



**AKHM**  
ALEXCO KENO HILL  
MINING CORP.

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## **HERITAGE RESOURCES PROTECTION PLAN**

**QML-0009**

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Prepared for:

**KENO HILL SILVER DISTRICT MINING OPERATIONS**



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Keno Hill Mining District (KHSD) is located in the vicinity of Keno City (63° 55'N, 135° 29'W), in central Yukon Territory, 354 km (by air) due north of Whitehorse. Access to the property is via a paved, two-lane highway from Whitehorse to Mayo (407 km) and an all-weather gravel road northeast from Mayo to Elsa (45 km); a total distance of 452 km.

The KHSD has rich historical significance and is characterized by numerous historic/heritage resources, largely related to past mineral development. As part of the KHSD Closure Plan, Elsa Reclamation Development Company (ERDC) is developing a District-Wide Heritage Management Plan in consultation with stakeholders, including YG Heritage Resources, the First Nation of Na-cho Nyak Dun (FNNND), the Silver Trail Tourism Association, the Binet House Museum, the Village of Mayo, Keno City Mining Museum, Keno City and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

The following Heritage Resources Protection Plan has been assembled to address the potential discovery of previously unknown heritage resources during the course of the project and provide a protocol for reporting and protecting these resources. For reference, the following definitions of heritage resources are provided:

- Heritage (or Historic) Resource – abandoned sites and objects greater than 45 years in antiquity. Cabins, caches, graves, brush camps, and other man-made structures, features or objects are the most readily recognized. Mining artifacts in the Keno Hill District are particularly abundant, as the area has hosted nearly 100 years of very active mining.
- Archaeological Resource – tend to date before European contact and found on or under the ground surface, generally consisting of the remains of ancient camps, hearths, stone tools and debris.
- Paleontological Resource – fossil and other remains of extinct or prehistoric plants and animals including bones of mammoth, horse, bison and other ice age fauna as well as fossil remains and traces plants, vertebrate and invertebrate fauna.

## 2 HERITAGE RESOURCES PROTECTION PLAN

Over the decades since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, pioneer gold seekers, frontiersmen, miners, surveyors, trappers, merchants, geologists, engineers and individualists have come to explore, live and work in the Keno area. Since the major discovery of silver around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the district made the Yukon one of the world's leading silver producers and backstopped the territorial economy for decades.

Alexco recognizes the importance of the historic and heritage values that characterize this historic mining district. In fact, the historic and heritage aspects of the KHSD certainly enhance our pride and enjoyment of the area while we pursue the economic revitalization of the District. As miners, we naturally hold historic mining evidence and artifacts in high regard.



In general, the process developed in conjunction with YG Abandoned Mines and YG Heritage and NNDFN follows the protocol as presented as Figure 1. Documentation of sites includes: locating with GPS, photographs, cataloging, initial condition, environmental and public safety assessment, historical research.

