

Public Notice for Review of Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for Talon Nickel (USA) LLC Accelerated Domestic Nickel Exploration in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended by Public Law 118-5 and the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023; Department of War (DoW) NEPA Implementing Procedures dated July 1, 2025; and Executive Order (EO) requirements, the Department of the Air Force (DAF) has prepared a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for a federally funded agreement to secure domestic nickel supply chains. Under the Proposed Action, the DAF would invest Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III funds to support Talon's mineral exploration including geophysical surveys and drilling throughout 445,000 acres within the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Baraga, Marquette, Dickinson, Iron, and Houghton counties). The purpose of the Proposed Action is to identify sources of domestic nickel to meet the nation's demands for both industrial and defense purposes. DPA Title III funds would support labor, materials, and equipment required to explore new nickel deposits within Talon's secured mineral agreements in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Proposed Action is needed because it has been determined that without government intervention, private industry would be unable to address the national security need for domestic nickel in a timely manner. Domestic nickel exploration is essential for both the nation's economy and national defense as directed by Presidential Determination No. 2022-11 and EO 14241, *Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production*.

The DAF is issuing this notice to advise the public of the availability of the draft PEA. Based on the facts and analyses in the draft PEA, no significant impacts are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. The DAF prepared a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to document the proposed findings of the draft PEA.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

October 3, 2025, through October 17, 2025

During the public review period, the draft PEA and draft FONSI are available for review online at <https://www.afrl.af.mil/Environmental>.

The DAF invites the public to review and comment on these documents for a period of 14 days until October 17, 2025. Comments or inquiries may be sent via email or letter postmarked by October 17, 2025, and should be submitted to:

Air Force Research Laboratory Public Affairs
1864 4th Street
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433
E-mail: afrl.pa.inquiry@us.af.mil