



BLASTING

Blasting refers to the use of explosives. Proponents may use explosives to excavate pits and trenches, to expose rock for sampling and drilling, or to aid in the construction of various means of access (e.g. trails or roads). They must first dig 'blast-holes' and then place the explosives in the holes before detonation.

The quantities and types of explosives, as well as the number of blast-holes, vary greatly between projects.

Blasting may occur over the course of the EX-2 to DA-4 stages of exploration (see the [diagram](#)).



The environmental impacts of blasting are variable. Some impacts are very short-lived (e.g. noise) and others may be significant and lasting (e.g. loss of topsoil, exposure of unstable ground). If proponents store and dispose of their explosives securely, plan their blasting operations with caution, and restore their sites afterwards, many of the impacts can be accounted for.

Multiple federal and provincial legal obligations apply to the use of explosives. Many permits are required for the transport, storage, use and disposal of explosives.