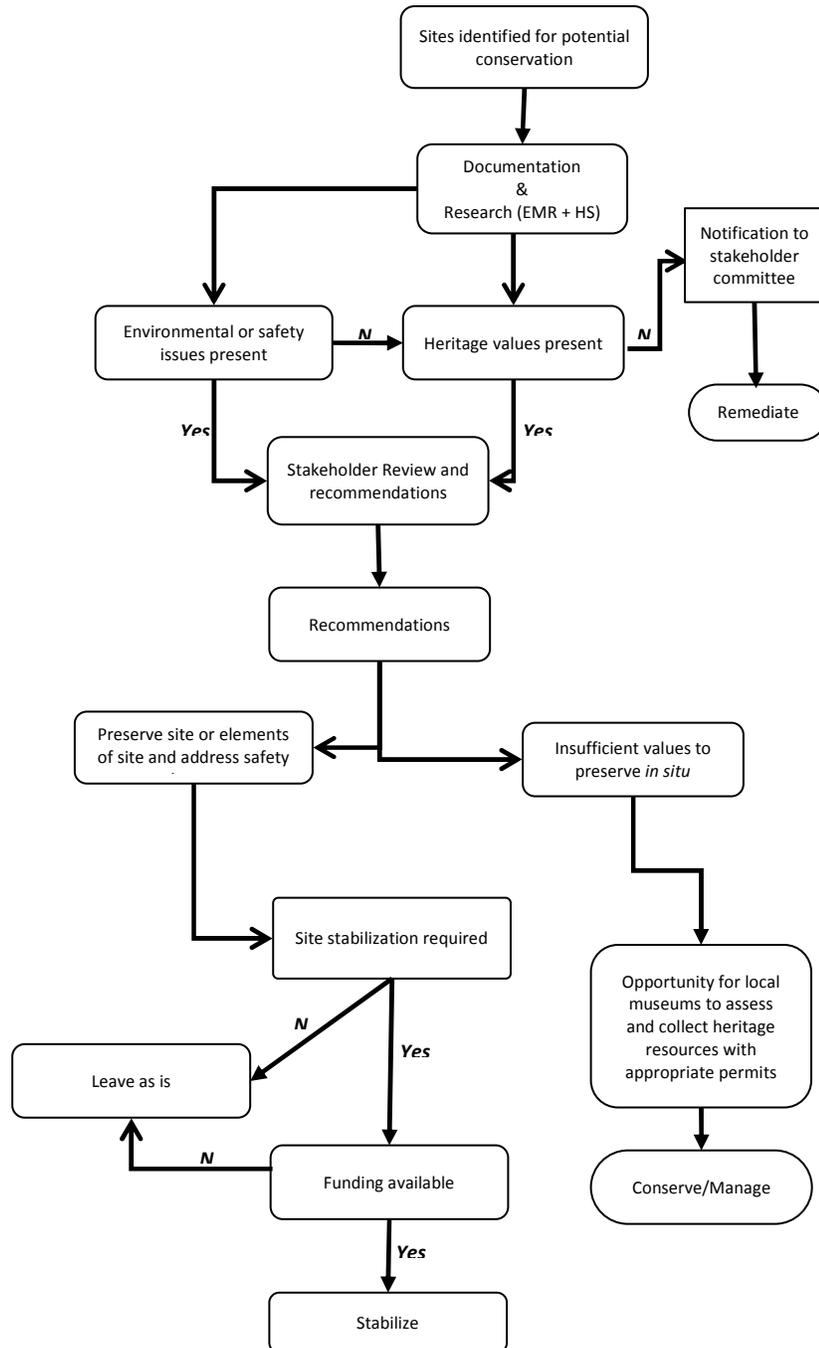
The stakeholder Committee struck to oversees this work includes ERDC, First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun, the Silver Trail Association, YG - Abandoned Mines, Yukon Historic Sites and Keno City and Mayo representatives.

Local Museums in the area are the Keno Mining Museum in Keno or the Binet House in Mayo.

Any removal of any heritage resource from the Keno Hill will require a Permit under the Yukon Archaeological Sites Regulation.

Adverse effects on heritage resources associated with AKHM's mine development production activities are not anticipated. Heritage Resources in the KHSD in general are known and in many cases, documented. The extent of new footprint associated with the project is limited and no heritage resources are known to exist in that area.

In general, no activities will occur in the vicinity of known heritage resources unless approved in writing by the appropriate authorities. Before commencing any project activities that may disturb known heritage resources, the area would be appropriately marked in the field. Development is prohibited within 30 m of a known or suspected heritage site.



**Figure 1 Protocol for Management of Keno Hill Mine Heritage Sites**



### 3 RESPONSE TO DISCOVERY OF HERITAGE RESOURCES

The following response will be implemented to provide protection for any heritage resources discovered during:

- Land clearing;
- Road and trail construction/use; and
- Excavation and placement of soils/rock in are as proposed for development.

Notification & Preliminary Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the event previously unknown heritage resources are discovered, operations will be suspended and the site will immediately be marked and protected from further disturbances and no objects will be removed.</li><li>• Notification will be provided to Yukon Government Heritage Resources Branch at (867)667-5983 or 1-800-661-0408 and the FNNND at (867) 996-2265 and they will be consulted for advice on mitigation.</li><li>• No further activities may be carried out within 30 m of the site until Yukon Government indicates in writing that the activities may be resumed.</li></ul>
Paleontological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If fossil bones are discovered, these will be set aside and as soon as practicable, reported to the Yukon Palaeontologist.</li></ul>
Human Remains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If human remains or burial sites are discovered, work will cease immediately and the RCMP notified. The Guidelines Respecting the Discovery of Human Remains and First Nation Burial Sites in the Yukon will be followed.</li></ul>

### 4 EMPLOYEE AND CONTRACTOR AWARENESS

During mandatory orientation, all new employees and contractors of Alexco will be made aware of Alexco's heritage awareness policy and briefed on company protocols and procedures related to the Heritage Resources Protection Plan.

