Surge Battery Metals (TSXV:NILI)

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Next LAC off the rank?

Surge Battery Metals is developing Nevada North, a sedimentary lithium project, located in Nevada, US. It has the potential to be the second major sedimentary lithium project development after Lithium Americas' Thacker Pass project, which has raised over US$4.0bn and is now under construction.

While Surge is following a path already forged by Lithium Americas, we believe that Nevada North is the stronger project, insofar as it is considerably higher grade and closer to surface, and therefore likely to deliver better recoveries, lower capex and opex than Thacker Pass.

Despite Lithium Americas' success, the equity market has been slow to embrace Sedimentary lithium projects, assigning them a material discount vs Hard Rock and DLE projects. In our view, this is incorrect. Sedimentary lithium carries a much lower technical risk than DLE and simpler mining and conversion than Hard Rock, which is not fully integrated.

We believe that it's time that the market started to embrace sedimentary lithium as a viable and scalable source of Lithium and, within that, we believe that Surge's Nevada North project is one of the best sedimentary lithium projects currently and deserves a higher valuation than the market is currently assigning to it.

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Executive Summary

Lithium Americas has shown that sedimentary lithium can attract strategic, government and public-market capital at scale. Through General Motors, the US government and equity investors, Lithium Americas has raised over US$4.0bn in recent years to fund construction of Thacker Pass in Nevada. Thacker Pass is now well into construction and has become the benchmark for the emerging US sedimentary lithium sector.

We believe that Surge Battery Metals' Nevada North Lithium Project is the logical next project for investors to consider. Nevada North is earlier stage than Thacker Pass but, in our view, has the potential to be a better asset. The key differences are straightforward: higher grade, shallower mineralisation and a similar processing route. Nevada North's total resource grade is almost 50% higher than Thacker Pass's and around 20% higher than Thacker Pass's reserve grade, while recent drilling has identified zones above 4,000ppm lithium. Its mineralisation also appears much closer to surface, with some zones at surface and others at depths of only 5–15m. Higher grade and lower strip should mean less material moved per tonne of lithium produced, with positive implications for both capex and opex.

The equity market has been slow to embrace sedimentary lithium, assigning the sector a material discount to hard rock and DLE projects. We believe this is incorrect. Sedimentary lithium has lower technical risk than DLE, where each brine system often requires a bespoke extraction solution, and it offers a simpler mining and integrated conversion route than hard rock. The main challenges are acid intensity and scale, but these are engineering and supply-chain issues rather than fundamental technology risks.

Scale is precisely why sedimentary lithium matters. As lithium demand grows, the industry will need large, repeatable sources of supply. Sedimentary projects are well suited to this role, and Nevada North's grade, shallow geometry and expansion potential make it one of the more attractive projects in the Nevada-Oregon belt.

Surge also benefits from an underappreciated strategic partner. Evolution Mining owns 29.46% of the Nevada North JV and has fully funded the project through to PFS. This should improve financing flexibility and may reduce future equity dilution.

Investor concerns around water and sulphur are understandable, but we do not believe they undermine the investment case. Surge expects meaningful water recycling and has been advancing hydrological work since 2023. On sulphur, higher prices may pressure lower-grade sedimentary projects, but Nevada North's higher grade should help protect its relative cost position.

Valuation is where the opportunity is clearest, in our view. Sedimentary projects trade at a substantial discount to Hard Rock and DLE projects, which we believe is unjustified. Surge also trades at am understandable discount to Lithium Americas. As investors become more comfortable with sedimentary lithium and as Nevada North advances through PFS, we believe that Surge should begin to close this gap.

Bottom line: Lithium Americas has proven that sedimentary lithium can be financed and built in Nevada. Surge is following the same road, but with a project that appears higher grade, shallower, scalable and potentially lower cost. If Thacker Pass is the first cab off the rank, Nevada North could and should be the next, in our view.

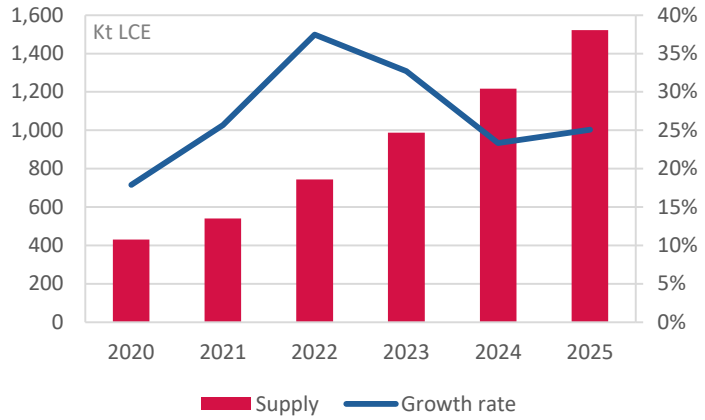
Lithium and the Emerging Supply/Demand gap

As we move squarely into the next bull market for lithium, with ESS starting to dominate over EVs as a demand driver, raw materials producer focus is shifting away from shoring up balance sheets and more towards investing in new lithium supply.

But one thing is becoming a concern as demand forecasts for the next 5-10 years are becoming more optimistic. Where can this incremental supply growth come from?

