



Minerals Exploration Plan on State Nonferrous Metallic Minerals Leases

Submitted by Talon Nickel (USA) LLC on March 8, 2022 and summarized here by DNR Division of Lands and Minerals

Narrative: Talon Nickel (USA) LLC (Talon) submitted a proposed plan to continue exploring for metallic mineral deposits in Aitkin County. Exploration will occur on leased state mineral rights in an area north of Tamarack, Minnesota. Kennecott Exploration Company (Kennecott) and Talon have explored in this area since the early 2000s.

Talon's exploration plan proposes drilling exploratory borings using the diamond core method at up to 25 drill sites. Talon notes the possibility of multiple borings at each site. Talon plans to use existing access to drill sites, but may need to construct new trails to reach some areas. Drilling activity, including sealing, will follow regulations set by the Department of Health.

Talon's proposed plan includes downhole geophysical surveys in newly drilled borings and existing temporarily sealed borings. Talon's proposal includes plans to use a drill rig to clear any blocked borings. The new exploration plan indicates that surveyors may conduct geophysical surveys on foot within the boundaries of the leased state mineral rights. When conducting ground-based geophysical surveys, surveyors may need to cut small amounts of brush to make room for the portable survey equipment, but surveyors will not cut lines or grids. Talon will place signs when conducting geophysical surveys.

Kennecott, which designated Talon as the operator for the proposed exploration activity, holds the state leases. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approved the operating agreement between Kennecott and Talon.

Upon DNR approval, Talon has the right to explore state-owned lands consistent with the exploration plan, any stipulations, and applicable laws and rules.

Exploration is proposed on the following State nonferrous metallic minerals leases: MM-9765-P, MM-9766-P, MM-9767-P, MM-9768-P, MM-9849-N, MM-10002-N, MM-10003-N, MM-10004-N, MM-10005-N, MM-10006-N, MM-10007-N, MM-10008-N, MM-10009-N, MM-10010-N, MM-10202-N, MM-10203-N, MM-10252-N, MM-10253-N, MLMB200003, and MLMN200029.

Public Land Survey location: Part or all of Sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 and 35 of T49N R22W (Haugen Township) and part or all of Sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16 of T48N R22W (Clark Township) as shown on Figure 1

Types of exploration activity: Surface and downhole geophysics and diamond core drilling

Expected time period of activity: Upon authorization by DNR through April 15, 2023

Access: Access to sites will be via the existing public and forest road network, and other existing access routes. New temporary trails from existing access routes are possible. Composite mats may be placed as needed to enable safe access.

Surface ownership: Exploration may occur on DNR and County-administered state lands as well as on private lands. Work will not begin on private lands without the explicit permission of the landowner, according to the exploration plan. Upon DNR approval, which may include stipulations, exploration may proceed 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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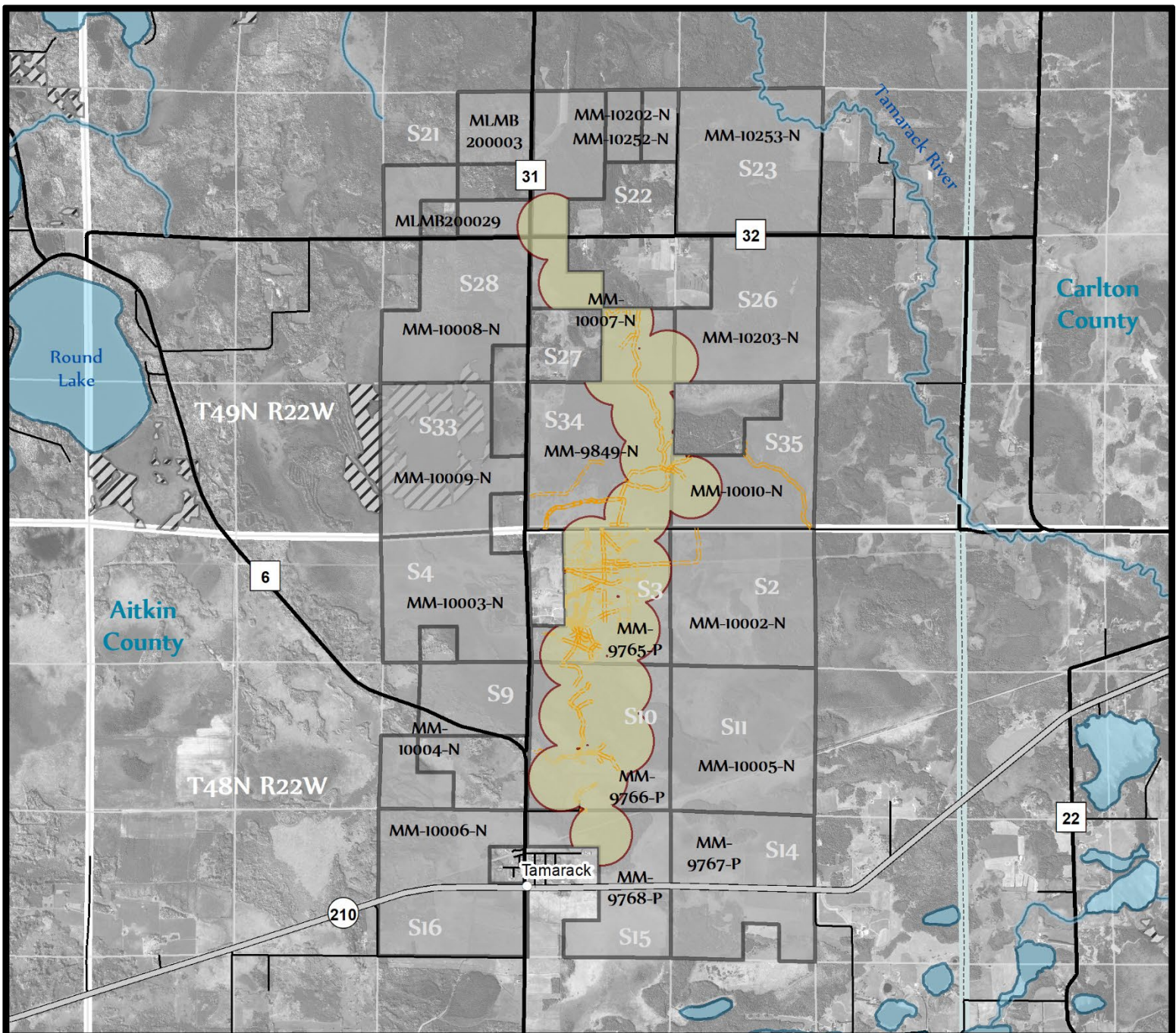





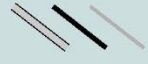
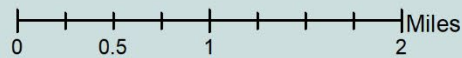


Figure 1. DNR Overview Map of Exploration Plan

-  Existing Access Trails
-  Proposed Exploratory Boring Sites
-  State Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Leases
-  Native Plant Communities Potential S2

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



GIS Data Sources - Exploration areas as provided by the Explorer. State minerals leases, public waters inventory, and PLS boundaries from DNR. Highways and roads from MnDOT. Aerial photography from Farm Service Agency.

Exploration Plan Area

