

Ministry of MinesMineral Development Branch
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Notice of Completion for a Category C Project
***Class Environmental Assessment for Activities of the Ministry of Northern
Development and Mines under the Mining Act***

Gould Copper Mine Rehabilitation Project

The Ministry of Mines (MINES) has completed our assessment for the proposed rehabilitation of mine hazards at the Gould Copper Mine (AMIS #07872). The mine is situated in Gould Township, approximately 70 km east of Sault Ste. Marie and 45 km north of Thessalon, Ontario. The mine is accessed via a narrow access trail west of Highway 129. The location of the mine is illustrated below on Figure 1.

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the mine hazards at the Gould Copper Mine to eliminate the risk to the public and the environment. Mine hazards proposed for rehabilitation include two raises, an adit, a crown pillar and remnants of mine infrastructure. The mine is known to be frequented by the public. Entering the underground workings of the mine can pose fatal consequences due to dangers associated with unstable ground, insufficient oxygen, or wildlife. Similarly, building debris remaining from historical mine infrastructure may contain hazardous material that may be harmful if handled improperly. The objective of the rehabilitation activities is to permanently prevent inadvertent access to all mine openings to surface and remove remaining building material and debris associated with the historical mining activities.

Several studies have been completed to assist with determining the preferred rehabilitation strategy. A bat acoustic study confirmed the presence of bat species at risk within the underground workings, specifically at the adit location. The study concluded that the underground workings of the mine have the potential to be utilized by bats as a hibernaculum. A geotechnical investigation was completed to determine the long-term stability of the crown pillars and conditions of the openings to surface remaining at the site. The investigation concluded that the crown pillar associated with the adit is not long-term stable and progressive failure of the adit brow and crown pillar have occurred. As a result, bat-friendly rehabilitation measures (i.e., stainless steel gate) are not feasible as it would not address the long-term stability of the adit crown pillar zone.

The proposed rehabilitation approach for the adit is to backfill a minimum of 10 m of the adit from the brow to support the crown pillar and prevent it from unravelling. The backfill will also be used as the rehabilitation measure to permanently prevent access to the adit but will result in the permanent loss of potential bat overwintering habitat. The preferred rehabilitation strategy for the two raises is to backfill using a combination of cemented and uncemented material to maintain long-term stability. Mine infrastructure to be decommissioned includes the hydro substation, mill site foundations, water tank, and two steel barrels. Disturbed areas will be allowed to revegetate naturally and return to pre- disturbance conditions.

The undertaking has been assessed as a Category C project, in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for MNDM's Activities under the Mining Act* (Class EA).

You are invited to provide any new information or concerns related to this project by **November 28, 2023**. To obtain a copy of the project documentation, receive additional information, or to submit new concerns regarding the project, please contact:

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933 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, ON P3E 6B5
Ph: 249- 885- 3631
Michaela.Haring2@Ontario.ca

After November 28, 2023, if MINES is satisfied that there are no outstanding concerns, the project will be implemented as planned without notice. This notice was issued on October 27, 2023.

In addition, a request may be made to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for an order requiring a higher level of study (i.e. requiring an individual/comprehensive EA approval before being able to proceed), or that conditions be imposed (e.g. require further studies), only on the grounds that the requested order may prevent, mitigate or remedy adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Requests on other grounds will not be considered. Requests should be sent to the contacts below and include the requester's contact information and full name for the ministry.

Requests should specify what kind of order is being requested (request for conditions or a request for an individual/comprehensive environmental assessment), how an order may prevent, mitigate, or remedy potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal and treaty rights, and any information in support of the statements in the request. This will ensure that the ministry is able to efficiently begin reviewing the request.

The request should be sent in writing or by email to:

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

and

Director, Environmental Assessment Branch
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
135 St. Clair Ave. W, 1st Floor
Toronto ON, M4V 1P5
EABDirector@ontario.ca

A copy of the request must also be sent to the Ministry of Mines contact identified above my mail or email.

Please note that personal information provided in a submission (such as name, address, and telephone number) and your views and opinions are being collected by MINES under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act for the purpose of engaging in public consultation and making decisions regarding the project. The personal information may also be shared with the Environmental Approvals Branch of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservations and Parks. The collection, use, and disclosure of this information are all governed by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Questions about the collection of this information should be directed to the contact listed above.