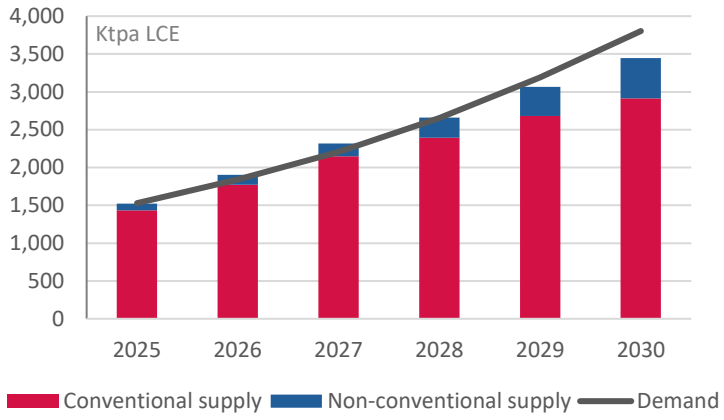
Global lithium production has managed to grow at a rate of 29% per annum over the past five years off a very low base. This has resulted in output increasing from 0.4Mtpa of LCE in 2020 to c.1.5Mtpa in 2025. But by 2030E, RK Equity forecasts that the industry will need to produce 3.8Mtpa and that demand could more than double again by 2035E.

Lithium supply and growth, 2020-25



Source: BM Review, RK Equity

Lithium supply by technology type vs demand, 2025-30E



Source: BM Review, RK Equity

So, how will the industry manage to fill in what is set to become a very substantial supply/demand gap?

Well, existing technologies like hard rock spodumene and conversion, and conventional brine evaporation will certainly remain important, in our view. But it is clear now that non-conventional lithium production processes will be absolutely vital to the industry's ability to supply the sort of demand levels we are beginning to forecast. Without these new technologies and their scalability it will be a struggle for the industry to keep up with the level of demand growth we are now expecting.

Why do we like sedimentary lithium projects?

Within the non-conventional space, there are two key technologies that are on the cusp of commercial production. While many have focused on **DLE** and its potential to bring brines with low lithium concentrations into economic production, our concern is that different DLE projects must be configured independently. There is no *one-technology-fits-all-orebodies* solution for DLE. Just because one tech works on one brine occurrence, does not mean that it will work on another. Orebody testing and work up for DLE

projects can take of the order of five years and require detailed analysis. There are non-technical issues with DLE as well, particularly with regards to resource extraction efficiency and the consistency of orebodies.

But there is one non-conventional technology that does not require re-inventing the wheel on a regular basis. *And that's the processing of sedimentary lithium deposits*.

Sedimentary lithium deposits occur where primary lithium orebodies have been weathered and lithium is caught up in a matrix of clay minerals. Lithium in these orebodies occurs at about two-thirds of the in-situ grade of lithium in hard rock deposits (and, by the way, at c.10x the grade seen in DLE deposits). But one of the major advantages with sedimentary lithium deposits is that, by nature of their formation, the lithium-enriched zones tend to occur in relatively flat-lying, contiguous zones with similar thickness and mineralogy. In the best deposits, they are also shallow. Mining is also much easier, being free dig and not drill and blast as with hard rock occurrences, and the ores are much easier to handle in processing.

However, one area in which sedimentary deposits do compare less positively with hard rock lithium deposits is insofar as the lithium is tied up in the clay matrix. To liberate the lithium, it is necessarily to blitz the ore with sulphuric acid at high temperature (though not as high as in traditional hard rock lithium conversion). In addition, because of the lower grade, these projects need to be large in order to support higher throughput and that tends to require higher capex than for most hard rock lithium projects.

But, in our view, those are the only two drawbacks for sedimentary lithium and they are more than outweighed by its positives, including that it utilises off the shelf technology and is also fully-integrated to lithium carbonate or hydroxide, unlike hard rock projects, which require a further refinery stage to get to their end product.

Comparison between Hard Rock, DLE and Sedimentary lithium production

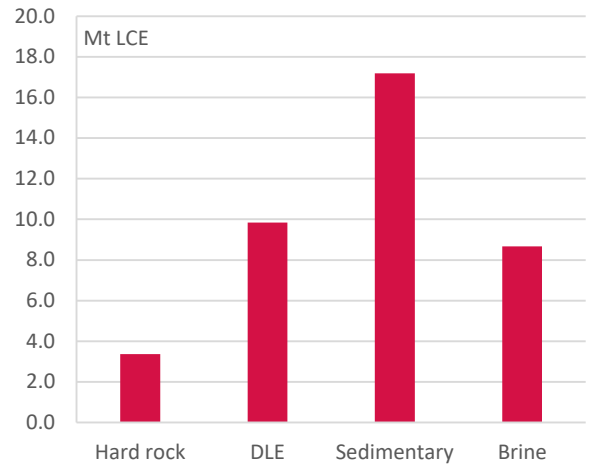
	Hard Rock	DLE	Sedimentary
Grade & geology			
Grade	c.1.0% Li2O (4650ppm Li)	c.50-300ppm Li	c.600-4000ppm Li
Form	Igneous rock	In solution	Soft clay materials
Mining & Extraction			
Depth	Open pit/underground	2-4km wells	Open pit/underground
Mining	Drill & blast	Drill & pump	Free dig/solution
Complexity	Medium	High	Low
Recoverability & scalability			
Resource recovery	70-85%	30-60%	60-80%
Scale	Medium	Large	Very large
Product	Intermediate	Final	Final
Cost			
Capex	Low (conversion requ'd)	High	High
Extraction cost	High	Low	Low
Integrated cost	Medium	Medium-Low	Low
Technical risk	Low	High	Low

Source: RK Equity

Scalability is going to be key for the Lithium industry

As the lithium industry continues to expand, we believe that project scalability is going to be key. As global lithium demand rises to 4Mtpa, 5Mtpa and potentially as large as 10Mtpa within the next ten years, small projects are likely to end up being 'so last decade', in our view!

