
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DE L'ÉVALUATION ENVIRONNEMENTALE ET STRATÉGIQUE

Preliminary information on
a project in a northern region

September 2017

*Développement durable,
Environnement et Lutte
contre les changements
climatiques*

Québec 

À l'usage du Ministère	Date de réception :
	Numéro de dossier :

1. Project proponent (natural or legal person)

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Responsable du projet :	Gino D'Anna
Obligatoire : N° d'entreprise du Québec (NEQ) du Registraire des entreprises du Québec	In Process

2. Consultant commissioned by the proponent (if applicable)

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Where the proponent has commissioned a consultant, the proponent must submit a resolution attesting that the consultant was mandated to submit this application.

3. Project title

Stripping (25,000 m³) and bulk sampling (975 tons) – Cancet Property

4. Project objectives and justification

Indicate the main objectives and the reasons for implementing the project.

Previous investigations for MetalsTech on the Cancet claim block have yielded promising results with the discovery of lithium and to a lesser extent, of tantalum in 2016. Drilling operations were conducted in 2017 with positive results. Thus, MetalsTech is expressing interest in continuing exploration of the Cancet claim block for the period 2018-2020. The proposed project includes the stripping of overburden and bulk sampling of bedrock in order to increase our knowledge of the geology of the site and to better characterize the extent and quality of the mineral resource.

As part of the proposed project, we would like to have the authorization to strip the overburden in various locations on the claim block to have access to the bedrock underneath. We propose

stripping up to 25,000 m³ of overburden over the next 3 years, from 2018 to 2020, inclusively. The relatively large volume required to be stripped is due to the various thicknesses of overburden on the claim block varying between less than 1 m and up to 5 m. The overall volume of 25,000 m³ would be stripped from numerous sites with the intention of targeting optimal locations for drilling operations. Stripping of the overburden is also needed for bulk sampling with the ultimate objective of collecting a sample representative of the site for metallurgical tests and site evaluations for potential exploitation agreements.

While a general area has been identified for overburden stripping and bulk sampling, the specific location of excavations remains unknown. Specific locations will be identified following field programmes and based on specific site conditions, geology and geography. Locations will be further refined as preliminary results from excavations and drilling are obtained. While a maximum of 8 trenches could be excavated, bulk sampling will be collected from a maximum of one or two sites, to be determined following preliminary exploration work.

Detailed descriptions of the methods used for overburden stripping and bulk sampling can be found in section 6. Map 1 shows the extent of the general area of investigation.

5. Project location

Indicate the location(s) where the project is likely to be carried out, the categories of land (I, II and III), the municipalities and, as a requirement, the geographic coordinates (degrees.minutes.seconds) in GEO NAD83 datum. Include an appendix containing a topographic or cadastral map illustrating the project location. The shape files used to produce the location map must be attached to the electronic version of the preliminary information.

The proposed project would take place on the claim block shown on Maps 2 and 3, on Category III land near James Bay, south of the La Grande 3 Reservoir. The trapline VC26 of Mr. Melvin Georgekish is located on the claim block. The central geographic coordinates of the claim block is 53°30'10.62"N and 74°55'15.76"O (505237, 5928225 NAD83, Zone 18). A list of the block claims are found in Appendix 1.

6. Description of project and alternatives under study

For each phase of the project (site development, construction, operation and restoration, if applicable), describe the principle characteristics of each project alternative, including planned activities, developments and work (clearing, dynamiting, backfilling, etc.). Briefly describe the operating procedures, technologies used, required equipment and material, raw materials, etc. Attach all documents that will help get a better grasp of project characteristics (plan, sketches and drawings, cross-section, etc.).

Project phases are similar for both aspects of the proposed project (stripping of the overburden and bulk sampling). When differences are present, they are highlighted for each specific phase.

Phase I: Identification of the need to strip and of the required perimeter.

- While a general area has been identified for overburden stripping and bulk sampling, the specific locations of excavation sites need to be refined. This step will be carried out in the

field based on site characteristics (such as soil composition, geology and topography) and using mineralization models. The thickness of the overburden is estimated between less than 1 m and 5 m. The main trench will be located approximately 0.5 to 1 km from water bodies and smaller trenches will be located at a distance greater than 25 m from water bodies. Soil type over the claim block is predominantly sand.

Phase II: Fieldwork logistics and workers briefing.

