

# Environmental Registry Post

## Mine:

Silver Mountain: Silver Mountain West (AMIS 08557), Silver Mountain East (AMIS 08566), Crown Point (AMIS 08451) and Dawson Lodes (AMIS 08469) mines.

## Rationale for Exemption to Public Comment:

The Ministry of Mines (“Ministry”) has used section 29(1) of the Environmental Bill of Rights to post notice of the Exception as the delay in giving notice to the public and allowing for public participation would result in (a) danger to the health or safety of any person; (b) harm or serious risk of harm to the environment; or; (c) injury or damage or serious risk of injury or damage to any property.

Silver Mountain is a property that contains old workings from former mine sites that closed in the early 1900s. The site is located approximately 60 kilometres southwest of Thunder Bay and 10 kilometres southwest of Nolalu. The site is located adjacent to several all-terrain vehicle and hiking trails. The Ministry became aware that individuals were accessing the hazards recreationally.

Since the Director of Mine Rehabilitation had reason to believe that the mine hazards were not going to be rehabilitated to the standards of the Mine Rehabilitation Code of Ontario (*O.Reg. 240/00 of the Mining Act*) by the proponent, the Ministry considered the mine hazards a risk to public safety.

The situation met the criteria of an emergency under the *Mining Act* and the Ministry acted to address this emergency by preventing access to the open mine hazards through fencing and backfilling. Any delay in issuing the Minister’s Directions would have increased the public safety risk of those who frequent the area.

No Appeal exists on the Ministry’s decision pertaining to the instrument.

## Description of Instrument:

Minister’s Directions were developed, pursuant to which employees and agents of the Ministry were instructed to do everything practicable to prevent, eliminate and ameliorate the adverse effect in connection with the property.

## Decision on Instrument:

Pursuant to Subsection 148(5) of the *Mining Act*, Minister’s Directions were issued on December 6, 2019 to employees and agents of the Ministry. The work done under the Minister’s Directions focused on preventing access to the deteriorating shaft cap and thin crown pillar. While undertaking the rehabilitation work prescribed in the Ministers Directions, additional mine openings were discovered. As a result, another Ministers

Direction was issued in 2020 to include hazards which had not been previously identified for the 2019 Ministers Direction.