Average MII resource sizes of projects included in RK Equity valuation, by type



Source: RK Equity estimates

We believe that average project size will increase massively. It'll have to if the industry is to scale up so rapidly.

One of the advantages of sedimentary lithium projects (and DLE projects as well, by the way) is that they're scalable. Out of all the projects that we track globally, sedimentary lithium projects have the largest average resource size.

In fact, these projects support large-scale production. Like copper porphyry projects, in sedimentary lithium one is processing huge amounts of relatively low-grade material. Like copper porphyry projects, such projects succeed based on scale.

While the first few generations of sedimentary lithium and DLE projects are relatively small scale (c.20Ktpa of LCE), the potential exists for them to be much larger. In our view, projects with production capacities of over 100Ktpa of LCE are likely to become the norm in lithium as the industry grows and, by their very nature, sedimentary lithium projects lend themselves very well to that sort of sizing.

Lithium Americas leads the way in sedimentary lithium

Lithium Americas (NYSE:LAC) has very much blazed the trail in sedimentary lithium up to now. A company with a US$2bn market capitalisation, it has attracted investment from both General Motors and the US government, as it seeks to build the US's first sedimentary lithium mine at the Thacker Pass project in Nevada.

It is now in construction, but it's been a long, hard slog for Lithium Americas as detailed in this interview by Howard Klein with CEO Jon Evans (24 March 2026) and the timeline below.

Timeline for development of Thacker Pass project

Date	Milestone
1975–1979	**Chevron USA** begins uranium exploration in the McDermitt Caldera. After the USGS flags anomalous lithium in the caldera, Chevron adds lithium assays and clay analysis. This is the real discovery/exploration origin of what later becomes the Kings Valley / Thacker Pass lithium project.
2007	The modern project era begins. Western Energy Development / Western Uranium and Western Lithium structure the lithium rights around **Kings Valley**. On **December 20, 2007**, a lease was signed giving Western Lithium exclusive rights to explore, develop and mine lithium deposits on the claims.
2008	Western Lithium becomes independent from Western Uranium in **July 2008** and became an independent publicly traded company.
2010	Western Lithium advances the **Kings Valley** project through early economic/scoping work.
March 2011	Western Lithium completes the purchase of royalties and mineral-property titles from Western Uranium, giving it a **100% interest in Kings Valley** and cleaning up the ownership structure. The consideration was **C$6.85 million** in Western Lithium shares.
March 2012	A pre-feasibility study is completed for the project, but Lithium Americas later states that this 2012 PFS was no longer current and would not be relied upon for development planning.
March 2016	Western Lithium USA changes its name to **Lithium Americas Corp.**; its Nevada subsidiary becomes **Lithium Nevada Corp.**; and the **Kings Valley project** is renamed the **Lithium Nevada project**.
2017	SRK technical reporting updates the resource picture for the Stage I and Stage II deposits. The report identifies the Stage I Lens, formerly the PCD Lens, and Stage II Lens, formerly the South Lens.
2018–2019	The project increasingly becomes branded around **Thacker Pass**, the Stage I / initial development area at the southern end of the McDermitt Caldera.
2020	Federal environmental review advances. The project is now framed as an open-pit lithium clay mine and processing operation producing battery-quality lithium carbonate.
January 2021	The Bureau of Land Management issues the **Record of Decision** approving Thacker Pass. Lithium Americas treats this as the key federal permitting milestone.
2021–2022	Environmental, ranching and tribal/legal challenges follow. These slow the project but do not ultimately stop it.
November 2022	Lithium Americas completes/files the feasibility-stage technical work for Thacker Pass on **November 2, 2022**,.
January–February 2023	General Motors agrees to invest in the project; GM's first tranche closes in February 2023.
March 2023	Lithium Americas announces that **construction has commenced** following BLM notice to proceed. At that point, the project is described as targeting **80Ktpa** of lithium carbonate across two 40Ktpa phases.
2024	Project financing and construction planning are updated. Lithium Americas describes Thacker Pass as targeting **40Ktpa** Phase 1 nameplate capacity.
October 2024	DOE loan financing is finalised/announced for the project. Lithium Americas' current project page refers to a US**$2.23bn** DOE ATVM loan, alongside strategic investments from GM and Orion.
January 2025	Lithium Americas announces a major resource/reserve increase, with a P&P reserve estimate of **14.3Mt LCE** and M&I resource estimate of **44.5Mt LCE**.
2025–2026	Major construction ramps up. By the end of 2025, detailed engineering is reported as **93% complete**, procurement **60% complete**, and around **950 personnel** are on site, rising toward roughly **1,800** at peak construction.
2028 target	Ramp-up to commercial production expected through 2028.

