



Surveyor General Branch

Beyond Boundaries

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM

From: *Surveyor General of Canada Lands*

Addendum 1.9

Addendum to: *National Standards for the Survey of Canada Lands (1.1)*

Object: *Chapter 15: Mineral Surveys – Nunavut*

The following herein shall constitute an official amendment to the document it refers to.

DETAIL

This Addendum is published to add new Chapter 15 to the *National Standards for the Survey of Canada Lands (1.1)*.

This addition is necessary to take into account the Regulations amending the *Nunavut Mining Regulations* (SOR/2014-69) published on November 1, 2020. These amendments eliminate the requirement to stake claims on the ground and requires new claims to be staked using a map based system. Surveys will still be required when claims are taken to lease and this addition addresses the survey and plan requirements.

Chapter 15: MINING SURVEYS – NUNAVUT

15.1 Introduction

1. Legal Surveys are required to define the boundaries of mineral claims for lease purposes in Nunavut.
2. The position of the boundaries of a mineral claim is governed by the 2020 *Nunavut Mining Regulations* (Regulations amending the *Nunavut Mining Regulations*), pursuant to the *Territorial Lands Act*, that came into force on November 1, 2020.
3. Mineral rights in Nunavut are maintained through the [Nunavut Map Selection \(NMS\) system](#). This system allows for map selection of claims and lease renewals. A transition from existing ground staked claims to map-staked claims has occurred. The position of claims is determined by coordinates, rather than the legal posts on the ground.

15.2 Establishing Grid Areas, Sections and Units

4. Schedule 3, *Nunavut Lands Division*, of the 2020 *Nunavut Mining Regulations* defines the configuration of the grid areas, sections and units, which provides the digital boundary framework for the mineral claims.

5. Georeferenced grid, section and unit boundary line work is available to surveyors from the Surveyor General Branch. The calculations of the boundary line work provided by the Surveyor General Branch were done by first converting the four corners of each grid area from NAD27 to NAD83 using NTv2 ([National Transformation Version 2](#)) and then calculating all section and unit boundaries in NAD83.

15.3 Survey Methods

6. The following instructions apply to the survey of all mineral claims in Nunavut.
7. Chapters 1 to 3 of the *National Standards for Surveys of Canada Lands* apply to surveys performed under the requirements of this chapter, to the extent that their provisions are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter in which case this chapter takes priority.
8. Under specific Survey Instructions, it may be acceptable to compile mineral lease boundaries (see Chapter 2.7 of the National Standards).
9. The boundaries of a mineral claim are defined by coordinates as per the 2020 *Nunavut Mining Regulations*. The surveyed boundary of the claim is a realization of those coordinates and must follow the unit boundaries as defined in Schedule 3 of the said regulations, except for those boundaries described in section 17 below. If there is any discrepancy between a monument placed under this section and the theoretical position of a claim, priority must be given to the theoretical position of the claim.
10. In the east/west direction post along the geodesic and represent the geodesic line on the plan of survey and digital returns.
11. Legal posts, as defined in the previous, that have been placed on a claim prior to the coming in force date of the 2020 *Nunavut Mining Regulations* do not need to be searched for and are no longer relevant.
12. The boundaries of active mineral leases issued before the 2020 *Nunavut Mining Regulations* came into force will continue to be defined by the surveyed boundaries of that lease as long as it is still active. These boundaries will remain fixed and may not necessarily follow the Nunavut Land Division grid.
13. Claims may be from 1 to 100 units in size, however, map-staked units must be contiguous with another unit in that claim, and, the claim must not enclose a unit that is not comprised in that claim.
14. Lot designators for claims to be surveyed are issued with survey instructions obtained from the regional office of the *Surveyor General Branch*. When applying for survey instructions, the surveyor must:
 - a. Provide the claim names (if applicable) and record numbers;
 - b. Identify the number of claims located in each grid mapping area and the number of lot numbers required in each, and number of units; and
 - c. Provide a sketch of the claim(s) to be surveyed.
15. A mineral claim includes all areas lying within its boundaries, including those covered by water. Surveyed connections to these water features are not required except as specified in the paragraph 16 below.
16. In cases where a claim boundary has been located along the natural boundary of a park or an Indigenous Owned Land parcel, and this natural boundary is intended to be the boundary of the claim being surveyed, the natural boundary segment must be either surveyed or mapped to define the claim boundary in accordance with chapter 5 of the National Standards.
17. In cases where a claim boundary has been located along lands identified in Section 5 (Land Not Open for Prospecting) of the 2020 *Nunavut Mining Regulations*, the boundary along those lands must be surveyed.

