

# Hercules Metals Commences 2026 Drilling at the Hercules Property in Western Idaho

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## New Protocols Implemented to Accelerate Turnaround of Drill Results

- **2026 Drilling Campaign Underway** - Drilling has commenced at the Hercules Property for the 2026 exploration season. The program is designed for 20,000 to 30,000 m of drilling, focused entirely on expanding the Leviathan copper system along strike, representing roughly double the meters drilled to date and targeting larger, stronger MT geophysical anomalies identified along trend.
- **Drilling Resumes on HER-25-25** - Following a brief winter pause, drilling has resumed on HER-25-25 to continue testing for extensions of the Leviathan porphyry system in the Southern Flats target area. The hole was paused on December 20, 2025, at 808 m depth within leach cap, with an underlying MT target yet to be tested.
- **Second Drill Rig En Route** - A second drill rig is scheduled to arrive at the project site next week and will resume drilling on HER-25-18, which was paused at 841 m depth, with indications of potassic alteration suggesting a potentially wider portion of the Footwall Zone than previously recognized.
- **Improved Sample Turnaround** - Upgrades to on-site sample processing, logistics, and analytical lab location are expected to significantly reduce assay turnaround in 2026. The Company expects to report results from the remaining 2025 drill holes upon receipt of final assays, anticipated in the coming weeks.
- **Reconnaissance IP Survey Complete at New MT Targets** - A series of 2D induced polarization ("IP") lines were completed over the new Pegasus and Hook MT anomalies, to focus targeting ahead of initial drill testing. Two planned lines were completed at Pegasus, followed by two additional lines to extend a significant chargeability response identified in the preliminary results. One planned line was completed at the Hook target, which returned the strongest chargeability response of the survey. Additional IP lines at the Hook target are planned for Q2, once weather conditions at higher elevations allow for more efficient ground surveying. Final results are pending and will be released once received.

Toronto, March 17, 2026 - [Hercules Metals Corp.](#) (TSXV: BIG) (OTCQB: BADEF) (FSE: C0X) ("Hercules" or the "Company") is pleased to announce that drilling has commenced for the 2026 exploration season at its Hercules Property in western Idaho (the "Property"). The Company is planning a 20,000 to 30,000 m drill program focused on expanding the Leviathan copper discovery along strike into the Southern Flats Zone and beyond, representing roughly double the meters drilled to date and targeting larger, stronger MT geophysical anomalies identified along trend. An initial 12,500 m phase is currently underway, the results of which will continue to guide the allocation of remaining meters across additional targets.

Initial drilling has resumed on 2025 drill hole HER-25-25, which was paused during the winter holidays and is now advancing, following the return of Dorado Drilling USA ("Dorado") after a successful 2025 drilling season at the Hercules Property.

Figure 1: Drill hole HER-25-25 in progress

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A second Dorado drill rig is scheduled to arrive at the project next week following winter upgrades designed to increase daily production capacity. Combined, the Dorado rigs are expected to achieve the highest drilling production rates to date.

The second drill rig will resume drilling on HER-25-18, which was paused at 841 m depth while still exhibiting

signs of potassic alteration with copper mineralization. These observations suggest the Footwall Zone may be wider in this area than previously recognized.

HER-25-21, which was pre-collared in 2025 using a reverse circulation ("RC") drill rig, is expected to be completed with core drilling following completion of HER-25-18.

Additional drill rigs will be added as the 2026 exploration season ramps up and additional details regarding the broader drill plan testing multiple new targets will be provided in a coming news release.

Chris Paul, CEO and Director of Hercules Metals, commented, "We're pleased to begin drilling in early March, supported by the relatively low elevation and minimal topographic relief at our target areas. We also welcome back Dorado Drilling, following their strong performance last season. By focusing on our best-performing contractor, who have since upgraded their rigs, we expect a potentially stronger season this year and look forward to delivering results to market quicker, and testing new high-priority targets for the first time."

Figure 2: Planned initial reconnaissance IP lines (pink) and added IP lines (green) overlaid on an MT conductivity slice 800 m below surface. The hashed pattern outlines areas of younger geological cover, including zones of younger silver-lead-zinc mineralization.

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Figure 3: First three drill holes of 2026 drill campaign. Additional information on targeting will be provided in a coming news release.

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#### Qualified Person

The scientific and technical information in this news release has been reviewed and approved for disclosure by Dillon Hume, P.Geol. and Vice President, Exploration for the Company. Mr. Hume is a "Qualified Person" for Hercules Metals within the meaning of National Instrument 43-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects.

#### About Hercules Metals Corp.

Hercules Metals Corp. (TSXV: BIG) (OTCQB: BADEF) (FSE: C0X) is an exploration Company focused on developing America's newest porphyry copper district, in Idaho.

The 100% owned Hercules Project, located northwest of Cambridge, hosts the newly discovered Leviathan porphyry copper system, one of the most important new discoveries in the country to date. The Company is well positioned for growth through continued drilling, supported by a strategic investment from [Barrick Mining Corp.](#)

With the potential for significant scale, the Company's management and board of directors aims to deliver value to shareholders through proven discovery success.

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