Source: Company data

Surge Battery Metals vs Lithium Americas

But, as with lithium projects elsewhere in the world, despite being the first sedimentary project that's been financed for development, we don't believe that Thacker Pass is necessarily the best project out there. We believe that that crown belongs instead with Surge Battery Metals' Nevada North project.

The Nevada North project is located c.300km east of LAC's Thacker Pass project, and is part of a belt that crosses northern Nevada and extends into southern Oregon. Eight to ten sedimentary lithium projects have been identified along this belt.

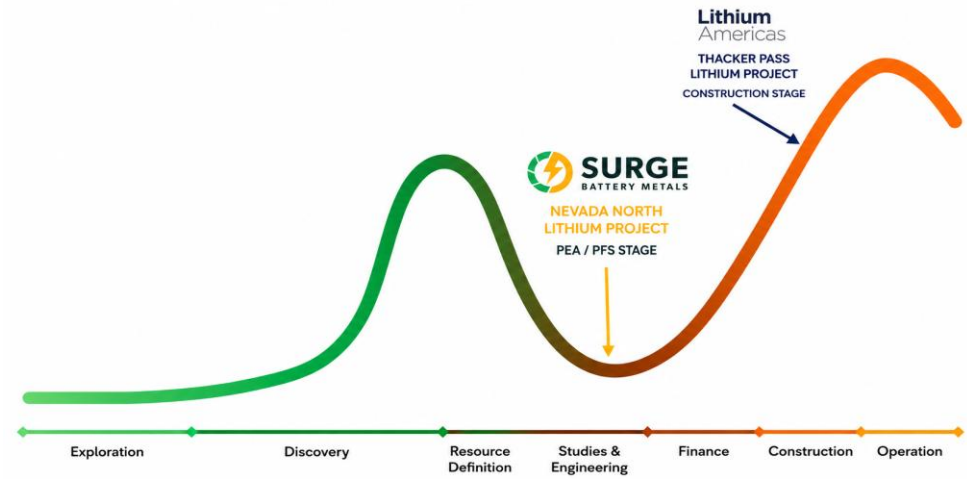
Comparison between Nevada North and Thacker Pass lithium projects

	Nevada North	Thacker Pass
Operator	Surge Battery Metals	Lithium Americas
Stage	PEA->PFS	Construction
Contained MII resource Mt LCE	13.6Mt	66.1Mt
Grade	2814ppm	2178ppm
LoM grade/time	4017ppm/42yrs	2540ppm/85yrs
Capital intensity stage 1 US$/Ktpa	c.70	c.85
Op costs US$/t LCE	US$5243/t	US$6238/t
Lithium recovery	85%	73.5%

Source: Company data, RK Equity

The Nevada North project is at a much earlier stage of development than Thacker Pass and currently boasts a smaller resource, although we believe that there is substantial upside potential. As a result, it is still in the rising part of the Lassonde curve, rather than the part where a project is in construction and where little internal value may be created for several years.

Idealised Lassonde curve (share price) showing stage of Nevada North and Thacker Pass



Source: RK Equity estimates

We expect the value of Thacker Pass to rise as lithium prices rises, but we expect the value of Nevada North to rise by more in the near-term, as investors discover this project and understand that it is, in many ways, a better project than its peer.

Two things are most important, in our view, about how the Nevada North project compares to Thacker Pass:

1) The fact that its total resource grade is almost 50% more than that for Thacker Pass and 20% higher than Thacker Pass's reserve grade. Recent drilling has also identified areas above 4000ppm Li, which could also constitute a high-grade core for the operation. The higher grade means that less material needs to be shifted to produce the same amount of lithium, which reduces both capex and opex for the project vs Thacker Pass.
2) The other factor that stands out for us is that the overburden looks considerably thinner for Nevada North than for Thacker. Some of the mineralisation is at surface, some at depths of 5-15m, while much of the resource at Thacker Pass is located much deeper. That means less pre-strip, which reduces the upfront capex (and also the complexity of mining) for Nevada North vs Thacker Pass.

We also note that Nevada North is utilising an almost identical processing approach to Thacker Pass, so there will be limited processing risks by the time the project gets close to production. Indeed, it is likely that Surge will be ramping up its project development at about the same time that LAC is standing down its construction crews, which means that Surge will likely be well-placed to hire crews who already have experience of building a similar project.

Surge Battery Metals vs The Rest

OK, so as we have stated, we believe that Nevada North stacks up very well compared to Thacker Pass. But how does it fare vs the rest of its sedimentary project development peers?

Apart from Nevada North and Thacker Pass, we're currently tracking seven other major development-stage sedimentary lithium projects within the Nevada-Oregon area. The table overleaf shows how Nevada North compares with these other projects, and we believe that it compares very well indeed:

- Large resource and potential to grow
- Shallow and easy to mine using conventional methods
- High grade which means lower throughput, hence lower capex and opex
- Robust lithium recovery
- Scalability

