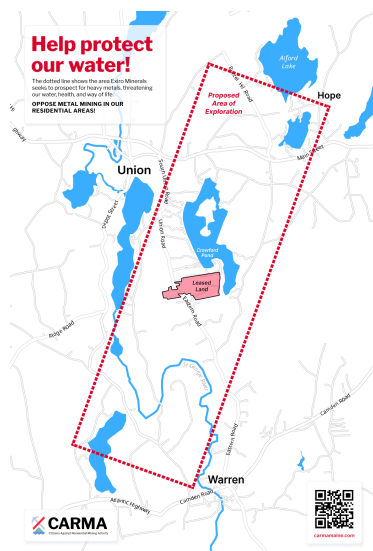


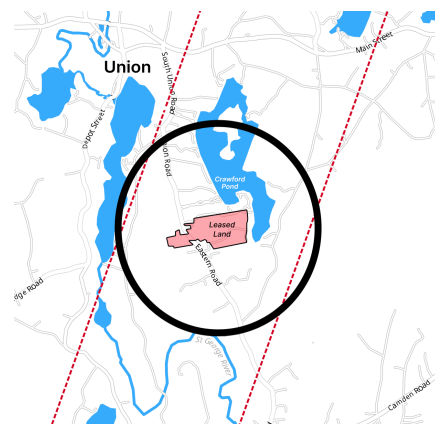
**Metal mining would change the essential character of our towns and risks contaminating the resources that our economy depends on.** Warren and Union are residential communities, with most working residents holding jobs in nearby towns. The comprehensive plans of both towns are replete with references to what residents value and want for the future — in essence, to keep the small town and agricultural atmosphere and to preserve water quality and environmental assets. Any development needs to be limited and consistent with this.

Around the site where Exiro already has leased mineral rights -- a strip of property between **Eastern Road and Crawford Pond** — there are 36 abutting parcels, around 225 parcels within a 1/2 mile radius, and more than 400 within 1 mile. Along with this site, another documented area for nickel is **Harriman Nickel Prospect on Miller Road**, with 96 properties and an elementary school within 1/2 mile.

Nowadays, people have choices as to where they spend their time — they will not live or vacation in Warren and Union if they think the aquifer is contaminated or **could be contaminated** or where they worry about air quality. And metal mining jeopardizes **our business community too**. Our thriving farms, breweries, and wineries depend on drinkable water, clean air, and uncontaminated soil. Our restaurants and service businesses rely for their livelihood on both a year-round residential population and a summer influx of seasonal residents — if the population drops and tourism dries up, these businesses lose their customers.



**30 SQUARE MILE AREA  
EXIRO WANTS TO PROSPECT**



**400+ PROPERTIES  
WITHIN 1 MILE  
OF EXIRO'S LEASE  
WITH OPTIONS TO OWN**



Lundin Mining's Eagle Mine in Michigan



Lundin Mining's Humboldt Processing Mill and Tailings Disposal Facility serving Eagle Mine

The website for the **Eagle Mine Project in Michigan** provides information about nickel and copper mining and processing. Details include:

- In the mine, trucks and equipment descend in a mile-long, 18 foot in diameter tunnel. Ore is extracted by packing explosives into drill holes and detonating.
- Once to the surface, the ore is loaded on semi-trucks holding 40-45 metric tons each. These truck use local roads to make 44 round trips a day to the processing plant 60 miles away.
- At the processing plant, the ore is ground down to the size of grains of sand, mixed with water into a slurry, and then floated in a series of tanks with chemicals to separate the nickel and copper from the ore's other metals and minerals. The liquids are drained off and the result is nickel and copper concentrate.
- The concentrates are loaded on railroad cars and shipped to Canada for smelting and refining. After this, the nickel and copper are sold on the global market.
- The liquid and solid materials left behind from the processing, the tailings, are put into the 400' deep Tailing Disposal Facility, a former open-pit mine.

