

## Conditions for the inclusion of bulk sampling in an authorization for impact-causing exploration work

This directive comes into force on February 7, 2024. It renders null and void any other preceding directive on the same topic. It is adopted pursuant to sections 69, 69.1 and 69.2 of the *Mining Act* (CQLR, chapter M-13.1), as amended on April 12, 2022, by the *Act mainly to reinforce the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation, to ensure the responsible management of pesticides and to implement certain measures of the 2030 Plan for a Green Economy concerning zero emission vehicles (2022, chapter 8)* and the *Regulation respecting mineral substances other than petroleum, natural gas and brine* (the Regulation), which comes into force on May 6, 2024.

The Regulation was enacted in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* on February 7, 2024, thereby rendering public and official the list of impact-causing exploration work and the conditions for the new authorization for impact-causing exploration work (authorization or ATI).

Section 11 of the Regulation sets out the list of impact-causing exploration work:

11. For the purposes of section 69 of the Act, as replaced by section 44 of the Act mainly to reinforce the enforcement of environmental and dam safety legislation, to ensure the responsible management of pesticides and to implement certain measures of the 2030 Plan for a Green Economy concerning zero emission vehicles (2022, chapter 8), impact-causing exploration work consists in

- (1) work carried out using hydraulic machinery or explosives, in particular
  - (a) excavating in overburden;
  - (b) rock stripping;
  - (c) bulk sampling;
  - (d) drill-holes in overburden or in rock;
  - (e) seismic refraction geophysical surveys.
- (2) work carried out using a hydraulic pump for gold mining purposes.

Bulk sampling is included in this list of impact-causing exploration work. Therefore, beginning on May 6, 2024, a claim holder that wishes to carry out bulk sampling must first have obtained authorization from the Minister of Natural Resources and Forests by means of an application for an ATI.

However, bulk sampling authorizations issued pursuant to the regime in force before February 7, 2024, will remain valid until the deadline for the carrying out of the authorized work. Moreover, a claim holder that is not able to carry out or complete the work before the authorized deadline may request a new deadline.

Applications for bulk sampling authorizations received by the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts **before February 7, 2024**, will be processed under the regime that was in force at the time the application was received (i.e. the former regime).

Applications for bulk sampling authorization received on or after February 7, 2024, will be refused and must be replaced by an application for an authorization for impact-causing exploration work (ATI).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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