Comparison of Nevada North project with its sedimentary lithium peer group

Company	Surge Battery Metals	Lithium Americas	Jindalee Lithium	Century Lithium	Ioneer	American Battery Technology	American Lithium	Nevada Lithium	Noram Lithium
Project	Nevada North	Thacker Pass	McDermitt	Angel Island	Rhyolite Ridge	Tonopah Flats	TLC	Bonnie Claire	Zeus
State	Nevada	Nevada	Oregon	Nevada	Nevada	Nevada	Nevada	Nevada	Nevada
Stage	PEA	Construction	PFS	FS	FS	PFS	PEA	PEA	PEA
Date of study	2025	2024	2024	2026	2025	2025	2023	2025	2021
Total resource Mt LCE	13.6	66.1	21.5	7.7	4.1	18.7	10.0	30.8	4.4
Grade ppm Li	2814	2230	1340	958	1401	638	831	3158	926
M&I resource Mt LCE	10.5	44.5	11.1	5.9	3.3	13.9	8.8	6.2	3.0
Grade ppm Li	3007	2230	1419	966	1437	712	808	2528	958
By-product	Cs, Rb	NA	NA	NaOH	Boron	NA	MgSO4	Boron	Cs, Rb
Depth to orebody m	0-15	0-30	0-15	0-15	25-125	0-15	0-15	450-900m	0-15
Mining process	Truck & shovel	Truck & shovel	Truck & shovel	Truck & shovel	Truck & shovel	Truck & shovel	Truck & shovel	Hydraulic borehole	Truck & shovel
Processing	Sulphate	Sulphate	Sulphate	Chloride	Sulphate	Sulphate	Sulphate	Sulphate	Sulphate
Product	LC	LC	LC	LC	LC/LHM	LHM	LC	LC	LC
Lithium recovery	85%	74%	84%	84%	85%	79%	73%	85%	89%
Stage 1 capacity Ktpa	43.0	40.0	NA	10.0	19.3		24.0	NA	NA
Total capacity Ktpa	86.3	160.0	44.3	26.5	38.6	26.4	48.0	62.4	31.9
Pre-prod'n capex US$bn	3.0	2.9	3.0	1.0	1.7	2.0	0.8	2.1	0.5
Op cost US$/t LCE	5243	6238	8670	6110	NA	6155	7443	6800	4016
AISC US$/t LCE	NA	7508	NA	NA	*4628	NA	NA	7936	NA

*Source: Company data, RK Equity estimates. *Net of by-product credits*

JV with Evolution Mining

Another factor about Surge of which many investors are unaware is its tie up with Evolution Mining. Evolution Mining, an Australian-listed gold miner, boasts a market capitalisation of US$18bn and has had cash flow of US$947m over the past four quarters.

It holds a 29.46% share in the Nevada North JV and has fully funded the project through to PFS.

While Lithium Americas went to General Motors to help with project funding, Surge already has a major investor on board which could fund a 29.5% share of capex.

That should provide significant financial flexibility to the funding process and allow Surge management to minimise the dilution to its shareholders. Other funding is likely to be available from the US government and other agencies which should help Surge advance its project.

Sulphur and Water: Not the concern that many make them out to be

When we talk about these sedimentary lithium projects, we get a lot of questions from investors on sulphur and water.

Firstly, let's talk **water**.

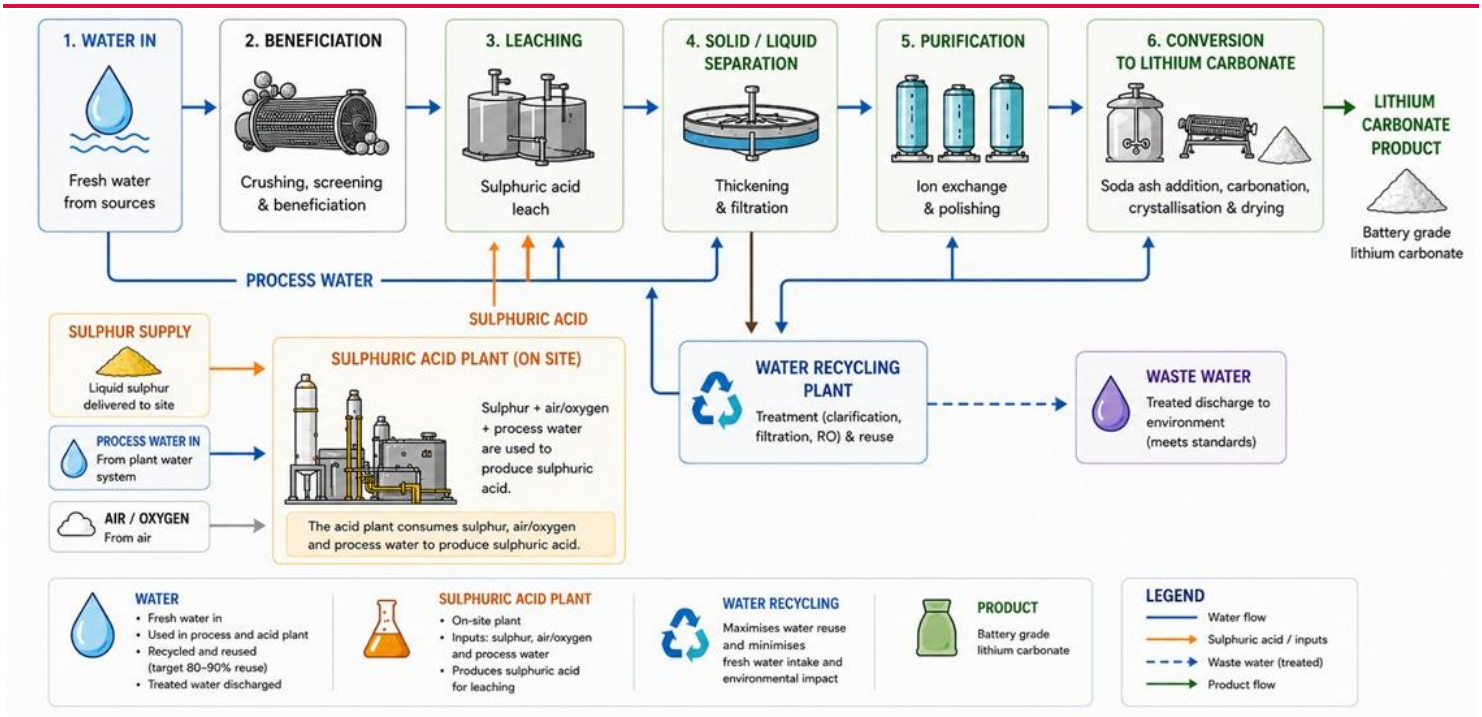
Investors have been concerned about water usage in these sedimentary lithium operations for many years. The biggest usages of water in the process are mainly:

