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**Cape Ray Exploration Drilling
Environmental Assessment Registration**

Prepared for: AuMEGA Metals Ltd.
April 28, 2026

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCDC	Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Center
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CRSZ	Cape Ray Shear Zone
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EAR	Environmental Assessment Registration
EPA	Environmental Protection Act
km	kilometers
m	meters
mm	millimeters
NL	Newfoundland and Labrador
NL ESA	NL Endangered Species Act
NLECCC	NL Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change
NLEM	NL Department of Energy and Mines
NLFAL	NL Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands
PAO	Provincial Archaeology Office
SAR	Species at risk
SARA	Species at Risk Act
SOCC	Species of conservation concern

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Name of Undertaking

The Project is known as the Cape Ray Gold Exploration Project.

1.2 Proponent Information

AuMEGA Metals Ltd (AuMEGA) is a mineral exploration company focused on the discovery of precious and critical metals in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL), Canada. AuMEGA employs a world-class, systematic exploration approach — a necessity in the southwest Newfoundland region, where significant glacial cover and complex geological history present unique exploration challenges. AuMEGA holds a district-scale land package spanning 105 kilometres (km) along the Cape Ray Shear Zone (CRSZ) — Newfoundland’s largest identified gold-bearing structure and an under-explored geological corridor.

AuMEGA’s portfolio includes its flagship Cape Ray Project, hosting a gold Mineral Resource of 6.2 million tonnes at 2.25 g/t for 450,000 ounces (Indicated) and 3.4 million tonnes at 1.44 g/t for 160,000 ounces (Inferred). AuMEGA also holds several additional projects along the CRSZ including Bunker Hill, Malachite, Grandy’s and Intersection.

AuMEGA retained Strum Consulting (Strum) to support the development and submission of an Environmental Assessment Registration (EAR) Document under the NL *Environmental Protection Act* (NL EPA, S.N.L 2002, c.14.2). Strum is an independent, multi-disciplinary team with extensive experience with submission of EARs within Atlantic Canada. The EAR is being led by Strum’s team based in St. John’s, NL.

Proponent and Consultant contact information is provided in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Proponent and Consultant Contact Information

Proponent	
Name	AuMEGA Metals Ltd.
Address	10060 Jasper Ave, Tower 1, Suite 2020 Edmonton, AB, Canada, T5J 3R8
CEO	Sam Pazuki
Website	https://aumegametals.com/
Principal Proponent Contact	
Name	Giles Dodds
Title	Manager, Exploration
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Environmental Consultant Contact	
Name	Nicole Thomas
Title	Manager, Environmental Assessment & Approvals
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2.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

2.1 Overview of the Undertaking

AuMEGA is proposing to conduct exploratory drilling adjacent to the Isle aux Morts River, a scheduled salmon river located in southwestern Newfoundland, northwest of the Town of Isle aux Morts, as part of its exploration campaign in 2026 (Drawing 1, Appendix A). AuMEGA has been conducting exploratory drilling activities in the CRSZ region of Newfoundland since 2018.

Drilling activities will occur intermittently, year-round, and activities at a given drill site (collar) are anticipated to take 2 to 4 days per drillhole. Equipment and two-person operation teams will be mobilized to drill locations using either helicopters to minimize potential effects of the activity on the environment or overland via track-mounted equipment. All operations will be subject to the conditions within the existing mineral exploration permit authorizing the activities within their respective permits as listed below (Appendix B):

- Cape Ray West DDH (E260012)
- Cape Ray DDH Overland (E260132)
- Cape Ray DDH Heli (E260077)

Due to the early-stage, exploratory nature of the proposed work, a maximum of 20 drilling locations is proposed within 200 m of Isle aux Morts River. None of the proposed drill locations will be closer than 50 m from the high-water mark of the river. Although registration is required, no fording of the river will take place by equipment or personnel, and all required mitigation and remediation measures will be applied. Negative environmental impacts to the river are not anticipated. To date, AuMEGA has drilled 418 holes along the CRSZ and have had no regulatory breaches in their operational history on the Project.

2.2 Rational for the Undertaking

Global gold reserves have been declining since 2011. This decline coincides with the peak value seen in the previous gold cycle.

AuMEGA has been actively exploring the CRSZ since 2018, steadily advancing the Project through systematic exploration. Over this period, AuMEGA has delineated a significant gold resource comprising an indicated resource of 6.2 million tonnes grading 2.25 g/t gold for 450,000 ounces, in addition to an inferred resource of 3.4 million tonnes grading 1.44 g/t gold for 160,000 ounces. These results reflect sustained exploration success and demonstrate the strong mineral endowment of the district.

AuMEGA continues to expand its exploration footprint both within and surrounding the established resource areas, where numerous high-priority targets remain underexplored. Early-stage exploration is focused on prospective corridors including the Isle aux Morts Granite and Cape Ray West, where geological mapping, geochemistry, and geophysics have identified encouraging indicators of potential gold endowment. Concurrently, more advanced exploration opportunities remain within the existing resource centres at Big Pond, Window Glass Hill, and the Central Zone deposits, where step-out drilling and resource expansion programs aim to further grow the mineral inventory.

Recent exploration campaigns have generated positive momentum, particularly in the Cape Ray West and Isle aux Morts Granite targets, an area AuMEGA values as being highly prospective and proximal to the AuMEGA's existing mineral resources. Advancing these exploration targets is critical to further resource growth and underscore AuMEGA's commitment to unlocking the full potential of the Cape Ray gold district.

2.3 Regulatory Framework

The Project must be registered with the NL Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change (NLECCC) pursuant to the NL *Environment Protection Act (EPA)* (2002) and its associated Regulations (2003). Section 28 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations indicates that an EAR is required for any undertaking that will occur within 200 m of the high-water mark of a river that is a scheduled salmon river under the *Fisheries Act* (1985). An EAR is a formal document required to initiate an environmental review process for a proposed project.

2.3.1 Permitting

In addition to the EAR, there are several federal and provincial environmental permits/authorizations that may be required, many of which AuMEGA has previously obtained during their existing exploration program. Permitting requirements are outlined within the Mineral Exploration Licenses (Appendix B). All regulatory requirements will be adhered to for the execution of the Project.

Permits will need to be obtained prior to the start of work. A summary of permits that may be required are outlined in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Permits that may be required prior to operations

Legislation	Regulatory Body	Permit
Federal legislation		
<i>Fisheries Act</i> , R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	Request for Review required for any project near water not falling under a code of practice and where risks to fish and fish habitat cannot be avoided
Provincial legislation		
<i>Water Resources Act</i> , S.N.L. 2002, c. T-6.2	NLECCC, Water Resources Management Division	Section 48 permit required for any work to be completed within 15 m of any waterbody, including wetlands
<i>Forestry Act</i> , R.S.N.L. 1990, c. F-23	Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands (NLFAL), Forestry Division	Operating permit if work is to occur during forest fire season (May to September)
		Commercial harvesting permit required if tress will be cut to allow for exploration of site
		Permit to burn if brush is to be burned on site within 300 m of forested land, during forest fire season (May to September)
<i>Mineral Act</i> , R.S.N.L. 1990, c. M-12	Department of Energy and Mines, Mineral Lands Division	Exploration approval is required to conduct mineral exploration activities

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING

3.1 Geographical Location

The Project consists of exploration drill locations adjacent to Isle aux Morts River. The area under review in this EAR includes two branches of the Isle aux Morts River, which fall within NL mineral claim blocks 031557M, 032060M, 031558M, and 032061M. The western branch includes those sections of the river between its headwaters at several unnamed lakes centered at approximately 47.7411427 N, 59.0048524 W) until the point it exits NL mineral licence 031557M at 47.6763291 N, 59.0023674 W. The eastern branch includes the sections of the river where it enters NL Mineral Claim block 032061M at 47.7765495 N, 58.9103669 W, and NL mineral licence 031558M at 47.7760794 N, 58.9294199 W until the point it exits NL mineral claim block 031557M at 47.6767380 N, 58.9581297 W. The mineral licences are held by Cape Ray Mining Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of AuMEGA Metals.

Within this area, sections have been designated as high and low priority based on current knowledge of the geology in the area and previous mapping. At this time, specific target locations have not been identified; however, these can be provided in the future if required (Drawing 2, Appendix A).

3.2 Study Area & Project Boundary

3.2.1 Spatial & Temporal Boundaries

For the purposes of this EAR, the Project Area is defined as the area within the mineral licence claim blocks already permitted through existing mineral licences, and within 200 meters (m) of Isle aux Morts River. For this EAR, an Exclusion Zone has been identified in which no activity will occur, to avoid potential interactions with Isle aux Morts River. The Exclusion Zone was generated by applying a 50 m buffer to either side of the high-water mark along the Isle aux Morts River and its associated waterbodies (determined through review of the Forest Resources Inventory data). The Project Area is approximately 17 km².

Proposed exploration activities for this EA will maintain the same temporal restrictions required under the current exploration activity licences (Appendix B).

3.3 Project Phases

3.3.1 Surficial Geochemistry, Geological Mapping, and Prospecting

AuMEGA's surficial geochemical, geological mapping, and prospecting team activities require no surface disturbance or vegetation clearing. Teams are transported to locations on foot from camp locations. Mapping and prospecting activities target areas of rocky outcrops to determine potential for mineral resources, whilst surficial geochemical teams collect a small 1 to 2-kilogram soil sample on a pre-determined sampling grid, generally 160 m by 80 m. These surface activities result in low to no ground disturbance. Mapping and prospecting activities assess outcropping geological features. Surficial geochemical teams who collect the soil samples use a traditional handheld soil auger where the soil sample is extracted generally 0.3 m below the vegetation. No vegetation is cleared or stripped for the purposes of these activities. The small diameter holes created by the soil auger (0.1 m in diameter) are backfilled by the sampler upon completion of the site.

3.3.2 Exploration Drilling: Site Preparation & Construction

For helicopter-supported drilling, temporary timber drill pads will be identified and marked for clearing (if required) to provide sufficient clearance for helicopter landing or sling load delivery of the drill rig. Vegetation may be selectively cleared by hand tools, without ground disturbance, to permit placement of temporary drill pads. Drill pads consist of timber cribbing and decking, approximately 5 m by 5 m in size, laid directly overtop of vegetation, with no ground disturbance required for site preparation. For land-based drilling, the same surface of 5 m by 5 m is utilised for the track-mounted drilling rig. Vegetation is only cleared as

required, determined by each site (collar) location. Erosion control measures, such as silt fencing or matting, will be installed where necessary. A single above ground sump may be used at each drill site to manage drill water and cuttings, as required. These sumps consist of a 1 m³ structure made of hay bails and silt fencing. There will be no more than one sump per drill pad. Site specific locations of drill pads are not available at this time, as on-ground reconnaissance is required to determine the exact location of potential drill sites. AuMEGA will notify the Mineral Lands Division of the Department of Energy and Mines (NLEM) once site-specific locations have been selected each year prior to site preparation.

3.3.3 Operations & Maintenance

Drilling activities may occur throughout the year depending on exploration schedules and equipment availability. A total of 20 holes is planned in 2026, with locations on both sides of the Isle aux Morts River. At no point will the drill rig or crews ford the Isle aux Morts River. Drill rigs and supporting equipment used in helicopter supported drilling programs are moved from site-to-site solely via helicopter. There will be tramming/tracking of equipment from site-to-site only in areas covered by permit E260132 (Drawing 3, Appendix A).

The drill will be left on location throughout the drilling operation and is expected to be present on a site for 2 to 4 days of operation. Drill teams will be moved to the location daily via helicopter or overland. All crews will have spill kits to manage any environmental incidents. All fuel storage containers (e.g., jerry cans, fuel drums, etc.) and water pumps shall be underlain by effective secondary containment (e.g., a drip tray) lined with absorbent pads. All waste material will be placed in suitable refuse containers and removed to an approved waste disposal site.

3.3.3.1 *Diamond Core Drilling*

Diamond core drilling uses an annular, diamond-impregnated bit mounted on the end of a rotating string of rods. The cutting edge of the outer barrel is fortified with industrial grade diamonds to enhance cutting abilities especially for hard rock. The rod cuts a solid core, which passes up inside the drill rods as the bit advances. The outer diameter of the drill hole is anticipated to be 100 to 150 millimeters (mm) maximum, and only a single hole will be drilled at each site. The bit is lubricated with water and drilling fluid or a water/mud mixture, which is pumped to the cutting face down the inside of the rods. It then returns to the surface between the rods and the sides of the hole. Drill cuttings are remediated as per the Environmental Guidelines for Mineral and Quarry Materials Exploration (2022) at the end of the drill hole.

3.3.3.2 *Material volumes*

Extracted material volumes are not anticipated to approach or exceed 1,000 m³.

3.3.3.3 *Water-Use*

All drilling fluids associated with diamond drilling will be managed to ensure that no effluent

enters the Isle aux Morts River. Cutting sumps will be located in upland areas, outside of wetlands. Discharged process water will be directed through upland vegetation, away from aquatic features. Process water will not be discharged or stored immediately upgradient from a watercourse or wetland.

3.3.4 Decommissioning

Following the completion of the work, the drill, personnel, and any affiliated equipment will be removed from site by helicopter or tracked equipment. The timber drill pads will be deconstructed and moved to the next location. Once the drill and equipment have been removed, any disturbed ground will be stabilized, and any removed overburden will be returned to facilitate natural revegetation and minimize the risk of erosion. If sufficient material is not available, a substitute of straw or hay will be used.

3.4 Physical Environment

3.4.1 Ecozone and Ecoregion

The Project is in the Long Range Barrens Ecoregion and Southern Long Range Subregion. This subregion is in the southwest corner of the island portion of the province and covers 5,998.2 km² (PAANL, 2008). The subregion is characterized by cool summers and cold winters with continuous snow cover. The growing season is short, and winds are frequently very strong, predominantly from the southwest and west. The highland area is windswept with extensive barrens. Outside of sheltered valleys where balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) is common, the predominant black spruce trees (*Picea mariana*) are stunted and form low, dense tuckamore thickets. String fens and slope bogs are common. Dwarf shrubs, including *Kalmia* spp. and *Rhodora* spp., are widespread across the subregion, with *Alnus* spp. being common in wetter areas (PAANL, 2008).

