

As of 2023, Kinross was still doing surface exploration drilling at the Great Bear Gold site. From 2017 to the end of 2022, the site had 1167 borehole drilled totaling more than 560 km in length.

Table 1 below summarises the drilling activities at the site since 2017.

Table 1

Year	Company	Holes	Metres
2017	Great Bear Resources Ltd	9	1,093.00
2018	Great Bear Resources Ltd	70	16,578.60
2019	Great Bear Resources Ltd	164	68,869.00
2020	Great Bear Resources Ltd	192	110,673.50
2021	Great Bear Resources Ltd	305	138,253.10
Jan-Feb 2022	Great Bear Resources Ltd	30	19,616.10
Rest of 2022	Great Bear Resources Ltd	397	206,976.00
	tot	1167	562,059.30

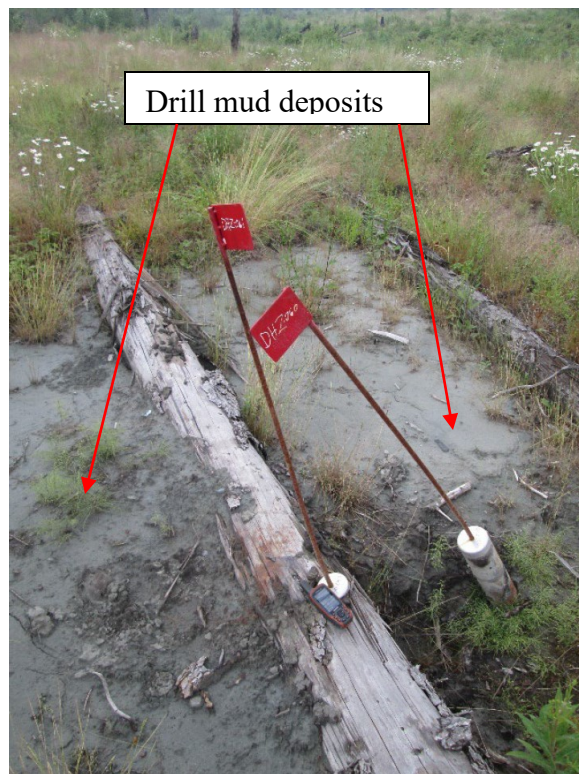
Ref: Kinross Gold Corporation Great Bear Gold Project Ontario, Canada NI 43-101 Technical Report Effective Date: December 31, 2022 Issue Date: February 13, 2023

Google Earth satellite imagery (Figure1) taken from a scene over the Great Bear site in September 2023 shows a mosaic of drill pads.

Diamond-bit core drilling at these pads have generated drilling muds that contain lubricants, water and rock cuttings from deep geological horizons.

An example of drilling mud deposit on at least one drill pad at the Great Bear site is shown figure 2. This picture was taken in July 2021, consulting company for Kinross, AGP Mining Consultants.

Fig. 2



Source: AGP (2021)

Figure 12-1: Drill hole collars DHZ-060 and 061 (right, Hinge Zone) in Kinross Gold Corporation Great Bear Gold Project Ontario, Canada NI 43-101 Technical Report Effective Date: December 31, 2022 Issue Date: February 13, 2023

Fig.1 Visible drill pads at the Great Bear Gold site- Scene dated September 17th 2023. Google Earth -



Analysis of elements in the core samples taken at the Great bear site show concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead and other elements known for their toxicity to aquatic environments.

Table 2 below show levels of these metals (metalloids) found in the cores.

TOXICS ELEMENTS OF CONCERN FOUND IN COMPOSITE ANALYSIS OF CORE SAMPLE FROM GREAT BEAR GOLD PROJECT										
CORE SAMPLE COMPOSITE FROM ZONE, HORIZON, OR LP ZONE Au VALUE										
Element	Units	Detection Limit	Hinge Zone Composite	DL Argillite Composite	DL HS Composite	LP Fault 0.5g Comp	LP Fault 1.5g Comp	LP Fault 3.5g Comp	LP Fault 8-10 Comp	LP Fault High As Comp
As	ppm	2	28.3	2,887.40	3,798.10	147.00	506.00	421.00	3,474.00	640.00
Cd	ppm	0.2	4	8.1	1.9	3.10	<0.2	0.20	0.30	0.50
Co	ppm	2	27.7	36.7	32.6	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	9.00
Cr	ppm	1	197.6	116.4	92.9	47.00	68.00	61.00	64.00	46.00
Mo	ppm	1	1.6	2.1	2.7	6.00	7.00	6.00	8.00	6.00
Pb	ppm	2	4.3	43.5	15.1	139.00	18.00	59.00	46.00	15.00
High concentrations										

Adapted from tables 13.2 and 13.3 (Semi quantitative ICP scan analysis - Dixie Project multi element ICP scan & LP ZONE multi element ICP scan) in Kinross Gold Corporation Great Bear Gold Project Ontario, Canada NI 43-101 Technical Report Effective Date: December 31, 2022 Issue Date: February 13, 2023

These toxic elements are most likely found in the drilling muds around boreholes where they can be mobilized by rain and reach and then contaminate the surface waters of streams and lakes at the site. Bottom sediments of these watercourses can also accumulate these elements.

