



# Mineral Titles

## *Information Update*

### No. 25 – Exploration and Development Work

Revision Date: August 9, 2024

The Mineral Tenure Act Regulation defines two categories of exploration and development work being **physical exploration and development** and **technical exploration and development**. Reporting requirements and time limits after registration are different for physical and technical work. Please refer to the *Mineral Tenure Act* and Regulations located on our branch website for details: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/mineral-titles/mineral-placer-titles/legislation>

#### TECHNICAL WORK

Technical work activities include the following:

- (a) archaeological impact assessments;
- (b) geological surveys and studies;
- (c) mineral resource or ore reserve calculations and related work;
- (d) geophysical surveys;
- (e) geochemical surveys;
- (f) drilling, including drilling for the purposes of collecting samples, core logging or other geological or technical information;
- (g) analysis of mineral or rock samples including a bulk sample to assess characteristics pertinent to the assessment of the mineral resource, including acid base accounting, metallurgical, mineralogical, beneficiation and petrological studies;
- (h) prospecting and exploring;
- (i) environmental baseline studies;
- (j) construction and maintenance of roads, trails, helicopter landing sites, drill sites and drill core storage if required to support an activity described in any of paragraphs (b) to (i);
- (k) preparation and geological interpretation of air photo, satellite or other remotely sensed images that support an activity described in paragraphs (a) to (i);
- (l) preparation of orthophoto and topological surveys that support an activity described in paragraphs (a) to (i);
- (m) compilations of previous exploration and development studies and reports if those compilations lead to new exploration and development;

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In the event of a discrepancy between this information and the provisions in the *Mineral Tenure Act* and Regulation, the provisions in the statute and regulations will apply.

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(n) any other similar activity that may be approved by the chief gold commissioner before the exploration and development is done;

For items (j), (k), and (l), the work that is supported by those activities must be reported in the same assessment report. This work will not be accepted in a report where it is the only technical work reported. Refer to Section 13 of Schedule A of the Mineral Tenure Act Regulation.

LiDAR surveys and interpretation fall under items (k) and (l) and will not be accepted in a report where it is the only technical work reported.

The Chief Gold Commissioner considers hyperspectral surveys and synthetic aperture radar surveys to fall under item (d). These surveys may be accepted in reports without other supported work.

See 'Schedule A' in the [Mineral Tenure Act Regulation](#). For assistance in filing technical reports please review the information found on the [ARIS Submission Information](#) page. The British Columbia Geological Survey (BCGS) is accepting any [digital data files](#) (spreadsheets, databases, maps, grids, etc.) used or created in relation to the work described in the technical assessment report.

## PHYSICAL WORK

**The work activities outlined below are the only types of work that may be claimed as stand-alone physical exploration and development work on a mineral or placer claim.** This is set out in the definition of "physical exploration and development" in section 1 of the Mineral Tenure Act Regulation.

**1. Trenching, open cuts, adits, pits, shafts and other underground activity** for the purposes of collecting samples or other geological or technical information. Shallow drill holes for the purpose of blasting are also considered physical work.

These details must be included in the report:

- a detailed written description explaining the type of activity and the result obtained
- the metric dimensions of the trench, open cut, adit, pit, shaft or drill hole
- the amount, in metric measurement, of material removed
- the method of extraction (hand work with shovel and/or pick axe, specific machinery, number of people, etc)
- a cost statement that details the value for the method, and
- a map at a scale of 1:10,000 or greater detail showing the work sites within the claim boundaries.

**2. Reclamation of previous exploration activities.** Detail what was done and how, and provide the value in the cost statement.

3. **Ground control surveys, line cutting and grids** that are part of a proposed technical work program such as geological sampling, geochemical sampling, geophysical (airborne) surveys, or diamond drilling. This survey and line cutting does **not** include any claim boundary surveying or marking. A map of the ground control or grid lines, at a scale of 1:5,000 or more detail, must be provided in the report.
4. **Precision surveys performed by a practising land surveyor** such as a legal survey. A copy of the survey must be provided.
5. **For placer claims only**, in addition to any of the above, the panning, digging or washing of gravels to recover placer mineral is acceptable. The report must include the amount (in metric measurement) of material processed, the method used (panning, sluice, rocker box, trommel, etc), and how it was done (labourers, machinery) with the applicable costs, and a detailed written description explaining the type of activity and the result obtained.
6. GST may be included in approved costs, where it has been paid in the purchase of goods and services.

For further information, please refer to the Definitions, Sections 7, 8, and 15 in the Mineral Tenure Act Regulation, and Information Update No.8 'Guide to the Submission of Physical Exploration and Development Work for Assessment Credit on Claims' located at:  
[www.MineralTitles.gov.bc.ca/Notices/InformationUpdates/Documents/InfoUpdate8.pdf](http://www.MineralTitles.gov.bc.ca/Notices/InformationUpdates/Documents/InfoUpdate8.pdf)

Activities such as **walking around the claim, picking up rocks, planning out or surveying for work sites or roads, and marking the claim boundaries**, are **not allowed for work credit**, and should not be included in physical or technical reports.

Road and trail construction and maintenance and site preparation or clearing work **is not acceptable as stand-alone physical exploration and development work** for the purpose of claim maintenance.

If you are unsure if a specific work activity qualifies please confirm with the Mineral Titles Branch before commencing or registering your work. Please send all pertinent enquiries by email to [Mineral.Titles@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mineral.Titles@gov.bc.ca)