Exploration for Metallic Mineral Resources in Minnesota

Gold

BACKGROUND

The Archean Superior Province greenstone belts that host many of Canada’s richest gold camps continue along strike across the U.S. border and into the northern portion of Minnesota. The potential for gold in Minnesota’s portions of the Wawa and Wabigoon Subprovinces is excellent, and the exploration models used for nearby gold deposits in Northwestern Ontario (e.g., New Gold, Hammond Reef; Moss Lake-Hecla), should be considered. Overburden thickness and composition in Minnesota range from thin layers of glacial drift in the northeast to saprolite buried under thicker layers of glacial deposits in the northeastern part of the State. The possibility of supergene enrichment within saprolitic zones adds to the list of viable ore deposit models, and expands the area of viable greenstone belt gold exploration.

HIGHLIGHT

Previously Unrecognized Area of High Gold Potential – In 2015 the DNR identified two areas with high bedrock gold potential within a portion of the Wawa Subprovince granite greenstone terrane (see T.61, R.14-15 on the map). Clusters of till samples with high total and pristine-modified gold grain counts strongly suggest proximal gold-bearing bedrock source(s).