- Work material, tools and machinery will be brought to the site using existing roads. Workers will receive clear instructions before the start of the project with regards to all of the activities related to stripping and bulk sampling. Best practice instructions will be given and enforced. Permits, authorizations and associated conditions will be reviewed prior to the start of fieldwork.

Phase III: Stripping

- Total volumes for the proposed stripping is up to 25,000 m³ and includes an estimated 12,000 m³ for trenches to target drill holes, as well as ~12,000 m³ at the site of the bulk sampling. The total sum of all stripping from drill hole targeting and bulk sampling will not exceed 25,000 m³.
- The surface area to be stripped of the overburden for bulk sampling is expected to be 12,000 m² over depths of <1 to 5 m, as estimated from previous drilling operations. Areas potentially targeted for stripping are dominated by extensive rock outcrops, explaining why less than 1 m of stripping will be needed in designated areas.
- Excavated material will be stored near the excavated site and placed according to soil layers (C-B-A) to facilitate optimal backfill. Vegetation cover will be gently removed and preserved as best as possible to optimize revegetation following backfill. Excavated soil will be stored in a way to prevent leaching of particles into water bodies.
- Temporary fences will be erected to protect the workers, general public and animals from falls into excavated areas. Since the soil type over the claim block is predominantly sand and offers great drainage potential, it is expected that water won't accumulate in the trenches. It is also expected that most of the excavation will take place above the water table.
- Tests will be performed on the various rock types encountered on site to assess for acid rock drainage potential. However, it is expected that acid rock drainage will not be an issue as rocks in the area have very low sulphide content. Test results can be forwarded to the Ministry upon request. If there is a potential for acid rock drainage, we will investigate and apply the best prevention methods available. In addition, we will have a complete set of spill prevention and clean-up protocols, as well as monitoring protocols during and after the trenching is completed.

Phase IV: Sampling

- Drill hole targeting: the channel sampling approach will be used. Channel sampling is the collection of a sample over a linear interval providing a cross section of the exposed surfaces. This involves cutting a narrow channel (generally 1.5 m by 0.05 m by 0.05 m) in the rock with either a rock saw or chisel to collect the sample chips of rock. This

method may be used on exposed rock faces or along the bedrock of a surface trench. The number of cut channels will depend on the extent of the stripped area.

- Bulk sampling: blasting operations. A specialized company will be hired to carry out this part of phase IV. This contractor has not been selected yet. Hammer drills or similar tools will be used to insert sticks of dynamite in the bedrock. The quantity of dynamite to be used and the exact dimensions of the area to blast remain unknown and will be decided by the qualified contractor on site. We expect the dimension of the area to blast to be approximately 25 m by 25 m for a bulk sampling size of 975 tons. All regulations and any other applicable legislations will be respected.

Phase V: Sample collection

- Drill hole targeting: Samples will be individually stored in plastic bags and transported using plastic buckets to the laboratory in Montreal for analysis.
- Bulk sampling: It is expected that an excavator will be used for bulk sample collection. Bulk samples will be placed into large bags designed for such material. Bulk samples will be stored in Montreal to facilitate access for laboratory needs.
- It is possible that some bulk samples remain stored on site for a given time. In such cases, plastic bags containing the bulk samples will be stored in a carport-type of installation on the claim block, then sent to Montreal for laboratory analysis when needed. Bulk samples stored on site will be protected from the elements and placed on a waterproof surface to prevent any potential for contamination.

Phase VI: Temporary site protection

- Drill hole targeting: excavated trenches may remain open for an unknown duration in order to prevent multiple excavations of the same site in case further sampling is needed. Trenches are expected to be backfilled within the year following their excavation unless it is expected that there will be a need to access the bedrock in the following years. All trenches will be backfilled immediately after the completion of the sampling program.
- Excavation slopes of all trenches will respect the provincial guidelines for safety. For those less than 3 m deep, the temporary excavation slopes shall not exceed 0.5 in the fill layers, 0.3 if under the water table and 0.6 in the natural soil. Once on site, slopes may vary according to soil type and moisture content. Deeper trenches will require a retaining system. These slopes will be inspected and modified as need be. Excavated materials and heavy equipment will not be placed at a distance to the edge closer than the depth of the trench.
- While excavated, a security perimeter will be established around all trenches using a 0.7 m barricade for trenches of 3 m depth or less. For trenches deeper than 3 m, a fence will be built around the trenches to prevent accidental falls.
- Because the soil on the claim block is predominantly sandy, it is expected that water will not accumulate in the excavated trenches. If water has a tendency to accumulate in any given trench, they will be covered up with a plastic tarpaulin or a similar product.
- Bulk sampling: since exploration activities cover a 3-year period (2018-2020), it is possible that future sampling needs arise following initial sampling. For this reason, it would be optimal to refrain from backfilling the dynamited site until all sampling has been completed. Backfilling of the site will occur at the end of the project at the latest, or

prior to 2020 if there is no further need for sampling.

