

Trilogy Metals Announces Commencement of Permitting for High-Grade Arctic Copper-Zinc-Lead-Gold-Silver Project in Alaska

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Fully Funded Exploration and Development Field Program by Ambler Metals Anticipated to Commence in May

Independent Economic Impact Study Highlights Arctic's Substantial Benefits to Alaska and the Northwest Arctic Region

All amounts are in United States dollars unless otherwise stated.

[Trilogy Metals Inc.](#) (NYSE American: TMQ) (TSX: TMQ) ("Trilogy Metals", "Trilogy" or the "Company") announced today that Ambler Metals LLC ("Ambler Metals"), its 50/50 joint venture with South32 Limited ("South32"), has commenced the permitting process for the Arctic Project (the "Arctic Project" or "Arctic"), part of the Upper Kobuk Mineral Projects ("UKMP") in northern Alaska's Ambler Mining District. Arctic is one of the highest-grade, undeveloped open-pit copper deposits in the world with an estimated average grade of approximately 5% copper equivalent^{1,2}, bolstered by material precious metals by-product.

Ambler Metals has submitted an application for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE"), thereby initiating federal permitting for mine development and operations at Arctic. In addition to this application submission, Ambler Metals plans to request an eligibility review for coverage under the Title 41 of the Fixing America's Transportation Act program ("FAST-41"), administered by the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council. FAST-41 coverage would provide a comprehensive, integrated permitting timetable and bring greater transparency to the project through the federal Permitting Dashboard.

Tony Giardini, President and CEO of Trilogy, commented: "Requiring a Section 404 permit from the USACE under the Clean Water Act streamlines the Arctic Project's federal permitting pathway. All other significant permits are issued at the state and local level, concentrating federal review into a single, well-defined process while maintaining rigorous environmental oversight.

"By potentially leveraging the FAST-41 program, the Arctic Project benefits from a level of inter-agency coordination and accountability that was historically unavailable to large-scale resource developments. This process transforms often fragmented federal reviews into a synchronized, transparent schedule, providing our stakeholders with a clear window into the permitting roadmap. For Trilogy, FAST-41 coverage means that achieving regulatory milestones is supported by a predictable and efficient path toward project financing and construction.

"An independent economic impact analysis prepared by McKinley Research Group ("MRG")³ confirms what we have long known - the Arctic Project is a generational economic opportunity for Alaska and particularly for Northwest Arctic communities. The study estimates that Arctic mine construction and operations will support up to 870 jobs statewide, generate more than \$31 million in annual state taxes and fees, and deliver meaningful revenue to NANA Regional Corporation through royalties and preferential shareholder employment. Perhaps most importantly, the Ambler Access Project road has the potential to reduce transportation costs for remote Alaska Native villages by up to \$3.4 million per year, cutting heating fuel transportation costs by as much as 40% and reducing the cost of building a home in the Upper Kobuk region by nearly 40%. These are tangible, life-changing benefits for communities that face some of the highest costs of living in the United States.

"We are also excited to kick off the 2026 summer field season next month to conduct geotechnical and exploration drilling along with general camp maintenance and capital improvements to support future programs. This field season is particularly important as it will allow Ambler Metals to carry out engineering, environmental, and technical work required to support a final investment decision to advance this critical minerals asset toward production.

"It's important to note that Arctic is just the first phase for this multi-generational American mining district. There are currently known volcanogenic massive sulfide ("VMS") occurrences across this highly prospective and under-explored mineral belt.

strong cash-flow potential at spot metal prices will be the key to unlocking the district, and we fully expect exploration and development efforts to ramp up in the coming years across the UKMP, including at the high-grade Bornite copper-cobalt deposit ("Bornite"). The future looks extremely promising for one of the most strategic and mineral-rich districts in the United States.

Fully Financed Ambler Metals Field Program to Commence in May; Expected to Advance Arctic Towards Construction and Prepare for Accelerated District-Wide Exploration in 2027

Ambler Metals is finalizing plans for the 2026 field season, and camp and drill mobilization by the end of May. The fully financed field campaign, part of Ambler Metals' \$35-million 2026 budget, is expected to include 40 to 45 drill holes aimed at advancing engineering plans for Arctic mine development. The program will also focus on re-establishing the exploration camp at the deposit, with the intention of ramping up exploration and development activities at the site in 2027, as well as commencing district-wide drill target assessments that will underpin future regional exploration programs across the mineral belt.

