



Exploration plan submitted by Franconia Minerals (US) LLC on September 22, 2023

[Summarized here by DNR Lands and Minerals Division](#)

Franconia Minerals (US) LLC (Franconia), a subsidiary of Twin Metals Minnesota LLC, proposes exploring for metallic minerals in St. Louis County in an area five miles to six miles east of Babbitt, Minnesota (Figure 1). Franconia has explored this area intermittently since 2010.

If the proposal meets the requirements of applicable state law and is approved by the DNR, Franconia will have the right to explore the specified state minerals under the terms of an existing nonferrous metallic mineral lease, consistent with the exploration plan and any special conditions required by DNR.

Description of exploration activity: Franconia proposes diamond drilling exploratory borings at up to six drill sites within the leased boundary. Franconia will clearly post drill sites and active survey areas. All exploratory boring activity will follow regulations set by Minnesota Department of Health.

Access: Franconia will use existing roads and trails as much as possible, but construction or improvement of temporary access trails may be required to safely reach some drill sites. To minimize disturbances, Franconia may use composite mats to stabilize trails and drill pads. If access across non-state lands is required to reach the exploration area, Franconia will contact surface owners to establish acceptable access prior to beginning proposed activities.

State nonferrous metallic mineral leases: MM-9722-N, MM-9455-N, MM-10197-N, MM-10011-N

Expected time period: upon approval by DNR through March 31, 2025

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

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DNR Summary Report for Franconia Minerals (US) LLC Plan Submitted on September 22, 2023 and published by DNR Lands and Minerals Division on September 29, 2023.

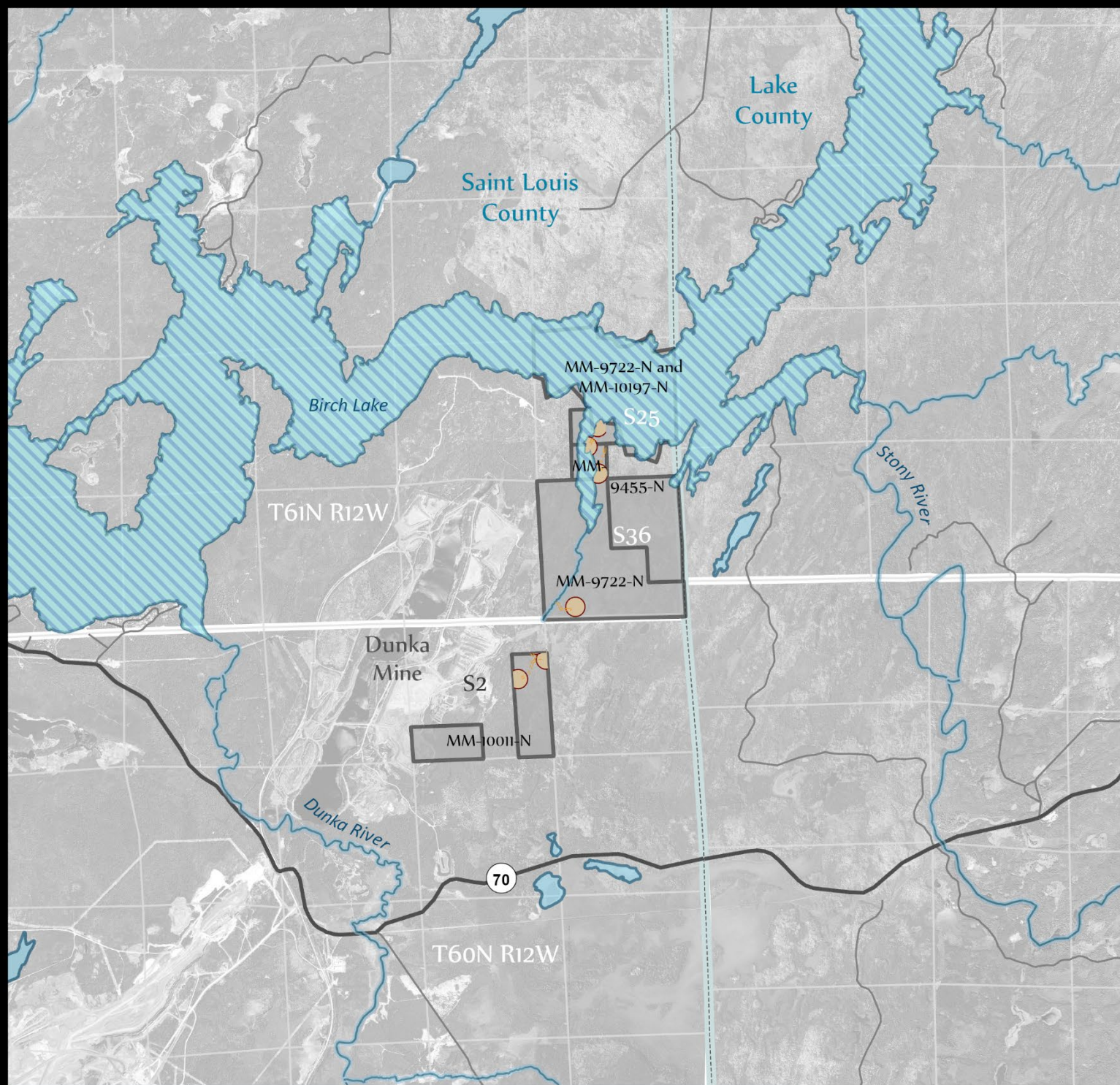

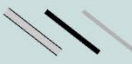






Figure 1. DNR Overview Map of Exploration Plan

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|---|--|---|---|
|  | State Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Leases |  | State, County, Local, Pit, and Forest Roads |
|  | Proposed Exploratory Boring Sites |  | Public Waters |
|  | Access Trails |  | Wild Rice Waters |

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

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

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.

