

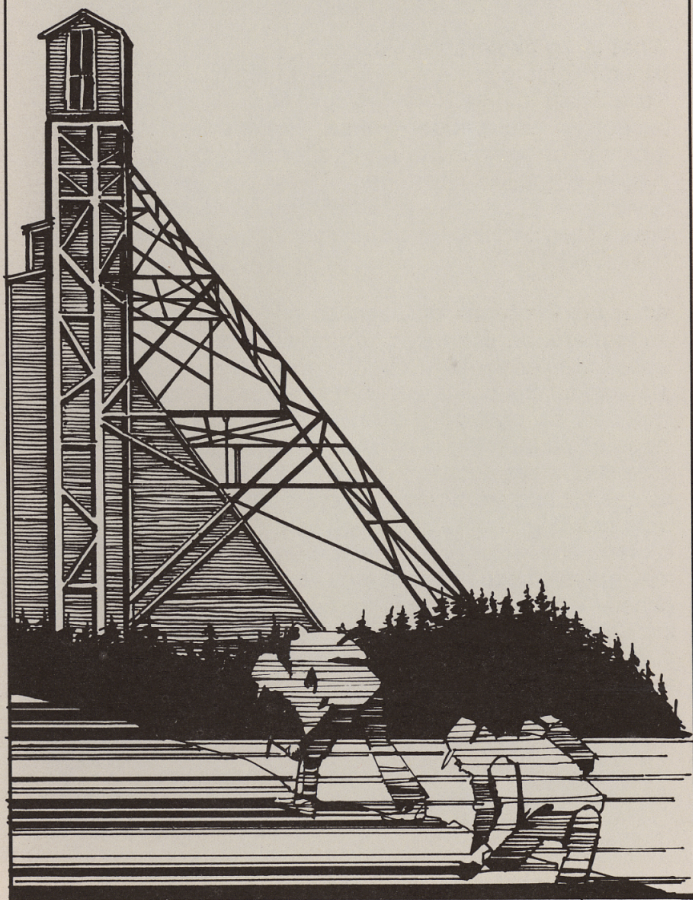
Staking Claims in Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia



**Department of
Mines and Energy**

Information Circular 8



This pamphlet has been prepared to explain how claims are staked in Nova Scotia. This circular does not replace the *Mineral Resources Act* (1975). For accurate reference the *Mineral Resources Act*, R.S.N.S. 1975, Chapter 12 and accompanying regulations should be consulted.

What are mineral rights and minerals?

Mineral rights for land in the Province of Nova Scotia are reserved to the Crown. The landowner has the surface rights to the land but not the mineral rights.

A mineral is any natural, solid, inorganic or fossilized organic substance or any other substance declared to be a mineral by the Governor in Council. Stone, sand, gravel, peat, and most gypsum and limestone (except in area designated as Crown land) are not considered minerals under the *Mineral Resources Act*. The moratorium on uranium exploration is in effect so that no exploration for that mineral may take place. Licensing of exploration work for oil and natural gas is governed by the *Petroleum Resources Act*.

What is an exploration license?

Mineral rights are granted on behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia by the Department of Mines and Energy through an **exploration license**. The license allows a person or company to explore for minerals for one year on a specific claim area. To continue exploration beyond the initial year, the license must be renewed. No prospecting licenses or prospector's permit is needed in Nova Scotia.

What are the types of Licenses and Leases?

An **exploration license** is only one of many licenses or leases granted by the Department of Mines and Energy. It allows for the basic exploration necessary to define an important occurrence of economic minerals. The next stage of work on the mineral occurrence is covered by a **development license**. Usually the exploration license holder will acquire a development license when sufficient work has been performed to prove the existence, extent, content, and value of a mineral deposit. The Minister may grant a **special license** for minerals withdrawn from general exploration. A **mining lease** is issued when the Department is satisfied the deposit can be mined at a profit and that all safety, environmental, and health regulations are met.

What lands are available?

