



I-Minerals Inc.



Development of an Industrial Minerals Deposit in Eastern Latah County, Idaho, Processing Primary Clay to Produce Products of Quartz, K-Feldspar, Kaolinite, and Halloysite

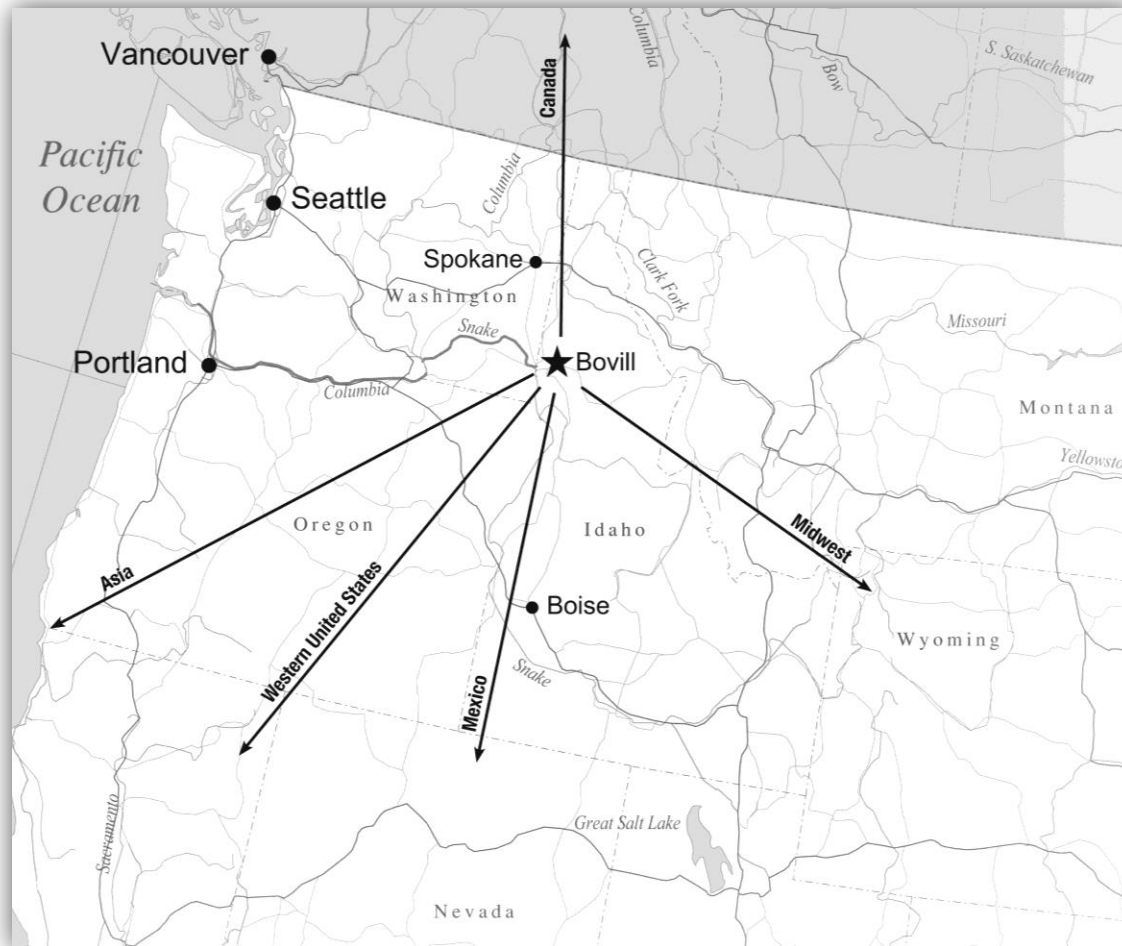
Lamar Long, James G. Clark, Jamie Wold

2016 RMGSA Meeting

[www.imineralsinc.com](http://www.imineralsinc.com)

