



**SEARCH**  
M I N E R A L S

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**Environmental Assessment Registration  
Deepwater Fox Property Mineral Exploration Drilling**

**October 2015**

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## REGISTRATION FORM

### The Environmental Protection Act

**NAME OF UNDERTAKING:** Deepwater Fox Property Mineral Exploration Drill Program

**PROPOSER:**

(i) Name of Corporate Body: Search Minerals Inc.

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(iii) Chief Executive Officer:

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## **1. INTRODUCTION:**

Search Minerals is the holder of mineral license 023108M, and has been conducting Rare Earth Element (REE) mineral exploration in the Port Hope Simpson/ St. Lewis area since 2010. The purpose of the Deepwater Fox Property Mineral Exploration Drill Program is to outline and evaluate the mineral resource of a potential REE deposit. The Company currently has a REE mineral resource at the Foxtrot Deposit, about 10 km away from the site of the Deepwater Fox property. The discovery and outlining of a second REE mineral resource, by a mineral exploration drill program, would improve the economics of a potential rare earth mine and REE processing facility in SE Labrador.

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

### **2.1 Geographical Location**

The property is located in southeastern Labrador (Figure 1), approximately 2 km northeast from the community of St. Lewis. The project is located within the public water supply area, on mineral license 023108M (Figure 2).

