

Statement of Completion for a Category C Project

Class Environmental Assessment for Activities of the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines under the Mining Act

Bulk Sample and Disposition Permissions for Gary M. Mote / East Block McAuslan Project

Mining Claims S4226739 and S4257096

McAuslan Township, District of Nipissing

The Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) has completed its environmental assessment for Gary M. Mote's proposal to remove a bulk sample of bedrock for dimension stone and to dispose of the minerals removed.

The Category C screening, consultation and project review was carried out in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for MNDM's Activities under the Mining Act* (Class EA).

Consultation Summary:

The Notice of Opportunity to Comment (comment period: April 14, 2014 to May 14, 2014) and the Notice of Completion (review period June 4, 2014 to July 3, 2014) were distributed to Wolf Lake First Nation, Temiskaming First Nation, and stakeholders in the vicinity of the project.

No concerns have been expressed by the First Nation communities.

One stakeholder requested that the entire claim not be clear cut. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has been advised of this for consideration prior to issuing a Forest Resource Licence.

The comments received from the MNRF and the Ministry of Tourism Culture and Sport (MTCS) are summarized below. These comments will be forwarded to the proponent by means of the covering letter or the Permissions.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Comments:

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry reviewed the proposal and offered the following comments:

- The proposed site location for bulk sampling is within the Crown land use management area E151r, Boland Lake Recreation Area. The land use intent of this management area is to protect the high quality recreational and tourism values, while managing the area for its high quality forest and other resource values. The proposed site location is within an area where mineral exploration and aggregate extraction are not permitted in order to protect core values. This area is defined in the land use direction as "that portion of Boland Lake Area located west of Mud, Pole and Reynolds Lakes" and is outlined as Zone 1 in the Interim Land Use Plan for the McConnell Lakes Area, which was

incorporated into the North Bay District Land Use Guidelines in 1983 and now forms the basis for direction in the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas.

MNRF recognizes that the claim holder, Mr. Mote, has fulfilled his requirements under the Mining Act and retains the right to explore on staked claims. MNRF is working on an amendment to facilitate exploration in a manner consistent with provincial land use direction on the existing claims only. MNRF will issue Mr. Mote's Forest Resource Licence following approval of the amendment.

Further, MNRF is aware that Mr. Mote may wish to apply for a permit from MNRF to extract materials regulated under the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) following successful exploration. For clarity, aggregate extraction is prohibited in this area per provincial land use direction. As such, MNRF is not presently in a position to accept an application under the ARA. If Mr. Mote wishes to pursue an ARA permit application he would be required to submit a request to amend the land use policy to allow aggregate extraction to occur only on the existing claims.

As per Section 5.2 of the Guide for Crown Land Use Planning, an amendment request is subject to a screening process to determine how MNRF will proceed with the proposal. The screening process involves consideration of a number of factors to assess whether the proposal will be accepted. Any requests should be submitted in writing to the District Manager, 3301 Trout Lake Road, North Bay, Ontario, P1A 4L7. A request should include:

- A brief description of the proposed amendment, including a location with map;
- Any partners in the amendment proposal;
- The rationale for the amendment; and
- A discussion of its significance and implications.

It should also be noted that if MNRF accepts a proposal to amend the land use policy to allow for aggregate extraction, it is difficult to predict the outcome. An amendment of this nature would require public and Aboriginal community consultation as well as a posting on the Environmental Registry. Further, if the amendment were successful, an application under the ARA would be subject to the normal ARA permit application process.

- A bear management area and baitfish harvesting area have been identified for the area, and they should be contacted for possible comment. Each has been contacted and had no concerns with the bulk sample so long as activity is outside of bear season, access is not blocked and tree cutting is minimized.

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Comments:

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport offered a reminder that in the event that archaeological resources are discovered during site exaction, the proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately, and contact the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, at 416-212-8886, or e-mail: archaeology@ontario.ca, and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork. Furthermore, any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services at 416-326-8404.

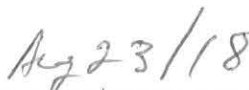
Mitigation of Potential Negative Environmental Effects:

The noise and vibration impacts related to removing the bulk sample can be mitigated to within acceptable levels, resulting in low, very short term impacts. Site rehabilitation will occur according to the Provincial Standards for Early Exploration. Should results of the bulk sample merit commercial (production) removals, the proponent must apply for an Aggregate Resources Act permit under MNRF's jurisdiction, and which is subject to the Resource Stewardship and Facilities Development Class EA.

The exploration permit and bulk sample/disposition permission decisions have been delayed in order to allow time for continuing dialogue with the proponent and MNRF regarding an amendment to the land use policy.

MNDM is proceeding with the decision to issue the Permission to Test Mineral Content.

Approved by:



Date

Brian McMahon
A/ Director, Mineral Development and Lands Branch
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
Tel: (705)670-5798 Toll-free: 1-888-415-9845, Ext. 5798
E-mail: brian.mcmahon@ontario.ca

Copies to:

- ☐ Project File
- ☐ Class EA web page
- ☐ Environmental Assessment Coordinator, Strategic Support Unit, MNDM
- ☐ Regional Director, Regional Office, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- ☐ Regional Area Supervisor, Regional Office, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- ☐ Director, Environmental Approvals Branch, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change