Quartz Mining Act
Guidelines for Claim Staking

Please use the following document as a guide when staking and recording claims in Yukon.
Before you set out to stake your own Yukon mineral claim, read these instructions. This brochure provides you with an overview of how to stake a claim and what requirements you must follow. Yukon government Mining Recorders are available to answer any questions you might have and their contact information is available on the back of this publication. These new guidelines are in effect as of April 1, 2009.

Staking a Mineral Claim

1. Check Before You Stake

Before staking a mineral claim, make sure the ground is open for staking. Visit www.yukonminingrecorder.ca to view the disposition of mineral claims in Yukon. Yukon government strongly recommends that you check with the mining recorder’s office in the district before staking a claim, to ensure that all of the information is complete and up to date.

Some places you cannot stake are:

- Over active mineral claims
- First Nation Category “A” Settlement land
- Curtilage (yard) of a dwelling house
- Parks, special management areas
- Cemeteries, burial grounds or other church property
- Lands withdrawn for the settlement of land claims
- Agricultural land currently under active cultivation
- Any land removed from staking by Order in Council

If you have any questions regarding where you can stake, please contact the mining recorder’s office for your district (see back of pamphlet).

2. Get Your Claim Tags

Claim Tags must be purchased from the mining recorder’s office. They are sold for $2.00 for a set of two.

- Two tags are required for each claim (Post #1 and Post #2).
- Tag information can be inscribed before going in the field, except for the time and date, which must be entered in the field at the time of post placement.
- Tags must be inscribed so the writing is clearly visible. Use an etching pen (a pen with a carbide tip) or the point of a nail. Felt tip pen and other methods of surface marking will fade over time and are not acceptable.
- Tags must be securely fastened to the claim post (two nails or staples per tag should be used in the holes provided at the top and bottom of the tag). Using one nail to affix a tag, wiring the claim tag to the post or placing the tag in a cut on the side of the post are all insecure methods of placement and are not acceptable.
- Remember, the information you fill in on the claim tags or posts must be legible. The inscription on the tag must not be obscured by the nails used to fasten the tag to the post.

Please Note:

- Improperly completed tags could lead to the loss of mineral rights.
- It is unlawful to move, remove, re-use or change posts or tags from other claims and doing so will invalidate your claim.

The picture below shows an example of a properly inscribed claim tag.
3. Check Your Kit

Make sure you have all the information and equipment you need before going out to stake. A copy of a map of claim dispositions in the area you plan to stake will allow you to sketch out possible claim locations as well as the locations for witness posts (see below).

4. Know the Rules

Take note of the following staking rules:

- A mineral claim cannot be more than 1500 ft by 1500 ft with claim boundaries at right angles to the location line.
- It is possible to stake fractional mineral claims, see Section 19 of the Quartz Mining Act for details.
- Every mineral claim shall be marked on the ground by two legal posts, one at each end of the location line (shown by the black arrow on the claim sketch). A location line is defined as “a straight line opened or indicated throughout between No. 1 and No. 2 location posts of a mineral claim and joining them”.
- If the location line runs through a treed area it must be blazed and the underbrush cut or cleared so the line between post #1 and post #2 is clearly visible. Where there is no timber or underbrush, the location line must be marked with monuments of earth or rock not less than eighteen inches high and three feet in diameter at the base.

- If the #2 claim post cannot be set up at the appropriate end of the location line due to the presence of a lake, stream or other insurmountable natural obstacle, the claimholder may set up a “witness post” on the location line as close as possible to where the #2 post should have been placed. See section #6 on how to fill in your claim tags for a witness post.

5. Mark Your Claim

Claim posts must:

- be no less than the size of milled 2 x 2 inch posts.
  (1½ by 1½ inch lumber available commercially can be used for claim posts)
- have a squared face for at least the upper 18 inches and be 4 feet high with a mound of stones or earth 18 inches high and three feet wide at the base

If trees are used for claim posts:

- the upper 18 inches must be squared off to the appropriate size
- must be coniferous trees (spruce, pine)
- a solid, live tree (if possible)
6. Tag Your Claim Posts

On the No. 1 post, the claim tag must be affixed to the side of the post facing the No. 2 post. On the No. 2 post, the tag must be on the side of the post facing the No. 1 post. In the case of a witness post the distance in feet and direction to the location post No. 2 should be inscribed in the space provided. Note: Post No. 1 can not be a witness post.

The preferred sequence of staking is illustrated below. The zig-zag arrows on the left indicate the preferred method of staking for claims in rows of two or multiples of two. The arrow on the right is the preferred method of staking single claims or odd numbers of claims.

It is important that the claims be staked in the proper sequence (i.e. in the same numerical order as the tags). When the claims are recorded in proper sequence, this will make any future renewals more manageable.

It should be noted that the cost of changing a claim name is currently $25.00.

Please Note:

- The inscription on the tag must not be obscured by the nails used to fasten the tag to the posts.
- Using one nail to affix a tag, wiring a claim tag to a post or placing the tag in a cut on the side of the post are insecure methods of placement and are not acceptable.

It is important that the claims be staked in the proper sequence (i.e. in the same numerical order as the tags) so that the claims may be recorded properly.
7. Record Your Claims

To record a mineral claim:

- Submit an application to the mining recorder’s office. Forms and fee schedules are available on the web at www.yukonminingrecorder.ca.
- Provide a sketch of your claim. Sketches must have a scale, north arrow and the location of any geographical features such as lakes, rivers, or streams. The location line must be indicated, as well as claim boundaries. You must also indicate any claim(s) adjacent to your claim(s). See the sample claim sketch below.
- Applications, complete with sketches and fees ($10.00/claim), must be received by the mining recorder’s office within 30 days from the date of staking. Late applications will be refused.