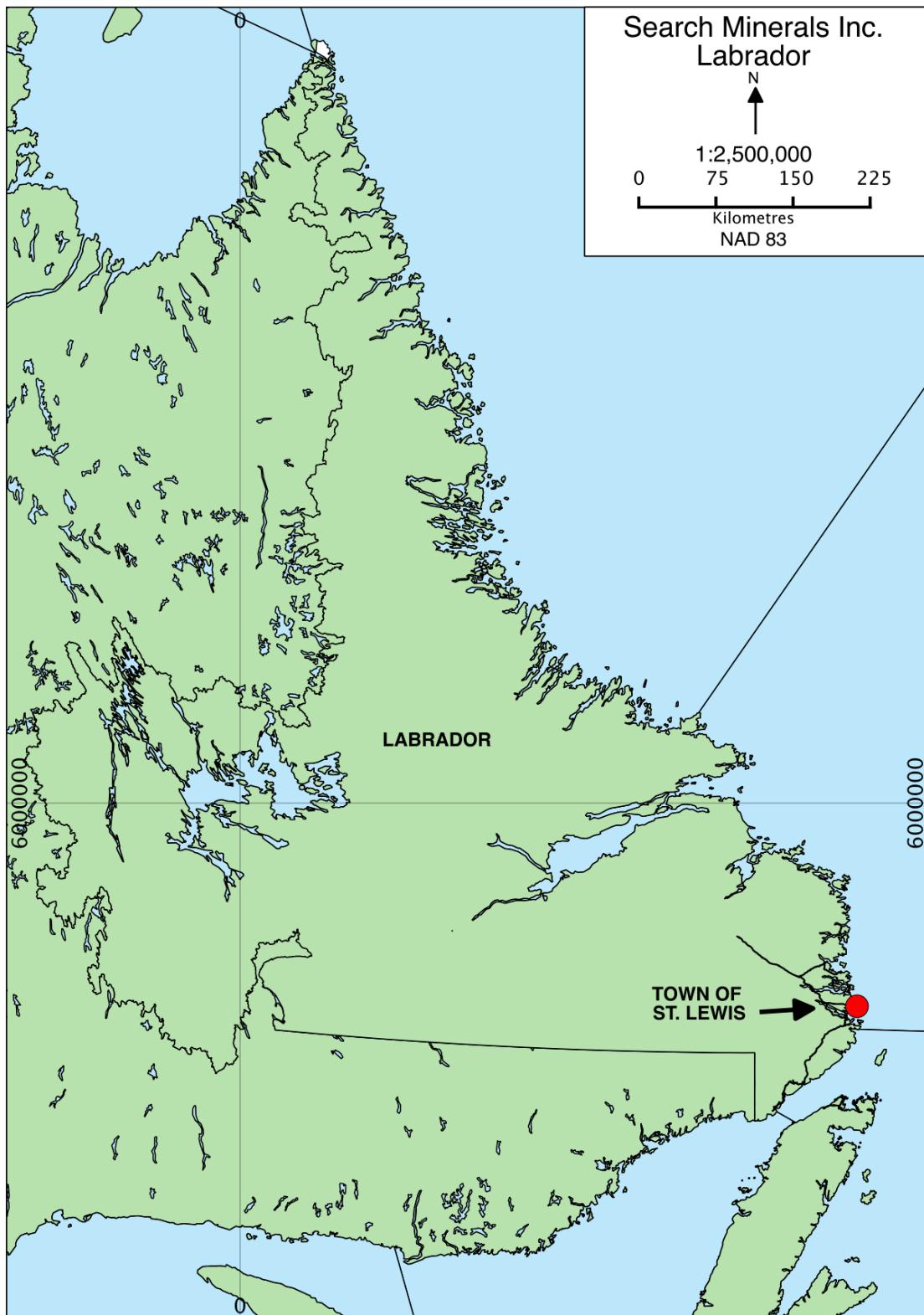
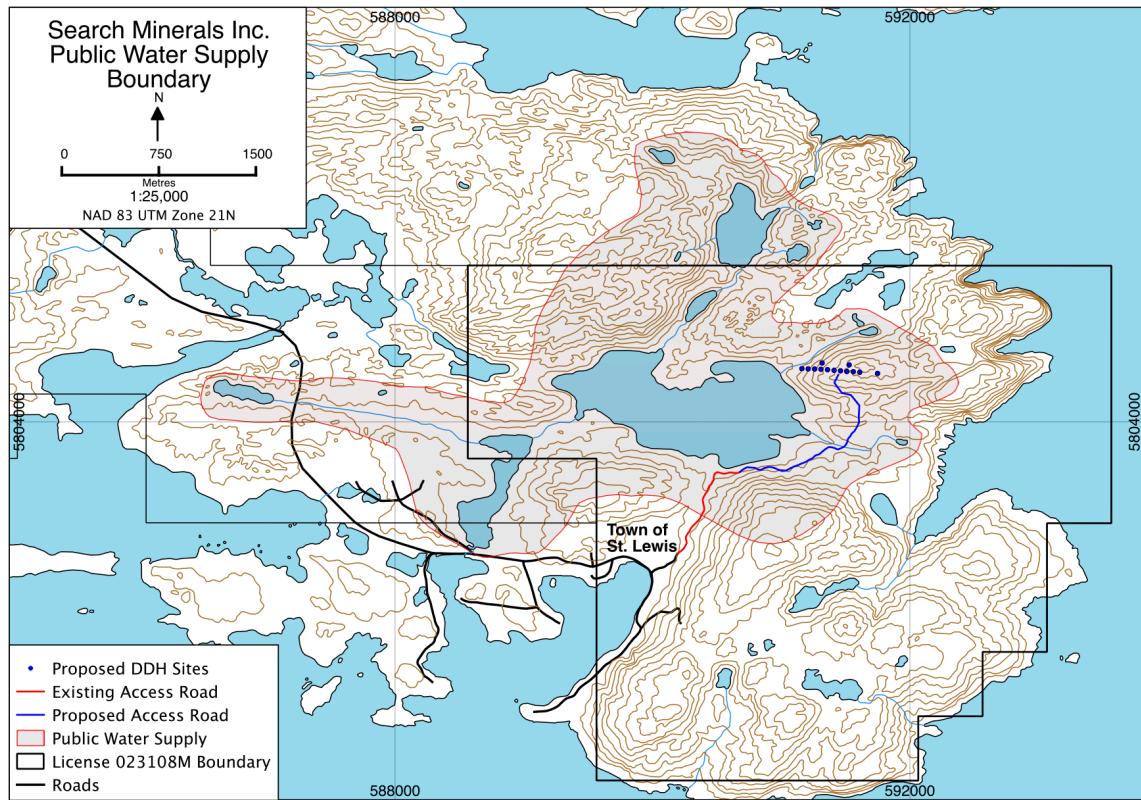


