

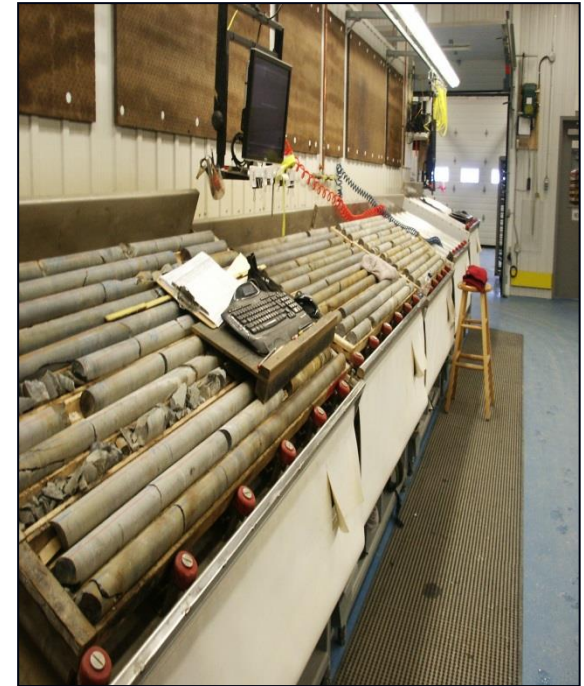


DRILLING

Drilling is the crucial exploration activity. It is used to define the location, size, and shape of a mineral deposit that has been found during earlier exploration. It is used to collect rock from deposits at depth, sometimes greater than 1000m below the surface of the ground.

Multiple drilling operations are normally done on a deposit. The collected rock chips, cuttings, or core samples are analyzed in a lab. Several types of drills are used depending on conditions. Diamond drilling is the most precise for exploration.

Drilling normally begins during the EX-4 stage of exploration and may pursue through to the DA-4 stage (see the [diagram](#)).



The environmental impacts of drilling operations (e.g. site disturbance, release of drill fluids) vary with the extent of the operations, their location, and their design. If these factors are accounted for, effective measures to address their impacts can be implemented.

Only claim holders may drill. They also require multiple permits from the MERN and MDDELCC (e.g. for the use of hazardous materials, the containment of drill mud, the storage of collected rock, the restoration of their drill sites).