3.4.2 Aquatic Environment

The Project Area includes land adjacent to the Isle aux Morts River, a scheduled salmon river in Salmon Fishing Area 12. Approximately 30 km of the river is included in the Project's Exclusion Zone, along with a 50 m buffer from either side of the rivers high-water mark. Isle aux Morts River is estimated to be 45 km in length from its headwaters to mouth, located just east of the Town of Isle aux Morts. The river branches into two streams – one of which is completely obstructed with falls 3.21 km from the mouth of the river that has two main drops, both approximately 3 m high. The southern boundary of the Project Area is approximately 7 km upstream from the complete obstruction. Geology of the river is almost entirely gneiss, with some basic intrusive rock.

Fish populations previously documented in Isle aux Morts River include Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), and American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*; Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife [COSEWIC]; Threatened, NL *Endangered Species Act* [ESA] Vulnerable) (NLECCC, n.d.). The river is open to salmon angling from

June 1 to September 7, 2026 (DFO, 2026). No population information is publicly available on resident populations of fish above the obstruction. No records of banded killifish (*Fundulus diaphanous*, NL ESA Vulnerable) have been documented within 5 km of the Project Area, though their presence has been identified as “possible” based on Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACCDC) expert opinion maps in the general region.

The 50 m Exclusion Zone buffer outlined in Section 3.2 follows the DFO recommended best management practices for the protection of fish habitat associated with the proposed activity (DFO, 2022). This Exclusion Zone also aligns with NLFAL Wildlife Division requirements within the general conditions of the Exploration Approval for this project (Appendix B). Based on this guidance, the proposed mitigations, and the described activity, there are no direct or indirect interactions anticipated with this Project that would result in risk to fish or fish habitat.

3.4.3 Terrestrial Environment

The terrestrial environment of the Project Area is typical of the subregion with windswept barren, tuckamore, and bog being common. Small forest patches occur in more sheltered valleys closer to the river. Boreal felt lichen (*Erioderma pedicellatum*) presence, while not documented within 5 km of the Project Area, is considered possible in forested balsam fir stands with trees of sufficient age and size, based on ACCDC expert opinion maps in the general region.

The Project Area may host a variety of mammals, birds and insect species. The Newfoundland population of caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) are listed as Special Concern under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) and COSEWIC. There are 14 sub populations of caribou within Newfoundland (COSEWIC, 2014). The Project Area is located within Caribou Management Area 61; therefore, caribou of the La Poile herd may occur within the Project Area during calving period (April 15 to July 15). In 2024, there were 65 caribou hunting licenses for this area, with an average success rate of 80% as of 2022 (NL FAL, 2024). The Project Area is within Moose Management Area 10 (Port aux Basques), which for 2025 had a quota of 604 licenses (NL FAL, 2024). Species not listed as “species at risk” (SAR) or “species of conservation concern” (SOCC) that may also use the various habitats within the Project Area include: black bear (*Ursus americanus*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), otter (*Lontra canadensis*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), meadow vole (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), masked shrew (*Sorex cinereus*) and eastern deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*). While bats may occupy the Project Area, the lack of large trees suggests a low probability of potential roosting habitat.

Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*; COSEWIC and NL ESA Threatened, SARA Special Concern), a SAR species, has been flagged as “possible, but not likely” based on ACCDC expert opinion maps for the general region. Common bird species that may be present within the Project Area include willow and rock ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus* and *Lagopus muta*),

savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), Lincoln's sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), and northern waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*).

Drilling activities will result in minimal ground disturbance and very temporary noise disturbance to fauna in the area. All conditions and mitigations required under the current mineral exploration licences will be adhered to (Section 3.5, Appendix B). No substantive long-term impact on the terrestrial environment is anticipated.

3.4.4 Land and Resource Use

The Project Area has limited road and trail access. There is a gravel road which extends north from Highway 470 and gives partial access to some potential drill sites located in the Project Area. Where overland access is not practical, travel to and from the Project Area by Project personnel will be by helicopter to minimize ground disturbance. The Project Area overlaps with an outfitter buffer, (NL, 2020) and there are various small crown land licenses held within 1 km of the Project Area, which are presumably cottage lots. However, given the limited spatial and temporal extent of drilling operation, the Project is not anticipated to have impacts on these outfitting operations or on cottage owners. Furthermore, all conditions and mitigations under the current mineral exploration licences will be adhered to (Appendix B). Therefore, no impacts to lands and resource use are anticipated.

3.4.5 Archaeological Potential

The Provincial Archaeology Office (PAO) was contacted on March 30, 2026, to request a reduction or removal of the 100m buffer to the Isle aux Morts River (to 50 m) as Project activities will offer little to no ground disturbance. Approval to proceed has been granted via email (Jamie Brake, PAO) on April 9, 2026. As requested by PAO, drilling locations will be sent to PAO when that information becomes available. During Project activities, if any archaeological remains are encountered, activity in the area must cease immediately and AuMEGA will follow the PAO Accidental Finds Procedure outlined in the licences in Appendix B.

3.5 Mitigations

Project activities will not involve the unpermitted creation of access trails, fording, or crossing, as all Project activities not within road access will be completed with the use of helicopter. AuMEGA will adhere to measures to protect fish and fish habitat, such as ensuring proper sediment control, and prevent entry of deleterious substances in water (DFO, 2022).

The 50 m Exclusion Zone, where no drilling activity or vegetation clearing will occur, will ensure that there is no interaction between the Project and Isle aux Morts River. This Exclusion Zone aligns with buffer zones recommended by DFO and NLFAL Wildlife Division as habitat protection mitigation techniques (DFO, 2022) (Appendix B). Landing sites and drill

sites will be chosen to avoid sensitive bog and wet areas and concentrations of wildlife.

Proposed mitigations have been outlined in Table 3.1. These include all conditions and mitigations required under the current mineral exploration licenses (Appendix B), applicable mitigations from Environmental Guidelines for Mineral and Quarry Minerals Exploration (NLEM, 2022), industry best practice, and AuMEGA’s internal policies.

Table 3.1: Mitigations to Potential Impacts of Project Activities

Potential Effects	Mitigations
Release of deleterious substances, sediment or waste into surrounding environment	Proponent will not allow drilling discharge to enter any waters that flow overland and into a body of water.
	Drill casings that produce water will be capped promptly and sealed with high-swelling bentonite clay or cement prior to the expiry of the exploration approval.
	Machinery axles and differential vents will not be submerged in water.
	Any deposition of deleterious substances in water used by fish will be reported to DFO.
	If accidental spills occur in or near a body of water, or if a spill greater than 70 litres occurs on land it will be reported to Service NL as soon as possible. All spills, regardless of volume, are reported internally according to AuMEGA’s spill response plan along with a record of the clean up procedure.
	Secondary containment (i.e. drip trays lined with absorbent material) will be placed under all fuel storage containers and maintained in accordance with conditions outlined in the Exploration Approval (Appendix B).
	Spill response equipment will be readily available on-site to allow for quick response. Equipment will include absorbents and open-ended barrels for the collection of contaminated debris.
	Personnel on site will be familiar with appropriate response procedures.
	Machinery will be refueled and serviced in a way to prevent deleterious substances from entering the water.
	If the use of fuel caches is required, prior approval will be obtained through the Government Service Centre.
	The Used Oil and Used Glycol Control Regulations will be followed for the storage, handling and disposal of used waste oil.
	Prior to disposal, material waste will be considered for reuse, resale or recycling where possible.

Potential Effects	Mitigations
	<p>Suitable refuse containers will be used for all waste material and brought to an acceptable waste disposal site (approved by Service NL) without undo delay.</p> <p>Immediately after demobilization from site, the area will be inspected for hydraulic oil or fuel spills, grease deposits, garbage and other waste which will be cleaned. If oil/fuel spills occur, AuMEGA will excavate soil deep enough to retrieve all contaminated soil to be disposed of at an approved waste site.</p>
Interaction with terrestrial or aquatic flora and fauna	<p>Helicopter use on site will not disturb, harass or harm any wildlife.</p> <p>To prevent harm to raptor populations, vegetation will not be cleared within 800 m of a raptor nest (bald eagle, osprey, etc.) from March 15 to July 31, or within 200 m for the remainder of the year.</p> <p>No vegetation clearing will occur with 200 m of other raptor nests between March 15 and July 31.</p> <p>No ground disturbance or vegetation clearing will occur within 800 m of a short-eared owl nest between May 15 and August 15.</p> <p>Any observed raptor nests or Species at Risk will be reported to the NLFAL Wildlife Division.</p> <p>Equipment will not ford the Isle aux Morts River.</p> <p>For the protection of riparian and aquatic species, a minimum 30 m vegetated buffer will be maintained along all waterbodies and wetlands greater than 1 m in width or that appears on a 1:50,000 scale National Topographic System map.</p> <p>A 50 m buffer will be maintained on all salmon rivers.</p> <p>Any serious harm to fish, or the deposition of deleterious substances in water used by fish will be reported to DFO.</p> <p>All sites will be rehabilitated before the end of the current exploration program.</p> <p>Dedicated flight path to reduce Wildlife impact and satisfy local Stakeholder Engagement.</p> <p>Fly at high elevations to reduce ground-noise disturbance.</p> <p>Amend helicopter flight routine on fly days in the event Caribou are in the vicinity.</p>
Land use conflict	<p>Project activities will not encroach on existing titles and Project personnel will be mindful of the safety of cottage owners and any outfitter activities while drilling in the area.</p> <p>Private lands (including those which may not be on record with the Crown Lands Management Office) will not be accessed without prior permission of landowners.</p>

Potential Effects	Mitigations
	Access to any private lands will not be blocked during Project activities.
	AuMEGA will engage with outfitters on any activities occurring within outfitter buffers.
Interactions with planned infrastructure from other industries	Consultation with Newfoundland Power will occur to ensure that Project activities do not interact with planned transmission of distribution infrastructure
	Consultation with NLFAL will occur to ensure Project activities will not interfere with any future forestry operations within the general vicinity of the Project Area.
	Removal of trees in silviculturally treated areas will not occur.
Interactions with archaeological findings	If any archaeological remains (stone, bone or iron tools, house pits / foundations, etc.) are found, AuMEGA will adhere to the <i>Historic Resources Act</i> in not removing, or damaging artifacts. If any observation of Archaeological remains is found, they will promptly be reported to the Provincial Archaeologist.
Water Quality Monitoring	AuMEGA is willing to monitor any potential impacts to the Isle aux Morts River by testing the chemistry of the river. Two separate samples, one upstream and one downstream of the nearest access point of the river would be taken before the start of drilling and again after demobilization. This testing would take place for any drill hole that falls within 100 m of the Isle aux Morts River.

3.6 Occupations

Through the course of this exploration drilling program, AuMEGA anticipates a total of 18 full time equivalents on site during operations (Table 3.2)

Table 3.2: List of Occupations Associated with the Project

Position	National Occupation Code	# of Personnel	Duration of Employment (Worker Days)	Source of Workforce
Geologist	21331	4	16	NL
Geological Technician	22101	8	16	NL
Driller	73402	2	14	NL
Driller Helper	73402	2	14	NL
Labourer	75110	2	16	NL

3.7 Project Schedule

The exploration drilling associated with the Project Area is anticipated to run year-round (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Proposed Project Schedule

Phase	Period
Mobilization to Site	July 15 th , 2026
Site Preparation	1 day per site
Exploration Drilling	2 - 4 days per site
Site Rehabilitation	1 day per site
Demobilization	September 29 th , 2026

3.8 Capital Cost and Funding

The estimated capital cost of the Cape Ray Exploration Drilling is \$1.95 million CAD.

3.9 Conclusion

AuMEGA's existing exploration licences outline environmental requirements for exploration activities within the Project Area (Appendix B). These requirements are the product of an internal referral process of the NL Government, consisting of the same regulators who would conduct a review of an EAR.

