



Placer Grouping Guidelines

Placer Mining Act



Please refer to the
**Placer Schedule of
Representation Work**
document when filing
assessment work on claims
available at

www.yukonminingrecorder.com

Placer Grouping Guidelines

Section 52, *Placer Mining Act*

This guideline contains information on the following:

1. [Section 52 of the *Placer Mining Act*](#)
2. [Purpose of grouping claims](#)
3. [Criteria for approval and application requirements](#)
4. [Grouping work program](#)

1. Section 52 of the *Placer Mining Act*

Section 52 of the *Quartz Mining Act* states:

Owners of adjoining claims

s.52(1) Adjoining claims, not exceeding ten in number, may be grouped together for the performance of work by their owner or owners on filing with a mining recorder a notice of intention to group the claims and obtaining a grouping certificate in Form 7 of Schedule 1.

s.52(2) Adjoining claims exceeding ten in number and any number of claims some of which do not adjoin may with the approval of the Minister be grouped together for the performance of work by the owner or owners if the owner or owners show to the satisfaction of the Minister that the claims are to be operated by a system of mining that has a direct bearing on all other claims affected and renders a considerable area necessary to successful operation by the system proposed, and the Minister may, in those cases, issue a grouping certificate in Form 7 of Schedule 1.

s.52(3) The holder or holders of a grouping certificate in Form 7 of Schedule 1 may perform on any one or more of the claims, in respect of which the grouping certificate was issued, all or any part of the work required to entitle them to a certificate of work for

each claim so held by them, but if the work is not done the claims shall be deemed to be vacant and abandoned without any declaration of the cancellation or forfeiture on the part of the Commissioner.

s.52(4) Any grouping certificate issued by the Minister may be cancelled by the Minister on the expiration of sixty days from the mailing of a notice by registered mail to the owners of the claims in the group, if it appears from the report of a mining inspector or otherwise that the system of mining contemplated when the grouping certificate was issued is not being installed or operated with reasonable diligence.

2. Purpose of grouping claims

Groupings are certificates under which work performed on one or more claims may be used to satisfy the assessment requirements for other claims in the area. This means that work done on one claim in the selected grouping can be applied to any or all other claims in the grouping for the purposes of renewing the claims. This allows the holders of a grouping certificate to concentrate their activities on one or more claims instead of having to perform assessment work on each individual claim.

Take note of the following.

- Claims cannot be grouped simply to avoid completing assessment work on claims that are not part of an operation, or to enable a claim owner to “hold” ground that they are not working.
- A grouping certificate does NOT authorize mining activity or the use of water. Permits (a mining land use approval and/or water licence) are still required.
- A grouping certificate does NOT change the anniversary date or expiry date of any claims. The act of grouping claims does not renew the claims.
- Grouping claims does not change the amount of assessment work required.

Assessment credit of \$200.00, assigned according to the *Schedule of Representation Work (Placer Mining), 2003*, is required to renew each claim each year. For example, if you have ten claims you will require \$2000.00 worth of assessment credit each year, whether or not the claims are grouped.

The difference is that on grouped claims, you can centralize the work to one or more work locations. On ungrouped claims, you must complete \$200.00 of work on each individual claim.

For further information on renewing claims, please see the *Schedule of Representation Work (Placer Mining)*, 2003 available at http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/regs/oic2003_250.pdf.

3. Criteria for approval and application requirements

The *Placer Mining Act* allows claims to be grouped if certain conditions are met.

- Groups of ten or less contiguous (adjoining) claims are authorized by the *Placer Mining Act*, subject to filing an application with the mining recorder.
- Groups of 11 or more, or any number of claims which are non-adjoining, may be approved if the owner or owners demonstrate:
 - that the system of mining to be used on that group has a direct bearing on all the claims in the grouping (all the claims are part of one operation); and
 - that a considerable area of land is necessary to successfully carry out the operation by the proposed mining system.
- Claims must be on the same watershed, meaning the same creek and/or its tributaries.

Applications must consist of the following:

- A completed grouping application form signed by all owners of claims included in the application, or written permission received from each owner.
- A map showing which claims are to be grouped of sufficient scale to identify each claim.
- If the application includes claims which are non-adjoining or consists of more than ten claims, a completed grouping work program form.
- Fees paid to the appropriate district office (\$5.00 for the first ten or fewer claims and \$1.00 for each additional claim over ten).

4. Grouping work program

The grouping work program form helps claim owners demonstrate how all of the claims in the grouping application are part of one operation and meet the requirements of section 52(2) of the *Placer Mining Act*.

For licenced mining operations

If the claim holder or their representative is actively mining the claims and all claims in the grouping application are included in the water licence and/or mining land use approval, the claim owner can reference the operating plan. By referencing either a valid water licence (PM number) or valid approval number (LP number), the claim owner will not be required to provide further details on the form.

A completed grouping work program is still required if the claim owners are currently in the process of obtaining a licence or approval for claims in the application or if they are intending to apply.

For exploration or projects without a licence or approval

For more than ten claims or claims that are non-adjointing and not part of a licence or approval, more detailed information is required in order to be grouped (i.e., a grouping work program). Below are some points to consider when completing a grouping work program.

- Does the grouping work program demonstrate that the mining or exploration system involves all of the claims in the grouping?
- Does the grouping work program demonstrate that the claims in the grouping are being worked (mined or explored) in a systematic manner? Have you described the system?
- Are you planning to explore the entirety of the claim block to identify pay areas/appropriate infrastructure locations before beginning mining?

- Are there restraints or environmental site conditions that require a larger area or multiple areas of operation?
- Does your mining plan require work to be completed in certain areas before moving on to others in order to reduce the footprint/impact of the operation?
- Is there existing, authorized access between non-adjointing claims that would allow the claim blocks to be worked as one, for example, transportation of samples, equipment, etc., to one centralized site?
- In the case of non-adjointing claims, how far apart are the claim blocks? Only 1 or 2 claim lengths between 2 blocks, or multiple miles? Longer distances may be more problematic to having a grouping approved.
- Is access to water or settling facilities a factor in how you work or manage the claims?
- Does systematic mining or exploration of the site allow for easier on-going reclamation and closure of trenches/ mine cuts or otherwise disturbed areas?
- Any other site or program specific considerations.

Adding claims to an existing grouping within an approved licence

If you are adding new claims to an existing grouping which contains claims that are already part of an approved operation, you will need to provide a grouping work program or operating plan. The information must clearly lay out how the new claims will be part of the existing, approved operation.

Amending an existing grouping work program

If your grouping work program has changed, or is changing, you must complete and submit a new form to the district Mining Recorder's Office for review and approval. If it is demonstrated that the existing, approved grouping work program is not being followed, the mining recorder may cancel the grouping work program as per s. 52(4) of the *Placer Mining Act*.

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