Figure 1: Labrador Regional Map

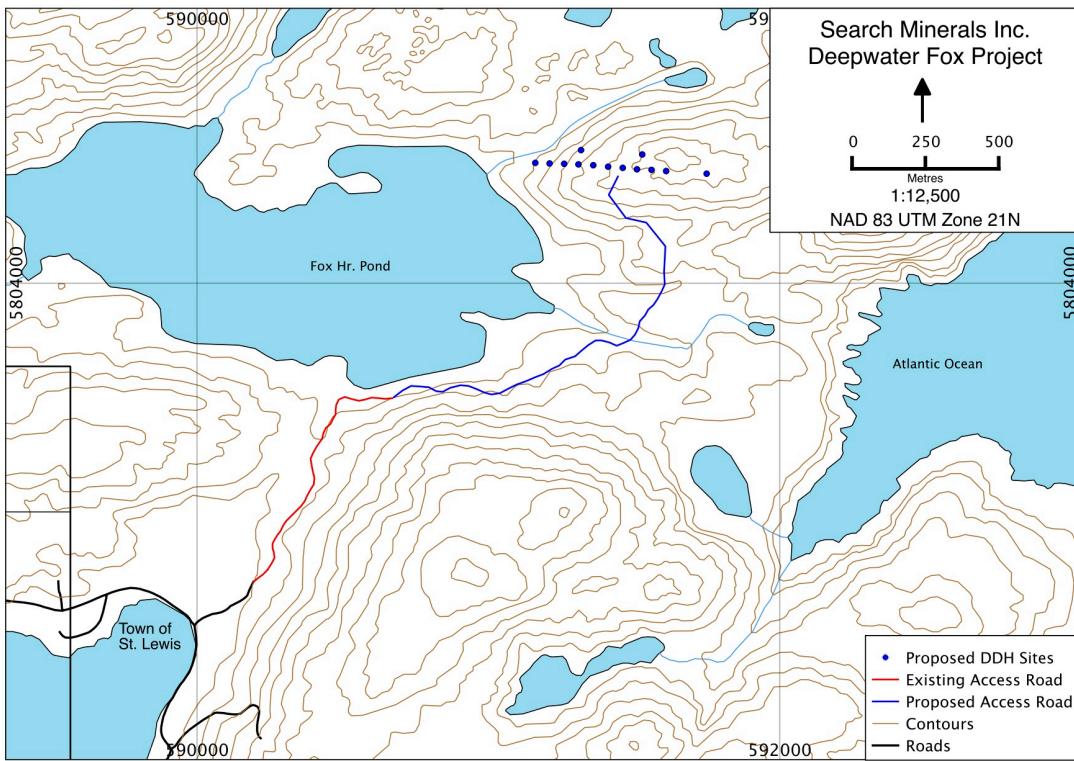


**Figure 2: Public Water Supply Area**

## 2.2 Physical Features

### *Buildings and Site Infrastructure:*

The only existing infrastructure occurring near the project area is a short access road (shown in red on Figure 3) between St. Lewis harbour, and Fox Harbour Pond. It is proposed to extend this road to allow access by drilling equipment and support vehicles to the project site. In order to avoid washouts during heavy rain and spring-thaw, several culverts will need to be installed on the proposed access road.



**Figure 3: Deepwater Fox Project Area**

No buildings or accommodations are required on site. As previously stated, the property is adjacent to the community of St. Lewis, which will house all personnel associated with the project. On-site core storage is not required, and drill core will be transported to Search Minerals existing core storage facility in St. Lewis.

*Potentially Affected Areas:*

The area that will be affected by the project is shown in Figure 3 ( $<0.30 \text{ km}^2$ ). The access road (shown in blue on Figure 3) will be no longer than necessary, and drill sites (13 in total) no bigger than  $100 \text{ m}^2$ . Most drill sites are free of vegetation, and areas that will require the removal of vegetation contain mostly tuckamore. An effort will be made to leave ground/vegetation in place to minimize erosion potential.

*Geographical Setting and Topography:*

Elevation ranges from sea level to approximately 100 m in the project area. Topography is rugged with generally east-west striking ridges. Low areas contain brooks that drain nearby bogs and ponds. Vegetation is primarily mosses, lichens, Labrador tea, and tuckamore in higher areas, with alder thickets and isolated black and white spruce in the lowlands.