- Adding water to the clay to make slurry, which will more easily move through processing.
- Manufacture of sulphuric acid and leaching, which is the second primary process in the processing plant.
- Washing associated with the purification/crystallisation/product washing.

However, a large proportion of this water (c.70%) is recycled as per Surge's PEA and Lithium Americas has managed to achieve water recycling of 80-85% for its FEED report, so that is Surge's aim.

As a result, the amount of water consumed by the project is expected to be substantially lower than was initially considered and should be very viable given with the supply of available groundwater in the area.

Sedimentary lithium processing plant water usage



Source: RK Equity

Surge commenced hydrological work on the project area in May 2023 and has been working with the BLM and local landowners, such as the Salmon River Cattlemen's Association (SRCA), to find a viable solution to supply process water, while leaving sufficient water for other users. It signed a LOI with SRCA in September 2025.

Secondly, let's talk **sulphur**.

Due to the ongoing war in the Middle East, sulphur (previously quite a sleepy and specialist commodity) has been highlighted on investors' radar screens much more, given that c.20-30% of seaborne-traded sulphur is currently shut in the Persian Gulf.

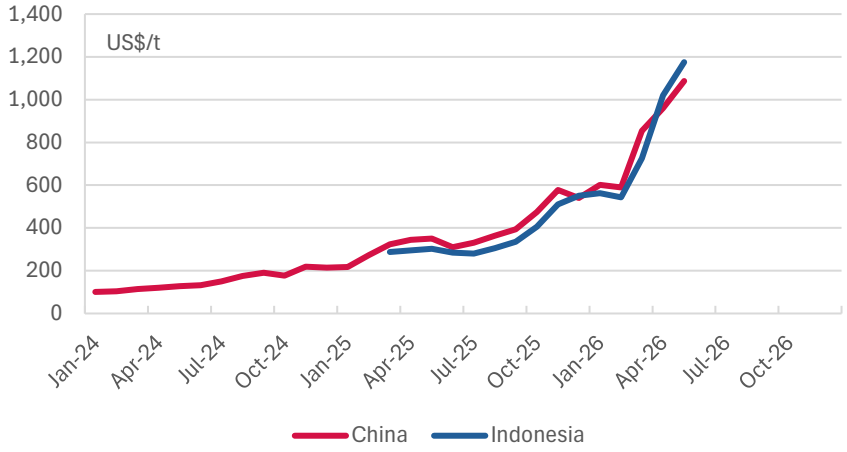
Sulphur prices, as we highlighted in a comment in early-March 2026, have spiked impressively and now a lot of investors are looking at sulphur-intensive projects and asking whether they will be viable at current sulphur prices?

We are not so concerned.

For starters, it will likely be of the order of five years before Nevada North would likely be in production. By that time, we would have expected that the situation in the Middle East would have calmed down and sulphur would be flowing freely again.

Even if there is still a shortage of sulphur, the project aims to source sulphur for its acid plant from oil operations in the Canadian West, one of the few regions that boasts substantial sulphur inventories. We do not believe that the company will have an issue with regards to sourcing sulphur.

Asian sulphur prices



Source: BM Review, SMM

However, we do believe that sulphur prices may end up being considerably higher than many of the sedimentary lithium projects have utilised in their feasibility work thus far. Prevailing sulphur prices in 2024-25 were of the order of US$200/t. We believe that, by the late-2020s, sulphur prices may be of the order of US$300-350/t, between 50-60% higher than used in studies.

We believe that this will certainly have an impact on project economics, particularly for the lower grade projects below 1500ppm lithium. However, given that Nevada North's average resource grade is nearly two times that, we are not so concerned for the impact on Nevada North's cost curve positioning.