The drill campaign at Arctic is targeting at least 5,650 meters, with a focus on geotechnical and hydrogeological sites to support mine design and support permitting. Some of these drill holes will be extended to test deeper exploration targets that are located along the favourable Arctic mineral horizon. These exploration targets are within 3 to 4 kilometers (2 to 2.5 miles) of the deposit and include airborne electromagnetic (VTEM and ZTEM) anomalies that are potentially related to VMS mineralization.

Field work at the Bornite camp will mainly focus on preparing the site for accelerated exploration and development activities in the coming years. Bornite is a carbonate-hosted copper-cobalt deposit approximately 25 kilometers (15 miles) southwest of the Arctic Project (see Figure 1), which is forecasted to produce 1.9 billion pounds of copper over a 17-year mine life^{4,5} and has the potential to extend copper mining activities to over 30 years. Bornite has characteristics similar to a series of districts and deposits, including the Mount Isa district in Australia, the Tynagh deposit in Ireland, the Kipushi deposit in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Tsumeb deposit in Namibia.

Finally, the field program will include regional exploration work to advance known mineral occurrences and targets along the broader UKMP, with the intention of preparing targets for potential drilling in 2027. The mineral belt hosts numerous historical mineral occurrences and electromagnetic anomalies that demonstrate high prospectivity for future discovery, which will be the focus of future regional exploration campaigns across the 100-kilometer-long (60-mile-long) VMS belt.

Independent Economic Impact Study Highlights Arctic's Substantial Benefits to Alaska and the Northwest Arctic Region

An independent economic impact analysis prepared by MRG for Ambler Metals quantifies the broad economic contribution of developing the Arctic Project and establishing surface transportation access to the Ambler Mining District. The study draws on data from the Arctic Feasibility Study, regional socioeconomic data, and peer benchmarking against [Teck Resources Ltd.](#)'s Red Dog Mine, which has operated on NANA lands in Northwest Alaska since 1989.

Key findings from the MRG study include:

- **Construction-phase employment and wages:** Arctic mine construction is expected to directly support an annual average of approximately 650 workers over a three-year period, with a peak workforce of approximately 650, and cumulative direct wages of approximately \$160 million. Including indirect and induced multiplier effects, construction activity is estimated to support an average of approximately 1,000 jobs annually and cumulative wages of approximately \$220 million across Alaska.
- **Operations-phase employment and wages:** Over the 13-year mine life as contemplated in the Arctic Feasibility Study, Arctic mine operations are expected to directly create approximately 430 jobs paying approximately \$60.2 million in annual wages. Including indirect and induced multiplier effects, Arctic mine operations are expected to support approximately 870 total jobs and approximately \$89.8 million in annual wages statewide when indirect and induced multiplier effects are included.
- **NANA shareholder hires and royalties:** Consistent with Red Dog Mine benchmarks, the Arctic mine is expected to support approximately 230 NANA shareholders annually under a preferential hiring framework. Under the existing Exploration Agreement and Option to Lease, NANA is entitled to a 1% net smelter royalty, expected to total approximately \$8 million over the mine life using Feasibility Study metal price assumptions. NANA also retains the option to acquire a 16% direct interest in Arctic, or alternatively to receive a 15% net proceeds royalty estimated at approximately \$400 million cumulatively over the mine's operating life.
- **Regional economic impacts:** Within the Northwest Arctic Borough ("NWAB"), Arctic mine construction is expected to support an average of approximately 160 regional jobs and cumulative wages of approximately \$50 million, and mine operations are expected to support approximately 160 regional jobs and approximately \$20 million in annual wages across the 13-year mine life.

- State and local government revenue: Arctic production is expected to generate approximately \$31.3 million in annual state taxes and fees, including Alaska Mining License Tax and Alaska Corporate Net Income Tax. Ambler Metals has negotiated a payment-in-lieu-of-tax agreement with the NWAB, consistent with the existing Red Dog Mine framework, which currently provides approximately 80% of total Borough revenue.
- Cost-of-living benefits for Alaska Native communities: Construction of the Ambler Access Project road, together with other road connections, is estimated to deliver annual transportation cost savings of up to approximately \$3.4 million across the Upper Kobuk and Koyukuk River communities of Ambler, Kobuk, Shungnak, Alatna, and Allakaket under a year-round operation scenario. The MRG study estimates that surface access could reduce heating fuel transportation costs by approximately 50% per gallon and reduce material transportation costs on a typical single-family home in the Upper Kobuk region by approximately \$287,000, a reduction of nearly 40% in total construction costs.

