

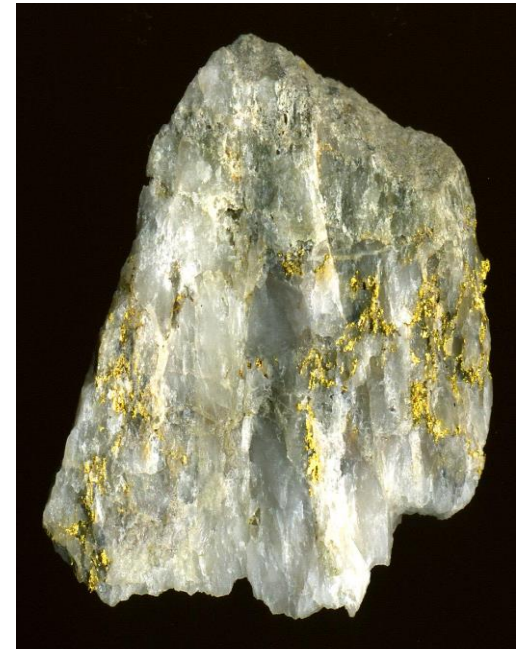


BULK SAMPLING

If earlier exploration activities confirm the presence of an ore deposit, proponents may wish to get large samples. Heavy equipment (e.g. backhoes, excavators) and blasting is first used to dig shafts and ramps down to the deposit. Samples are then taken for analysis to determine if a mine can be built (generally several hundred tonnes).

The shafts or ramps may be very large (several hundred meters long) and may require dewatering to keep them dry for workers. Because of this, large quantities of water and unwanted rock and organic material may have to be set aside in settling ponds and accumulation areas.

Bulk sampling only occurs in the DA-1 to DA-4 stages of exploration, just before mining starts (see the [diagram](#)).



The impacts of bulk sampling can approach those at a mine. Great care must be taken to ensure that measures are in place to prevent or mitigate for them (e.g. monitoring of accumulation areas and settling ponds).

Several authorizations by the MERN and the MDDELCC are required before bulk sampling can occur. An approved site restoration plan may be required and, in some cases, the project must also undergo an environmental assessment or review under Section 22 of the JBNQA.