Comité consultatif pour l'environnement de la Baie James
James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment
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Mineral Exploration Factsheet #5

PRELIMINARY SURFACE SAMPLING

This refers to the collection of soil or rock samples in order to examine the properties of the material. The samples are collected near the surface of the ground (some digging may be needed, but without the use of heavy machinery).

Grab samples are picked up by hand while rock chips, channels, or panels, are collected with tools (e.g. chisels, picks, and saws). Most samples weigh less than 5 kilos and are analyzed in an outside lab.

Preliminary surface sampling normally occurs during the EX-3, EX-4, and EX-5 stages of exploration (see the diagram).

The environmental impacts of preliminary sampling affect a limited area (e.g. dig holes). Sample sites can be easily restored once work is done (e.g. refilling holes).

Only claim holders may collect samples from the land outlined in their claims. A permit of the MERN is required if sampling exceeds 50 metric tonnes.

Images courtesy the Cree Mineral Exploration Board