Minerals Exploration Plan on State Nonferrous Metallic Minerals Leases

Submitted by Twin Metals Minnesota on January 15, 2019 and summarized here by the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals

Narrative: Twin Metals Minnesota (TMM) proposes to explore for metallic mineral deposits in Lake and Saint Louis Counties, Minnesota in areas about five miles east of Babbitt and eight miles southeast of Ely, Minnesota (Figure 1). TMM proposes to establish 6 new drill pads upon which monitoring wells will be installed. Each drill pad will be about 75 feet by 75 feet in size. The plan indicates that wells will not exceed 200 feet in depth. TMM states that water discharged from the wells will be captured, tested and, if warranted, disposed of at a Publicly Owned Treatment Works or a licensed treatment/disposal facility.

Exploration is proposed on the following State nonferrous metallic minerals leases: MM-9755-P, MM-9756-P, MM-9764-N, and MM-9722-N.

Public Land Survey location: Sections 3 and 4 of T61N R11W; Section 34 of T62N R11W, and Section 36 of T61N R12W.

Types of exploration activity: Install monitoring wells and then conduct aquifer tests and collect routine water levels and water samples.

Expected time period of activity: Construction and installation may commence on approval and will be completed in 2019. Monitoring and maintenance will continue beyond 2019.

Access: The proposed drill pads are adjacent to state forest access roads and existing access trails. TMM does not propose new roads or trails.

Surface ownership: Upon DNR approval, which may include stipulations, TMM will have the right to explore as described in the exploration plan on state-owned surface lands. Where applicable, TMM will have the right to explore on other lands covered by state mineral leases 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 Monitoring Well 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.