

**Ministry of Mines**

Mineral Development Branch  
Mine Rehabilitation Section

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**Ministère des Mines**

Direction de l'exploitation des minéraux  
Section réhabilitation de la mine

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May 17, 2023

Township of Plummer Additional  
38 Railway Cres  
Bruce Mines, ON, P0R 1C0

Email: [info@plummertownship.ca](mailto:info@plummertownship.ca)

Attention: Lars Moffatt, Clerk

**Re.: Rock Lake Mine South Rehabilitation Project – Class Environmental Assessment**

The Ministry of Mines (MINES) is conducting a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed rehabilitation of mine hazards located in the southern portion of the Rock Lake Mine Site (AMIS #07781), herein referred to as Rock Lake Mine South. The mine is located off Highway 638, in the Township of Plummer Additional, approximately 16 km north of Bruce Mines, Ontario. A detailed description of the site, proposed rehabilitation activities, potential environmental effects and associated mitigation measures is provided in the attached *Project Description*.

This letter is to **gather information** and **consult** on the Category B EA being conducted under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Activities of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines under the Mining Act* (amended 2018). Please review the information below and provide input by **June 17, 2023**.

**Information Gathering**

The Ministry of Mines has gathered information relevant to the Class EA, as summarized in the table below. We would appreciate your confirmation of the accuracy of this information and would like you to provide additional information as needed.

Information	Site- Specific Information
Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)/ Environmental Significant Areas	According to the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Map, there are no ANSIs, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Conservation Reserves, or Environmentally Significant Areas located on or adjacent to the mine.

Natural Areas and Land Use	According to the Township of Plummer Official Plan – Land Use Plan Map (August 2012), the mine overlaps with an area identified as a core deer wintering area (stratum 2).
Source Water Protection/ Drinking Water Sources	The mine is not situated within a Source Water Protection Area and the MECP Well Records Interactive Map does not identify any potable water wells within 500 m of the mine. The proposed work is not expected to have an impact on the wells or other drinking water sources.
Heritage/ Archaeological Significance	No below-grade work or access improvements are required to facilitate the rehabilitation work. A Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report and Archaeological Assessment will be completed prior to the rehabilitation of mine hazards located in the northern portion of the mine.

### **Consultation**

**We would appreciate your input** related to the undertaking including, but not limited to, potential environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures. Several general mitigation measures have already been identified that will be applied to the project, as summarized in the attached *Project Description*. Please review this information and provide input as needed.

If you have any input related to the project itself or are aware of any other stakeholders who may have an interest in the proposed project, please notify us in writing by **June 17, 2023**, to the signatory below.

### **Environmental Assessment Reporting**

The results of consultation, potential environment effects, and any proposed ways to address them will be documented in the Category B Project Documentation that will be made available for public review.

### **Personal Information**

Personal information, if any, provided in a response to this request is collected on behalf of The Ministry of Mines for the purpose of administering a lawfully authorized activity, specifically carrying out an environmental assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and will be maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public for the purpose of transparency and consultation, as permitted by s. 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA), (together the Purposes). You will be presumed to have consented, pursuant to FIPPA to the collection of any personal information you provide for the Purposes.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Haring". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being particularly large and stylized.