A copy of the full MRG economic impact report is available on the Ambler Metals website. The figures summarized above are presented as reported in the MRG study and reflect the Arctic Feasibility Study (January 20, 2023) assumptions; readers are cautioned that actual economic outcomes will depend on, among other things, permitting timelines, final investment decisions, metals price realizations, and may differ materially from the estimates presented.

Qualified Persons

Richard Gosse, P.Geo., Vice President Exploration for Trilogy Metals Inc., is a Qualified Person as defined by National Instrument 43-101 - Standard of Disclosure for Mineral Projects and Subpart 1300 of Regulation S-K. Mr. Gosse has reviewed the information in this news release and approves the disclosure contained herein.

About Trilogy Metals

Trilogy Metals Inc. is a metal exploration and development company holding a 50 percent interest in Ambler Metals LLC and a 100 percent interest in the Upper Kobuk Mineral Projects ("UKMP") in northwestern Alaska. On December 19, 2019, Ambler Metals, a globally diversified mining and metals company, exercised its option to form a 50/50 joint venture with Trilogy Metals. The UKMP is located within the Ambler Mining District which is one of the richest and most-prospective known copper-dominant districts in the world. It hosts polymetallic VMS deposits that contain copper, zinc, lead, gold and silver, and carbonate replacement deposits which have been found to host high-grade copper and cobalt mineralization. Exploration efforts have been focused on the UKMP in the Ambler Mining District - the Arctic VMS deposit and the Bornite carbonate replacement deposit. Both deposits are located within a land package that spans approximately 190,929 hectares. Ambler Metals has an agreement with NANA Regional Corporation, Inc., an Alaska Native Corporation that provides a framework for the exploration and potential development of the UKMP in the Ambler Mining District in cooperation with local communities. Trilogy Metals' vision is to develop the Ambler Mining District into a premier North American copper producer while protecting and respecting subsistence livelihoods.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This news release includes certain "forward-looking information" and "forward-looking statements" (collectively "forward-looking statements") within the meaning of applicable Canadian and United States securities legislation, including the United States Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, included herein, including statements regarding the anticipated timing of permitting at Arctic; timing, commencement and planned under the 2026 field program; results of the 2026 field program; assumptions, predicted outcomes and results of the MRG study; anticipated economic and social benefits of the development of the Arctic; and perceived merit of the properties are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are frequently, but not always, identified by words such as "expects", "anticipates", "believes", "intends", "estimates", "potential", "possible", and similar expressions, or statements that events, conditions, "will", "may", "could", or "should" occur or be achieved. Forward-looking statements involve various risks and uncertainties and can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations include the uncertainties involving the outcome of pending litigation, success of exploration activities, permitting timelines, requirements for additional capital, government regulation of mining operations, environmental risks, prices for inputs, labour, materials, supplies and services, uncertainties involved in the interpretation of drilling results and geology, unexpected cost increases and other risks and uncertainties disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed on November 30, 2025 filed with Canadian securities regulatory authorities and with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and in other Company reports and documents filed with applicable securities regulatory authorities from time to time. The Company's forward-looking statements reflect the beliefs, opinions, and projections on the date the statements are made. The Company assumes no obligation to update the forward-looking statements or beliefs, opinions, projections, or other factors if they change, except as required by law.

¹ Arctic Project NI 43-101 Technical Report and Feasibility Study (January 20, 2023) (the "Arctic Feasibility Study").

² Copper equivalent grades are calculated using metal prices, recoveries, and payabilities and are based on Probable Mineral Reserves. Mineral Resources that are not Mineral Reserves do not have demonstrated economic viability. For a full list of the assumptions used to calculate the copper equivalent grade, please see the Arctic Feasibility Study.

³ AMBLER MINING DISTRICT Economic Impact Analysis, November 2024, prepared by McKinley Research Group, LLC.

⁴ Technical report entitled "NI 43- 101 Technical Report on the Preliminary Economic Assessment of the Bornite Project, Northwest Alaska, USA" with an effective date of January 15, 2025 (the "Bornite Report").

⁵ Mineral Resources for the Bornite Project are reported in accordance with NI 43-101 and consist solely of ~~Probable Mineral Reserves~~ ~~Mineral Resources~~ (2089 million tonnes grading 1.42% copper, containing approximately 6.5 billion pounds of copper). ~~See the Bornite Report for details on the mineral resources, including details with respect to grade, quantity and metal or mineral content.~~

SOURCE Trilogy Metals Inc.

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