



Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » December 2010 » News Release #10-225

Newsroom

Latest news releases

News by theme

News by department
 Community Services
 Economic Development
 Education
 Energy, Mines and Resources
 Environment
 Executive Council Office
 Finance
 French Language Services
 Directorate
 Health and Social Services
 Highways and Public Works
 Justice
 Public Service Commission
 Tourism and Culture
 Women's Directorate

News by corporations

Yukon Development
 Corporation
 Yukon Energy Corporation
 Yukon Housing Corporation
 Yukon Liquor Corporation
 Yukon Workers'
 Compensation Health and
 Safety Board

Joint news releases

Premier's News

News by date

2017 news releases

January
 February
 March
 April
 May
 June
 July
 August
 September
 October
 November
 December

News archive



NEWSrelease

FOR RELEASE #10-225
 December 17, 2010

Staking withdrawal extension to support Peel Watershed regional planning process

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon will initiate the process to implement a one-year extension to the withdrawal from mineral staking in the Peel Watershed Region in order to provide certainty during the remaining steps in the region's land use planning process.

"The proposed extension of the withdrawal will allow the Peel Commission to develop a Final Recommended Plan and enable the planning process to advance through the next stages in order to avoid further planning complexities," Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Patrick Rouble said.

Pending formal approval, extension of the current staking withdrawal will apply to subsurface mineral staking administered under the *Quartz Mining Act* and *Placer Mining Act* until February 4, 2012. Additionally, rights for oil and gas, and coal will not be issued in the region during this period.

"The planned extension of the staking withdrawal does not pre-determine outcomes in the planning process," Rouble said. "Current regulatory processes for access and exploration of existing sub-surface rights will continue to apply throughout the region."

Provision of relief from assessment for existing claims within the region will be discussed with the planning parties prior to the February 4, 2011 extension of the staking withdrawal.

The Yukon government continues to follow the processes outlined in Chapter 11 of the First Nation Final Agreements as work continues on the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan.

For more information visit www.emr.gov.yk.ca.

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Contact:

Brianne Young
 Cabinet Communications
 867-633-7949
brianne.young@gov.yk.ca

Rod Jacob
 Communications, Energy, Mines & Resources
 867-667-3183
rod.jacob@gov.yk.ca

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