- In the case of promising preliminary results from the sampling program and assuming that all permitting and authorizations are granted, the site may remain excavated until it becomes a mine. In such case, barricades and fences would remain on site as long as excavations remain open. Careful monitoring of potential contamination would be conducted and mitigation measures, such as water pumping or site covering with tarpaulins would be employed if/when necessary.

Phase VII: Site restoration

- All stripped overburden stockpiled on site will be backfilled and contoured to a stable angle of repose.
- Excavated sites will be backfilled using stockpiled soil layers in their proper order when possible. If still healthy, the vegetation cover will be placed over the backfill. If not possible, revegetation will be accomplished according to the most appropriate method for the area; a mix of seeds adapted to the area can be used or natural revegetation may be selected as a more appropriate method.

Phase VIII: Closing of the site

- In the event that exploration doesn't lead to the opening of a mine, monitoring of the backfilled areas will be conducted to prevent long-term negative impacts of the activities related to exploration and to address any potential impact if needed.

7. Environmental components and main constraints to project implementation

For all the sites affected, briefly describe the state of the natural and human environments prior to implementation of the project, as well as the constraints to its implementation.

Biophysical environment of the La Grande region

The natural environment is dominated by taiga (forest-tundra), small creeks, ponds, marshland and peatland, rivers, lakes and multiple rock outcrops. No vulnerable or endangered species, no habitat types or specific conditions related to the fauna and flora of special importance have been identified in the CDNPQ database. Dominant tree species include black spruce, jack pine, larch and aspen. Willow trees and small plants are also present, along with various types of moss and northern vegetation. No conservation areas are found nearby.

The Trans Taiga road and power lines run along the claim block and the heliport – Poste Lemoyne is also located in it. The area has undergone some human disturbances during the construction of these infrastructures. Several old aggregate sites that were used to construct the Trans Taiga road are located nearby. Apart from the above-mentioned human disturbances, the area is mostly in a natural state.

Human environment of the La Grande region

No aboriginal village is found in the La Grande area. However, the trapline VC26 of Mr. Melvin Georgekish is located on the claim block. In addition to the sporadic exploration activities of

MetalsTech on site, some industrial activities related to the exploitation of the hydroelectric complex La Grande by Hydro-Québec occur in the region.

8. Primary impacts anticipated

Briefly describe the primary impacts likely to occur in the natural and human environments as a result of each phase of the project (site development, construction, operation and restoration, if applicable).

For “grey zone” projects, provide sufficient information to enable an assessment of the project’s environmental and social impacts with a view to determining whether or not the project should be submitted to the environmental and social impact assessment and review procedure. Explain the planned mitigation and restoration measures, if any.

Environmental impacts will be variable according to the surface area and depth to be stripped and the extent of the blasting required afterwards. All regulatory distances with respect to water required by various governmental agencies (MDDELCC, FOC, etc.), and all guidelines that exist on the topic will be respected (Appendix 2). The procedures and safeguards implemented through the duration of the works will be completed in a way to minimize the area and the potential impacts. All hazardous material will be stored and handled properly to avoid any leaching in or damage to the environment. All subcontracted companies hired to do the work will also be made aware of the environmental requirements and procedures to be respected.

