

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Before the
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

August 2, 2017

In the Matter of

**AV Therapeutics, Inc.,
Balqon Corporation,
Empress Mining Inc.
(f/k/a Penola, Inc.), and
Passport Potash, Inc.,**

File No. 500-1

**ORDER OF SUSPENSION OF
TRADING**

It appears to the Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) that there is a lack of current and accurate information concerning the securities of AV Therapeutics, Inc. (“AVTH¹”) (CIK No. 1537293), a delinquent Delaware corporation located in New York, New York with a class of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) Section 12(g) because it is delinquent in its periodic filings with the Commission, having not filed any periodic reports since it filed a Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2014. On October 31, 2016, the Commission’s Division of Corporation Finance (“Corporation Finance”) sent a delinquency letter to AVTH requesting compliance with its periodic filing requirements, but AVTH did not receive the delinquency letter due to its failure to maintain a valid address on file with the Commission as required by Commission rules (Rule 301 of Regulation S-T, 17 C.F.R. Section 232.301 and Section 5.4 of EDGAR Filer Manual). As of July 26, 2017, the common stock of AVTH was quoted on OTC Link operated by OTC Markets Group Inc. (formerly “Pink Sheets”) (“OTC Link”), had six market makers, and was eligible for the “piggyback” exception of Exchange Act Rule 15c2-11(f)(3).

¹ The short form of each issuer’s name is also its stock symbol.

It appears to the Commission that there is a lack of current and accurate information concerning the securities of Balqon Corporation (“BLQN”) (CIK No. 1169440), a revoked Nevada corporation located in Harbor City, California with a class of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12(g) because it is delinquent in its periodic filings with the Commission, having not filed any periodic reports since it filed a Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2014. On October 31, 2016, Corporation Finance sent a delinquency letter to BLQN requesting compliance with its periodic filing requirements, but BLQN did not receive the delinquency letter due to its failure to maintain a valid address on file with the Commission as required by Commission rules (Rule 301 of Regulation S-T, 17 C.F.R. Section 232.301 and Section 5.4 of EDGAR Filer Manual). As of July 26, 2017, the common stock of BLQN was quoted on OTC Link, had six market makers, and was eligible for the “piggyback” exception of Exchange Act Rule 15c2-11(f)(3).

It appears to the Commission that there is a lack of current and accurate information concerning the securities of Empress Mining Inc. (f/k/a Penola, Inc.) (“EMPC”) (CIK No. 1524774), a Nevada corporation located in West Preston, Victoria, Australia with a class of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12(g) because it is delinquent in its periodic filings with the Commission, having not filed any periodic reports since it filed a Form 10-Q for the period ended November 30, 2014. On March 22, 2016, Corporation Finance sent a delinquency letter to EMPC requesting compliance with its periodic filing requirements, but EMPC did not receive the delinquency letter due to its failure to maintain a valid address on file with the Commission as required by Commission rules (Rule 301 of Regulation S-T, 17 C.F.R. Section 232.301 and Section 5.4 of EDGAR Filer Manual). As of July 26, 2017, the common stock of EMPC was quoted on OTC Link, had two market makers, and was eligible for the “piggyback” exception of Exchange Act Rule 15c2-11(f)(3).

It appears to the Commission that there is a lack of current and accurate information concerning the securities of Passport Potash, Inc. (“PPRTF”) (CIK No. 1508128), a British Columbia corporation located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada with a class of securities registered with the Commission pursuant to Exchange Act Section 12(g) because it is delinquent in its periodic filings with the Commission, having not filed any periodic reports since it filed a Form 10-Q for the period ended November 30, 2014. On August 31, 2016, Corporation Finance sent a delinquency letter to PPRTF requesting compliance with its periodic filing requirements, but PPRTF did not receive the delinquency letter due to its failure to maintain a valid address on file with the Commission as required by Commission rules (Rule 301 of Regulation S-T, 17 C.F.R. Section 232.301 and Section 5.4 of EDGAR Filer Manual). As of July 26, 2017, the common shares of PPRTF were quoted on OTC Link, had six market makers, and were eligible for the “piggyback” exception of Exchange Act Rule 15c2-11(f)(3).

The Commission is of the opinion that the public interest and the protection of investors require a suspension of trading in the securities of the above-listed companies. Therefore, it is ordered, pursuant to Section 12(k) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, that trading in the securities of the above-listed companies is suspended for the period from 9:30 a.m. EDT on August 3, 2017, through 11:59 p.m. EDT on August 16, 2017.

By the Commission.

Brent J. Fields
Secretary