



Exploration Plan on State Nonferrous Metallic Minerals Leases

Submitted by Teck American Incorporated, on November 27, 2019 and summarized here by the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals

Narrative: Teck American Incorporated (Teck) proposes to resume exploration for metallic mineral deposits in St. Louis County about 5 miles south-southeast of Babbitt, Minnesota (Figure 1). Teck has drilled in this area since 2007 on an intermittent basis.

Teck plans to drill exploratory borings in bedrock on nine sites using the diamond core drilling method. The borings will be drilled and then temporarily or permanently sealed following regulations set by the Department of Health. Teck also proposes to drill holes for environmental purposes on eight sites. Drilling methods for these holes may include sonic, reverse circulation and diamond core.

All exploration work in wetlands, including much of the drilling, will occur in winter when the ground is adequately frozen. New temporary access trails are proposed to reach some drill sites. These trails will be brushed and built on snow and ice.

Work may occur other times of the year on an intermittent basis when soil conditions permit. Some routes may be improved to allow year-round access. Improvements that affect wetlands will require a separate approval before proceeding.

State nonferrous metallic mineral lease numbers: MM-9831-N, MM-9857.

Public Land Survey location: Sections 28 through 33 of T60N R12W; and Section 36 of T60N R13W.

Types of exploration activity: Exploratory borings and environmental drill holes.

Expected time period of activity: Approximately January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

Access: The operator will use public roads, forest roads, and other existing access routes and clear new access routes. All of the new routes proposed are on state land.

Surface ownership: Exploration is proposed on state-owned lands only. The operator may need to use existing routes on non-state lands to reach some exploration sites. The exploration plan states that surface owners will be notified for access to the property. Upon DNR approval, which may include stipulations, the operator may proceed as described in the exploration plan on state-owned surface lands.

Explorer contact: Leslie Olmstead, (509) 623-4572 or Leslie.Olmstead@teck.com

This report is posted on the [DNR's exploration plan webpage](#).

Maps and Data Disclaimer

The State of Minnesota makes no representations or warranties express or implied, with respect to the use of the information contained herein regardless of its format or the means of its transmission. There is no guarantee or representation to the user as to the accuracy, currency, suitability, completeness, usefulness, or reliability of this information for any purpose. The user accepts the information "as is." The State of Minnesota assumes no responsibility for loss or damage incurred as a result of any user's reliance on this information. All maps, reports, data, and other information contained herein are protected by copyright. Permission is granted to copy and use the materials herein for any lawful noncommercial purpose. Any user of this information agrees not to transmit or provide access to all or any part of this information to another party unless the user shall include with the information a copy of this disclaimer.

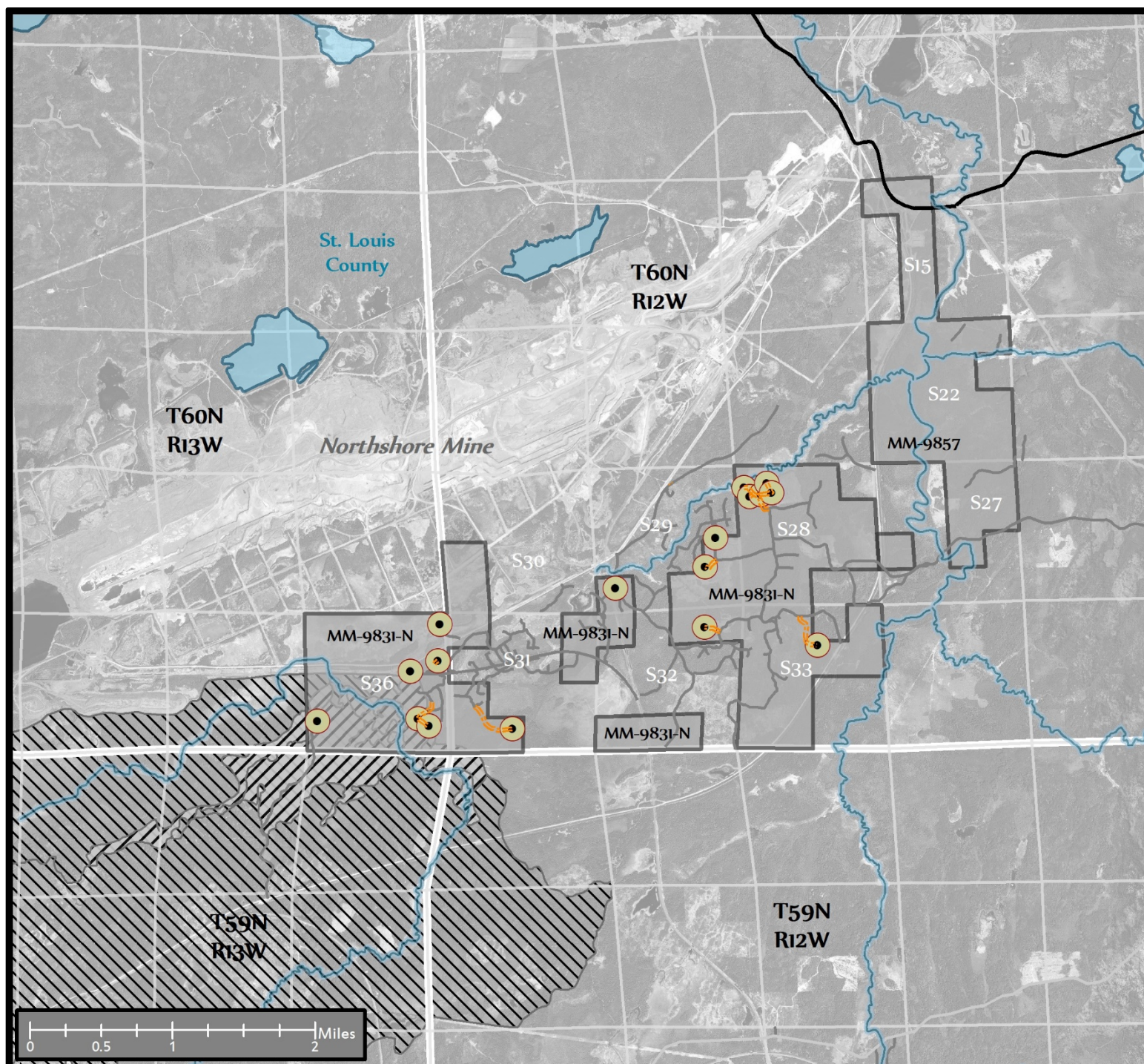








Figure 1. DNR Summary Map of Exploration Plan

-  Proposed Exploratory and Environmental Boring Sites
-  State Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Leases
-  Native Plant Communities Potential S2
-  MBS High Biodiversity Significance

-  State, County, Local, Pit, and Forest Roads
-  Access Trails
-  Public Waters

This map is for reference purposes only. Environmental features intersecting proposed exploration leases are shown. The State of Minnesota's land and mineral interests including lease boundaries are mapped at 40 acre Public Land Survey resolution.

Data Sources: Exploration areas as described by the Explorer. State minerals leases, public waters inventory, special features, and PLS boundaries from DNR. Highways and roads from MnDOT. 2010 aerial photography from Farm Service Agency.

