

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION – BULK SAMPLE APPLICATION PROCESS OVERVIEW

**Ministry of Energy, Mines and
Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI)**

The Chief Permitting Officer considers a bulk sample to be an advanced exploration activity to:

- a) Test the quality and marketability of dimension stone.
- b) Test recovery rates or processing methods from a pilot mill.
- c) Characterize a deposit to inform resource models and mine plans.

The bulk sample is intended to support a defined resource model and to inform a future mine plan, and not for the sole purpose of production.

The following document is designed to provide applicants with an overview of EMLI's role and responsibilities when reviewing permit applications for advanced exploration projects involving a bulk sample. The document also serves to inform applicants with respect to other government agencies that may be involved with the permit review and authorizations process.

Each mining project has a unique set of variables which need to be considered. All Notice of Work (NOW) applications are screened upon receipt by EMLI from FrontCounter BC to identify factors that determine which government agencies may be required to participate in the application review process. The following project factors influence which path the application will take through its review:

- ❖ Bulk sample size and type (e.g., Metal, Mineral, Coal, Industrial Mineral, Dimension Stone)
- ❖ Surface vs. Underground Development

- ❖ Metal Leaching/Acid Rock Drainage (ML/ARD) potential
- ❖ Custom or pilot milling operations
- ❖ Tailings Storage Facilities (TSF)
- ❖ Geographic location of the mining project
- ❖ Complexity of issues related to land use, Indigenous, public and environmental concerns in the project area

It is recommended that potential applicants contact the Regional Mines office to arrange for a pre-application meeting to review the scope of the project and to help identify which path is best suited to the application.

It is important for applicants to be aware that some bulk sample applications may have information requirements that will require professional technical expertise. The data collection, analysis and reporting information requirements for a bulk sample application may require considerable time, effort, and expense. Consulting with the Regional EMLI office and the Environmental Protection Division of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy prior to submission will assist mitigating potential delays. Depending on the complexity of the project, and the quality of submitted information, it can take between 6 months and 2 years to process an application through a Mine Development Review Committee (MDRC). The development of an Information Requirements Table and initial draft application is generally the most time-consuming phase. The MDRC cannot undertake a review of the application until information requirements are satisfied, and it is in the proponent's best interest to develop a well-considered and reviewable application early in the process.

Four different review scenarios for a NOW containing a bulk sample are presented in the accompanying figure.

Scenario 1: During the pre-application meeting or through a NOW application review it is determined that the project does not require an *Environmental Management Act* Permit and is not deemed to have complex technical, environmental and/or socio-economic factors. Projects under this scenario will proceed through the standard NOW application process involving EMLI technical experts where applicable.

Scenario 2: During the pre-application meeting or through a NOW application review it is determined that the project does not require an *Environmental Management Act* Permit, however due to sufficiently complex technical, environmental and/or socio-economic factors it will require an enhanced referral (e.g., a bulk sample which will impact critical habitat). The enhanced referral process is chaired by EMLI regional operations and involves EMLI technical experts, other government agencies and Indigenous Nations.

Scenario 3: During the pre-application meeting or through a NOW application review it is determined that the project has sufficiently complex technical, environmental and socio-economic factors that it becomes a project which will require a [Joint Application for Mines Act and Environmental Management Act Permits](#) (e.g., mineral bulk sample with pilot milling and TSF). The project review will be steered by a MDRC led by EMLI Regional Operations. A fee is required to facilitate the MDRC review process.

Scenario 4: During the pre-application meeting or through a NOW application review, it is determined that the project has sufficiently complex technical, environmental and socio-economic factors that it should be reviewed by the [Major Mines Office \(MMO\)](#) (e.g., complex surface or underground mining operations).

There is a fee associated with application reviews coordinated by the MMO.

Mineral Titles (MTO)

The [Mineral Tenure Act Regulation](#) (section 17) defines and limits bulk sample activities on a mineral claim and mineral lease. [Mineral Titles Information Update No. 5](#) provides information for registered title holders on bulk sampling. [Mineral Titles Information Update No. 25](#) provides information for registered title holders pertaining to the registration of physical and technical exploration and development work.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV)

[ENV Mining Operations Fact Sheet](#) provides a brief overview of ENV's role and responsibilities with respect to regulating mining operations.

As noted earlier, a joint application with EMLI and ENV may be required for advanced exploration projects. Applications that includes bulk sampling as part of proposed mining activities will be reviewed early in the process by EMLI, ENV and the applicant to determine if a joint application will be required for the project.

Resources

[NOW Application Companion Document](#)

[Natural Resources Online Services Explore by Location](#)

[Joint Application Information Requirements for Mines Act and Environmental Management Act Permits](#)

[Information Requirements Table \(IRT\)](#)

[Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage \(ML/ARD\) Guidance and Policy](#)

[Major Mines Office](#)



¹Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) includes regional operations and where necessary Major Mines Office (MMO)

²Joint application process may be required due to project-specific complexity or by Ministerial Order (e.g., Advanced exploration projects and quarries within the Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan)

³MMO takes over the project application process due to the complexity of the proposed mining activities or project-specific issues

⁴Regional Operations elects to proceed with an enhanced referral process due to complexity of project-specific issues

⁵Continued engagement with First Nations may include Joint Decision Making