

## Exploration plan submitted by Franconia Minerals (US) LLC on November 6, 2025

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

Franconia Minerals (US) LLC (Franconia), a subsidiary of Twin Metals Minnesota LLC (Twin Metals), proposes to continue exploration for metallic minerals in St. Louis County in an area approximately five (5) miles east of Babbitt, Minnesota (Figure 1). This area has been explored intermittently since 2005.

If the proposal meets the requirements of applicable state laws and is approved by the DNR, Franconia will have the right to explore the specified state lands under a nonferrous metallic mineral lease consistent with the exploration plan, any conditions, and applicable laws and rules.

**Description of proposed exploration activity:** Franconia proposes diamond drilling exploratory borings at up to nineteen (19) drill sites. The proposal also includes conducting down-hole geophysical surveys in the newly drilled borings. Any exploration in wetlands will occur when the ground is frozen or while utilizing best management practices, such as mats, to minimize disturbances. Franconia will clearly post drill sites and active areas. All exploratory boring activity will follow regulations set by the 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 mats to stabilize trails and drill sites. 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:** M-9132-N, MM-9455-N, MM-9706-N, MM-9722-N, MM-10011-N, MM-10197-N

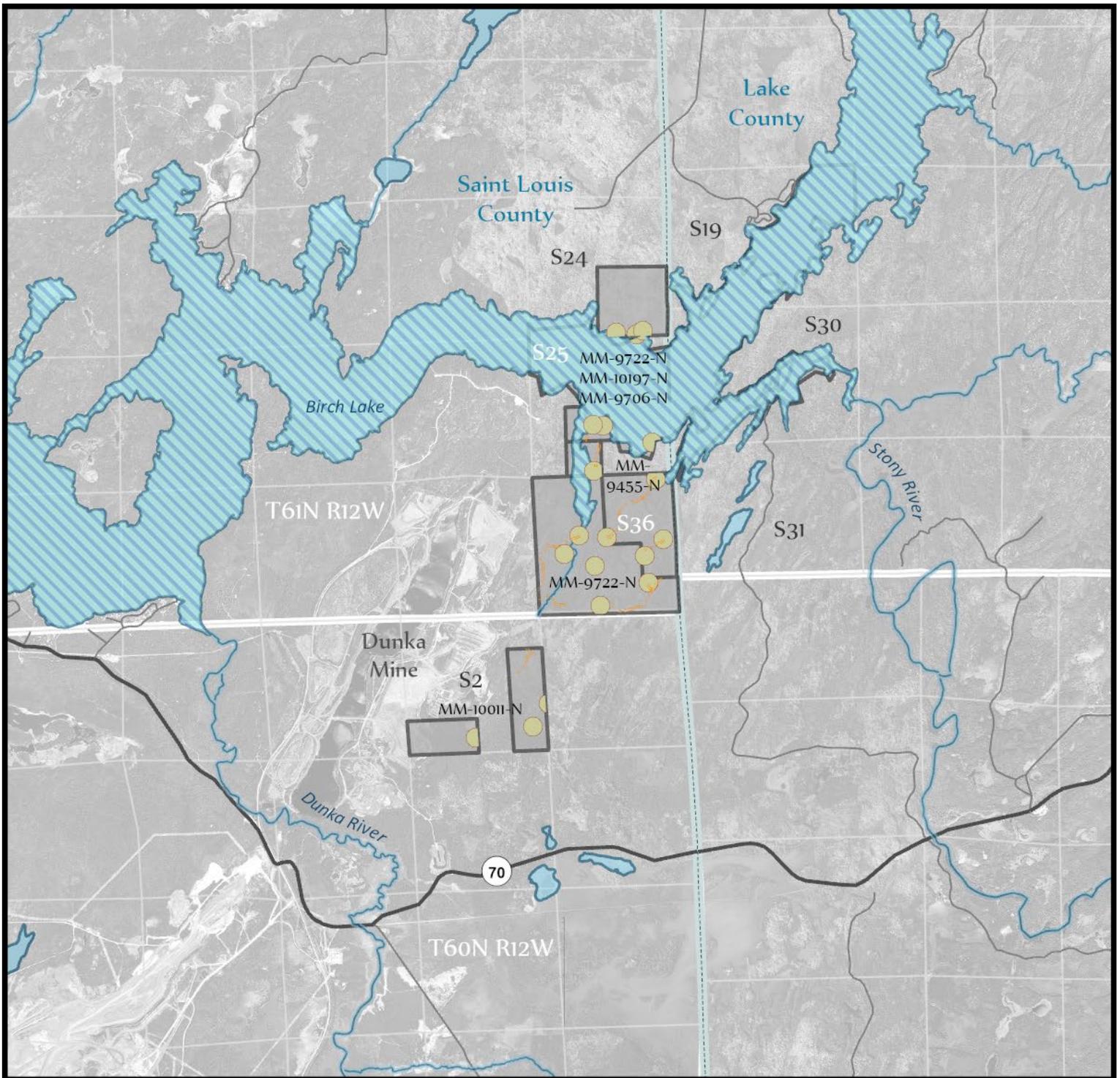
**Expected time period:** upon approval by DNR through March 31, 2027

**Explorer contact:** Dean Debeltz (651) 357 3965 or [ddebeltz@twinmetals.com](mailto:ddebeltz@twinmetals.com)

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

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DNR Summary Report for Franconia Minerals (US) LLC Exploration Plan Submitted on November 6, 2025 and published by DNR Lands and Minerals Division on November 14, 2025.



**Figure 1. DNR Overview Map of Exploration Plan**

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | 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.

**Exploration Plan Area**

