

## Conditions 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.

A claim holder that, beginning on May 6, 2024, wishes to carry out exploration work listed in section 11 of the Regulation must first have obtained authorization from the Minister of Natural Resources and Forests by means of an application for an ATI.

Impact-causing exploration work carried out without an ATI before May 6, 2024, will be authorized. However, from that date onwards, no type of work such as that listed above will be permitted without prior authorization. This applies to exploration work that is underway but cannot be completed before May 6, 2024. In such cases, the work must be suspended because it is not authorized.

A claim holder that has already planned impact-causing exploration work that may not be completed until after May 6, 2024, must apply for an ATI as quickly as possible, to avoid a suspension of its activities.

Please note that the ATI application form is available on the [website of the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts](#).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Opening times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8.30 a.m. to midday and 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. to midday and 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.