For more details and a YouTube video, see "Producing Nickel and Copper" on Eagle Mine's website. <https://www.eaglemine.com/mining-101>



**Exploration drilling** at Canada Nickel Company's Crawford Project in Ontario

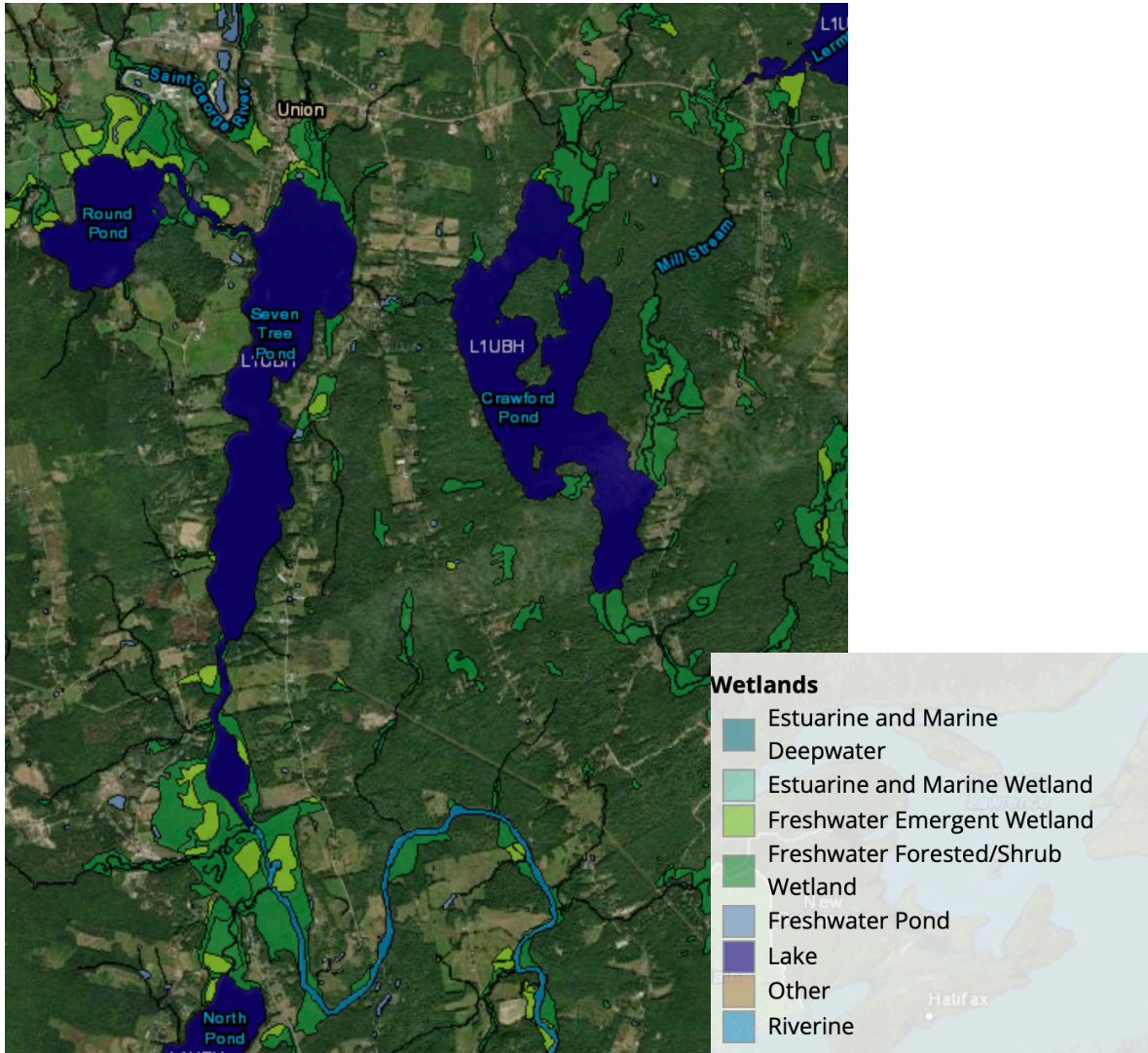
**Giga Metals exploration** at the Turnagain nickel-cobalt project in British Columbia.



## General Overview of the Effects of Mining for High Sulfide Metallic Minerals

High sulfide metallic mineral mining is the mining of ore in which the mineral sulfur is chemically bonded with target metals — in our case nickel, copper, and cobalt — and non-target metals. Right now, the ore is beneath us, safely compact and inert. Problems come when you extract it and expose the ore to water and oxygen. Metallic mineral mining requires 1) underground blasting, 2) crushing and grinding the ores, 3) sorting the aggregate, 4) separating the target metal using chemicals, magnetic floatation, extremely high heat or a combination of these, depending on the metals and minerals, and 5) disposing of the waste products. Each step in the extraction and processing of metal poses complex problems — to human health and the environment — and these problems can be irreversible.

