Minerals Exploration Plan on State Nonferrous Metallic Minerals Leases

Submitted by AngloGold Ashanti Minnesota on December 20, 2018 and summarized here by the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals

**Narrative:** AngloGold Ashanti Minnesota (AGAM) proposes to explore for metallic mineral deposits in northeast Itasca County, Minnesota in an area within about five miles of the junction of State Highways 1 and 65 (Figure 1). AGAM plans to drill exploratory borings at 28 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.

**Exploration is proposed on the following State nonferrous metallic minerals leases:** MLMB000047, MLMB000050, MLMB000052, MLMB000053, MLMB000054, MLMB000056, MLMB000062, MLMB000086, MLMB000089, MLMB000091, MLMB000092, MLMB000097, MLMB000098, MLMB000130, MLMB000132, MLMB000140, and MLMB000141.

**Public Land Survey location:** Sections 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 16 of T61N R22W; Sections 1 and 3 of T61N R23W, Sections 26, 29, 31, and 32 of T62N R22W, and Sections 25, 27, 35, and 36 of T62N R23W.

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

**Expected time period of activity:** January 2019 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:** AGAM will coordinate with the Itasca County Land Department for access. 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. AGAM will have the right to explore on other lands covered by state mineral lease upon gaining access.

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This report is posted on the [DNR’s exploration plan webpage](#).
Maps and Data Disclaimer

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Figure 1. DNR Overview 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.