



MINERAL EXPLORATION AND YOU

Great Glen Resources Ltd is a privately-funded company. This document contains internationally accepted information about the term 'exploration', its implications and the practices that are permitted by a prospecting license in the Republic of Ireland.

Exploration in Ireland is governed by strict conditions. Explorers are advised to reach agreement with stakeholders to obtain land access before exploring their land. Exploration does not guarantee that mining will occur in the future.

For more detailed information and advice on your rights as stakeholders please contact the Exploration and Mining Division (EMD) of the Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

WHAT IS EXPLORATION?

Exploration is the process of searching for deposits in the ground. The information gathered is used to increase geological understanding and assess the potential size and prospectivity of a mineral deposit.

WHAT IS AN EXPLORATION/PROSPECTING LICENSE?

All exploration in the Ireland is conducted under the authority of the Exploration and Mining Division of the Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment. This is governmental department responsible for the processes that govern the application, permittance and granting of prospecting licenses.

Prospecting licenses allow licence holders to explore for the named minerals on limited areas of land. License area boundaries are determined by the EMD. Prospecting licenses are typically granted and renewed on periods of 6 and 2 years. A typical license area covers approximately 35 km².

A prospecting license contains detailed conditions to protect environmentally sensitive areas.



Soil sampling using a spade and hand auger. Soil sampled holes are typically a maximum of 1.2m deep and are backfilled follow the retrieval of a small sample

Before a license is granted the EMD advertises the explorer's intention to explore in a given area. This is required by law to be advertised in a national newspaper, local community centres and local newspaper for a minimum period of 21 days following the submission of an application by the explorer.

CAN AN PROSPECTING LICENSE HOLDER UNDERTAKE MINING?

No. A prospecting license does not permit mining, nor do they guarantee that a mining license will be granted in the future. Prospecting licenses simply allow the license holder to explore for minerals. Economically viable mineral resources are not always discovered and statistically are unlikely.

WHAT DOES EXPLORATION INVOLVE?

Exploration is initially undertaken over wide areas and becomes more focussed as understanding improves.

Exploration can involve a range of techniques and is carried out in different phases. This can include:

RECONNAISSANCE – This involves remote desk-top study where geologists assess the regional geology and past exploration that has been carried out in a given area. This is usually followed by a visit by a geologist to look at the outcrops and to map the geology. This may involve vehicle access to land, taking and recording measurements and walking across the area. It may also involve gathering small samples from outcrops, streams and soils. Reconnaissance can also include passive geophysical surveys.

FOLLOW-UP – The reconnaissance stage may identify areas that warrant follow-up investigations. This could involve more systematic surveying across the area of interest i.e. taking further outcrop, stream and soil samples or further geophysical investigation. These practises are generally low-impact.

DETAILED ANALYSIS – If geochemical and geophysical anomalies are inferred further exploration work is carried out through drilling. Drilling consists of a truck mounted drill rig which enables the explorer to sample the underlying geology via small-diameter drill holes. Drilling is expensive and this practice requires detailed planning thus is kept to a minimum. This stage may also include digging trenches or test pits to take a bulk sample. However, bulk sampling is not a regular occurrence and is generally only required as part of feasibility.

WHAT HAPPENS IF AN EXPLORER WANTS ACCESS TO MY LAND?

Explorers are advised to reach agreement with stakeholders for land access before exploration on the ground begins. Note agreements are often verbal. Such an agreement is an important part of the consultative process undertaken by the explorer.

All access arrangements should be based on the understanding that explorers are 'guests' on private land and an appreciation by stakeholders of the needs and rights of mineral explorers.

Courtesy, respect and honesty help to build effective working partnerships between explorers and stakeholders.

HOW IS MY LAND PROTECTED FROM THE IMPACTS OF EXPLORATION?

There are a number of 'Act of Oireachtas' on the Irish Statute Book that protect your land and environmentally sensitive areas.

An access agreement between a stakeholder and explorer should contain provisions covering duration of entry, exploration methods and precautions to safeguard livestock.

WHAT THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN EXPLORER?

Explorers have a number of important responsibilities in the prospecting/exploration process including:

- Undertake the exploration detailed in their prospecting licence.
- Ensure an access agreement is negotiated with a stakeholder before exploration begins.
- Advise the stakeholder of changes to proposed activity in the exploration program.
- Respect stakeholders and their wishes with regards to their land, livestock and other property.
- Uphold environmental standards and assessments required for best practice.

For detail on this subject, please contact the EMD.

USEFUL LINKS

Exploration and Mining Division of the Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment - <http://www.mineralsireland.ie/>

Disclaimer: *This fact sheet is intended to provide general information only. It does not intend to be comprehensive or to provide specific legal advice. We refer readers to the Exploration and Mining Division of the Department for Communications, Climate Action and Environment for detailed information on Irish Law related to prospecting/exploration. All information in this sheet is provided 'as is' with no guarantee of completeness or accuracy and without warranty of any kind, express or implied. In no event will Great Glen Resources Ltd, any related members, consultants or employees thereof be liable to anyone for any decision made or action taken in reliance on the information on this fact sheet or for any consequential damages.*