

Project Overview



Talon Nickel (USA) LLC (Talon) is proposing to construct an underground mine for the extraction of nickel and copper ore in Aitkin County, Minnesota. The mined rock would be transported by rail to facilities in Mercer County, North Dakota, and Marquette County, Michigan, for ore concentrating and tailings disposal.

Where would the proposed Tamarack Mining Project be located?

The proposed Tamarack Mining Project (Project) would be located approximately 1.5 miles north of the city of Tamarack, Minnesota, 30 miles west of Cloquet, Minnesota, and 10 miles east of McGregor, Minnesota. The Project seeks to target minerals within the Tamarack North Resource, which is part of the Tamarack Intrusive Complex. The proposed Project would be in the greater Mississippi River Watershed.

What are the typical phases of a mining project like the Tamarack Mining Project proposal?

The Project will first require mandatory preparation of a State Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) followed by issuance of various state, federal and local permits. No permit applications have been submitted by Talon, and no permit decisions or other approvals may be authorized until the EIS process is complete and deemed adequate.

If the proposed project ultimately receives all permits and approvals, there will be three major phases:

- **Pre-mining construction** would include land-clearing, construction of new buildings, a mine access portal, ventilation and emergency egress raises, transport facilities including a rail spur, and other structures and utility upgrades.

- **Mining operation** would last approximately 7-10 years and would include mining, rail loadout, water treatment, and backfill materials placement and management.
- **Closure and post-closure maintenance** would occur after mining ends at the facility, including timely reclamation as required by Minnesota statute and rule. The Project would require financial assurance under a permit to mine.

How does Talon propose to approach mining and waste management?

Talon proposes to mine using a combination of underground methods, including soil mixing, sequential excavation method, probe drilling, drift and fill mining, longhole stope mining, blasting and resource extraction. During the mine's proposed 7-10 year operational life, backfill would be placed in the underground mine works to fill voids created by the mining operations and provide structural stability. Each mined area would be backfilled with a blend of cement and waste rock or locally sourced aggregate (similar to concrete), or with just waste rock or locally sourced aggregate, before moving to the next location. Mining would be done 300 to 2,000 feet below the ground surface in the underlying bedrock. Surface features of the Project include a mine portal that opens into an enclosed ore handling and loadout building, a water treatment facility, two industrial stormwater ponds, a rail yard and an electrical substation. Talon proposes to build a rail spur to connect the project site to the existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe (the primary rail carrier) railway located south of the proposed surface operation. Talon estimates approximately 140 railcars would leave the site approximately every four days to transport the mined ore to the North Dakota and Michigan sites.

For additional information about the proposed Project, visit the Talon Metals LLC Website, talonmetals.com.

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