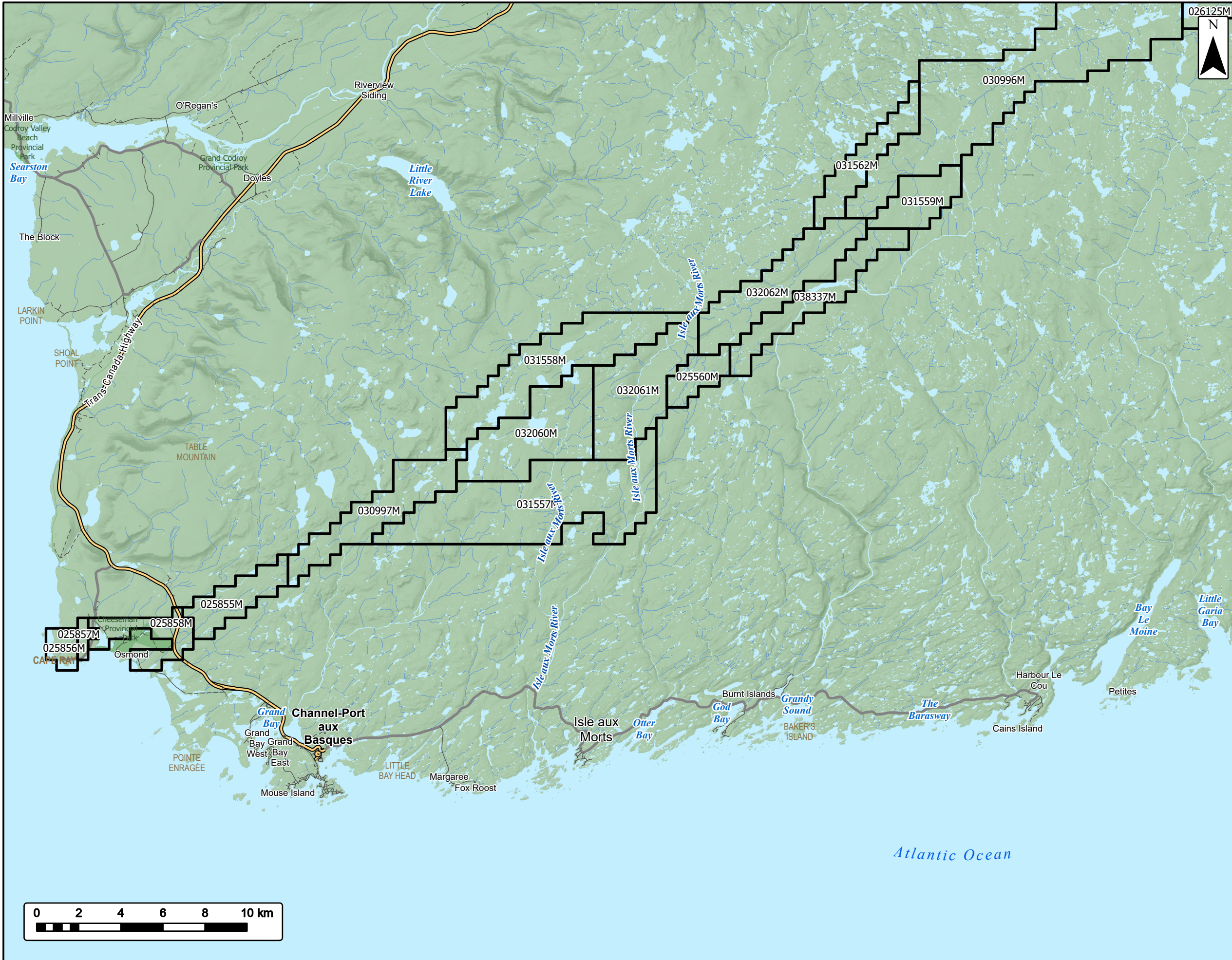
These mandated conditions, when combined with AuMEGA's use of industry best practices, internal environmental policies, and additional mitigations outlined in this document (Table 3.1), represent a substantive reduction of potential effects to the environment that may be presented by the Project activities presented within this document.

4.0 REFERENCES

- Canada. (1985). *Fisheries Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. F-14*. <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/FullText.html>
- COSEWIC. (2014). *COSEWIC assessment and status report on the caribou Rangifer tarandus Newfoundland population, Atlantic-Gaspésie population and boreal population, in Canada*. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. https://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/cosewic/sr_Caribou_NF_Boreal_Atlantic_2014_e.pdf
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- DFO. (2026). *Newfoundland and Labrador anglers' guide 2026-2027*. <https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/41318377.pdf>
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- NL. (2020). *Provincial land use atlas*. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. <https://www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/>
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- NLEM. (2022). *Environmental guidelines for mineral and quarry materials exploration*. Newfoundland Energy and Mines. https://www.gov.nl.ca/em/files/env_guidelines_exploration.pdf
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APPENDIX A

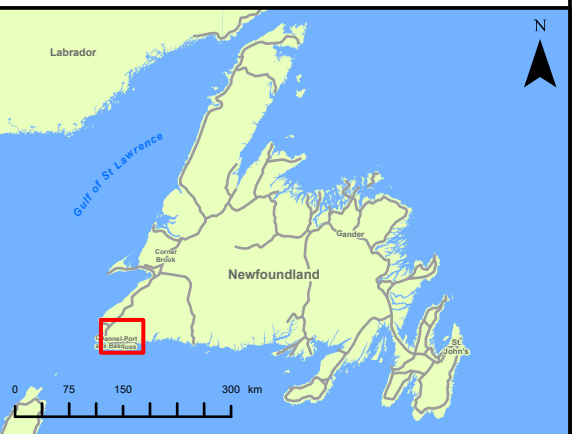
DRAWINGS



Isle aux Morts Salmon River
Exploration Drilling - Project Locator

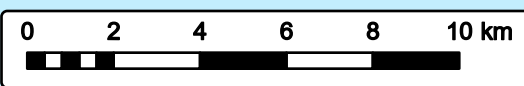
AuMEGA Metals

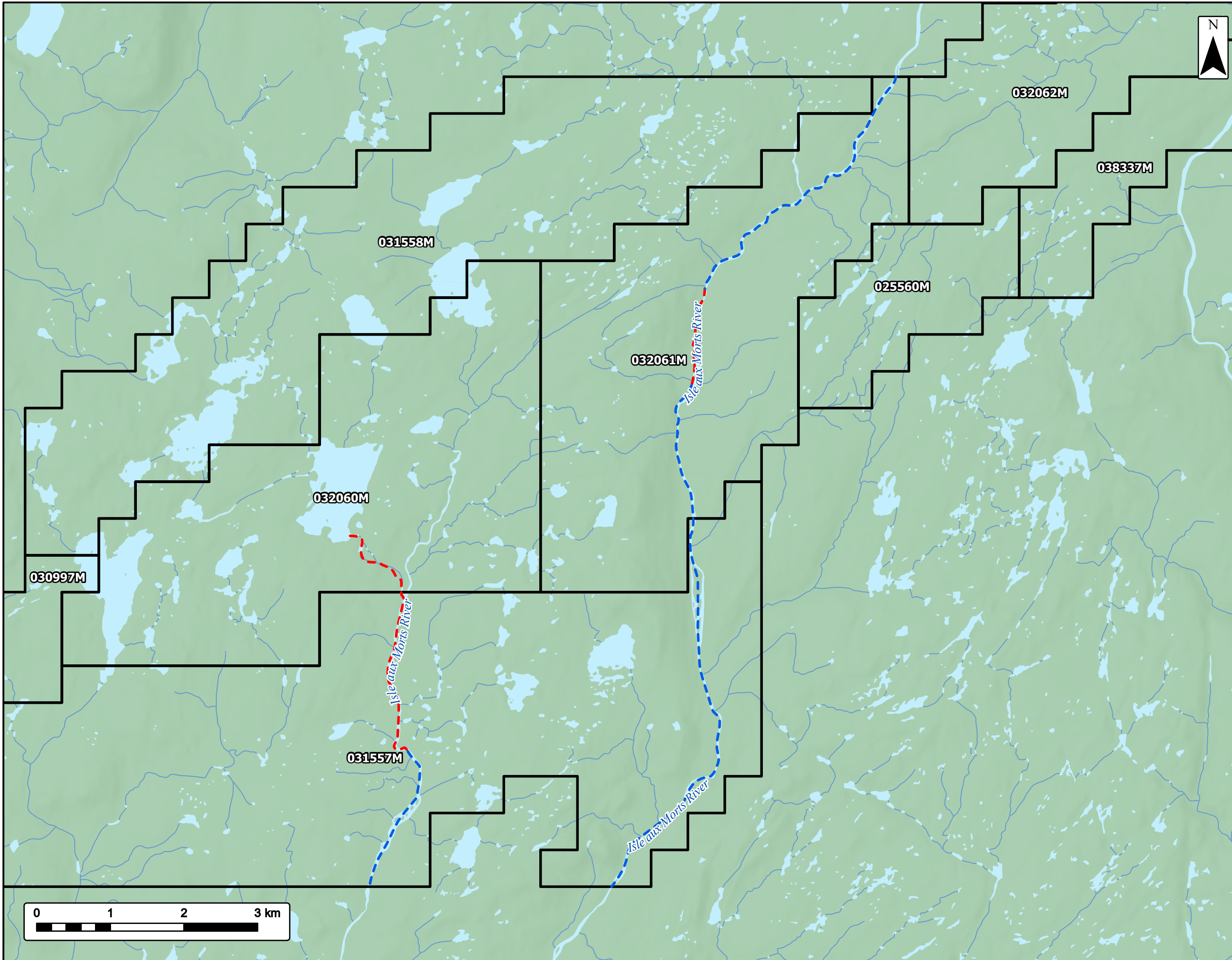
- AuMEGA Claim
- Transportation**
- Trans-Canada Highway
- Highway
- Road
- Unpaved Road
- Water Features**
- Mapped Watercourses
- Mapped Waterbodies



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 21N
Sources: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, GeoNOVA, SNSIS, NSNRR, ACCDC, IBA Canada, CNWI, HERE, Garmin, USGS

Date: 2026-04-21	Project #: 25-11275
Scale: 1:175,000	1
Drawn By: M. Partridge	
Checked By: C. Dyke	





Isle aux Morts Salmon River

Priority Areas for Potential Exploration

AuMEGA Metals

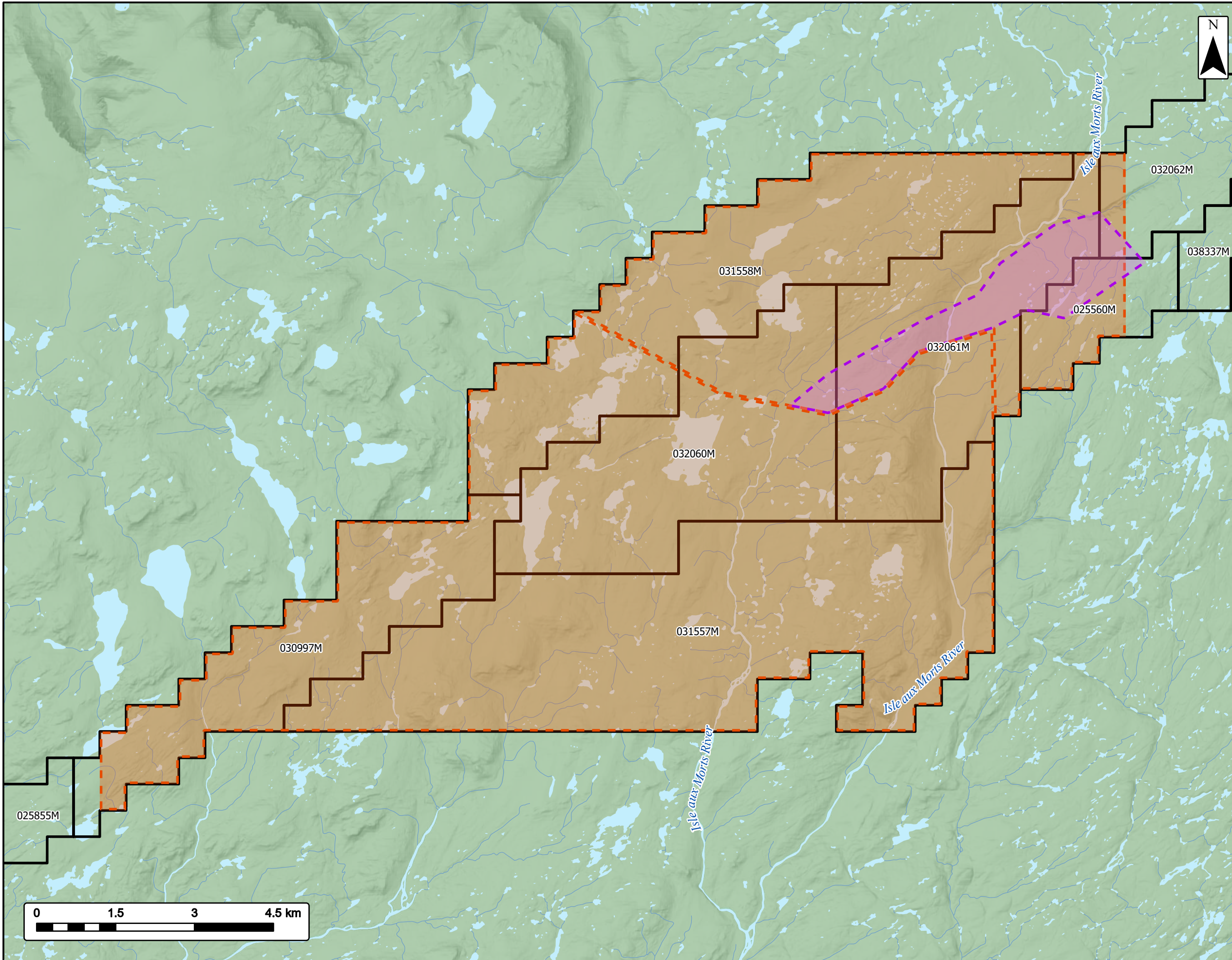
- AuMEGA Claim
- Priority 1 - High
- Priority 2 - Low
- Water Features**
- Mapped Watercourses
- Mapped Waterbodies



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 21N
Sources: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, GeoNOVA, SNSIS, NSNRR, ACCDC, IBA Canada, CNWI, HERE, Garmin, USGS

Date: 2026-04-21	Project #: 25-11275
Scale: 1:50,000	2
Drawn By: B. Spencer	
Checked By: C. Dyke	





Isle aux Morts Salmon River

Drill Areas of Interest

AuMEGA Metals

- Drill Area of Interest Access**
- Heli-Supported 
 - Overland 
 - AuMEGA Claim 
- Water Features**
- Mapped Watercourses 
 - Mapped Waterbodies 



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 21N
Sources: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, GeoNOVA, SNSIS, NSNRR, ACCDC, IBA Canada, CNWI, HERE, Garmin, USGS

Date:	2026-04-21	Project #:	25-11275
Scale:	1:70,000	Drawing #:	3
Drawn By:	B. Spencer		
Checked By:	N. Thomas		



APPENDIX B

MINERAL EXPLORATION LICENCES IN THE PROJECT AREA

January 26, 2026

E260012

Shamus Duff
sduff@aumegametals.com

Dear Mr. Duff:

**Exploration Approval
(40 DDH [Helicopter Supported] &
& Fuel Storage)
for AuMEGA Metal on the
Cape Ray Property;
NTS: 11O/10,11O/11,11O/14,11O/15
Licences:032060M, 030997M,
031557M, 032061M, 031558M**

Your proposed exploration program submitted in compliance with Section 5(4) of the **Mineral Act** has been reviewed and approved.