However, even with the most caution, the following minimal impacts may occur:

- Wildlife disturbance by noises and vibrations due to machinery and blasting. Stripping in itself requires only a few hours to a few days (1 or 2 at most) depending on the volume of overburden that needs to be stripped, the number of workers and the tools used (shovels or heavy machinery). There will be no long term impacts.
- Deforestation of the surface to be sampled up to an area of 0.5 km². Since the region is dominated by extensive areas of natural environment, the small-scale disturbance induced by the activities related to stripping and bulk sampling will not have long-term, wide-spread negative impacts.
- Leaching of material from the accumulation area of the overburden materials. Our material has a very low potential to produce acid mining drainage (very low sulphur content), and there is no uranium in the deposit. The ore should not stay on site very long as we should ship it by the end of the summer 2018. In addition, the stockpile will be covered with tarpaulins to shelter it from the elements;
- Disturbance of wildlife habitats by the modification of the ground surface. Only <1 to 5 metres of overburden (to be replaced upon completion in reverse order) and 2 to 4 meters of rock on a relatively small surface. We don’t expect any long term impacts in that regard;
- Modification of the local hydrological system. Stripping of the overburden, blasting, excavation and the resulting alteration to the local topography may temporarily alter the pattern of water accumulation on site. Water may temporarily accumulate in trenches. If water has a tendency to accumulate in any given trench, we will cover it up with a plastic tarpaulin or a similar product. Any impact on the hydrological system will be temporary and will end following backfilling of the trenches.
- Accidental spills or release of hazardous materials into the environment. Protocols will be in place on site for spill prevention but also in the event of a spill. In the event of a spill, all work

- will immediately cease and clean-up will begin with the relevant regulatory bodies notified.
- Accidental release or leaching of particles, soil or rock debris into a water body. The main trench will be approximately 0.5 to 1 km away from the nearest water body. All trenches will be at least 25 metres from a water body to avoid any leaching.

9. Public information and consultation processes

The Ministère encourages project proponents to inform and consult the public at the beginning of the planning stage as well as during preparation of the impact statement to ensure more effective integration of the project in the community and environment. Explain the various forms of public information and consultation already carried out or expected to be carried out during the project planning stage, including exchanges with the local populations, in particular the Crees, Inuit or Naskapis, and, if applicable, state the concerns expressed.

The Wemindji Cree has been informed in writing of our project prior to every activity and have been invited to contact us with questions, concerns and comments. The owner of trapline VC26 located on the claim block, Mr. Melvin Georgekish, has also been informed in writing of our proposed project and has been invited to communicate with us. Communications with Mr. Georgekish occur via his father, Mr. Edward Georgekish, who keeps abreast of past, ongoing and future activities related to mining exploration.

Gino D'Ana, MetalsTech President, visited Wemindji in June 2017 to meet with Dennis Georgekish, Chief of the Wemindji Cree, and to discuss the potential future activities of MetalsTech in the area. We plan on continuing communication with the Wemindji Cree and Mr. Melvin Georgekish to keep them informed of any development with regards to the proposed project and to invite them to share any concerns, questions or comments with us.

10. Project schedule

Indicate the timetable for implementation of each phase of the project, bearing in mind the time required for each stage of the procedure, preparation of the impact statement, public consultations or information sessions held by the proponent or responsible committees, etc.

Activities related to stripping and bulk sampling on site could begin as early as March 2018. Information letters containing details of the 2018 proposed program should be sent in the Fall of 2017. Although we request the authorization to carry out the work over a period of 3 years, each phase (stripping, blasting, sampling ...) is of relatively short duration.

The excavation of a trench for drill hole targeting usually takes 1 to 2 days. On site sample analysis and collection takes a few days, perhaps one to two weeks if the trench shows exceptional conditions. The trenches may remain open for a few months to a few years depending on future use assessment. Backfilling takes a few hours to a few days depending on the size of the trench and the equipment used. The time required for revegetation following backfilling varies depending on the method used; only a few hours are needed if the initial vegetation cover can be used, a few years are needed if natural revegetation is the preferred method. Monitoring following site closure is expected to take one to multiple years depending on the scope of mitigation measures that must be employed.

For the bulk sampling site, the duration of each phase is expected to be similar. Bulk sampling will take place in 2018 only. No blasting is planned for 2019 and 2020. It is expected that activities related to blasting will take a few weeks but no longer than a month. Sample collection may take a few days to a week given the large volume of sample needed. The site may remain open for a few months to a few years depending on future use assessment. Site restoration and monitoring will be of similar scope than the ones described in the previous paragraph.

11. Subsequent phases and related projects

If applicable, discuss subsequent phases of the proposed project, as well as any other project likely to influence the project design.

No ulterior exploration phases or projects are expected to impact the conception of the proposed project. Preliminary sampling results may suggest that the site of exploration be shifted to another area of the claim block. Under this scenario, and if stripping and bulk sampling activities must be changed from what is described in this document, a new project will be submitted for authorization.

