis of the lithium brine, which is not easy since there are many components which interfere in the reading of the results”.

“We have received samples from almost all the salt flats in the Argentine Puna and some neighboring countries for analysis, and in regard to the results we obtained, overall, there wasn't any salt flat in the Puna with no lithium, they all have it; some are notably better than others, better in terms of the lithium/magnesium ratio.

He explained about the potential of the lithium from Jujuy, that “there are some very good fields, as there are in Salta”.

“For the development of the lithium industry, all the fields have their commercial interest, some with higher potential than others, but they all have potential to develop a Project; by what we can see today, the lithium market is undergoing an important growth”.

He assured that the “highest potential the province has is mining. The industries and sectors of the economy which are pushing Jujuy forward are sugar, tobacco, tourism and mining, and we constantly hear problems in tobacco, in sugar because these are mature markets in which we don't foresee anything in the short term that could change this reality in the next 5 or 10 years, since this is a market, an economy, which is growing by vegetative development according to consumption”.

“On the other hand, mining is completely different. For example, I look at the situation in San Juan, I worked in a company in Buenos Aires, and have been travelling to San Juan since 2001, and there changes there are impressive. At that time, nobody wanted to go there because there was no work, and

today this is one of the few provinces of which it can be said that they don't need co-participation because it is self-supporting due to mining and development of local vendors".

Galli assured that "with the geological potential Jujuy has, where there is infrastructure; we have Paso de Jama, completely paved, this is the least cut-off mountain pass in Argentina, we have gas lines, railroads which need to be improved and put to work. We have a public university, professionals, technicians, and analyzing the region, this doesn't occur anywhere else. We have many things, we have grey matter, the tradition of the miners in Jujuy is very strong since they are recognized throughout the country, which is encouraging".

"The province must give legal security; today, there are conditions with the current governments for investments to come, this is something which hadn't been done in the past years, and we are starting to see some results".

He explained that the potential for the lithium fields in Jujuy "is very important; if we analyze this, of the 15 projects there was around the world 6 years ago, the only one in production is in Jujuy; Sales de Jujuy, in the middle of a global and financial crisis, in the middle of a national crisis in which all investments fell through, Jujuy moved forward. Other projects which will begin construction are also in Jujuy. Moreover, this is a type of mining which somehow has the mark of sustainable development and care for the environment, since it points to lithium which is the element directly related to this".

In another part of the interview with JUJUY AL DÍA®, Nicolás Galli mentioned the possibility of working side by side with the State of Jujuy, he expressed "we are aiming at accompanying after the submission and a ministry level of the environmental issue, both National and in the province, since it's clear that the future industry and sustainable development aim at its care, and to give the environment an important role. We are prepared to support his development by offering the necessary services for all the monitoring with local people, with a local laboratory, and our doors are always open for there to be transparency in our work. In addition, we are associated with an international group, which doubles the responsibility and gives us more support".

Regarding his role in the case of a possible intervention in some of the cases which need environmental repair in Jujuy, such as Abra Pampa, dregs in Palpalá and hydrocarbon contamination in Calilegüa, Galli commented that "our contribution would be, on one hand to perform the analysis of the samples to establish the current state, and then work on the investigation and development of which could be, or propose, corrective or repair actions. Although this is not the laboratory's activity, the repair would be done by a company dedicated to this. We have qualified people who could help in the investigation of these issues".