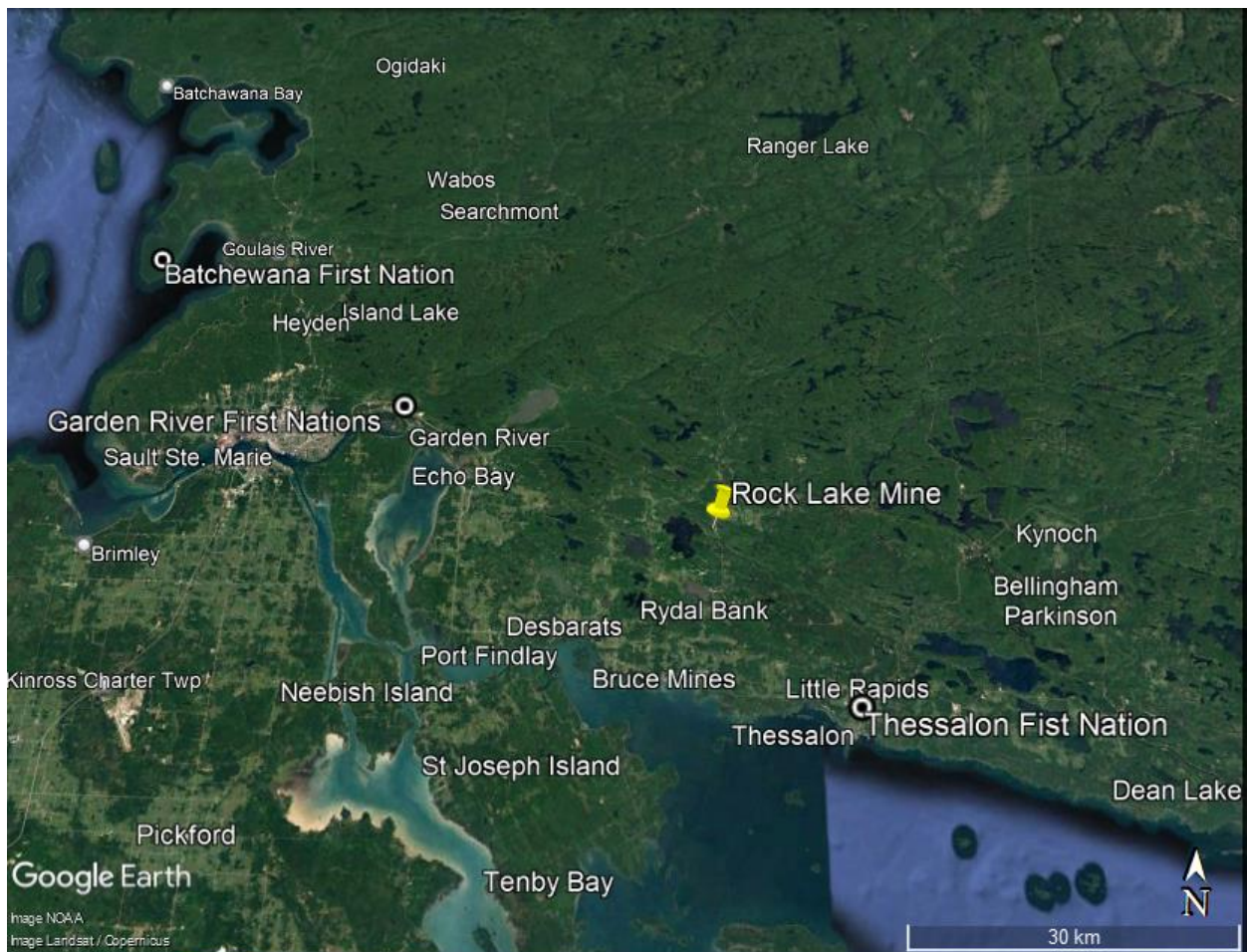
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Encls.:  
Project Description: Rock Lake Mine South Rehabilitation Project

# Project Description: Rock Lake Mine South Rehabilitation Project

## BACKGROUND

The Rock Lake Mine (AMIS #07781) is a former gold, silver and copper mine that operated from 1899 to 1903. The mine is located off Highway 638, in the Township of Plummer Additional, approximately 16 km north of Bruce Mines, Ontario. The mine property can be divided into a northern area accessed by a private trail and a southern area accessed via a residential driveway. The Rock Lake cemetery is located between the two accessways. The location of the site is provided below on Figure 1.



**Figure 1 – Site Location Plan.**

## REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES

The objective of the project is to rehabilitate the mine hazards located in the southern portion of the Rock Lake Mine property, herein referred to as Rock Lake Mine South. The proposed rehabilitation work will focus on the adit feature that allows access to the underground workings and is easily accessible by the public. The adit is accessed by a residential driveway off Highway 638, with limited access improvements needed to facilitate the work. The project boundary will be defined by the access road and the area east of the adit. All other hazards associated with the Rock Lake Mine are primarily situated in the northern portion of the property and will be included as part of a separate Class Environmental Assessment. The location of all mine hazards and the project boundary for the Rock Lake Mine South rehabilitation project are illustrated below on Figure 2.