All lands in Nova Scotia are open for prospecting except Indian Reserves, National Parks, the Department of National Defence areas, Penitentiaries, and Closures. When prospecting on private land, a license holder must have the permission of the owner or occupant. In the case of Crown land the Minister of Lands and Forests acts as the owner on behalf of the Crown. Permission from this Minister is needed before entering Crown land, and can be obtained from the District Forester.

When prospecting over a designated water supply/watershed area, the license holder must consult the Department before beginning any work. This ensures that water resources will be protected. Locations of water supply areas are indicated on the claims reference maps.

How are claims staked?

Topographic maps are the basis for determining the boundaries of licenses and leases in Nova Scotia. No actual ground staking is necessary. Each 1:50 000 scale topographic map is divided into quarter sheets of 1:31 680 scale known as reference maps (see diagrams). These quarter sheets are then divided into 108 mineral tracts with each tract containing 16 forty acre (16.2 ha) mineral claims as shown in the accompanying diagrams.

Reference maps of Nova Scotia are on file at the Department of Mines and Energy at the office of the Registrar of Mineral and Petroleum Rights. These maps are available to the public for inspection during regular office hours. Copies may be purchased for a nominal fee at the Office of the Registrar or ordered through the mail.

Up to 80 connected claims may be part of one exploration license application. The license is granted for one year. Additional license applications are necessary if:

- more than 80 claims are required and/or
- the claims are not all connected.

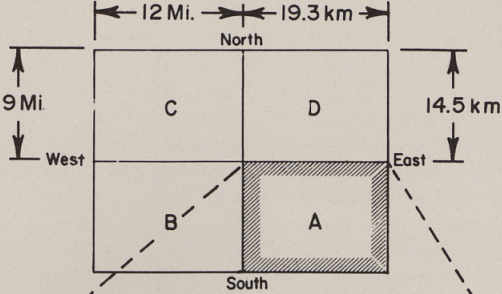
What are the requirements for staking claims?

Any person may apply for an exploration license provided he or she is not employed by the provincial government and is over 19 years of age.

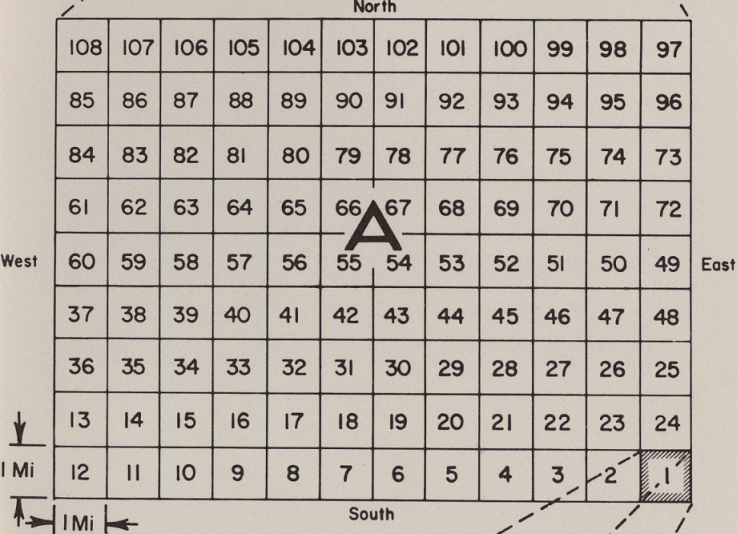
Applications are accepted from a partnership or incorporated company. All applications must:

- be on the required form
 - specify the areas being claimed and
 - be accompanied by the appropriate fees.
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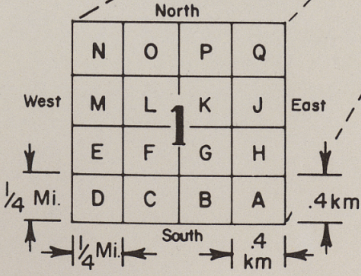
STANDARD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP (1:50 000 SCALE) SHOWING REFERENCE MAPS



REFERENCE MAP SHOWING MINING TRACTS (1:31 680 SCALE)



MINING TRACT SHOWING CLAIMS 1 CLAIM = 40 ACRES or 16.2 HECTARES



When will an application not be accepted?