12. Signature of the applicant

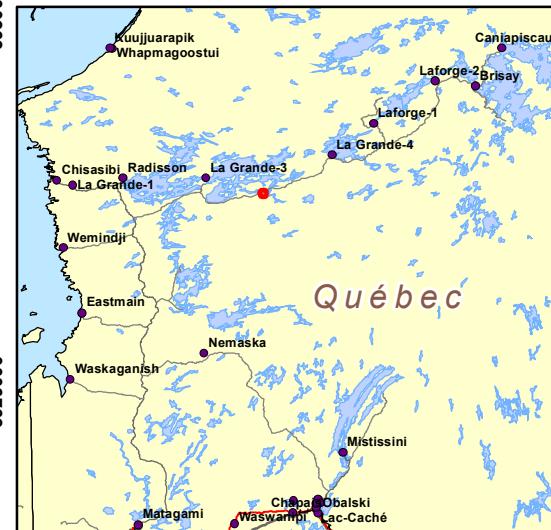
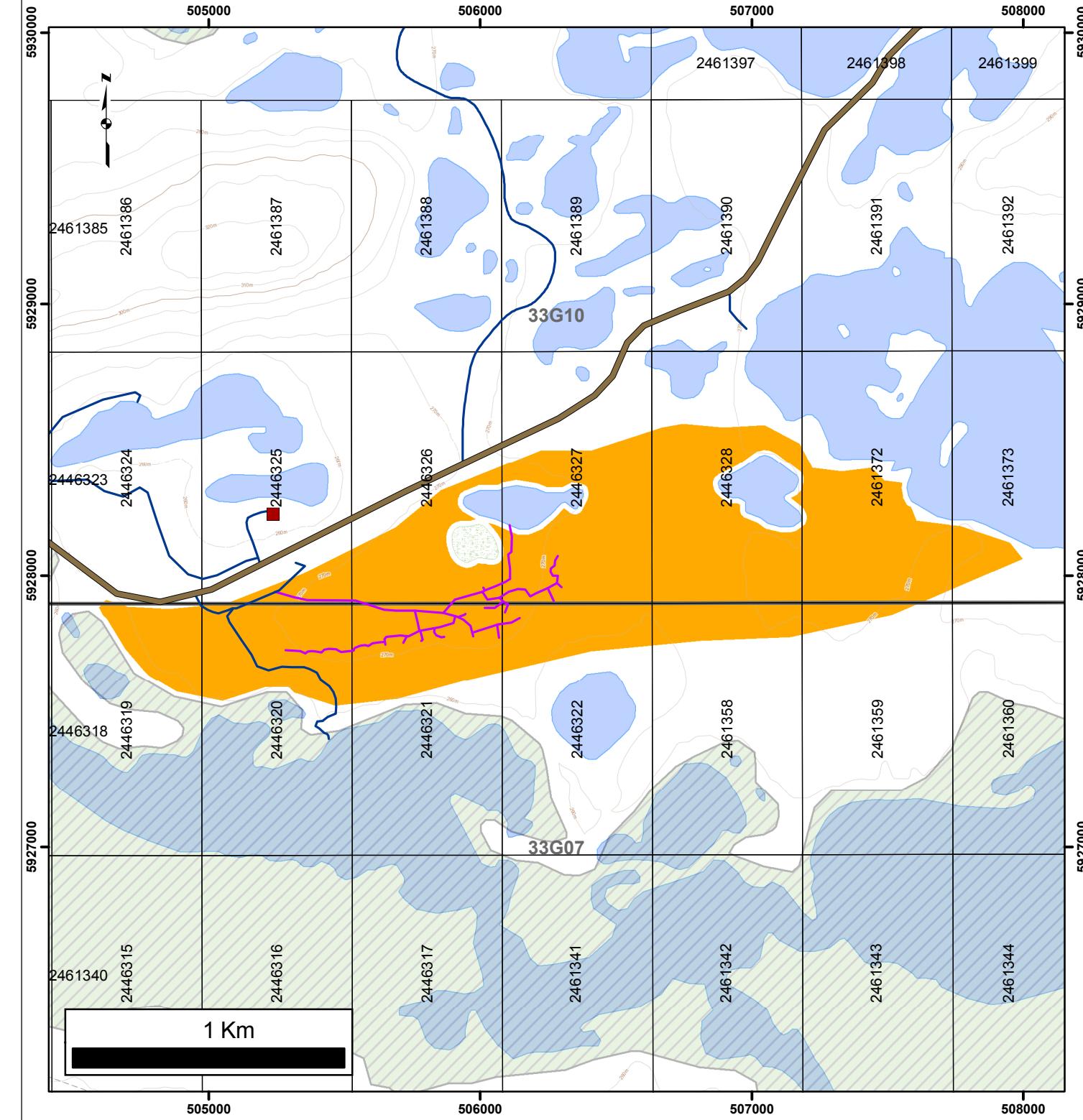
I, (name of applicant or authorized signatory, position), hereby certify that the information provided in this preliminary information form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.