**Figure 2-** Location of mine hazards at the Rock Lake Mine property. The proposed rehabilitation activities will address the adit (feature ID 82945) located in Rock Lake Mine South. The boundary of the project area is defined by the site access road and area east of the adit.

It is assumed that the underground workings provide habitat to bat species at risk and, as such the preferred rehabilitation strategy is the installation of a stainless-steel gate. The gate will eliminate safety concerns related to access by the public, while still allowing bats to easily enter/exit the underground workings. The work is expected to occur over

five days, during the summer months (i.e., between May 1st and October 31st) when bats are not expected to be actively hibernating within the mine.

## CLASS EA SCREENING

The proposed rehabilitation activities are subject to The Ministry of Mines Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Process. The undertaking has been screened as a Category B with low potential for environmental effects, in accordance with the requirements of the *Class Environmental Assessment for Activities of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines under the Mining Act* (amended 2018).

## ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Several environmental effects associated with the undertaking have been identified during the Class EA screening process. A summary of negative environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures that would negate or reduce the significance of the environmental effects are provided below in Table 1.

Environmental Effect	Description	Proposed Mitigation Measure
Noise and Vibration	Short term noise and vibration impacts associated with vehicles and use of drilling equipment may occur.	All rehabilitation work and mobilization of equipment will be limited to the daytime hours and will comply with applicable noise by-laws and guidelines.
Terrestrial Species or Habitat	Wildlife may be temporarily displaced due to increased noise levels, vibrations and vehicular traffic associated with the rehabilitation work.  Wildlife-vehicle collisions may cause injury/mortality to individual animals. Domestic waste generated may unintentionally attract wildlife to the work area.	Any disturbances to wildlife will be short-term and limited to the footprint of the adit. Disturbed wildlife is expected to recolonize the area quickly upon project completion.  The risk of mortality and injury to wildlife will be reduced by enforcing speed limits on access roads. The work area will remain free of litter and all waste disposed of in accordance O.Reg 347.
Endangered Species / Species at risk or habitat	It is assumed that the underground workings provide overwintering habitat to bat species at risk. The rehabilitation strategy result in modifications to the adit but will not affect the ability for bats to	The work will occur over five days, during the summer months when bats are not expected to be actively hibernating within the mine. The activity will be completed in accordance with the requirements outlined in Section

	<p>utilize the habitat in the long-term.</p> <p>The Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas does not identify any previous occurrences of SAR on or adjacent to the mine. The NHIC Map identified a previous occurrence of Arrowhead Spiketail (<i>Cordulegaster obliqua</i>), a dragonfly species considered vulnerable in Ontario.</p>	<p>23.18 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA 2007).</p> <p>Project activities are not expected to impact habitat of Arrowhead Spiketail. If any additional SAR are encountered during the rehabilitation activities, work must immediately stop and the MECP consulted as to how to proceed. Applicable regulatory requirements will be adhered to, and mitigation measured implemented to avoid impacting SAR.</p>
Soils - contaminants, sedimentation, erosion.	<p>There is the potential to negatively impact soil quality through spills and sedimentation.</p>	<p>An emergency spill kit will be readily available at all times during construction activities and all workers trained on proper use. Should a spill occur, regardless of its severity, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks will be immediately notified through the Ontario Spill Action Centre (1-800-268-6060).</p>
Air Quality	<p>Standard trucks/vehicles will be utilized to mobilize equipment to the mine. No heavy equipment is required. The emissions associated with the vehicles is expected to be minimal.</p> <p>There is the potential for increased fugitive dust to occur associated with the use of drills to install the gates. The dust will be minimal and limited to the adit location.</p>	<p>If required, water or a dust suppression system will be utilized to reduce dust emissions as needed.</p>
Seasonal or Permanent Residence	<p>Project activities occur adjacent to a residential property. Temporary disturbances associated with noise, vibrations and dust may occur over the five-day duration of the work.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures for noise, vibration and dust have been detailed above.</p> <p>Communication with the property owner will be maintained and, if</p>

		required, fencing established to secure the work area.
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## **NEXT STEPS**

The Ministry of Mines is seeking input on the undertaking and proposed mitigation measures as part of the Class EA process. The procurement to complete the rehabilitation activities is expected to be awarded in the early summer 2023. The rehabilitation activities will be completed by October 2023.

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