Applications for exploration licenses are not accepted only in certain circumstances:

- a claim has already been applied for
- a claim is already under license and
- a claim is applied for by the former licensee (or anyone associated with the licensee) before 90 days have elapsed following the expiry of the license due to nonperformance of work.

What is necessary to keep a license for more than a year?

To keep a license for more than one year, you must show the Registrar of Mineral and Petroleum Rights that a minimum \$200 (10 days × \$20 per day) of work per claim has been performed in the previous 12 month period. If no work has been performed, then payment of money in lieu of insufficient work may be accepted.

For prospecting, an acceptable day's work is equivalent to eight hours. In all other types of activity, work is recorded at a rate of one day of work for each \$20 spent. A certified statement of detailed expenditures for work and an assessment report detailing the exploration work must be submitted before the license is approved for the next year, within 15 days of the anniversary date of the license.

What expenses are acceptable?

Costs, fees, salaries, and wages for work performed on the ground or in proving the value of a mineral deposit are the only acceptable expenditures. Payments must be at a rate acceptable to the Minister of Mines and Energy.

What work is required?

A variety of activities will be accepted as work. Some of these are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| ● prospecting | ● surveying |
| ● geological surveys | ● bulldozing |
| ● geophysical surveys | ● trenching |
| ● geochemical surveys | |

Any work over the required amount is credited to the next year's work upon renewal of the license(s).

If you have any questions regarding work or what work is acceptable, call the Registrar.

What is required for renewal of a license?

An application for renewal is made to the Registrar before the license expires. The proper fees must then be paid and proof provided that 10 days of work have been performed for each claim covered by the license (statement of expenditures).

The holder of a license must file an assessment report on the work accomplished during the year within 15 days of the anniversary date.

If the requirements for work have been performed or additional fees paid the Registrar issues a certificate of work.

If a report is submitted to the Registrar on time but is delayed due to consideration of the evidence, the license is considered not to have expired.

If two or more claims are held under one license, the work required need only be completed on one of the claims. If two or more licenses are held, the required work must be carried out on each license separately.

If the required work is insufficient, a payment in lieu of work must be made. If the remaining work is completed the following year, the payment in lieu of work may be refunded.

Applications for areas once covered by licenses, which expired due to nonperformance of work, are not accepted from the same person, partnership or company for a period of 90 days.

What are the license fees?

Exploration license	\$ 4/claim per year
Renewal of license	\$ 4/claim per year
Payment for insufficient work	\$200/claim per year

Where do you apply?

Applications may be obtained from the Registrar of Mineral and Petroleum Rights, P.O. Box 1087, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2X1 or in person at 1701 Hollis Street, Halifax, 3rd Floor, between 10 am and 4 pm weekdays excluding Saturday, Sundays, and holidays.

Additional information

If you have any questions involving claims or staking procedures, call the Registrar at (902) 424-4068.

The libraries at Halifax and Stellarton contain microfiche records of past exploration assessment reports, geological reports, and general information about the mineral industry in Nova Scotia. Both have extensive holdings of geological and geophysical maps. Addresses and phone numbers are listed below. In addition, the Halifax library contains a large number of textbooks, journals, and government reports.

Halifax	Stellarton
3rd Floor, Founders Square	Bridge Avenue
1701 Hollis Street	P.O. Box 999
P.O. Box 1087	Stellarton, Nova Scotia
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	Canada
B3J 2X1	B0K 1S0
(902) 424-8633	(902) 752-8430

Two additional pamphlets, *Mineral Rights, Landowners, and Mineral Exploration* and *Directory of Goods and Services for Exploration Companies* can be obtained from either library.

Nova Scotia



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