Monuments

18. Monumentation must follow standards for *Monumentation of Parcels and Boundaries* as established in Chapter 1 of the National Standards. These monuments must be used to demarcate the boundaries of a mineral claim:
 - a. CLS post as described in Section 1.2 *Types of Monuments* in the National Standards;
 - b. a mild steel bar not less than 1.5 cm square and 75 cm long driven into the ground so that no more than a 15 cm portion protrudes above ground level;
 - c. a mild steel bar not less than 1.5 cm square and not less than 23 cm long cemented in rock so that no more than a 15 cm portion protrudes above ground level;
 - d. additional types of monuments or modifications to monuments may be approved or specified by the Surveyor General based on the nature of the ground, the terrain, safety concerns, and local custom.
19. Ancillary monuments must be placed at each monument on the boundary of the claim being surveyed in accordance with Section 1.4 *Ancillary Monumentation* in the National Standards.
20. All monuments demarcating the boundaries of a claim or a group of claims must be marked in accordance with paragraph 7 in Section 1.3 *Monument Markings* in the National Standards.

15.4 Plan Preparation

21. Prepare a plan of survey in accordance with the specifications in *Chapter 2: Survey Plans* in the National Standards.
22. In addition to the information prescribed in Chapter 2, show:
 - a. In the Title Block or Legend:
 - i. the name of each claim surveyed in the title;
 - ii. below the plan title, show the name of the appropriate Grid Area of the survey;
 - iii. a description of how the Units, Sections and Grid areas are abbreviated (if applicable);and
 - iv. the statement "Unit corners are defined by Schedule 3 of the 2020 Nunavut Mining Regulations."
 - b. In the plan body show:
 - i. a key plan showing surveyed Lot(s) and other surveyed lots in the Grid Area;
 - ii. unit identifiers for each unit for which the claim is comprised. Abbreviations are acceptable if they increase plan clarity, however the method of abbreviation must be clear, and explained in the legend;
 - iii. use the term "Part of" to describe Units not fully enclosed by the survey;
 - iv. area for the Inuit Owned Lands (IOL) parcel(s) within the surveyed lease boundaries must be shown in a table or in a statement;
 - v. adjacent unsurveyed active claims;
 - vi. ties to adjacent surveyed active leases and surface parcel boundaries where applicable; and
 - vii. depict natural and man-made features in sufficient detail to assist with identification of the geographical positions of the claims. Describe the source of this information in the legend.

Compiled Plan and Field Notes

23. The use of compiled plans may be permitted in certain situations. For example, if new lot abuts a previously surveyed mineral lease issued prior to the 2020 *Nunavut Mining Regulations* coming into force.
24. The surveyor must request permission from the Surveyor General Branch to compile when the request for survey instructions is made. Compiled plans must comply with Section 2.7 of the National Standards.

15.5 Survey Returns

25. Submit the following survey returns:

- a. Plan of Survey;
- b. Field Notes of Survey (if not encompassed in the plan);
- c. copy of the *Application to Record a Mineral Claim*;
- d. any other pertinent information; and
- e. any other items requested by the Surveyor General Branch.

26. Submit the plan in both DWG and PDF format acceptable to the Surveyor General Branch, and all other information in PDF format.

15.6 Specimen Plan

Link:

[#35 Plan of Survey of Mineral Claim in NU](#)

[#36 Compiled Plan and Field Notes of Survey of Mineral Claim in NU](#)

(<https://clss.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/clss/surveystandards-normesdarcentage>)

This Addendum comes into force on January 01, 2021.

(Original signed on January 21, 2021)

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