We have taken borehole collar location information from maps and tables in Kinross NI 43-101 Technical Report of February 2023 and have generated a layer map (ARC GIS) with watercourses and waterbodies at the Great Bear site. This map (Figure 3) identifies streams and lakes most likely to have been exposed to mobilized drilling muds at the site.

Our data suggests that the surface waters and bottom sediments in streams and lakes at the Great Bear Gold Project site may have been exposed to toxic elements during the exploration drilling activities at the site. Thus, the proponent baseline surface water quality program done at site, as described in the Detailed Project Description of January 2024 done at site (p 43) is probably flawed.

The Unnamed waterbody 1, Unnamed waterbody 6 and Dixie Creek sampled during this program have all been exposed to the drilling muds as our mapping suggests. Thus the concentrations greater than established by water quality guidelines observed by Kinross are not “naturally occurring” but are more likely the product of drilling mud contamination.

We conclude that in the EIS Directive to the proponent, IAAC must insist that water quality baseline work for the Great Bear Gold project be done outside of the zone of past exploratory drilling.

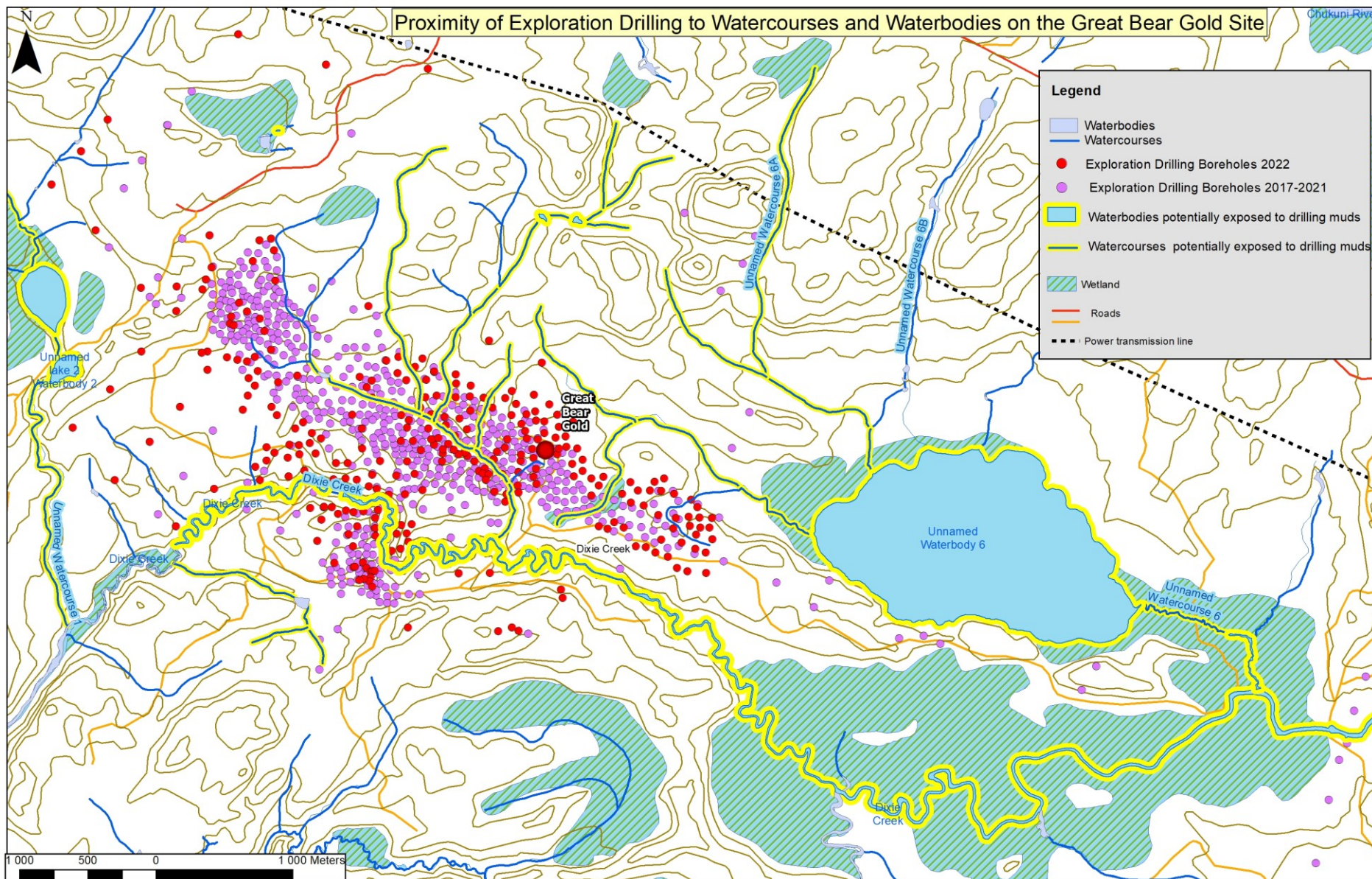


Fig 3