

MONETA MINE PERMANENT FENCING INSTALLATION SITE MAINTENANCE PROJECT

Background Information

Moneta Porcupine Mines Inc. (Moneta) operated the Moneta Mine in Timmins, Ontario, until operations ceased in the early 1940s. The surface rights/lands were then sold and developed for non-mining purposes while Moneta retained the rights to the minerals.

As a result of concern about the overall stability of the underground workings of a non-operational mine in a municipal setting, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' (MNDM) Director of Mine Rehabilitation issued two Orders pursuant to Part VII of the Mining Act (the Act) that required Moneta file two certified Closure Plans that addressed the rehabilitation of hazards associated with the mine and related underground workings. Moneta did not comply with these Orders.

Project Description

The proposed project site is the non-operational Moneta Mine property, located at 289 and 263 Railway Street in downtown Timmins. It is adjacent to various residences and businesses in the downtown core. (See Figure 1 below for location).

One of the Orders that MNDM issued to Moneta required they install permanent fencing that met a set of prescribed construction standards referenced in the *Mining Act* in order to limit potential hazards associated with ground stability and maintain public safety at the site. In response to that Order, Moneta installed the existing temporary fencing that does not meet the required set of standards.

MNDM is proposing to exercise its authority under the *Mining Act* to intervene when the requirements of an Order are not fulfilled, by removing the temporary fencing and installing approximately 300 metres of permanent fencing that will meet the standards required in the Act.

The permanent fencing will be installed in the same location as the temporary fencing, with the exception of completely enclosing both of the buildings on site, rather than tying into them (see Figure 1 below). This will better prevent access to the buildings and therefore the site in general. The temporary fencing will be

removed prior to the installation of the permanent fencing and piled in a location where it can be recovered by the owner.

The permanent fencing will contain two locking gates so that access to the two buildings on site will be maintained if required.

Environmental Effects

There will be no negative impacts to adjacent landowners' access following proposed installation of the permanent fencing, as it will be installed in the same location as the existing temporary fencing. The site is located within an urban, developed area where there will be no additional environmental effects associated with the work.

Monitoring

When completed, this proposed project will ensure that access to the Moneta Mine Site is controlled by permanent fencing. MNM will be responsible to ensure the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the fence.

Class EA Screening Results

This proposed project was screened to a Category B in MNM's Class Environmental Assessment (Class E.A.). The replacement of existing temporary fence with permanent fence is normally considered to be a "maintenance" activity under the Class EA (Category A) with low potential for environmental effects and no consultation requirements; however, due to the location of this proposed project in a populated area – i.e., downtown Timmins – there may be public interest or concern associated with this project. MNM has categorized this as a Category B project in order to provide interested persons (e.g., surface rights owners, neighbours, City of Timmins) with an opportunity to provide comments to MNM.

Next Steps

MNM will consider any comments received as a result of the Notice of Opportunity to Provide Comment and determine how they will be addressed in the final project.

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Figure 1 – Moneta Mine Site, downtown Timmins



Figure 2 – Fencing Location