September 26, 2017

Signature of applicant or authorized signatory

Date



Legend

- General Work Area
 - Camp Location
 - Highway
 - Existing Trails
 - Trails from 2017 spring work
 - Mineral Claims
 - Hydro Quebec minor restriction
 - Wetland
 - Waterbody

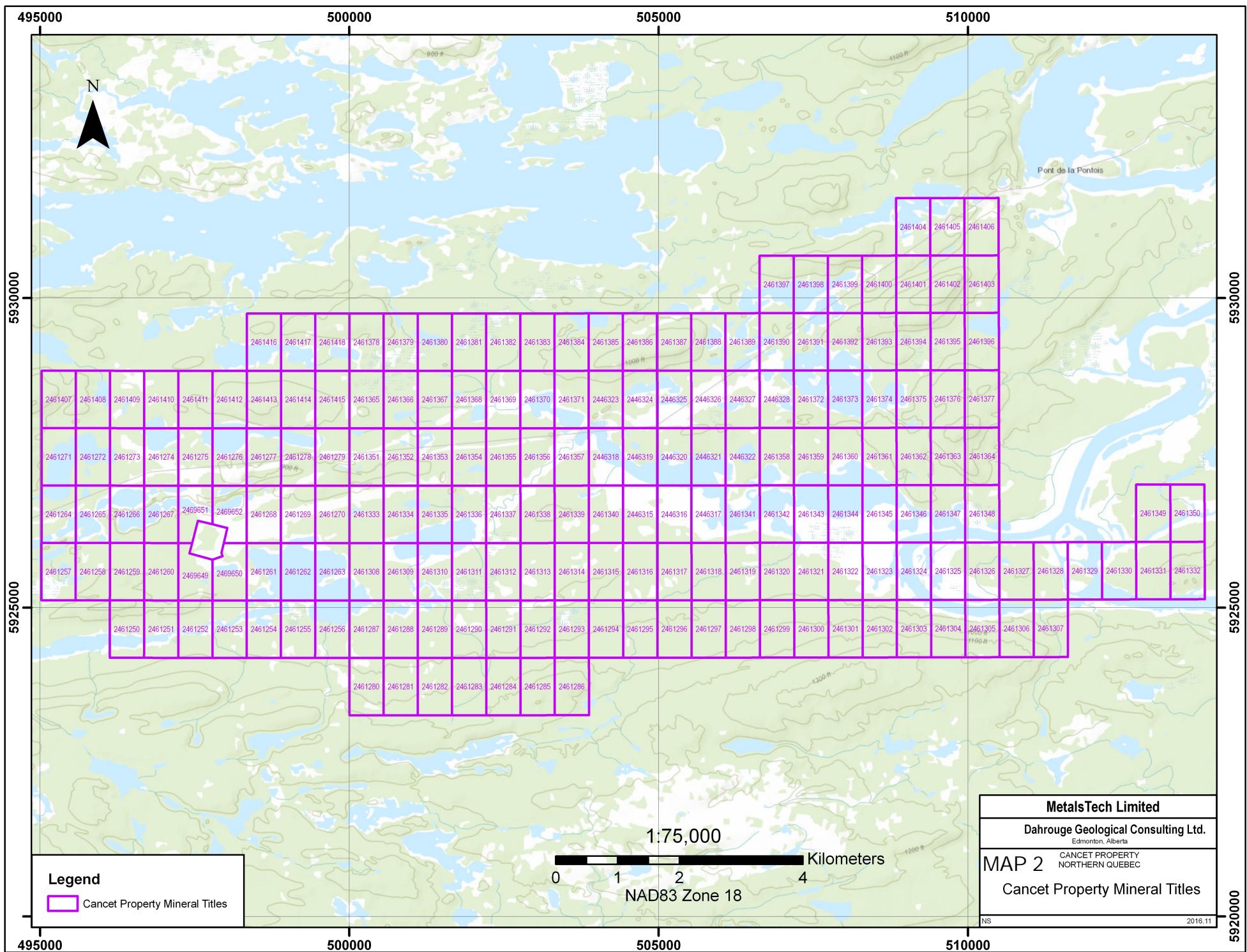
METALSTECH LIMITED

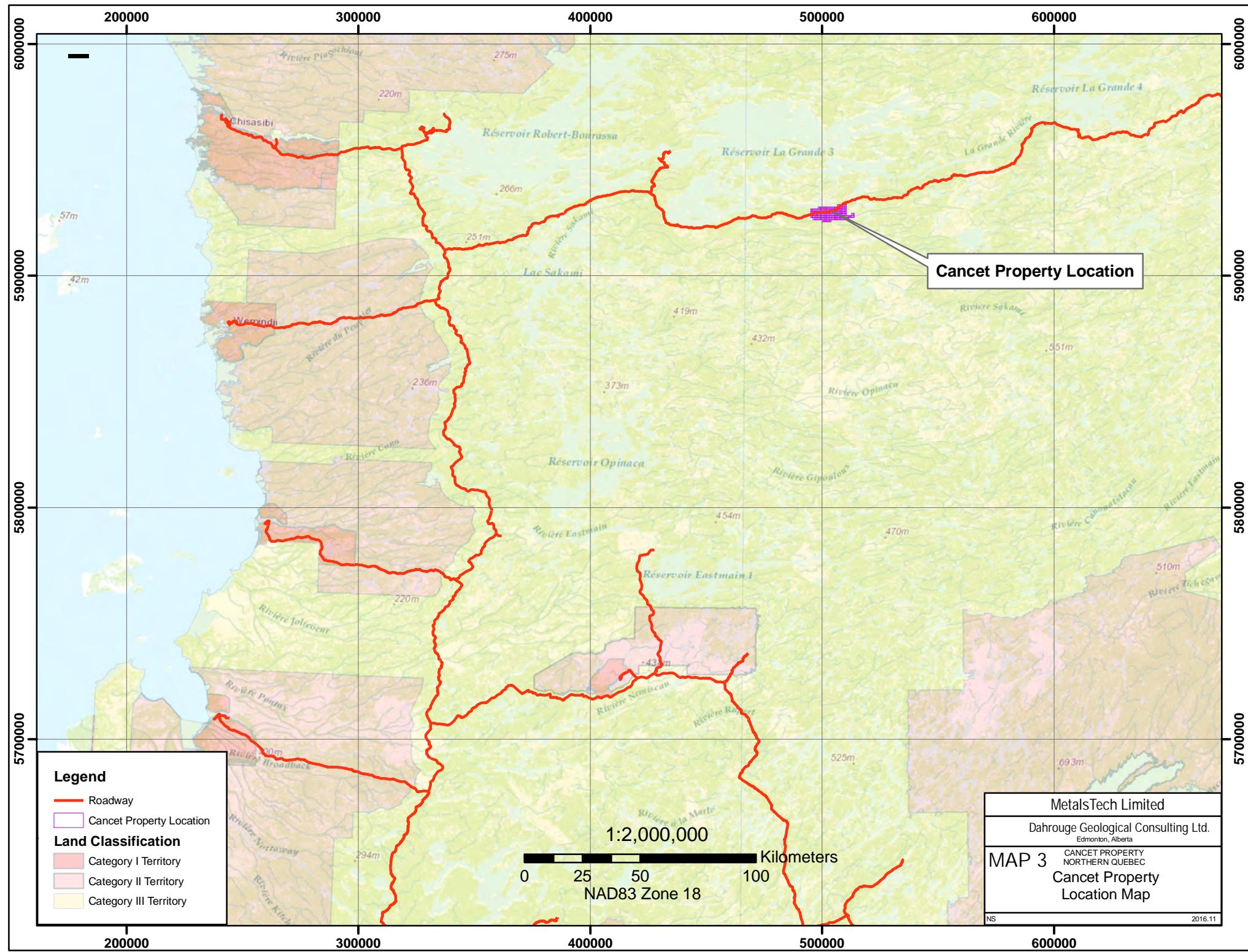
MAP 1

General Work Map Cancet Project

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2017-09





APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 2

BEST PRACTICES FOR STRIPPING

The purpose of stripping is to remove a volume of soil to inspect the bedrock beneath. Always keep in mind the environmental footprint that is being created to ensure it is minimized as best practical. If there are questions or concerns at any stage of the process, please contact the Project Manager or the Environmental Manager on site.