Note that the following conditions, which are categorized based on the scope and location of exploration work, apply:

General Conditions

1. The Proponent, its employees, agents and subcontractors ("Proponent") shall comply with the Mineral Regulations, in particular sections 41 – 45. The Mineral Regulations can be read at: <http://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc961143.htm>
2. As per section 46 of the Mineral Regulations under the Mineral Act, Environmental Guidelines for Mineral and Quarry Materials Exploration have been approved by the Minister of Energy and Mines. The Proponent, its employees, agents and subcontractors ("Proponent") shall comply with these guidelines (follow links) in regulating mineral and quarry materials exploration activities.

These guidelines clarify and illustrate intentions and practical implementation of the Mineral Regulations and other legislation pertaining to exploration activities.

[env_guidelines_exploration.pdf \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

These guidelines reference the Mineral Lands Division Information Resource: Erosion and Sediment Control which contains a description of practices that may be adopted by those parties involved in exploration or quarry development intending to minimize or control the effects of erosion and sedimentation.

[MLD_INFO_erosion_sediment_control.pdf \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

3. This approval may be cancelled or suspended by the Minister if the Proponent fails to comply with any condition in this approval or as a result of a failure to comply with the Mineral Act, Mineral Regulations or any other provincial law or regulation. Upon cancellation or suspension of this approval the Proponent shall immediately cease all exploration activities.
4. The Proponent shall comply with any other Provincial and Federal act or regulation, and obtain all permits that may be required in connection with the exploration activity.
5. As required by Section 42 of the Mineral Regulations, the Proponent shall notify the Mineral Lands Division of any significant changes to the approved exploration plan, and shall not proceed with exploration work, preparatory work or site access that deviates substantially from the approved exploration plan or deviates from the approved exploration plan in a manner which may significantly impact the environment without first receiving written authorization from the Mineral Lands Division.
6. The Proponent shall provide the Mineral Lands Division with:
 - A brief notice immediately before beginning the work;
 - A brief update of the status of the exploration program when it is completed.
 - Notices and updates should be sent to exploration_approval@gov.nl.ca
7. At any time the Mineral Lands Division may issue a request for information regarding completed, ongoing or planned exploration and the Proponent agrees to abide by all such requests without undue delay. The information requested may include but is not limited to: the location of exploration sites (including access trails), site preparation methods, the status of rehabilitation and cleanup, and photographic documentation of site conditions.
8. If exploration work is to take place on lands not vested in the Crown, as per section 12(2) of the **Mineral Act**, the licensee shall obtain prior written permission and forward copies to the Mineral Lands Division. Information regarding private land may be found on Crown Lands' Land Use Atlas: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/>
9. Exploration work, including traditional prospecting, shall not be carried out on ground for which the mineral rights are held by another party unless permitted by an agreement registered with the

Mineral Claims Recorder's office or unless written permission from the other party has been forwarded to the Mineral Lands Division. The Department's Geoscience Atlas is a current map of mineral rights held in the province. The Geoscience Atlas is located at: <http://gis.geosurv.gov.nl.ca/>

10. The Proponent shall ensure that all waste materials are placed in suitable refuse containers without undue delay and removed to a waste disposal site approved by Service NL to accept the type(s) of waste being disposed of. Government Services, NL Government Service Centres are listed at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/department/contact/#locations>
11. The modernized **Fisheries Act** (2019) includes fish and fish habitat protection provisions which came into effect on August 28, 2019. If you are conducting work in or near water you should refer to the Projects Near Water website (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/index-eng.html>) to get information about how to comply with the **Fisheries Act** and as well as information on the project review process.

You are responsible for:

- understanding the impacts your project will likely have on fish and fish habitat;
- taking measures to avoid and mitigate impacts to fish and fish habitat;
- requesting an authorization from the Minister and abiding by the conditions of your authorization when it is not possible to avoid and mitigate project impacts on fish and fish habitat;
- ensuring compliance with all statutory instruments, including federal, provincial, or municipal legislations/requirements.

In cases where impacts to fish and fish habitat cannot be avoided, and the project does not fall within waterbodies where a Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (FFHPP) review isn't required or the scope of the project is not covered under standards and codes of practice (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/practice-pratique-eng.html>), you are asked to submit a **Request for Review** (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html>) to the NL Region-FFHPP at FPP-NL@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. If you have any questions please call (709) 772-4140.

12. As per Section 38 (5) of the **Fisheries Act**, every person has a duty to notify DFO of an occurrence that results in serious harm to fish, or the deposit of a deleterious substance in water frequented by fish. Should such an occurrence take place, the Proponent shall contact DFO at 709-772-4140 or FPP-NL@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Diamond Drilling & Use of Water Pumps

13. The Proponent is advised of Section 45(2) of the **Mineral Regulations** which requires that all sites cleared of topsoil (e.g. drill pads prepared by cut-and-fill, grubbed sections of access trail, laydown area) be rehabilitated before the end of the current exploration program. Rehabilitation as per Section 45(2) requires that the site be re-contoured and the original organic cover (topsoil, ground vegetation, and any trees not used for other purposes) be spread back over the re-contoured site.

If the original organic cover proves insufficient to completely re-cover the site then an organic substitute material must be used in addition to complete the process, provided that no invasive species are introduced. Acceptable substitute materials are straw, hay, trees having been cut in other parts of the exploration project area, or ground vegetation produced by hydroseeding. If the Proponent wishes to keep drill casing above ground then the re-contouring may accommodate this. Sumps pits and borrow pits fall under Section 45(1)(a) of the **Mineral Regulations** and need to be rehabilitated before the end of the exploration season in which they are excavated.

14. The Proponent shall not permit drilling discharge waters to flow overland into a water body, including into a small stream or intermittent channel, irrespective of whether the water body is displayed on the 1:50,000 scale NTS map. More specifically, waterborne drill cuttings and drill additives shall not be permitted to enter a water body.
15. All water pumps shall be underlain by a drip tray lined with absorbent pads and the pads shall be changed before becoming saturated. Drip trays where the containment rim is broken must be replaced or placed in secondary containment (e.g. a tarp-lined wooden tray) without delay.
16. Drill casings producing water in any quantity shall be sealed (grouted) before the expiry of the exploration approval and capped in the meantime. The drill holes shall be sealed with high-swelling bentonite or cement; however coarse sand may be used to fill the lower portions of the hole. Capping is not a substitute for sealing, since many caps cannot fully stop the water and, in any case, the caps will inevitably break due to freezing and thawing.
17. Immediately after demobilization from a drill site, the site shall be inspected for spills of hydraulic oil or fuel, deposits of drill grease, garbage, and waste equipment and these shall be cleaned up in their entirety without delay. The Proponent shall excavate deep enough to retrieve all of the contaminated soil. Soil contaminated by hydraulic oil or fuel shall be excavated and disposed of at an approved waste disposal site. The Proponent shall contact the nearest Government Service Centre to find out the location of the nearest approved waste disposal site accepting the materials that have been cleaned up. Government Service Centres are listed at:
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/department/contact/#locations>
18. The Proponent shall screen any water intakes or outlet pipes to prevent entrainment or impingement of fish. Entrainment occurs when a fish is drawn into a water intake and cannot escape. Impingement occurs when an entrapped fish is held in contact with the intake screen and is unable to free itself.
19. In freshwater, the Proponent shall follow these measures for design and installation of intake end of pipe fish screens to protect fish where water is extracted from fish-bearing waters:
 - a. Screens should be located in areas and depths of water with low concentrations of fish throughout the year.
 - b. Screens should be located away from natural or artificial structures that may attract fish that are migrating, spawning, or in rearing habitat.
 - c. The screen face should be oriented in the same direction as the flow.

- d. Ensure openings in the guides and seals are less than the opening criteria to make “fish tight”.
 - e. Screens should be located a minimum of 300 mm (12 in.) above the bottom of the watercourse to prevent entrainment of sediment and aquatic organisms associated with the bottom area.
 - f. Structural support should be provided to the screen panels to prevent sagging and collapse of the screen.
 - g. Large cylindrical and box-type screens should have a manifold installed in them to ensure even water velocity distribution across the screen surface. The ends of the structure should be made out of solid materials and the end of the manifold capped.
 - h. Ensure regular maintenance of screens is carried out to prevent impingement of fish.
 - i. Pumps should be shut down when fish screens are removed for inspection and cleaning. If this is not possible, a secondary intake should be available.
20. The Proponent is advised that exploration sites (including drill sites, trenches, test pits, and sections of access trail) associated with ground disturbance and located close to open water bodies or watercourses fall under Section 45(1)(b) of the **Mineral Regulations** as a site that could cause sedimentation into a nearby water body. The Proponent is required to actively ensure that any sedimentation generated from the site does not enter the water body or watercourse. Some combination of erosion prevention and sedimentation control shall be used to meet this requirement.

Use and Storage of Petroleum Products

21. Should more than 5 drums of fuel be required to be stored, the Proponent shall obtain a Fuel Cache Approval prior to the start of the exploration program. Fuel Cache Approvals may be obtained from the local Environmental Protection Officer, Digital Government and Service NL. The Proponent shall abide by the **Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations, 2003** which can be found here: <http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc030058.htm>.
22. All fuel storage containers (e.g., jerry cans, fuel drums, etc.) and water pumps shall be underlain by effective secondary containment (e.g., a drip tray) lined with absorbent pads. Absorbent pads shall be changed before becoming saturated. Secondary containment where the containment rim is broken or otherwise ineffective must be replaced or placed within additional containment (e.g., a tarp-lined wooden tray) without delay.
23. Petroleum product spills into or near a water body and petroleum product spills greater than 70 litres (or of an uncertain volume) on land must be reported without delay to Service NL by calling the Environmental Emergency 24-hour line at 772-2083 or 1-800-563-9089. In order to ensure that a quick and effective response to a spill event is possible, spill response equipment and absorbent materials should be readily available on-site.
24. The Proponent shall wash, refuel and service machinery and store fuel and other materials for the machinery in such a way as to prevent any deleterious substances from entering the water. Water

depths should not submerge axle or differential vents.

Agriculture

25. The proposed project boundary encompasses existing titles. The proponent should keep the safety of cottage owners and other recreational users in mind during exploration activities. Approximate locations of these titles can be viewed on the Provincial Land Use Atlas on the website at www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/

Forestry

26. This approval does not restrict potential future forestry operations within the general vicinity.
27. Prior to starting any work, the applicant is advised to contact the nearest local Forestry district office for appropriate permits that are required under the **Forestry Act and Regulations** and to obtain relevant advice on wildland fire prevention and mitigation recommendations on developments from wildland fire.
28. **Off-Road Vehicles Regulations under the Off-Road Vehicles Act (O.C. 2022-115) ([NLR 30/22 - Off-Road Vehicles Regulations under the Off-Road Vehicles Act](#))** must be adhered to. The Proponent shall comply with the **Forestry Act** and regulations. The Proponent is advised to contact the nearest Forest Management District Office to obtain the following permits as required:
 - a commercial harvesting permit before the start of the exploration program if trees have to be cut for access to exploration sites. Please note that it may take up to two weeks to receive this permit;
 - an operating permit if operations are to take place on forest land during the forest fire season (May-September);
 - During the Forest Fire Season a permit to burn must be obtained to ignite a fire on or within 300 meters of forest land.

Regional and Satellite Forestry contact information can be found at:

http://www.flr.gov.nl.ca/department/contact_forestry.html#regional

Forestry Management Districts and zone boundaries are shown on the Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) GeoHub:

<https://geohub-gnl.hub.arcgis.com/app/forestry-management-districts-and-zones-of-newfoundland-and-labrador>

Agriculture

29. The proposed development encompasses issued titles. The proposed activities are not to encroach on existing titles and the proponent should keep the safety of cottage owners and other recreational users in mind during exploration activities.

30. Approximate locations of these titles can be viewed on the Provincial Land Use Atlas on the website at www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/.

Energy Branch

31. The three divisions of the Energy Branch have reviewed the above noted referral and offer the following comments:

Regulatory Affairs:

32. This project does not conflict with onshore petroleum policy.

Renewable Energy Projects Division:

33. The area in this submission appears to be outside the Wind Energy Land Reserve. We are unaware of any renewable energy project issues with this referral.

Electricity Division:

34. There are no Electricity policy issues with this project.

Government Services

Waste

(Environmental Protection Act, 2002)

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/e14-2.htm>

35. All waste material generated during the construction and operation of the facility is to be placed in suitable refuse containers and removed to an approved waste disposal site on a weekly basis, with the approval of the site owner/operator.
36. All waste material shall be considered, prior to disposal, for reuse, resale or recycling.
37. Derelict vehicles, scrapped equipment and other debris is not to be stored on site. This material must be disposed of at an approved waste disposal site or scrap yard on a regular basis, with the prior approval of the site owner/operator.
38. Brush should be chopped/shredded, and may be burnt on-site, with the approval of Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands, or may be removed to an approved waste disposal site for proper disposal with the permission of the owner/operator of the waste disposal site.
39. Tires and used or waste oil are not to be used to aid in the burning of brush.

40. The permit holder will be held responsible for all waste material located on site.

Pollution Control

(Environmental Protection Act, 2002)

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/e14-2.htm>

(The Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations, 2003)

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc030058.htm>

(Heating Oil Storage Tank System Regulations, 2003)

<http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc030060.htm>

(Used Oil and Used Glycol Control Regulations, 2018)

<https://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc180100.htm>

41. All fuel storage tank system installations, other than those connected to a heating appliance of a capacity of 2,500 litres or less, are subject to the **Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations** and will require registration prior to installation.
42. All fuel storage tank systems connected to a heating appliance of a capacity of 2,500 litres or less must comply with the **Heating Oil Storage Tank System Regulations**.
43. Any proposed fuel cache will require approval by Department of Government Services prior to installation.
44. The storage, handling, and disposal of used/waste oil and/or used/waste glycol must be in compliance with the **Used Oil and Used Glycol Control Regulations**.
45. Floor drains from service bays or other areas handling used or waste oils are to be routed through an oil water separator to remove oily waste before being discharged. Plans and specifications must be submitted for review and registration by the Government Service Centre prior to installation.
46. In order to ensure that a quick and effective response to a spill event is possible, spill response equipment should be readily available on-site. Response equipment, such as absorbents and open-ended barrels for collection of cleanup debris, should be stored in an accessible location on-site. Personnel working on the project should be knowledgeable about response procedures. The proponent should consider developing a contingency plan specific to the proposed undertaking to enable a quick and effective response to a spill event.

