



## **ABANDONMENT AND RESTORATION**

Preliminary Demobilization and Reclamation Plan  
Meliadine West Gold Project Camp

**Comaplex Minerals Corp.**

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## **Introduction and Background**

Comaplex Minerals (CMF) and its joint venture partners have been conducting mineral exploration in the Meliadine West area since June, 1995. The lands in the exploration area are Inuit Owned Lands (IOL) pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Land use for the exploration activities has been authorized by the Kivalliq Inuit Association (KIA), the regional Inuit Association who holds title to IOL in the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut. Rules and procedures for the management of IOL have been established by Nunavut Tungavik Inc. These require that the intensively used lands in the exploration area, like the camp and fuel storage areas, be held by a surface lease. The lease requires that a "Reclamation Plan" be developed for the lease area.

A condition of the lease is that, on lease termination, CMF will return the land in a condition as near to its original natural state as practical and possible. This preliminary demobilization and reclamation plan will be filed with KIA as required by the lease (Schedule C). A "Final Reclamation Plan" will be developed and filed with KIA prior to lease termination. In the meantime, progressive reclamation practices will be undertaken to keep the environmental effects of local land use in the lease area to a practical minimum.

The goal of the exploration programs is to develop a commercial mine and all assets useful at a mine site will be relocated to that ultimate location. This would likely be on the Lease, but not necessarily at the old camp site.

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## **Demobilization**

All equipment, structures and fuel tanks will be removed from the area of the lease prior to lease termination. Buildings and materials with ongoing value will be salvaged by CMF. Local persons and businesses will be given the opportunity to salvage any remaining buildings and materials that would otherwise be destroyed prior to CMF undertaking final site reclamation procedures. The only materials and structures remaining will be drill core stored in permanent racks on gravel pads.

## **Structures**

Structures presently on the site include both soft sided Weatherhaven shelters, rigid "Atco" type trailers, stick built shacks, stick built generator shelters, several fuel pump shelters, and several canvas tent frames. A rigid insulated and heated corridor network connects the main accommodation, kitchen/mess and shower structures. Weatherhaven units consist of four person

“sleepers”, sixteen person “sleepers”, a kitchen / mess, a shower / laundry, an office, a TV/recreation room, a core logging and sample processing lab, and a geology office.

It is expected that all Weatherhaven units will be salvaged by CMF. The rigid structures and Weatherhaven tent bases could be salvaged by local interests. All unsalvaged materials will be burned on site, with the non-combustible remainder collected and removed to the municipal land fill at Rankin Inlet.

### **Drilling materials and fuel**

All fuel will be removed either to Rankin Inlet or to the mine site. Similarly, all useful material like salt, drilling compounds, and surplus peat and fertilizer will be relocated to Rankin Inlet for local disposal or to the mine site. All fuel vaults and barrels will likewise be relocated.

### **Non-combustible Waste**

All non-combustible waste will be removed to the Rankin Inlet municipal land fill. Material to be burned will be consolidated to reduce the number of sites and total area of the scorched tundra. All burning sites will be raked and remaining metal removed and placed in the municipal land fill.

### **Reclamation**

The natural revegetation of the site generally will be slow due to the dry conditions that exist atop this ridge. The use of fertilizers is generally most effective in moist sites and while it helps on drier sites, the response by the tundra plant community on the higher ground occupied by the camp will be significantly slower.

There will be four different surface conditions that will require reclamation on termination of activities at the present camp site:

- Areas of heavy traffic  
In these areas, the total amount of vegetation on surface is diminished thereby reducing the insulative layer over the permafrost. The effect is receded surface settlement and more rocks protruding through to the surface. These areas remain stable and reclamation will involve applications of fertilizer to accelerate natural revegetation. These sites will also receive applications of fertilizer in the interim to stimulate healthier plants and seed development on the margins of the disturbed areas.
- Gravel pads and walkways  
Gravel has been placed on the lease area either to establish a level supporting surface under fuel tanks and buildings, or to replace wooden walkways in high foot traffic areas. The natural surface remains stable and is bordered by natural vegetation. The gravel will be mixed with peat and fertilizer and be dispersed, while the original ground surface will be fertilized and allowed to regenerate naturally.
- Building and core rack bases  
The prolonged presence of a building has prevented plant growth by blocking light to the plants on the site. Similar conditions existed at the former camp site which was vacated in

late winter 1996. The natural revegetation of those building sites is progressing but is slow. The ground surface at building sites remains stable and time alone will allow plants to become established. This will be enhanced by limited scarification to improve the germination of seeds from adjacent plants. Application of fertilizer throughout the lease area generally assists in the process.

- Burned and contaminated sites

Sites that have been used to burn remaining wood and other combustibles on demobilization will be few in number and limited in size. Likewise sites of fuel spills around camp will be visible but not extensive. All live plant tissue in the soil will have been destroyed by the heat or contamination but the surface will be stable. Like former building sites discussed above, natural revegetation will be slow. The sites will be raked to remove metal, the ash scattered, and the sites fertilized. All sites with contaminated soils will be identified with GPS locations for monitoring.

- Roads and bridges

All bridges and culverts will be removed and roads scarified to enhance plant growth.

### **Drill Core**

There are over 135,000 metres of drill core in storage at the site. More will likely be added prior to termination of the lease. Core from the 1994 and 1995 drilling campaigns in storage at the former camp site will be consolidated with that at the current Meliadine West site. If there is no further activity in the Meliadine West area by CMF at lease termination, the core will be restacked on more durable and stable gravel pads for long term storage and access.