- One person is in charge of applying the best practices per stripping site. This person is determined in advance and responsible for any damage caused by the non-respect of guidelines.
- It is absolutely forbidden to trench in aquatic environments or in riparian zones (shores), or to work from the shore, and it is forbidden to proceed if work is likely to affect aquatic environments or their shores.
 - Stripping must be done at least 10 m away from the high water mark (HWM), or 15 m when the slope is steeper than 30 degrees.
 - Make sure that the excavated material is located at least 20 m away from the HWM and that it is stable to avoid any leaching of particles in the water.
- Reduce the surface altered around the trenching area (transportation of the CAT/mini-excavator, treading of soil by trenching workers).
- Avoid the creation of ruts.
- Avoid transportation in slopes (increased risk of erosion and leaching of particles).
- Avoid work that increases the concentration and acceleration of the water flow.
- There must be spill kits on site, ready to be used if a spill occurs.
 - Fuelling and maintenance of machinery must be done at least 60 m away from any water course or body. All camp equipment must be re-fueled in an enclosed and monitored environment to prevent spills.
- Use absorbents when refueling the machinery.
- Hazardous material, if required on site, must be stored on impervious surfaces to contain any potential leak.
- Make sure the machinery is clean, in good condition and exempt of leak.
- Keep alteration of the site at a minimum required.
- Talk with the Project Manager if you think the trench is likely to have negative impacts on the environment.

BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF WORK

- Follow a stripping plan. Clearly determine the surface to be stripped in advance, taking into account that it may be modified according to the bedrock/soil conditions.
- Identify sensitive zones.
- Define soil storage areas in advance.
- If trenching close to a slope or a cliff and applicable, leave a vegetated buffer zone to prevent the leaching of material, especially when the rock is exposed.
- If applicable, keep a vegetation buffer with water bodies.
- Work in riparian zones (shores) and in water is strictly forbidden, unless the Project Manager says otherwise and has appropriate authorization.

- Assess the slope of the ground around. Avoid work when the slope is approximately 10 degrees or more, or implement leaching mitigation measures.
- Avoid trenching where it is likely to cause erosion.
- If trenching where erosion is likely cannot be avoided, measures to prevent erosion must be implemented. Appropriate measures depend on the ground characteristics. Discuss with the Project Manager on the best way to proceed.
- Prevent leaching of particles in the water, use appropriate measures. Discuss with the Project Manager on the best way to proceed if leaching is likely to happen.
- Make sure all workers are aware of the guidelines, and understand the need to respect them.

SITE PREPARATION

- Measure and flag the distance with respect with water.
- Assess the wetness of the soil to evaluate proximity to water table or leaching potential.
- Only cut the minimum number of trees necessary for the work to be done.
- If working close to a riparian zone (shores) and tree cutting is required, make sure that the trees won't fall into the riparian zone. Move them away from the shore.

TRENCHING OPERATIONS

- Attempt to remove the topsoil neatly and keep it aside for future re-vegetation.
- If practical and feasible, keep the topsoil and the rest of the overburden in two separate piles.
- Keep the soil stripped in neat piles as this will allow efficient backfilling later on.
- Make sure that the water entering the trench or infiltrating the trench, if any, is not contaminated.
- If trenching a large surface, strip small portions of the trench at a time – remove topsoil, then the rest of the overburden to the bedrock, then start another portion.
- When practical, keep the machinery on the topsoil only, and on the surface to be stripped.
- If the trenching work is subject to a governmental authorization, the conditions stated in the authorization must be respected.

MONITORING

- Monitor the piles of soil; make sure there is no leaching of particles in the water.
- Monitor the trench itself – danger to animals? to workers?
- Assess the impact of the machinery on the soil integrity; look for creation of ruts, increased erosion, compaction, pooling of water, etc.