

Notice of Opportunity to Provide Input on a Category B Project

Class Environmental Assessment for Activities of the Ministry of Energy and Mines under the Mining Act

Compass Minerals Canada Corp. Issuance of a Mining Lease

The Ministry of Energy and Mines invites you to comment on the applicant's request for the issuance of a mining lease under subsection 176(3) of the *Mining Act* (the Act) for a new salt development area. The issuance of a mining lease under this section of the Act requires Lieutenant Governor in Council approval. In addition, the issuance may be subject to terms and conditions as considered appropriate by the Minister.

The proposed mining lease area covers approximately 1,592 hectares of land under the water of Lake Huron, approximately 6.2 km west of the Town of Goderich. The proposed mining lease area is situated adjacent to the western boundary of the applicant's existing mining lease 110134.

The Ministry is considering the applicant's request to issue a mining lease because geological anomalies discovered in the northwest sector of mining lease 110134 has caused the applicant to pursue an alternative mine plan through the development of east-west mining panels south and west of the anomaly. The new salt development area will optimize salt extraction and allow the applicant to continue mine development elsewhere while they adequately define and assess the geology and geometry of the salt deposit within their existing mining lease. The proposed salt development area was designed, sized and developed with a focus on long-term operation and preservation that incorporates sound rock mechanics principles, which will optimize mining panels for long-term stability. A subsidence assessment study was completed in 2024 along with a proposed life of mine plan that assesses the impacts to the land at surface, the adjacent mine workings, the shafts and the overall stability of the mine. The area surrounding the shafts and mine infrastructure, as well as the coastal region adjacent to the town of Goderich, is projected to experience minimal subsidence over the next 100 to 200 years. The new salt development area is integral to the overall mining operations of the Goderich Salt Mine which is expected to operate until 2094.

Ontario's rock salt is produced from lands that are not open to conventional acquisition through the registration of a mining claim, therefore due to the unique nature of salt extraction, Crown mining leases issued under the authority of the Lieutenant Governor in Council allows the Minister of Energy and Mines to establish special provisions that may differ from other mining leases issued under s. 81 of the *Mining Act*, which can include the payment of royalties and conditions for future renewals.

Low to moderate environmental impacts are anticipated with the issuance of a mining lease that will expand the current underground mining operation given the proposed area is adjacent to the applicant's existing mining lease, and since activities on the

mining lease are subject to other regulatory authorizations and requirements that govern environmental impacts. In addition, the issuance of a mining lease is an administrative requirement to hold proper tenure for a new salt development area.

The proposal has been screened as a Category B project with low to moderate impacts for environmental effects in accordance with the *Class Environmental Assessment for Activities of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines under the Mining Act* (amended 2018).

In addition, the issuance of a mining lease under subsection 176(3) of the Act is an instrument for the purposes of the *Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*. A notice for the proposed lease issuance has also been posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario as ERO Number 026-0226.

For both purposes, you are invited to comment on the request to issue a mining lease.

For more information, or to submit comments, please contact:

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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 the Ministry of Energy and 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 and Permissions Branch of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation 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.

Proposed New Salt Development Area

Location Map / Coordinates: Zone 17 434382.80 m E, 4843339.03 m N