*Climate:*

The climate in southern Labrador is sub-arctic, characterized by long, cold winters, and short, wet, and cool summers. Temperature ranges from -30°C in the winter to +30°C in the summer.

*Water Bodies:*

Water will be required for diamond drilling operations. In terms of water use, drill return discharge, and working in proximity to water bodies, the project will abide by the stipulations and conditions provided with the permit approvals.

*Wildlife and Fish:*

The region is host to fox, black bears, and small game birds and animals, such as partridge and rabbit. Larger nearby ponds contain trout.

### **2.3 Construction**

Road construction is required to gain four-season access to the property. The proposed access road will start at the end of an existing road, which is less than 150 m from Fox Harbour Pond, and immediately veer away from Fox Harbour Pond in order to satisfy the 150 m buffer zone (as suggested by the Department of Natural Resources “Environmental Guidelines for Construction and Mineral Exploration Companies”). The road would be approximately 2.3 km long, with the first 0.3 km remaining within the buffer zone. The road will take approximately one week to build, and construction will commence immediately upon approval (if weather and road building conditions are favorable at the time).

The road will be constructed using an excavator, and road-building methods that minimize potential environmental concerns, such as proper culverts, will be installed as necessary, to avoid washouts during heavy rain and spring-thaw. During construction, timber will be stockpiled and used as required by the Department of Natural Resources. Construction equipment will be well maintained, with spill kits in place. Fabrics will be used to avoid siltation and the negative environmental impacts.

Upon completion of the project, the access road will remain intact (including culverts) for future exploration drilling (based on success of the proposed drill program). The road will be inspected regularly to minimize potential environmental impact, such as erosion.

## 2.4 Operation

Qualified contractors will be chosen for construction of the access road, and diamond drilling. Access road construction will take approximately seven days, and diamond drilling will take approximately 4-6 weeks.

Potential pollutants for the access road construction are:

- Siltation – silt-controlling fabrics will be in place.
- Spills of petroleum products from construction equipment in water and soil, spill kits will be on site.

Potential pollutants for diamond drilling operations will be minimized by:

- Insuring that used oil and lubricants are transferred to proper containers and disposed of with a local, licensed oil handler.
- No fueling of equipment will take place near water bodies (as per stipulations and conditions provided with the permit approvals).
- All drill crews and fuel supply trucks will be equipped with spill kits.
- Holes will be capped post-drilling to prevent water flow.
- Drill crews will abide by all other stipulations and conditions provided with the permit approvals.

## 2.5 Occupations

Table 1 displays the necessary occupations for the project.

**Table 1: Occupations**

Occupation	Number Required	National Occupation	Duration of Employment (weeks)
Search Minerals Personnel			
Geologist	3	2113	4-6
Labourer/core cutter	2	7611	4-6
Office Administrator	1	1414	4-6
Subcontractors (estimate)			
Drillers	2	7372	4-6
Driller's Helper	2	7611	4-6
Foreman	1	8221	4-6
Excavator Operator	1	7521	1
Road Supervisor	1	8211	1

## **2.6 Project Related Documents:**

There are no project-related documents to date.

## **3. APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING**

Search Minerals will not commence any work until all permits and approvals are in place. Table 2 indicates the permits and approvals that have been submitted for the undertaking.

**Table 2: Permits and Approvals**

Permit/Approval	Issuing Agency	Status
Release from Environmental Assessment	Minister of Environment & Conservation	Pending
Exploration Approval	Department of Natural Resources	Pending
Permit to Alter a Body of Water - Schedule A Culvert (for road construction)	Department of Environment & Conservation	Pending

## **4. SCHEDULE**

The earliest that the project could commence is October 15, 2015. If Department approval is received after November 1<sup>st</sup>, construction of an access road would not be possible, and the program would become a winter drilling program, with a temporary winter road (accessible by excavator and/or nodwell-type vehicle). The latest that a winter drilling program could commence is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

## **5. FUNDING**

Funding for this project includes an application for a grant from the Department of Natural Resources Junior Exploration Assistant program (JEA).

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