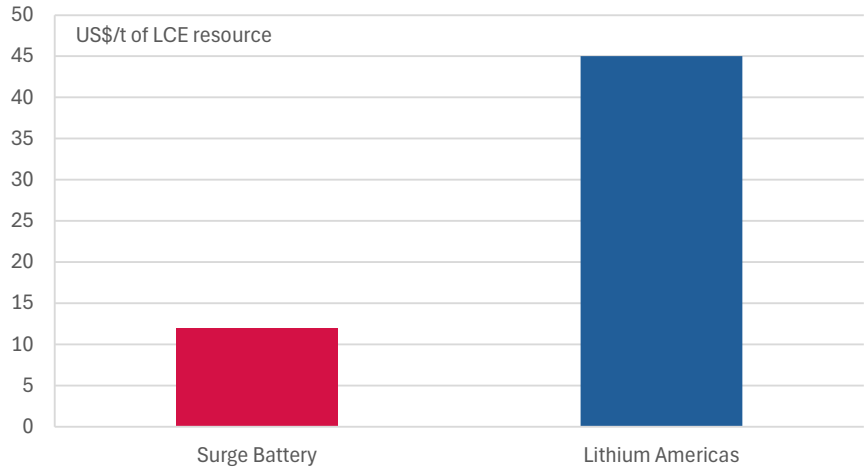
Valuation: Material re-rating potential

For early-stage projects our preferred valuation approach is the Market capitalisation/contained resource multiple. We compare multiples for Measured, Indicated and Inferred (ie total) resources, and we look at them in Lithium Carbonate Equivalent (LCE) terms so that we can compare across deposit types.

Surge Battery Metals currently trades on an Market Cap/resource multiple of US$12/t LCE, adjusted for Evolution Mining's minority interest in Nevada North. This compares with US$45/t LCE for Lithium Americas, adjusted for General Motors' 38% interest in Thacker Pass.

As shown in the chart below, Surge trades at a substantial discount to Lithium Americas on a resource-adjusted basis, despite what we believe are superior project characteristics at Nevada North, including higher grade and shallower mineralisation.

Surge Battery Metals vs Lithium Americas Mkt Cap/contained resource multiples



Source: Company data, RK Equity estimates. Priced as of 28 May 2026.

Applying Lithium Americas' current multiple to Surge would imply a market value of US$430m, versus Surge's current market value of US$120m. While Lithium Americas is further advanced, with Thacker Pass already under construction, we still believe that the valuation gap is too wide.

We also note that Thacker Pass currently has a resource around 4.9x larger than Nevada North. As Surge continues to build out its resource base, this should provide an additional route to value creation, alongside any multiple re-rating.

Sedimentary project disconnect

The broader peer group points to the same disconnect. Sedimentary lithium developers continue to trade at a material discount to other lithium development assets, despite what we believe are attractive technical and cost characteristics.

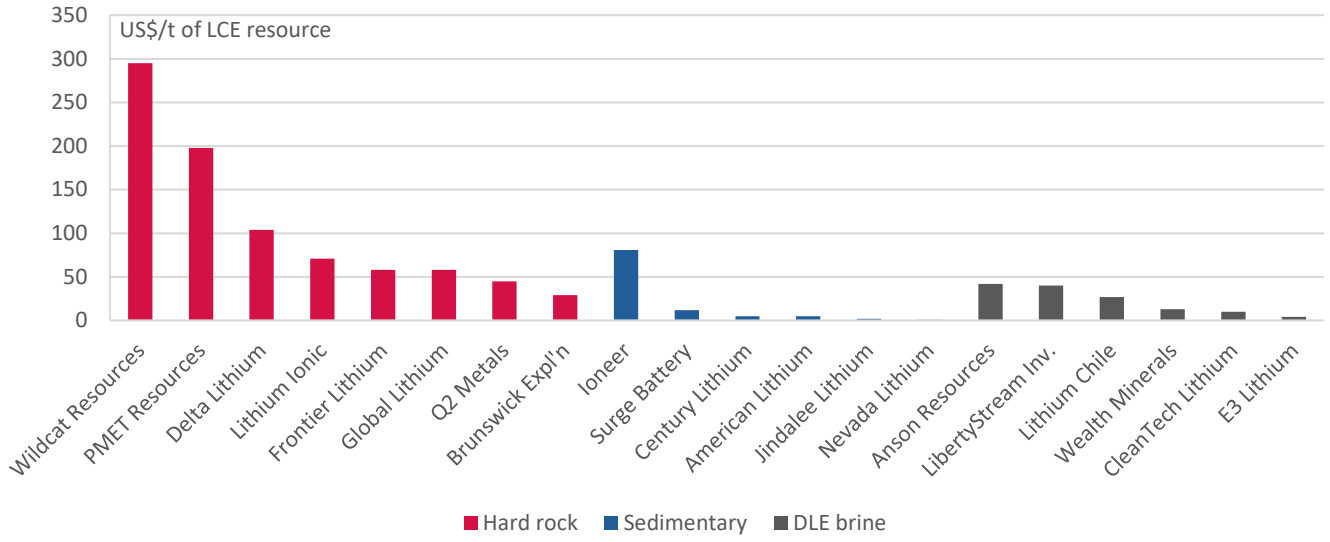
As shown in the chart below, sedimentary lithium projects trade at a clear discount to hard rock and DLE brine developers. Excluding the highest and lowest valuations in each segment, the average market cap/resource multiple for sedimentary lithium developers is US$6/t LCE, compared with US$89/t LCE for hard rock developers and US$23/t LCE for DLE brine developers.

In our view, this discount is unjustified. Sedimentary lithium is materially less technically complex than DLE and offers simpler, lower-cost mining and conversion than hard rock, particularly for an integrated product. These projects are capital intensive, but we believe the current valuation gap materially overstates that risk.

Applying the hard rock developer average of US$89/t LCE to Surge would imply a valuation of US$855m, substantially above its current market value of US$120m.

