

## Gopher Mine – Environmental Registry

**Mine:** Gopher Mine (AMIS #08605), located in Strange Township, Thunder Bay District.

### **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.

The Gopher Mine is a former lead mine situated approximately 57 km west of Thunder Bay, Ontario. The mine features several hazards, including a vertical shaft that was historically covered. Logging roads near the mine workings were recently upgraded resulting in increased use of the land by both forestry operations and recreational users. On July 5, 2023, the Ministry of Mines was advised that the shaft was open to surface immediately adjacent to the logging road. Given the unstable conditions of the shaft and proximity to the road, Minister’s Directions were issued to prevent, eliminate, and ameliorate the adverse effect.

The situation met the criteria of an emergency order under the *Mining Act* and the Ministry acted to address this emergency by backfilling the opening to surface. 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 July 17, 2023, to employees and agents of the Ministry. The work done under the Minister’s Directions focused on closing off the shaft with backfill. The rehabilitation activities were completed on November 7, 2023.