



For Immediate Release - August 13, 2025

The Townships of Nairn & Hyman and Baldwin Welcome Decision that Niobium Tailings Will Not Be Brought to Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area

The Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Township of Baldwin are pleased to share important news: the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) has provided written confirmation that niobium rock tailings from the former Beaucage Mine will not be transported or deposited at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA).

Instead, the MEM will move forward with an alternative remediation plan that uses clean materials to repair and mitigate the Agnew Lake site. Preparations are already underway, with major remediation work scheduled to begin in summer 2026. In addition, the Ministry of Transportation through a contractor will haul the niobium tailings from the Nipissing First Nation lands to the Clean Harbors site near Sarnia, ensuring that the material is managed in a secure and regulated environment.

“I am personally thrilled with this announcement and on behalf of the community I would like to thank the Provincial Government for listening to our grave concerns,” said Mayor Amy Mazey of Nairn and Hyman. “This has been a difficult time in our area, but we have put in the effort, supported our stand with science and pulled together as a community. The two Ministries heard our concerns and have chosen the safest path forward for everyone involved – the process worked!”

This outcome is the direct result of persistent advocacy by the Townships of Nairn and Hyman and Baldwin, their residents, surrounding municipalities, and the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising. The two Councils also wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Ministries and their staff, noting that this decision reflects a willingness to listen and respond to community concerns in a way that prioritizes public health, environmental protection, and long-term site safety

The Townships also extend their sincere thanks to MP Jim Bélanger and MPP Bill Rosenburg for their strong support, MPP France Gélinas for her continued advocacy, and former MP Carol Hughes, former MPP Michael Mantha, and former MP Marc Serré for standing with both municipalities throughout this process. Special thanks are also extended to Brennain Lloyd of Northwatch, whose expertise and guidance in navigating complex environmental reports was invaluable to our efforts.

The ALTMA site will now move into a remediation phase that includes cover repairs with clean rockfill, dam safety reviews, engineering design work, and additional monitoring and maintenance measures. “This is a significant decision that will protect our environment and drinking water” said CAO Belinda Ketchabaw. “It shows what can be accomplished when communities stand together and raise their voices.

Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO
Township of Nairn and Hyman
705-869-4232
belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca

Holly Zahorodny
Clerk Administrator
Township of Baldwin
705-869-0225
admin@baldwin.ca

Ministry of Energy and Mines

Mineral Development Branch

933 Ramsey Lake Road, B6
Sudbury ON P3E 6B5
Tel.: (705) 561-6042

Ministère de l'Énergie et des Mines

Direction de l'exploitation des minéraux

933, chemin du lac Ramsey, étage B6
Sudbury ON P3E 6B5
Tél.: 705 561-6042



August 11, 2025

Her Worship Amy Mazey
Mayor
Township of Nairn & Hyman
mayor@nairncentre.ca

Dear Mayor Mazey:

I am writing to provide an important update regarding the relocation of niobium rock tailings originally planned for the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA), as well as upcoming work at the site. Our government sincerely appreciates the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) diligent work and approval of the Soils Management Plan received on July 29, 2025.

In communication with Nipissing First Nation and The Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has revised the plan to move rock tailings and will no longer be moving this material to the ALTMA site.

MEM will pursue an alternate plan to fulfill its CNSC licensing obligations for the ALTMA site. The required cover repair will now be completed using conventional clean pit run rockfill, rather than the original proposal to use the niobium rock tailings. Preliminary work is already underway to implement this approach for the required cover repair.

In addition to the cover repair, MEM will be undertaking several other important activities at the ALTMA site:

- A Dam Safety Review (DSR) is scheduled for fall 2025. The findings from this review will inform the final engineering designs.
- Engineering designs for these maintenance activities are currently being developed by MEM engineers.
- Concurrent to work on the cover, other maintenance work will be completed on the East Barrier Dyke and the South Ditch.
- Construction work is tentatively scheduled to begin in summer 2026.
- The replacement of the Ministic Creek water crossing is also planned for summer 2026 and may temporarily interrupt work at the ALTMA site.
- If construction cannot be completed by fall 2026, remaining work will be carried over into 2027.
- MEM will continue routine maintenance and monitoring activities, including vegetation clearing and seasonal surface and groundwater sampling.
- Additional studies and monitoring programs recommended by the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment may also be implemented in 2026.

Below is a tentative schedule for planned activities at the ALTMA:

ACTIVITY	TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
Vegetation Management	September 2025
Fall Water Sampling Event	September / October 2025
Dam Safety Review	Fall 2025 / Winter 2026
Planning / Engineering Design	On-going – Spring 2026
Procurement	Spring 2026
Spring Water Sampling Event	May / June 2026
Additional Field Sampling Program	Spring / Summer / Fall 2026
Repair Work	Summer / Fall 2026
Repair Work (continued)	Summer / Fall 2027
Radiation Survey	2027

We recognize the importance of keeping you informed and engaged throughout this process and remain committed to open communication. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this update further, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Yours truly,



Marc J. Stewart
Senior Manager
Abandoned Mines Program
Mine Rehabilitation Section

c: Belinda Ketchabaw, CAO, Township of Nairn & Hyman
Michelle McGrath, Director of Transportation Infrastructure Management, Ministry of Transportation
Trina Rawn, Director of Mines and Minerals, Ministry of Energy and Mines