47. Any spill or leak of gasoline or associated product is to be reported immediately to Department of Government Services by calling the Environmental Emergencies Telephone Line at 1-800-563-9089.
48. Measures shall be implemented to contain debris during any construction at the facility. All debris is to be collected on a daily basis and placed in secure storage for subsequent disposal.

Development Control

(Protected Road Zoning Regulations, 1996)

<http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc960996.htm>

(Environmental Protection Act, 2002)

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/e14-2.htm>

49. Development must not extend within 200 m of a scheduled salmon river without prior registration and release under the **Environmental Protection Act**, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Environmental Assessment Division.

Tourism Product Development

50. The exploration program is taking place within an 8 km buffer surrounding an outfitter(s) camp. To protect existing investments and minimize potential conflicts, we recommend that the proponent reach out to the following operators and implement appropriate mitigation measures

Deep Valley Outfitters Ltd.

For contact information, please email AlexanderWilliams@gov.nl.ca.

Ryan's Outfitters

Phone: +1 (709) 695-1474

Email: dantr6411@gmail.com

Water Resources

51. The proponent must apply for and obtain a permit under the **Water Resources Act**, 2002, specifically Section 48 <http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm> for any work (including fording) in or within 15m any body of water (including wetland) prior to the start of the work.

Application forms for working within a body of water can be found online at:

[Permit and Licence Application Forms and Fee Schedules - Environment and Climate Change](#)

[\(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

OR:

[Number 151 \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

Crown Lands & Land Management

52. There are issued Crown titles in the area, it is recommended that the proponent advises title holder of their activities and associated timelines. Location of Crown titles can be found at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/>
53. There may be private land located within this area which may not be on record with the Crown Lands Office. If work is planned on these sites, permission is required from the land owners.
54. Existing roads, trails, right of ways are not to be blocked or restricted.
55. If new road/trail construction is required, an application for Crown land is required to be submitted and approved before any constructions begins. The application and related information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/crownlands/files/lands-forms-pdf-crown-lands-application.pdf>.

Provincial Archaeology Office

56. The Provincial Archaeology Office has reviewed and approved this referral with the caveat that a **100m buffer be maintained on the Isle aux Morts River.**
57. The Provincial Archaeology Office has reviewed and approved this referral. There is always the possibility that archaeological material may be discovered whether or not an assessment has been carried out. With this in mind, standard precautionary and reporting procedures apply.
58. Please be advised on the provisions of the **Historic Resources Act**, protecting archaeological sites, artifacts and significant fossils, and procedures to be followed in the event that either are found:
 - a) A person who discovers an archaeological object or significant fossil in, on or forming part of the land within the province shall report the discovery forthwith to the Minister (responsible for the **Historic Resources Act**) stating the nature of the object, the location where it was discovered and the date of discovery;
 - b) No person other than one to whom a permit has been issued under this Act, who discovers an archaeological object or significant fossil shall move, destroy, damage, deface, obliterate, alter, add to , mark or in any other way interfere with, remove or cause to be removed from the province that object or fossil;
 - c) The property in all archaeological objects or significant fossils found in, on or taken from the land within the province, whether or not these objects or fossils are in

possession of the Crown is vested in the Crown.

Should any archaeological remains be encountered, such as stone, bone or iron tools, concentrations of bone, charcoal or burned rock, fireplaces, house pits and/or foundations, activity in the area of the find must cease immediately and contact should be made with the Provincial Archaeologist in St. John's (709-729-2462) as soon as possible.

Copies of the **Historic Resources Act** and information on archaeology in the province may be obtained from the Provincial Archaeology Office upon request.

Wildlife

59. The Wildlife Division advises applicant to operate under established legislation, regulations (**Wild Life Regulations** under the **Wild Life Act**) and guidance with respect to wildlife and their habitats (e.g. nesting birds, caribou, waterfowl, wetlands, inland fish, rare plants, riparian buffers) to avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
60. For any *proposed* vegetation clearing/ ground disturbance/ trail usage, the Wildlife Division requires a minimum 50 m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all salmon rivers and a minimum 30 m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all other waterbodies and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat from surrounding activities/developments.
61. The **Wild Life Act** and the **Migratory Birds Convention Act** and associated regulations prohibit the disturbance or destruction of bird nests and eggs in Newfoundland and Labrador. Proponents are advised to develop and implement appropriate preventative and mitigative measures to avoid incidental take of birds, nests, and eggs. For more information on avoiding harm to avifauna, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds.html>
62. No vegetation clearing is to occur within:
 - i) 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest between March 15 and July 31; 200 metres during the remainder of the year.
 - ii) 200 meters of other raptor nests between March 15 and July 31.No ground disturbance or vegetation clearing is to occur within:
 - i) 800 metres of a short-eared owl nest between May 15 and August 15Locations of raptors nests must be reported to the Wildlife Division.
63. Proponents must follow appropriate hunting and trapping protocols as set in the annual Hunting and Trapping Guide. Proponents are advised to develop and implement appropriate preventative

and mitigation measures to avoid incidental take of wildlife species by ground personnel.

64. Proponents must adhere to the **NL Off-road Vehicles Act** and associated regulations (www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/o05-1.htm)

This approval is due to expire on January 26, 2028.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please contact the Mineral Lands Division at exploration_approval@gov.nl.ca

Regards,



Bernadine Lawlor
Exploration Approvals Geologist

Cc: Kevin Sheppard, Director, Mineral Lands Division
Brad Way, Mineral Incentive Manager
Jamie Brake, Provincial Archaeology Office

Exploration Approval
(40 DDH [Helicopter Supported] &
& Fuel Storage)
for AuMEGA Metal on the
Cape Ray Property;
NTS: 110/10, 110/11, 110/14, 110/15
Licences: 032060M, 030997M,
031557M, 032061M, 031558M

Land Use Details

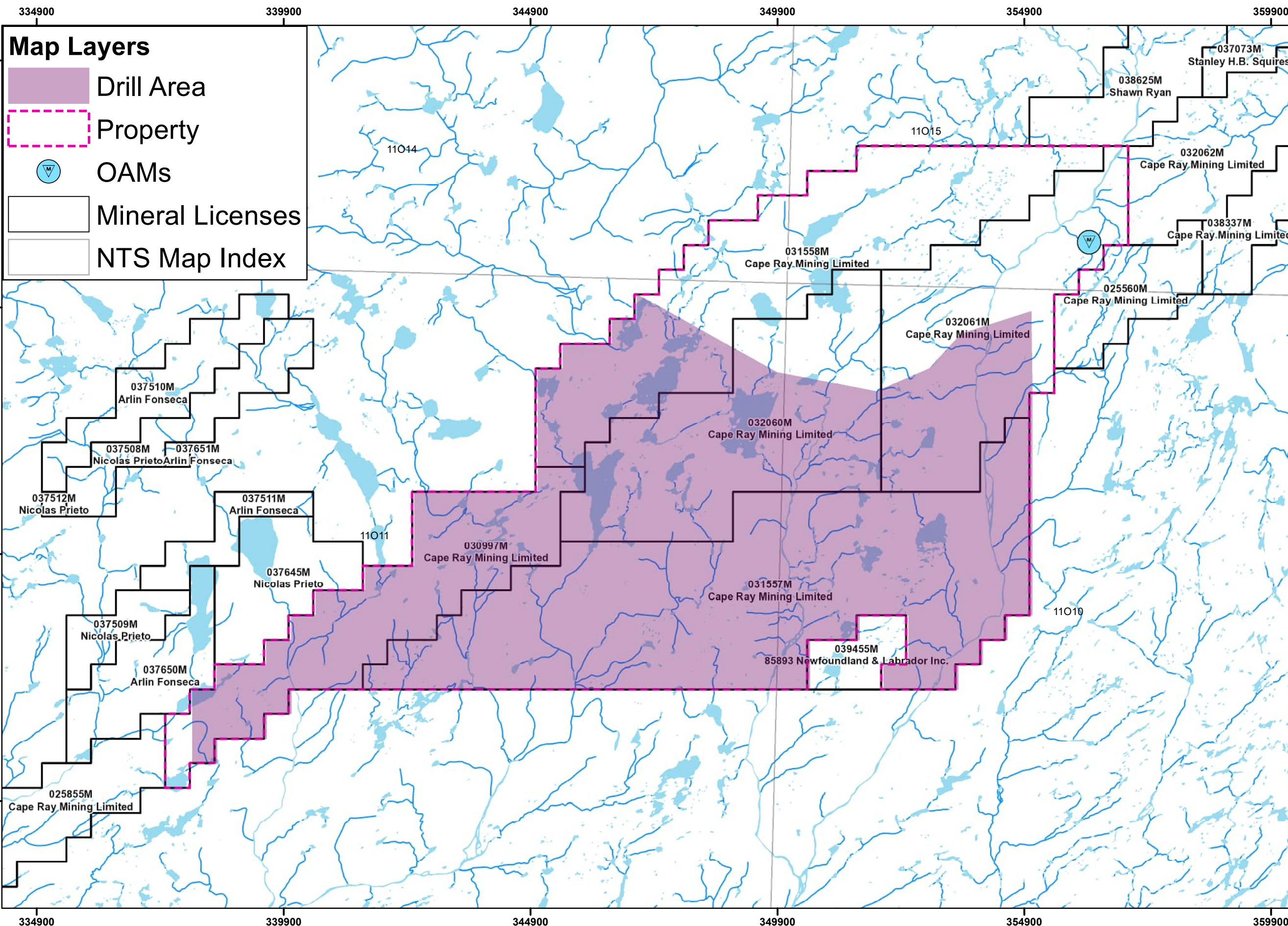
- Outfitter Buffer
- Domestic Harvest Area
- Energy Referral Area
- NF Power Distribution
- SNL – Corner Brook
- FMD-14

E260012






N



Project
Location



Map Layers

-  Drill Area
-  Property
-  OAMs
-  Mineral Licenses
-  NTS Map Index

GeoReference
UTM NAD 83 Zone 21 1:75,000

3 1.5 0 3 Kilometers

March 12, 2026

E260077

Shamus Duff
sduff@aumegametals.com

Dear Mr. Duff:

**Exploration Approval
(40 DDH [Helicopter Supported] & Fuel Storage)
for AuMEGA Metals
on the Cape Ray Property
NTS: 110/10, 110/11, 110/14, 110/15
Licences: 031558M, 032060M, 032061M, 025560M, 032062M**

Your proposed exploration program submitted in compliance with Section 5(4) of the **Mineral Act** has been reviewed and approved.

Note that the following conditions, which are categorized based on the scope and location of exploration work, apply:

General Conditions

1. The Proponent, its employees, agents and subcontractors (“Proponent”) shall comply with the Mineral Regulations, in particular sections 41 – 45. The Mineral Regulations can be read at: <http://assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc961143.htm>
2. As per section 46 of the Mineral Regulations under the Mineral Act, Environmental Guidelines for Mineral and Quarry Materials Exploration have been approved by the Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology . The Proponent, its employees, agents and subcontractors (“Proponent”) shall comply with these guidelines (follow links) in regulating mineral and quarry materials exploration activities. These guidelines clarify and illustrate intentions and practical implementation of the Mineral Regulations and other legislation pertaining to exploration activities.

[env_guidelines_exploration.pdf \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

These guidelines reference the Mineral Lands Division Information Resource: Erosion and Sediment Control which contains a description of practices that may be adopted by those parties involved in exploration or quarry development intending to minimize or control the effects of erosion and sedimentation.

[MLD INFO erosion sediment control.pdf \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

3. This approval may be cancelled or suspended by the Minister if the Proponent fails to comply with any condition in this approval or as a result of a failure to comply with the Mineral Act, Mineral Regulations or any other provincial law or regulation. Upon cancellation or suspension of this approval the Proponent shall immediately cease all exploration activities.
4. The Proponent shall comply with any other Provincial and Federal act or regulation, and obtain all permits that may be required in connection with the exploration activity.
5. As required by Section 42 of the Mineral Regulations, the Proponent shall notify the Mineral Lands Division of any significant changes to the approved exploration plan, and shall not proceed with exploration work, preparatory work or site access that deviates substantially from the approved exploration plan or deviates from the approved exploration plan in a manner which may significantly impact the environment without first receiving written authorization from the Mineral Lands Division.
6. The Proponent shall provide the Mineral Lands Division with:
 - A brief notice immediately before beginning the work;
 - A brief update of the status of the exploration program when it is completed.
 - Notices and updates should be sent to exploration_approval@gov.nl.ca
7. At any time the Mineral Lands Division may issue a request for information regarding completed, ongoing or planned exploration and the Proponent agrees to abide by all such requests without undue delay. The information requested may include but is not limited to: the location of exploration sites (including access trails), site preparation methods, the status of rehabilitation and cleanup, and photographic documentation of site conditions.
8. If exploration work is to take place on lands not vested in the Crown, as per section 12(2) of the **Mineral Act**, the licensee shall obtain prior written permission and forward copies to the Mineral Lands Division. Information regarding private land may be found on Crown Lands' Land Use Atlas: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/>
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10. The Proponent shall ensure that all waste materials are placed in suitable refuse containers without undue delay and removed to a waste disposal site approved by Service NL to accept the type(s) of waste being disposed of. Digital Government and Service NL Government Service Centres are listed at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/department/contact/#locations>
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You are responsible for:

- understanding the impacts your project will likely have on fish and fish habitat;
- taking measures to avoid and mitigate impacts to fish and fish habitat;
- requesting an authorization from the Minister and abiding by the conditions of your authorization when it is not possible to avoid and mitigate project impacts on fish and fish habitat;
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In cases where impacts to fish and fish habitat cannot be avoided, and the project does not fall within waterbodies where a Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (FFHPP) review isn't required or the scope of the project is not covered under standards and codes of practice (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/practice-practique-eng.html>), you are asked to submit a **Request for Review** (<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html>) to the NL Region-FFHPP at FPP-NL@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. If you have any questions please call (709) 772-4140.