We believe Surge is mispriced on both a project-relative and asset-class-relative basis. A re-rating toward Lithium Americas' current trading multiple would imply substantial upside, while broader acceptance of sedimentary lithium as a mainstream development route could support a materially higher valuation over time, in our view.

Hard Rock, Sedimentary, DLE EV/contained resource multiples



Source: Company data, RK Equity estimates

Catalysts and risks

As we highlighted earlier, Surge is at a point on the Lassonde curve when it should start to delineate the project in such a way as to substantially decrease the uncertainties and unknowns associated with it, as well as increasing the certainty of the valuation potential of the asset.

Near-term catalysts

- Ongoing publication of drill results to extend the resource and increase certainty around it, also metallurgical test work results to better understand the processing of the orebody.
- Management has indicated that it plans to publish a PFS on the project by the end of 2026.
- The focus of 2027 will be delivery of a feasibility study on the project. Management also hopes to deliver required environmental reports and make progress on permitting.
- Securing a strategic OEM or battery manufacturer partnership, similar to Lithium Americas' partnership with General Motors (GM) at Thacker Pass. Surge has positioned itself for this with the January 2026 appointment of Steffen Ball (ex-Nissan, ex-Ford battery raw materials) as VP, Commercial Development at NNL, specifically mandated to forge OEM relationships.
- The company is targeting a FID on the project in 2029 with construction to start around 2030.
- As the market begins to accept sedimentary projects better, we believe that larger lithium players will start to look at the asset class in more detail. We wouldn't be surprised to see M&A in this segment as lithium prices remain at elevated levels.

Risks

- There are a number of development risks associated with a company at this stage.
    - The primary issues that might affect the stock would be higher than expected capex or opex forecasts in the forthcoming PFS or in the DFS.
    - While not expected, the US is a litigious country and any legal challenges around aspects of the development could result in delays to the project.
- While we believe that the company is in the bottom quartile of the cost curve, any weakening of the lithium carbonate price below US$15-20/kg could impact management's ability to access project funding which could, in turn, impact valuation.
- Geopolitical instability could result in higher cost of equity and debt which could adversely effects the valuation of the company.
- While we understand that support for critical mineral development projects in the US has been bipartisan, we have to flag that changes to the political regime before the company has a Federal permit may result in delays.

Key Roles

Graham Harris, Chairman

Graham Harris brings four decades of financial expertise and a history of significant exits to his role. Notably, he was the founder and Chair of Millennial Lithium Corp. (acquired for US$400m by Lithium Americas in 2022) and a founding director of both Millennial Potash and M2 Cobalt. With over US$400m in capital raised and a background in senior management at Canaccord Genuity, he has been instrumental in growing his ventures to a combined market capitalisation of over US$1bn.

Greg Reimer, President & CEO

Greg Reimer is an accomplished leader and former Executive VP of Transmission and Distribution at BC Hydro, where he managed C$5.5bn in annual revenue. Greg previously served as BC's Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines. He brings a proven track record in organizational transformation, energy policy, and governance from numerous corporate and industry boards.

Iain Scarr, Director

As the founder of IMEX Consultants, Iain Scarr brings over 30 years of experience from Rio Tinto, where he served as Commercial Director and VP of Exploration. A veteran of the lithium sector, he successfully guided three major lithium projects in Argentina from the discovery stage through to feasibility and acquisition.

Dr Vijay Mehta, Director

Vijay Mehta is a world-renowned expert in lithium extraction with a PhD in flotation technology and brings 50 years of industry experience. He holds 12 US patents and has consulted for the global "who's who" of lithium mining. He specialises in the technological and economic feasibility of battery-grade lithium brine processing and production.

Richard Weech, Director

Richard Weech brings 35 years of executive leadership across financial, operational, and strategic roles in public and private businesses, with deep expertise in capital raising, joint venture structuring, and business development. From 2014 until his retirement in 2022, he led Berkshire Hathaway Energy's subsidiaries, BHE Investments and BHE Renewables, through significant asset and financial growth, including the development and evaluation of lithium extraction opportunities. He holds CA, CPA, and CFA designations and graduated with Distinction from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Commerce.

Steffen Ball, VP Commercial Development

An accomplished technical and commercial strategist, Steffen Ball brings extensive expertise in critical minerals supply chains. He previously held senior roles at Nissan North America and Ford Motor Company, where he spearheaded global battery raw material sourcing. With a background in mine-site operations and a Geology degree from the Colorado School of Mines, he excels at leveraging industry relationships to drive assets toward production.

Daniel Chafetz, VP Project Development

Daniel Chafetz is a Certified Professional Geologist and has served as the operational lead for the Nevada North Lithium Project from discovery through the current PFS. He

previously held key technical roles at ioneer's Rhyolite Ridge Lithium-Boron Project, Pure Energy Minerals in Clayton Valley, and Lithium One at Salar del Hombre Muerto in Argentina. He is the founder of Apex Consultants LLC and holds an M.S. in Geochemistry from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Michael Harris, VP Corporate Development

Michael Harris is a strategic leader overseeing corporate strategy, capital markets, and strategic partnerships for the Nevada North Lithium Project. With a background in construction-focused financial services and structured lending, he specialises in project finance, joint venture structuring, and institutional engagement. He is instrumental in aligning project advancement with US critical minerals policy and domestic supply chain priorities.

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