Notice of coming into force

An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden (S.Q. 2026, chapter 12)

An Act to amend various provisions for the main purpose of reducing regulatory and administrative burden (hereinafter referred to as the “omnibus bill”) of the Ministère de l’Économie, de l’Innovation et de l’Énergie was passed in the National Assembly of Québec and assented to on June 11, 2026, date of coming into force of the amendments, unless there is an exception.

Some of the measures to reduce the regulatory and administrative burden in this omnibus bill make changes to the mining regime. They are presented below.

1. Annual exploration work report

Section 71.1 of the Mining Act (CQLR, chapter M-13.1) is repealed, thereby removing the obligation for a holder of an exclusive exploration right to submit an annual exploration work report.

2. Annual exploration work planning

Section 65.1 of the Mining Act is amended to specify that the holder of the exclusive exploration right shall, from now on, also transmit the annual work planning to the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et des Forêts (hereinafter “MRNF”).

In addition, annual work planning will now have to include a report on the work carried out during the previous year, if applicable.

These amendments are in the context of the removal of section 71.1 from the Mining Act and are intended to ensure that the MRNF is informed of the exploration work done each year.

The amendments to section 65.1 of the Mining Act come into force retroactively on June 1, 2026.

3. Temporary construction or facility in public lands

Section 32 of the Act to amend the Mining Act and other provisions (S.Q. 2024, chapter 36) (Act 36), which amends section 66 of the Mining Act, is amended to provide that an authorization to erect or maintain a temporary construction or facility on lands in the domain of the State is issued for the same period of validity as the exclusive exploration right over which the authorization will be issued.

Bill 36 originally proposed that these authorizations be valid for one year, and renewable for one-year periods.

An application for renewal of the authorization to erect or maintain a temporary construction or facility shall be submitted to the MRNF in case of renewal of the exclusive exploration right, if it is still required.

The amendments to section 66 of the Mining Act, proposed by Bill 36 and adjusted by the omnibus bill, will only come into force once the Mining Regulation (CQLR, chapter M-13.1, r. 2) has been adjusted to specify the conditions for issuing the authorization[1].

4. Authorization for impact-causing mining exploration

Section 69.2 of the Mining Act is amended to extend the term of the authorization for impact-causing exploration work (ATI) from two years to three years and to remove the renewal process.

The ATIs issued prior to these legislative changes are automatically extended by one year (section 63 of the omnibus bill).

As a reminder, only impact-causing exploration work authorized in an ATI can be performed. If the holder wishes to carry out additional or different impact-causing work than those initially provided for in an ATI, a new ATI request must be submitted to the MRNF.

For concordance purposes, section 306 of the Mining Act is adjusted, and section 13 of the Mining Regulation is repealed.

5. Notice of suspension of operations in a mine

Section 226 of the Mining Act is amended to provide that the obligations under this section are only triggered if operations in the mine are suspended for at least one year, rather than six months.

6. Lease to mine surface mineral substances

Section 291 of the Mining Act is amended to remove reference to subsection 2 of section 142.0.2 of the Mining Act, which concerns the MRNF's decision to subject the conclusion or renewal of a lease to mine surface mineral substances to certain conditions and obligations.

Sections 291 et seq. of the Mining Act provide a specific contestation regime different from common law remedies and impose various administrative delays.

By withdrawing decisions made under section 142.0.2 (2°) of section 291, leases to mine surface mineral substances can be entered into and renewed up to 60 days sooner, as they will no longer be subject to the administrative delays required by this particular contestation process.

Any decision taken under section 142.0.2 (2°) of the Mining Act may be contested under common law remedies.

For more information, you may contact the Centre de services des mines at services.mines@mrnf.gouv.qc.ca.

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[1] See section 306 (8.2°) of the Mining Act and section 181 (3°) of Act 36.