12. As per Section 38 (5) of the **Fisheries Act**, every person has a duty to notify DFO of an occurrence that results in serious harm to fish, or the deposit of a deleterious substance in water frequented by fish. Should such an occurrence take place, the Proponent shall contact DFO at 709-772-4140 or FPP-NL@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Diamond Drilling & Use of Water Pumps

13. The Proponent is advised of Section 45(2) of the **Mineral Regulations** which requires that all sites cleared of topsoil (e.g. drill pads prepared by cut-and-fill, grubbed sections of access trail, laydown area) be rehabilitated before the end of the current exploration program. Rehabilitation as per Section 45(2) requires that the site be re-contoured and the original organic cover (topsoil, ground vegetation, and any trees not used for other purposes) be spread back over the re-contoured site. If the original organic cover proves insufficient to completely re-cover the site then an organic substitute material must be used in addition to complete the process, provided that no invasive species are introduced. Acceptable substitute materials are straw, hay, trees having been cut in

other parts of the exploration project area, or ground vegetation produced by hydroseeding. If the Proponent wishes to keep drill casing above ground then the re-contouring may accommodate this. Sumps pits and borrow pits fall under Section 45(1)(a) of the **Mineral Regulations** and need to be rehabilitated before the end of the exploration season in which they are excavated.

14. The Proponent shall not permit drilling discharge waters to flow overland into a water body, including into a small stream or intermittent channel, irrespective of whether the water body is displayed on the 1:50,000 scale NTS map. More specifically, waterborne drill cuttings and drill additives shall not be permitted to enter a water body.
15. All water pumps shall be underlain by a drip tray lined with absorbent pads and the pads shall be changed before becoming saturated. Drip trays where the containment rim is broken must be replaced or placed in secondary containment (e.g. a tarp-lined wooden tray) without delay.
16. Drill casings producing water in any quantity shall be sealed (grouted) before the expiry of the exploration approval and capped in the meantime. The drill holes shall be sealed with high-swelling bentonite or cement; however coarse sand may be used to fill the lower portions of the hole. Capping is not a substitute for sealing, since many caps cannot fully stop the water and, in any case, the caps will inevitably break due to freezing and thawing.
17. Immediately after demobilization from a drill site, the site shall be inspected for spills of hydraulic oil or fuel, deposits of drill grease, garbage, and waste equipment and these shall be cleaned up in their entirety without delay. The Proponent shall excavate deep enough to retrieve all of the contaminated soil. Soil contaminated by hydraulic oil or fuel shall be excavated and disposed of at an approved waste disposal site. The Proponent shall contact the nearest Government Service Centre to find out the location of the nearest approved waste disposal site accepting the materials that have been cleaned up. Government Service Centres are listed at:
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/department/contact/#locations>
18. The Proponent shall screen any water intakes or outlet pipes to prevent entrainment or impingement of fish. Entrainment occurs when a fish is drawn into a water intake and cannot escape. Impingement occurs when an entrapped fish is held in contact with the intake screen and is unable to free itself.
19. In freshwater, the Proponent shall follow these measures for design and installation of intake end of pipe fish screens to protect fish where water is extracted from fish-bearing waters:
 - a. Screens should be located in areas and depths of water with low concentrations of fish throughout the year.
 - b. Screens should be located away from natural or artificial structures that may attract fish that are migrating, spawning, or in rearing habitat.
 - c. The screen face should be oriented in the same direction as the flow.
 - d. Ensure openings in the guides and seals are less than the opening criteria to make “fish tight”.
 - e. Screens should be located a minimum of 300 mm (12 in.) above the bottom of the

watercourse to prevent entrainment of sediment and aquatic organisms associated with the bottom area.

- f. Structural support should be provided to the screen panels to prevent sagging and collapse of the screen.
 - g. Large cylindrical and box-type screens should have a manifold installed in them to ensure even water velocity distribution across the screen surface. The ends of the structure should be made out of solid materials and the end of the manifold capped.
 - h. Ensure regular maintenance of screens is carried out to prevent impingement of fish.
 - i. Pumps should be shut down when fish screens are removed for inspection and cleaning. If this is not possible, a secondary intake should be available.
20. The Proponent is advised that exploration sites (including drill sites, trenches, test pits, and sections of access trail) associated with ground disturbance and located close to open water bodies or watercourses fall under Section 45(1)(b) of the **Mineral Regulations** as a site that could cause sedimentation into a nearby water body. The Proponent is required to actively ensure that any sedimentation generated from the site does not enter the water body or watercourse. Some combination of erosion prevention and sedimentation control shall be used to meet this requirement.

Use and Storage of Petroleum Products

21. Fuel storage is approved on the basis that **less than 5 drums** of fuel are to be stored on site. Should more than 5 drums of fuel be required to be stored, the Proponent shall obtain a Fuel Cache Approval prior to the start of the exploration program. Fuel Cache Approvals may be obtained from the local Environmental Protection Officer, Government Modernization and Service Delivery.
22. The Proponent shall abide by the **Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations**, 2003 which can be found here: <http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc030058.htm>.
23. All fuel storage containers (e.g., jerry cans, fuel drums, etc.) and water pumps shall be underlain by effective secondary containment (e.g., a drip tray) lined with absorbent pads. Absorbent pads shall be changed before becoming saturated. Secondary containment where the containment rim is broken or otherwise ineffective must be replaced or placed within additional containment (e.g., a tarp-lined wooden tray) without delay.
24. Petroleum product spills into or near a water body and petroleum product spills greater than 70 litres (or of an uncertain volume) on land must be reported without delay to Service NL by calling the Environmental Emergency 24-hour line at 772-2083 or 1-800-563-9089. In order to ensure that a quick and effective response to a spill event is possible, spill response equipment and absorbent materials should be readily available on-site.
25. The Proponent shall wash, refuel and service machinery and store fuel and other materials for the

machinery in such a way as to prevent any deleterious substances from entering the water. Water depths should not submerge axle or differential vents.

Forestry

26. This approval does not restrict potential future forestry operations within the general vicinity.
27. Prior to starting any work, the applicant is advised to contact the nearest local Forestry district office for appropriate permits that are required under the **Forestry Act and Regulations** and to obtain relevant advice on wildland fire prevention and mitigation recommendations on developments from wildland fire.
28. **Off-Road Vehicles Regulations under the Off-Road Vehicles Act (O.C. 2022-115) ([NLR 30/22 - Off-Road Vehicles Regulations under the Off-Road Vehicles Act](#))** must be adhered to. The Proponent shall comply with the **Forestry Act** and regulations. The Proponent is advised to contact the nearest Forest Management District Office to obtain the following permits as required:
 - a commercial harvesting permit before the start of the exploration program if trees have to be cut for access to exploration sites. Please note that it may take up to two weeks to receive this permit;
 - an operating permit if operations are to take place on forest land during the forest fire season (May-September);
 - During the Forest Fire Season a permit to burn must be obtained to ignite a fire on or within 300 meters of forest land.

Regional and Satellite Forestry contact information can be found at:

http://www.flr.gov.nl.ca/department/contact_forestry.html#regional

Forestry Management Districts and zone boundaries are shown on the Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) GeoHub:

<https://geohub-gnl.hub.arcgis.com/app/forestry-management-districts-and-zones-of-newfoundland-and-labrador>

Water Resources

29. The proponent must apply for and obtain a permit under the **Water Resources Act**, 2002, specifically Section 48 <http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm> for any work (including fording) in or within 15m any body of water (including wetland) prior to the start of the work.

Application forms for working within a body of water can be found online at:

[Permit and Licence Application Forms and Fee Schedules - Environment and Climate Change \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

OR:

[Number 151 \(gov.nl.ca\)](http://gov.nl.ca)

Provincial Archaeology Office

30. The Provincial Archaeology Office has reviewed and approved this referral with the caveat that a **100m buffer be maintained along all of Isle aux Morts River.**
31. The Provincial Archaeology Office has reviewed and approved this referral. There is always the possibility that archaeological material may be discovered whether or not an assessment has been carried out. With this in mind, standard precautionary and reporting procedures apply.
32. Please be advised on the provisions of the **Historic Resources Act**, protecting archaeological sites, artifacts and significant fossils, and procedures to be followed in the event that either are found:
 - a) A person who discovers an archaeological object or significant fossil in, on or forming part of the land within the province shall report the discovery forthwith to the Minister (responsible for the **Historic Resources Act**) stating the nature of the object, the location where it was discovered and the date of discovery;
 - b) No person other than one to whom a permit has been issued under this Act, who discovers an archaeological object or significant fossil shall move, destroy, damage, deface, obliterate, alter, add to , mark or in any other way interfere with, remove or cause to be removed from the province that object or fossil;
 - c) The property in all archaeological objects or significant fossils found in, on or taken from the land within the province, whether or not these objects or fossils are in possession of the Crown is vested in the Crown.

Should any archaeological remains be encountered, such as stone, bone or iron tools, concentrations of bone, charcoal or burned rock, fireplaces, house pits and/or foundations, activity in the area of the find must cease immediately and contact should be made with the Provincial Archaeologist in St. John's (709-729-2462) as soon as possible.

Copies of the **Historic Resources Act** and information on archaeology in the province may be obtained from the Provincial Archaeology Office upon request.

Crown Lands & Land Management

33. There are a number of issued Crown titles and active applications for Crown land within this area.
34. If work is to take place within these issued title sites, permission from the landowner is required.
35. Approximate locations of these titles can be viewed on the Public Land Inquiry map viewer here: [Land Use Details \(gov.nl.ca\)](http://gov.nl.ca)
36. There may be private land located within this area which may not be on record with the Crown Lands Office.

37. If work is planned on these private land sites, permission is required from the landowners.
38. The proposed application boundary encompasses issued titles. The proposed activities are not to encroach on existing titles. Approximate locations of these titles can be viewed on the Provincial Land Use Atlas on the website at www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/.
39. The proponent should keep the safety of cottage owners and other recreational users in mind during exploration activities.

Energy Branch

40. The three divisions of the Energy Branch have reviewed the above noted referral and offer the following comments:

Regulatory Affairs:

41. This project does not conflict with onshore petroleum policy.

Renewable Energy Projects Division:

42. The area in this submission appears to be outside the Wind Energy Land Reserve. We are unaware of any renewable energy project issues with this referral.

Electricity Division:

43. No apparent electricity policy issues however, it is recommended that the proponent consult with Newfoundland Power to ensure no negative impact on existing or planned transmission/distribution assets including nearby transmission line.

Protected Salmon Rivers

44. Approved based on the condition that there will be no drilling within 200 metres of a scheduled salmon or protected natural area.

Tourism Product Development

45. The exploration program is taking place within an 8 km buffer surrounding an outfitter(s) camp. It is recommended that the Proponent proactively engage with the following outfitters to identify, address, and mitigate any potential conflicts related to the proposed activity:

Deep Valley Outfitters

For contact information, email: AlexanderWilliams@gov.nl.ca

Ryan's Outfitters

+1 (709) 695 1474

dantr6411@gmail.com

Wildlife

46. The Wildlife Division advises applicant to operate under established legislation, regulations (**Wild Life Regulations** under the **Wild Life Act**) and guidance with respect to wildlife and their habitats (e.g. nesting birds, caribou, waterfowl, wetlands, inland fish, rare plants, riparian buffers) to avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
47. The Wildlife Division requires a minimum 50 m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all salmon rivers and a minimum 30 m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all other waterbodies and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat from surrounding activities/developments.
48. The **Wild Life Act** and the **Migratory Birds Convention Act** and associated regulations prohibit the disturbance or destruction of bird nests and eggs in Newfoundland and Labrador. Proponents are advised to develop and implement appropriate preventative and mitigative measures to avoid incidental take of birds, nests, and eggs. For more information on avoiding harm to avifauna, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds.html>
49. No vegetation clearing is to occur within:
 - i) 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest between March 15 and July 31; 200 metres during the remainder of the year.
 - ii) 200 meters of other raptor nests between March 15 and July 31.
50. No ground disturbance or vegetation clearing is to occur within:
 - i) 800 metres of a short-eared owl nest between May 15 and August 15
51. Locations of raptors nests must be reported to the Wildlife Division.
52. Proponents must follow appropriate hunting and trapping protocols as set in the annual Hunting and Trapping Guide. Proponents are advised to develop and implement appropriate preventative and mitigation measures to avoid incidental take of wildlife species by ground personnel.
53. Proponents must adhere to the **NL Off-road Vehicles Act** and associated regulations (www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/o05-1.htm)

This approval is due to expire on March 12, 2028.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please contact the Mineral Lands Division at exploration_approval@gov.nl.ca

Regards,






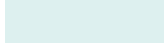


Bernadine Lawlor
Exploration Approvals Geologist

Cc: Kevin Sheppard, Director, Mineral Lands Division
Dale O'Reilly, Mineral Incentive Geologist
Jamie Brake, Provincial Archaeology Office

Exploration Approval
(40 DDH [Helicopter Supported] & Fuel
Storage)
for AuMEGA Metals
on the Cape Ray Property
NTS: 11O/10, 11O/11, 11O/14, 11O/15
Licences: 031558M, 032060M, 032061M,
025560M, 032062M

