



Mineral Titles

Information Update

No. 25 – Exploration and Development Work

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The Mineral Tenure Act Regulation sets out the definitions for **physical exploration and development** and **technical exploration and development**. These two types of work differ greatly and allow for varied work activities, differing reporting formats, distinct cost structures and have differing time limits for work report submissions. For complete information please refer to the *Mineral Tenure Act* and Regulations located on our branch website:

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

For more information, please refer to the Definitions, Sections 7, 8, 16, and ‘Schedule A’ in the Mineral Tenure Act Regulation. For assistance in filing technical reports please review the information found with the ‘Title Summary Form and Checklist’ and ‘Tips on how to Submit an Assessment Report’ hyperlinks located at:

www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/ARIS/Pages/default.aspx

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:
 - 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, results of exploration activities.

For further information, please refer to the Definitions, Sections 7, 8, and 15 in the Mineral Tenure Act Regulation, and Information Update No.8 ‘A Guide to the Evaluation of Physical Work for Assessment Purposes’ located at:

www.MineralTitles.gov.bc.ca/Notices/InformationUpdates/Documents/InfoUpdate8.pdf

Non-Claimable Work Activities

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 allowable for work credits**, 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