Operation	Risk
Drilling and Blasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes the hydrology, the way water flows underground. This can lead to some areas flooding and others drying up.</li> <li>• Changes in well-water level. Mining requires huge amounts of water which lowers aquifer levels.</li> <li>• Release of mine water back into the watershed, changing water levels and potentially releasing toxins into the watershed if the mine's water treatment process fails.</li> </ul>
Crushing and Grinding the Ores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release of ore particles into the air including sulfur and any metals contained in the ores.</li> <li>• Toxic rain. In combination with rain, the airborne particles form an acid rain/heavy metal mix which contaminates soil and water.</li> </ul>
Sorting the Aggregate and Storage of Waste Rock and Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seepage at the mine or waste-rock storage site. When rain and oxygen come in contact with the sulfides of the waste rock, they form acid mine drainage. While mines try to stop the seepage, it is nearly impossible to do so. Sulfuric acid and heavy metals from the sulfide ore enter the soil, waterways, and aquifer.</li> </ul>
Separating the Target Metals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depending on the process, soil and groundwater contamination from chemicals and untreated water release and emission of sulfur dioxide-rich gases.</li> </ul>
Disposing of the Waste Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste materials, including waste rocks, slurry, and dried tailings are stored in perpetuity at the site. These are subject to seepage and need constant monitoring.</li> </ul>



**Warren and Union are part of a watershed, a super highway for mine seepage.** Contamination from mining activity would spread from the contamination site through the area's connected wetlands and waterways including Crawford Pond, Seven Tree Pond, Lermond Pond, Alford Lake, White Oak Pond, North Pond, the St. George River and its tributaries and estuary, and out into the bay. Of note, from these waterways, contamination would percolate into the aquifer from which Warren and Union residents draw their drinking water.

**Metal mining contaminates the land, air, and water regardless of laws and regulations.** In 2019, the EPA’s Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) ranked metal mining #1 out of 30 American industry sectors when it came to total release of chemicals posing a threat to human health and the environment. Of the industry sectors TRI tracks — manufacturing, metal mining, electric power generation, chemical manufacturing, and hazardous waste treatment — it found that, “although the number of metal mines reporting to TRI makes up only a small portion of the total number of facilities that report to TRI, the sector accounted for 44% of all releases reported to TRI in 2021.” Sound familiar? Back in 2002, the EPA found that metallic metal mining and coal-burning power plants were America’s largest toxic polluters, responsible for nearly two-thirds of the poisonous contaminants in the nation’s air and water.



Shoreline of a pond receiving acid mine drainage showing massive accumulation of iron hydroxides on the pond bottom



Mine effluent discharging from the bottom of a waste rock pile



**The Town and State ordinances are not enough to stop metal mining here.** These ordinances don't ban heavy metal mining, they *regulate* it. Warren's and Union's ordinances require mining companies to do studies, develop safety plans, and get permits from local and state agencies. Exiro is here because it believes it can jump through the local and State permitting hoops and eventually mine in Warren and Union. Additionally, the permitting hoops on the State level may be getting easier to jump through. With lithium discovered in northern and western Maine, there are bills in the State legislature right now that aim to weaken mining regulations on the state level.

**Warren and Union do not have the resources or expertise to enforce their current mining ordinances.** The tricky thing about regulations is that you have to enforce them. The Towns do not have the capacity to undertake supervision of industrial mining activity, and the State and Federal regulators are not going to be omnipresent.

**We cannot trust Exiro or any mining company to police themselves.** Anti-contamination and safety measures cost mining companies money, and some choose to pay fines after contamination or hazardous conditions are found rather than pay for environmental protections, water treatment, air scrubbers, seepage containment, and worker safety. Paying fines is the cost of doing business. A 2019 Department of Labor audit of the Mine Safety and Health Administration found that fining mining companies for violations does not make them change their behavior. The evaluators wrote in their summary: "Our data analysis showed no correlation between penalties paid and the safety of mine operations."