Map Layers

-  Drill Area
-  Property
-  OAMs
-  Mineral Licenses
-  NTS Map Index
-  CBPPL Timber Limits

Land Use Details

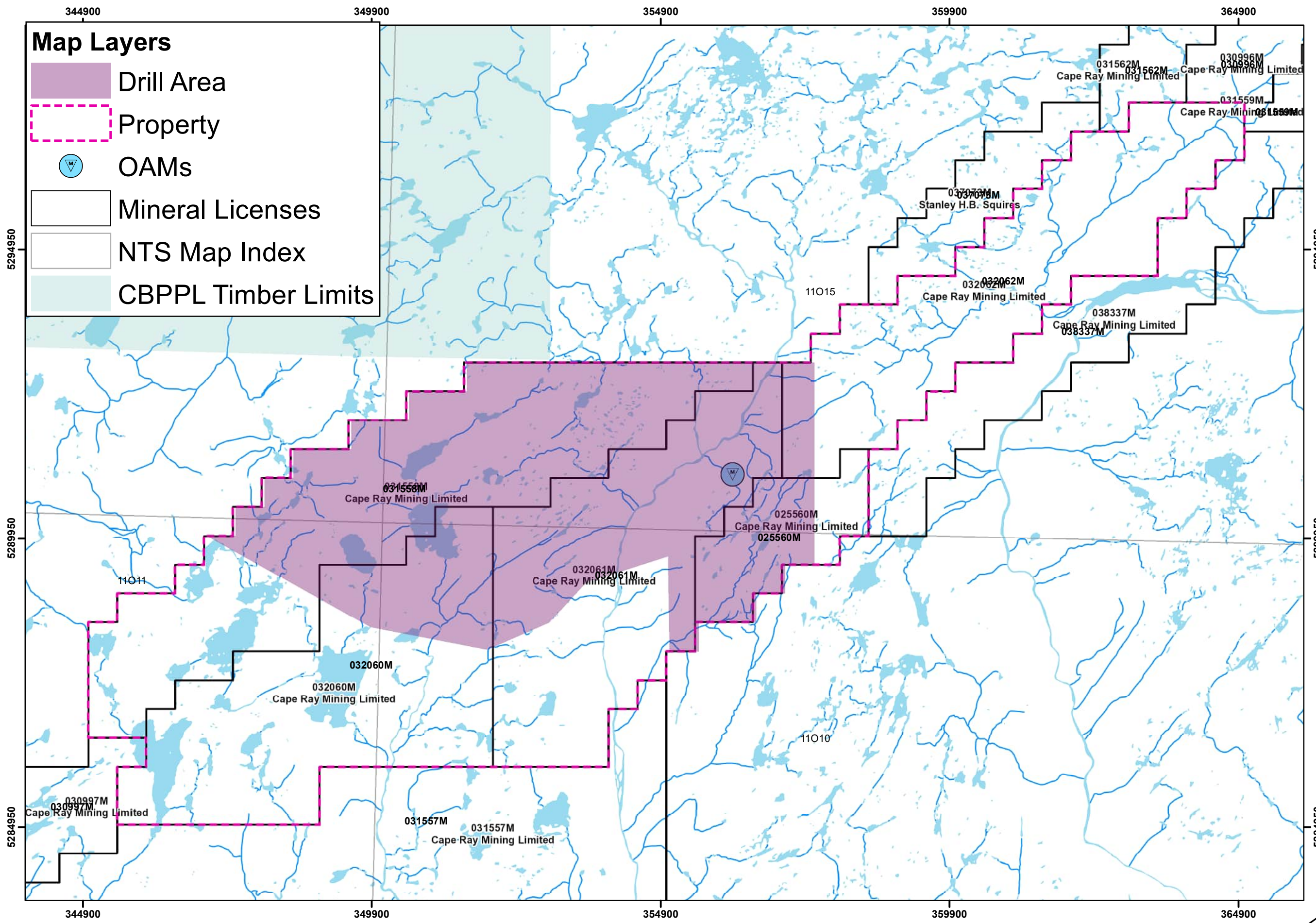
- Outfitter Buffer
- Crown Titles
- Scheduled Salmon Rivers
- Energy Referral Area
- NF Power Distribution
- Domestic Harvest Area
- FMD-14
- SNL – Corner Brook

E260077

N



Project
Location



GeoReference
UTM NAD 83 Zone 21

1:63,535

2.5 1.25 0 2.5 Kilometers

April 1, 2025

E260132

Giles Dodds
gdodds@aumegametals.com

Dear Mr. Dodds:

**Exploration Approval
(100 DDH {Ground Supported},
Existing Trails, Fuel Storage & Laydown Area (LTO 158427))
for AuMEGA Metal on the
Cape Ray Property
NTS: 11O/10, 11O/11, 11O/15
Licences: 032060M, 032061M, 032062M, 025560M**

Your proposed exploration program submitted in compliance with Section 5(4) of the **Mineral Act** has been reviewed and approved.

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Mineral Exploration Access Trails

13. In general, “Exploration access trail” means a temporary, low-impact route for which preparation and maintenance activities in support of using the route for exploration purposes is limited to one or more of the following:
 - a. Clearing trees.
 - b. Laying down corduroy or brush-matting to prevent disturbance of wet or soft areas.
 - c. Vehicle use to the extent that the natural ground cover is disturbed and a conspicuous path

of travel established.

- d. Minimal amounts of local in-filling (“minimal” meaning only at specific locations where it can be demonstrated that it would have been unsafe or impractical for an all-terrain vehicle to drive over the original topography).
 - e. Minimal amounts of local grubbing (“minimal” meaning only at specific locations where it can be demonstrated that it would have been unsafe or impractical for an all-terrain vehicle to drive over the vegetation).
14. Insofar as possible without greatly increasing the length of the planned route, trails shall be planned to avoid wetland areas (bogs, fens, saltwater and freshwater marshes, swamps, shallow water areas) or any other ground that may be susceptible to significant rutting.
 15. Access trails located on wet or soft ground are permitted only if the route has been surfaced with corduroy or brush-matting before first pass by a motor vehicle. Where possible, trees cut to prepare exploration sites (e.g., to clear trench sites, drill sites, access trails, etc.) shall provide the materials for corduroy and brush-matting. Alternatively, materials such as plywood, planks, pallets, coreboxes, etc. (but not creosoted or chemically treated wood), may be used if these are the only options in treeless areas. Unlike natural, locally sourced corduroy and brush-matting, manufactured and imported materials must be removed before the access trails are decommissioned.
 16. The visible presence of a vegetation covered linear feature on the landscape does not mean the feature was once a road, or that the feature is available for upgrading without application. Forest access roads may be in various condition, depending upon the period since last used commercially, construction methods used, and specific site conditions. Culverts, bridges and ditching may also be in various states or completely absent. Roads may be considered completely regressed and no longer considered for upgrade without an application in cases where the route is overgrown and not possible by ATV or snowmobile.
 17. Forest extraction trails often appear as linear features on imagery. These extraction trails are not roads and the root mat was not intended to be disturbed on these. These are considered trails and will require application for Crown Land title for use as a road.
 18. If new road construction is required, the proponent must complete an application for Crown land and it must be approved prior to road construction. The application, and related information can be found at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/lands/applications/>

Diamond Drilling & Use of Water Pumps

19. The Proponent is advised of Section 45(2) of the **Mineral Regulations** which requires that all sites cleared of topsoil (e.g. drill pads prepared by cut-and-fill, grubbed sections of access trail, laydown area) be rehabilitated before the end of the current exploration program. Rehabilitation as per Section 45(2) requires that the site be re-contoured and the original organic cover (topsoil, ground

vegetation, and any trees not used for other purposes) be spread back over the re-contoured site. If the original organic cover proves insufficient to completely re-cover the site then an organic substitute material must be used in addition to complete the process, provided that no invasive species are introduced. Acceptable substitute materials are straw, hay, trees having been cut in other parts of the exploration project area, or ground vegetation produced by hydroseeding. If the Proponent wishes to keep drill casing above ground then the re-contouring may accommodate this. Sumps pits and borrow pits fall under Section 45(1)(a) of the **Mineral Regulations** and need to be rehabilitated before the end of the exploration season in which they are excavated.

20. The Proponent shall not permit drilling discharge waters to flow overland into a water body, including into a small stream or intermittent channel, irrespective of whether the water body is displayed on the 1:50,000 scale NTS map. More specifically, waterborne drill cuttings and drill additives shall not be permitted to enter a water body.
21. All water pumps shall be underlain by a drip tray lined with absorbent pads and the pads shall be changed before becoming saturated. Drip trays where the containment rim is broken must be replaced or placed in secondary containment (e.g. a tarp-lined wooden tray) without delay.
22. Drill casings producing water in any quantity shall be sealed (grouted) before the expiry of the exploration approval and capped in the meantime. The drill holes shall be sealed with high-swelling bentonite or cement; however coarse sand may be used to fill the lower portions of the hole. Capping is not a substitute for sealing, since many caps cannot fully stop the water and, in any case, the caps will inevitably break due to freezing and thawing.
23. Immediately after demobilization from a drill site, the site shall be inspected for spills of hydraulic oil or fuel, deposits of drill grease, garbage, and waste equipment and these shall be cleaned up in their entirety without delay. The Proponent shall excavate deep enough to retrieve all of the contaminated soil. Soil contaminated by hydraulic oil or fuel shall be excavated and disposed of at an approved waste disposal site. The Proponent shall contact the nearest Government Service Centre to find out the location of the nearest approved waste disposal site accepting the materials that have been cleaned up. Government Service Centres are listed at:
<https://www.gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/department/contact/#locations>
24. The Proponent shall screen any water intakes or outlet pipes to prevent entrainment or impingement of fish. Entrainment occurs when a fish is drawn into a water intake and cannot escape. Impingement occurs when an entrapped fish is held in contact with the intake screen and is unable to free itself.
25. In freshwater, the Proponent shall follow these measures for design and installation of intake end of pipe fish screens to protect fish where water is extracted from fish-bearing waters:
 - a. Screens should be located in areas and depths of water with low concentrations of fish throughout the year.
 - b. Screens should be located away from natural or artificial structures that may attract fish that are migrating, spawning, or in rearing habitat.

- c. The screen face should be oriented in the same direction as the flow.
 - d. Ensure openings in the guides and seals are less than the opening criteria to make “fish tight”.
 - e. Screens should be located a minimum of 300 mm (12 in.) above the bottom of the watercourse to prevent entrainment of sediment and aquatic organisms associated with the bottom area.
 - f. Structural support should be provided to the screen panels to prevent sagging and collapse of the screen.
 - g. Large cylindrical and box-type screens should have a manifold installed in them to ensure even water velocity distribution across the screen surface. The ends of the structure should be made out of solid materials and the end of the manifold capped.
 - h. Ensure regular maintenance of screens is carried out to prevent impingement of fish.
 - i. Pumps should be shut down when fish screens are removed for inspection and cleaning. If this is not possible, a secondary intake should be available.
26. The Proponent is advised that exploration sites (including drill sites, trenches, test pits, and sections of access trail) associated with ground disturbance and located close to open water bodies or watercourses fall under Section 45(1)(b) of the **Mineral Regulations** as a site that could cause sedimentation into a nearby water body. The Proponent is required to actively ensure that any sedimentation generated from the site does not enter the water body or watercourse. Some combination of erosion prevention and sedimentation control shall be used to meet this requirement.

Use and Storage of Petroleum Products

27. All fuel storage containers (e.g., jerry cans, fuel drums, etc.) and water pumps shall be underlain by effective secondary containment (e.g., a drip tray) lined with absorbent pads. Absorbent pads shall be changed before becoming saturated. Secondary containment where the containment rim is broken or otherwise ineffective must be replaced or placed within additional containment (e.g., a tarp-lined wooden tray) without delay.
28. Petroleum product spills into or near a water body and petroleum product spills greater than 70 litres (or of an uncertain volume) on land must be reported without delay to Service NL by calling the Environmental Emergency 24-hour line at 772-2083 or 1-800-563-9089. In order to ensure that a quick and effective response to a spill event is possible, spill response equipment and absorbent materials should be readily available on-site.
29. The Proponent shall wash, refuel and service machinery and store fuel and other materials for the machinery in such a way as to prevent any deleterious substances from entering the water. Water depths should not submerge axle or differential vents.

Forestry

30. This approval does not restrict potential future forestry operations within the general vicinity.

31. Prior to starting any work, the applicant is advised to contact the nearest local Forestry district office for appropriate permits that are required under the **Forestry Act and Regulations** and to obtain relevant advice on wildland fire prevention and mitigation recommendations on developments from wildland fire.
32. **Off-Road Vehicles Regulations under the Off-Road Vehicles Act (O.C. 2022-115) ([NLR 30/22 - Off-Road Vehicles Regulations under the Off-Road Vehicles Act](#))** must be adhered to. The Proponent shall comply with the **Forestry Act** and regulations. The Proponent is advised to contact the nearest Forest Management District Office to obtain the following permits as required:
 - a commercial harvesting permit before the start of the exploration program if trees have to be cut for access to exploration sites. Please note that it may take up to two weeks to receive this permit;
 - an operating permit if operations are to take place on forest land during the forest fire season (May-September);
 - During the Forest Fire Season a permit to burn must be obtained to ignite a fire on or within 300 meters of forest land.

Regional and Satellite Forestry contact information can be found at:

http://www.flr.gov.nl.ca/department/contact_forestry.html#regional

Forestry Management Districts and zone boundaries are shown on the Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) GeoHub:

<https://geohub-gnl.hub.arcgis.com/app/forestry-management-districts-and-zones-of-newfoundland-and-labrador>

Water Resources

33. **NOTE: A Section 48 Permit to Alter a Body of Water is required for this undertaking (fording).**
34. The proponent must apply for and obtain a permit under the **Water Resources Act**, 2002, specifically Section 48 <http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/w04-01.htm> for any work (including fording) in or within 15m any body of water (including wetland) prior to the start of the work.

