

## Innovation, Energy and Mines

1. Where are the current mining operations located in the Carrot-Saskatchewan River watershed? What type of mining occurs in the watershed?

The attached map indicates all mineral dispositions within the Carrot River watershed. There are no active Mining operations in the area. Namew Lake mine was decommissioned. Activities on mining claims and MEL's could include prospecting, diamond drilling and field exploration. Various permits would be required prior to diamond drilling and ground geophysical field exploration.

2. Are there any new mining operations planned for the Carrot-Saskatchewan River watershed?

As long as there are mining claims and MEL's with ongoing exploration there always a possibility of a new mining operation. Note also for a major mining operation to start there an extensive environmental review, permitting, filing and accepting a closure plan with financial assurance. For a major mining operation to start up it would take longer than 5 years.

3. What are the expected economic benefits from mining for communities in the Carrot-Saskatchewan River watershed?

Economic benefits could include employment at the mine site as well as many different opportunities for supply of goods and services.

4. What impacts do mineral mines have on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems? How long does it take a mineral mine to be restored to ecological function after it has been mined?

Prior to approval of any mining operation base line environmental studies need to be completed. This includes many things such as fish, wildlife analysis of water, etc. There are strict guidelines concerning any discharge from mining operations to the environment.

Throughout the mining process environmental monitoring systems must be in place and reported upon. Many different provincial departments such a Conservation, Water Stewardship, Mineral Resources, etc. are involved in the approval process.

5. What considerations are given to watershed health during the environmental assessment process for a proposed mineral mining operation?

The base line environmental study establishes the measure for ongoing monitoring during the mining operation and following the closure. As noted, there are strict government guidelines regarding any discharges from the mining operation.

6. In general, what are the impacts of mineral mining on watershed health including water quality?

Much the same answer as number 5. There should be no impact to watershed health including water quality.

*Watershed Mineral Dispositions map on file.*