Minerals Exploration Plan on State Nonferrous Metallic Minerals Leases

Submitted by AngloGold Ashanti Minnesota on November 9, 2018 and summarized here by the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals

Narrative: AngloGold Ashanti Minnesota (AGAM) proposes to explore for metallic mineral deposits near the Itasca—Koochiching County border located about 7 miles east of Effie, Minnesota (Figure 1). AGAM plans to drill exploratory borings at 12 sites using the rotosonic drilling method. Rotosonic drilling uses high frequency vibration of the drill bit to advance and collect cores of soils, glacial sediments, and a short length of the underlying bedrock. The borings will end shortly after the top of bedrock is encountered and then be permanently sealed. Some sites require frozen ground before drilling can occur.

State nonferrous metallic mineral lease ids: Exploration is proposed on 11 leases: MLMB200178, MLMB200179, MLMB200180, MLMB200181, MLMB200182, MLMB200183, MLMB200184, MLMB200189, MLMB200191, MLMB200251, and MLMB200252.

Public Land Survey location: Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 18, and 21 of T62N R24W; and Sections 35 and 36 of T63N R25W.

Types of exploration activity: Exploratory borings (rotosonic drilling).

Expected time period of activity: December 2018 through October 2019.

Access: AGAM will use existing public roads, state forest access roads, and other access trails to get to the drill sites. Mowing and brushing are anticipated at the boring sites and some access trails. AGAM does not propose new roads or trails.

Surface ownership: All drill sites are on County or DNR-administered lands. Upon DNR approval, which may include stipulations, AGAM will have the right to explore as described in the exploration plan on state-owned surface lands.

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This report is posted on the DNR’s exploration plan webpage.
Maps and Data Disclaimer

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DNR Summary Report for AngloGold Ashanti Minnesota Exploration Plan Submitted on November 9, 2018 and Published by DNR's Lands and Minerals Division on November 19, 2018.

Figure 1. DNR Summary Map of Exploration Plan

- Proposed Exploratory Boring Sites
- Access Trails
- State Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Leases to be explored, with Lease IDs

State lease boundaries depicted are for reference only. The State of Minnesota's land and mineral interests GIS data is mapped at 40 acre Public Land Survey resolution.

Public Waters Basins

The beds of DNR's Public Waters Inventory are excluded from exploration activity on public lease sale nonferrous metallic mineral leases.

GIS Data Sources - Proposed exploration sites and trails provided by the Explorer. State minerals leases, public waters inventory and access, and PLS boundaries from DNR. Highways and roads from MnDOT. 2010 aerial photography from Farm Service Agency.