Changes to paperwork and forms:

- Only a single copy of the application for a mineral claim and the claim location sketch must be filed with the mining recorder.
- It is recommended that GPS coordinates be submitted with the claim sketch where available.
- The time limit to record a claim is a flat 30 days from the date the claim was located, regardless of where the claim happens to be in relation to the mining recorder’s office. There is no longer a provision for an emergency Mining Recorder.
- Two copies of quartz mining leases or their renewals will be required.

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Typical claim sketch

**STAKER SIGNATURE:** Joe Staker

**MAPSHEET:** 105D11

**DATE:** April 1, 2009
8. Keep Your Mineral Claim in Good Standing

To keep a claim in good standing the claim holder must work the claim and apply for a certificate of work, or pay a fee in lieu of work. A claim is in good standing for one year after the date it is recorded. The official recorded date is the date the mining recorder receives your application form, sketch and fees. During this one year period, the claim holder is required to do $100.00 worth of representation work on the claim. Representation work can also be referred to as assessment work.

Representation work:
There are many types of work that qualify as representation work and some activities will require the prior approval of the mining recorder. For a complete list of work that qualifies as representation work, visit the schedule of representation work at: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/mining/pdf/schedule_quartzguidelines.pdf .

Not all activities qualify as representation work, please consult the schedule or contact the mining recorder for your district if you have questions.

Applying work to a claim:
To apply the representation work to a claim, a claim holder must file a Form 4 (Application for a Certificate of Work) with the mining recorder. This form is available online and details the work done in the year along with a request to renew the claim. There is a $5.00 fee per claim per year.

Claim holders can apply for more than one year of work at one time, up to a maximum of five years if the claim is in its lapping year or up to a maximum of four years if the claim is not scheduled to lapse in the year of application. The documentation required depends on the type of work done, but will include certified statements of costs and maps showing the location of the work. Payment in lieu can also be made for more than one year, up to a maximum of five years when a claim is in its lapping year, otherwise up to four years (see below for fees).

Please consult the schedule of representation work or contact the mining recorder’s office for details.

Representation Work Application deadline:
Applications and all documentation must be received by the mining recorder no later than 14 days after the anniversary date of the claim. For example, if the claim was recorded on August 25, 2008, the anniversary date will be August 25, 2009. The renewal application for these claims must be received by September 8, 2009 (14 days) or the claim will be deemed to have lapsed.

Grouping your claims:
If you are renewing more than one claim you can group them together using the following rules:

- Groupings can include a maximum of 750 contiguous claims.
- Claims are only allowed to be grouped once per 12 month period unless the claims are sold (see below).
- Multiple groupings of claims adjoining a claim with representation work (see upper right illustration on the next page) will no longer be allowed, meaning — work done can only be applied to one grouping (see lower right illustration on the next page).
- Grouping applications will be accepted by the mining recorder prior to, or in conjunction with, an application for a claim renewal (Certificate of Work).
- A grouping will remain valid even if some of the claims within the grouping lapse as long as the remaining claims in the group are valid and are still part of a continuous block.

Adjoining claims may be grouped for the purpose of representation work as long as the number of claims grouped does not exceed 750. Work done on any claim in the group can be applied to all the claims in the group (see lower right illustration on the next page), provided the value of the representation work is enough to renew the claims requested for the time requested.
Note — Change of ownership:
The only circumstances where claims may be grouped more than once per 12 month period is if the established grouping is broken up by claim(s) being sold or transferred. Where one or more claims that have been grouped by a claim owner are sold, the original grouping is no longer valid. The remaining claims can be used to establish a new grouping as long as the rules for grouping (above) are met. The claims which were sold can also be grouped by the new owner(s), again provided the rules for grouping are met. In either case, a new grouping application is required after claim transfers have been recorded with the mining recorder’s office, or any time the ownership or percentage ownership has changed.

Renewing lapsed claims:
If a claim is allowed to lapse but the claim holder has done sufficient work to keep it in good standing, the claim holder can apply for a renewal grant and pay a late fee for the certificate of work. In this case the claim can only be renewed for one year, regardless of how much work has been done. The renewal grant will cancel any other grant issued on the claim (or portions of the claim) provided the applicant pays the current holder for any expenses they incurred to obtain the claim and for any work done on the claim.

The late charges are:

- three times the original fee for the certificate ($15.00) if it is applied for within three months of the expiry date and,
- five times the fee ($25.00) if it is applied for between three to six months after the expiry date.

Please Note: Applications for certificates of work will not be accepted on claims expired for more than six months.

Paying in lieu:
Paying in lieu is an option if insufficient work has been done to apply for representation work. In this case, the payment must be received before the expiry date of the claim. In order to pay in lieu, a claimholder must pay a $100.00 fee, plus a $5.00, for a total $105.00 recording fee per claim per year. They must also attach a letter indicating what claim(s) and for how many years the payment in lieu is for, in place of the detailed statement of work and other supporting documentation.
Note: This guidebook is not legal advice, and should not be relied upon for legal purposes. It is intended to summarize certain aspects of the Yukon *Quartz Mining Act* related to mineral rights and, as such, does not attempt to present all aspects of the act and Regulations. The document may be amended from time to time. For complete information on claim staking and mineral tenure, the reader must refer to the *Quartz Mining Act* and Regulations.