Application forms for working within a body of water can be found online at:

[Permit and Licence Application Forms and Fee Schedules - Environment and Climate Change \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

OR:

[Number 151 \(gov.nl.ca\)](#)

Crown Lands & Land Management

35. The proposed development encompasses issued titles. The proposed activities are not to encroach on existing titles and the proponent should keep the safety of cottage owners and other recreational users in mind during exploration activities. Approximate locations of these titles can be viewed on the Provincial Land Use Atlas on the website at www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/.
36. It is recommended that the proponent notify title holders of their activities and associated timelines. Approximate locations of issued titles can be found here: [Land Use Details \(gov.nl.ca\)](http://www.gov.nl.ca/landuseatlas/details/)
37. The Land Management Division (Agriculture Lands Section) has no concerns with this application as it does not interfere with any existing or anticipated agriculture activity.
38. If new road construction, or ATV trail use to cross wetlands, is required to access the site, an application for Crown land is required to be submitted and approved before road/trail construction is to begin. The application, and related information can be found at: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/lands/applications/>.

Tourism Product Development

39. The exploration program is taking place within an 8 km buffer surrounding an outfitter(s) camp. To protect existing investments and minimize potential conflicts, we recommend that the proponent reach out to the following operators and implement appropriate mitigation measures

Deep Valley Outfitters

For contact information, please email AlexanderWilliams@gov.nl.ca.

Ryan's Outfitters

+1 (709) 695 1474

dantr6411@gmail.com

Government Services

Waste

(Environmental Protection Act, 2002)

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/e14-2.htm>

40. All waste material generated during the construction and operation of the facility is to be placed in suitable refuse containers and removed to an approved waste disposal site on a weekly basis, with the approval of the site owner/operator.
41. All waste material shall be considered, prior to disposal, for reuse, resale or recycling.
42. Derelict vehicles, scrapped equipment and other debris is not to be stored on site. This material

must be disposed of at an approved waste disposal site or scrap yard on a regular basis, with the prior approval of the site owner/operator.

43. Brush should be chopped/shredded, and may be burnt on-site with the approval of Department of Forestry, Agriculture and Lands, or may be removed to an approved waste disposal site for proper disposal with the permission of the owner/operator of the waste disposal site.
44. Tires and used or waste oil are not to be used to aid in the burning of brush.
45. Access to the site must be restricted at all times in order to prevent the occurrence of indiscriminate dumping.
46. The permit holder will be held responsible for all waste material located on site.

Pollution Control

(Environmental Protection Act, 2002)

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/e14-2.htm>

(The Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations, 2003)

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc030058.htm>

(Heating Oil Storage Tank System Regulations, 2003)

<http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc030060.htm>

(Used Oil and Used Glycol Control Regulations, 2018)

<https://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc180100.htm>

47. All fuel storage tank system installations, other than those connected to a heating appliance of a capacity of 2,500 litres or less, are subject to the Storage and Handling of Gasoline and Associated Products Regulations and will require registration prior to installation.
48. All fuel storage tank systems connected to a heating appliance of a capacity of 2,500 litres or less must comply with the Heating Oil Storage Tank System Regulations.
49. Any proposed fuel cache will require approval by Department of Government Services prior to installation.
50. The storage, handling, and disposal of used/waste oil and/or used/waste glycol must be in compliance with the Used Oil and Used Glycol Control Regulations.
51. In order to ensure that a quick and effective response to a spill event is possible, spill response equipment should be readily available on-site. Response equipment, such as absorbents and open-ended barrels for collection of cleanup debris, should be stored in an accessible location on-site. Personnel working on the project should be knowledgeable about response procedures.

The proponent should consider developing a contingency plan specific to the proposed undertaking to enable a quick and effective response to a spill event.

52. Any spill or leak of gasoline or associated product is to be reported immediately to Department of Government Services by calling the Environmental Emergencies Telephone Line at 1-800-563-9089.
53. Measures shall be implemented to contain debris during any construction at the facility. All debris is to be collected on a daily basis and placed in secure storage for subsequent disposal.

Development Control

(Protected Road Zoning Regulations, 1996)

<http://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/regulations/rc960996.htm>

(Environmental Protection Act, 2002)

<http://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/statutes/e14-2.htm>

54. Development must not extend within 200 m of a scheduled salmon river without prior registration and release under the Environmental Protection Act, Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Environmental Assessment Division.
55. Should future development require expansion to more than a total of 50 hectares, the proponent must register the undertaking with the Department of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change, Environmental Assessment Division. Such development shall not proceed until approved under the Environmental Protection Act.

Energy Branch

56. The three divisions of the Energy Branch have reviewed the above noted referral and offer the following comments:

Regulatory Affairs:

57. This project does not conflict with onshore petroleum policy.

Renewable Energy Projects Division:

58. The area in this submission appears to be outside the Wind Energy Land Reserve. We are unaware of any renewable energy project issues with this referral.

Electricity Division:

59. There are no electricity policy issues with the request. Given the presence of Newfoundland Power (NP)

assets near the project, it is recommended that the proponent advise Newfoundland Power, if they have not already done so.

Provincial Archaeology Office

60. The Provincial Archaeology Office has reviewed and approved this referral with the caveat that a **100m buffer be maintained along the Isle aux Morts River.**
61. The Provincial Archaeology Office has reviewed and approved this referral. There is always the possibility that archaeological material may be discovered whether or not an assessment has been carried out. With this in mind, standard precautionary and reporting procedures apply. Please take note of attached form letter.
62. Please be advised on the provisions of the **Historic Resources Act**, protecting archaeological sites, artifacts and significant fossils, and procedures to be followed in the event that either are found:
 - a) A person who discovers an archaeological object or significant fossil in, on or forming part of the land within the province shall report the discovery forthwith to the Minister (responsible for the **Historic Resources Act**) stating the nature of the object, the location where it was discovered and the date of discovery;
 - b) No person other than one to whom a permit has been issued under this Act, who discovers an archaeological object or significant fossil shall move, destroy, damage, deface, obliterate, alter, add to, mark or in any other way interfere with, remove or cause to be removed from the province that object or fossil;
 - c) The property in all archaeological objects or significant fossils found in, on or taken from the land within the province, whether or not these objects or fossils are in possession of the Crown is vested in the Crown.

Should any archaeological remains be encountered, such as stone, bone or iron tools, concentrations of bone, charcoal or burned rock, fireplaces, house pits and/or foundations, activity in the area of the find must cease immediately and contact should be made with the Provincial Archaeologist in St. John's (709-729-2462) as soon as possible.

Copies of the **Historic Resources Act** and information on archaeology in the province may be obtained from the Provincial Archaeology Office upon request.

Wildlife

63. The Wildlife Division advises applicant to operate under established legislation, regulations (**Wild Life Regulations** under the **Wild Life Act**) and guidance with respect to wildlife and their habitats (e.g. nesting birds, caribou, waterfowl, wetlands, inland fish, rare plants, riparian buffers) to avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
64. For any proposed vegetation clearing/ ground disturbance/ trail usage the Wildlife Division requires a minimum 50 m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all salmon rivers and

a minimum 30 m naturally vegetated buffer to be maintained along all other waterbodies and wetlands to protect sensitive riparian and aquatic species, and their habitat from surrounding activities/developments.

65. The **Wild Life Act** and the **Migratory Birds Convention Act** and associated regulations prohibit the disturbance or destruction of bird nests and eggs in Newfoundland and Labrador. Proponents are advised to develop and implement appropriate preventative and mitigative measures to avoid incidental take of birds, nests, and eggs. For more information on avoiding harm to avifauna, visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds.html>
66. No vegetation clearing is to occur within:
- i) 800 metres of a bald eagle or osprey nest between March 15 and July 31; 200 metres during the remainder of the year.
 - ii) 200 meters of other raptor nests between March 15 and July 31.
67. No ground disturbance or vegetation clearing is to occur within:
- i) 800 metres of a short-eared owl nest between May 15 and August 15
68. Proponents must follow appropriate hunting and trapping protocols as set in the annual Hunting and Trapping Guide. Proponents are advised to develop and implement appropriate preventative and mitigation measures to avoid incidental take of wildlife species.
69. Proponents must adhere to the **NL Off-road Vehicles Act** and associated regulations (www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/o05-1.htm)

This approval is due to expire on April 1, 2028.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please contact the Mineral Lands Division at exploration_approval@gov.nl.ca

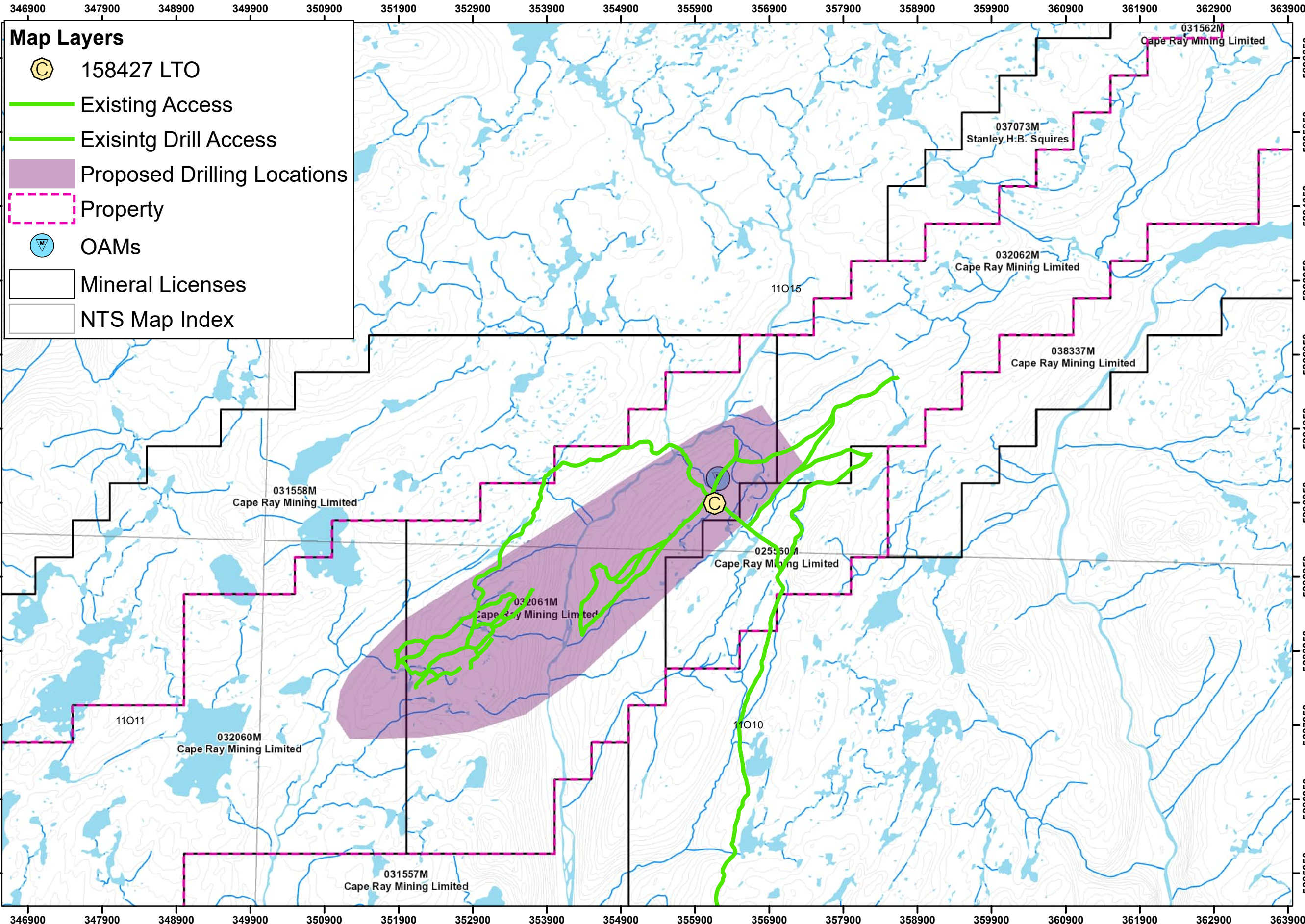
Regards,



Bernadine Lawlor
Exploration Approvals Geologist

Cc: Kevin Sheppard, Director, Mineral Lands Division
Brad Way, Mineral Incentive Geologist
Jamie Brake, Provincial Archaeology Office

Exploration Approval
(100 DDH {Ground Supported},
Existing Trails, Fuel Storage & Laydown
Area (LTO 158427))
for Au/MEGA Metal on the
Cape Ray Property
NTS: 110/10, 110/11, 110/15
Licences: 032060M, 032061M, 032062M,
025560M



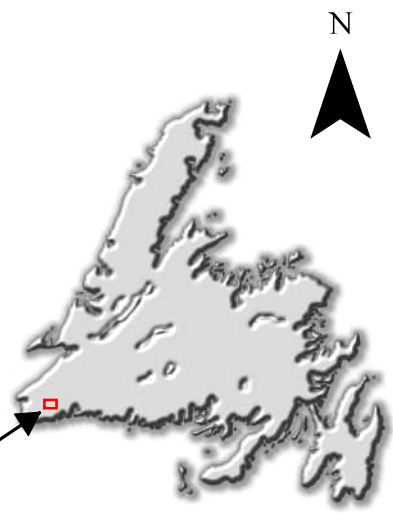
Map Layers

- 158427 LTO
- Existing Access
- Existing Drill Access
- Proposed Drilling Locations
- Property
- OAMs
- Mineral Licenses
- NTS Map Index

Land Use Details

- Crown Titles
- Energy Referral
- Outfitter Buffer
- Domestic Harvest Area
- NL Power
- FMD-14
- SNL - Corner Brook

E260132



GeoReference
UTM NAD 83 Zone 21
1:50,000
2 1 0 2 Kilometers

Project Location