# Location

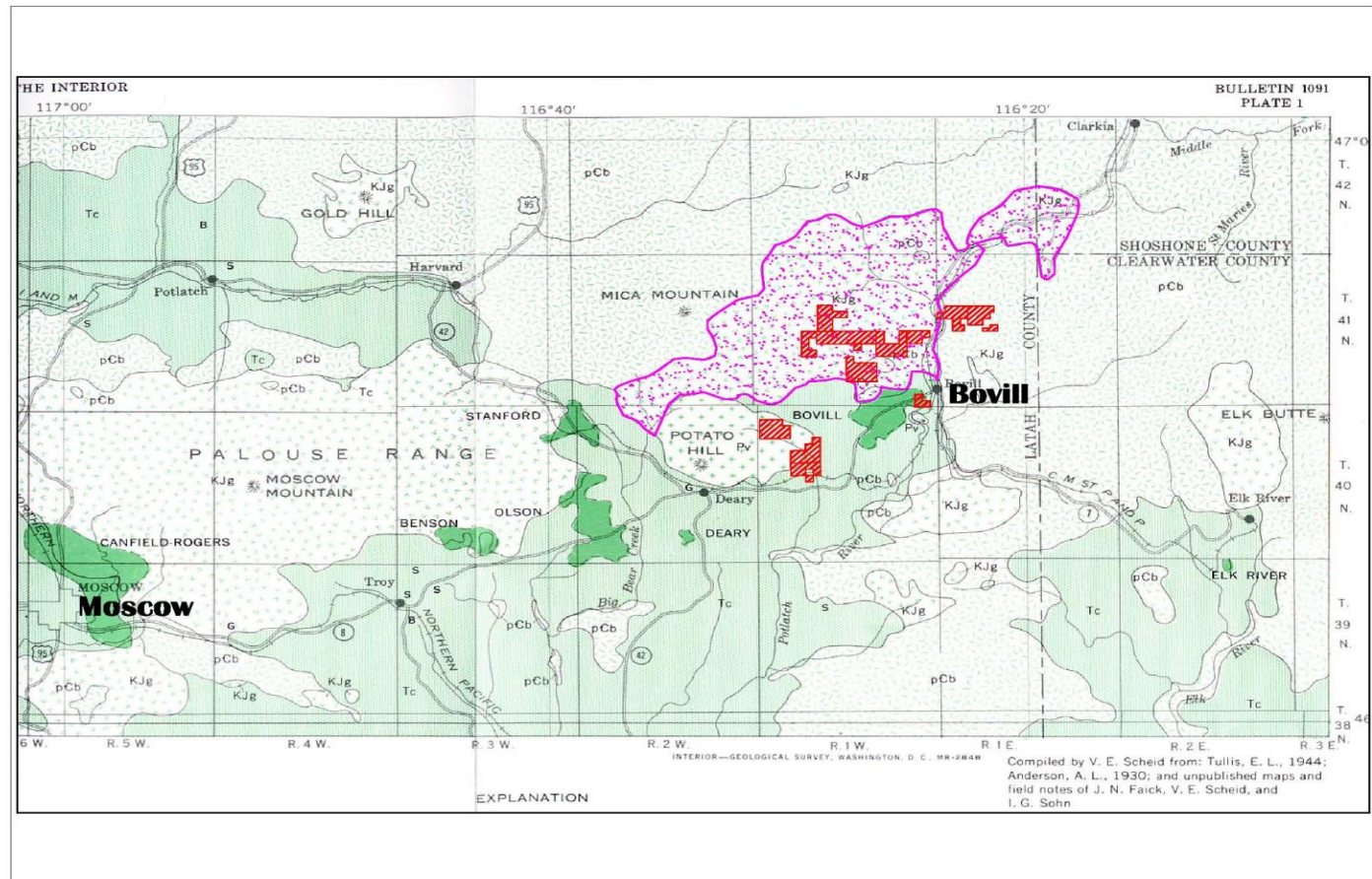
I-Minerals Inc.'s Bovill Kaolin Project is located in eastern Latah County, Idaho, a few miles west of Bovill.



# Helmer-Bovill Property

## North Idaho Clay District (NICD)

- Property consists of 11 State of Idaho Mineral Leases



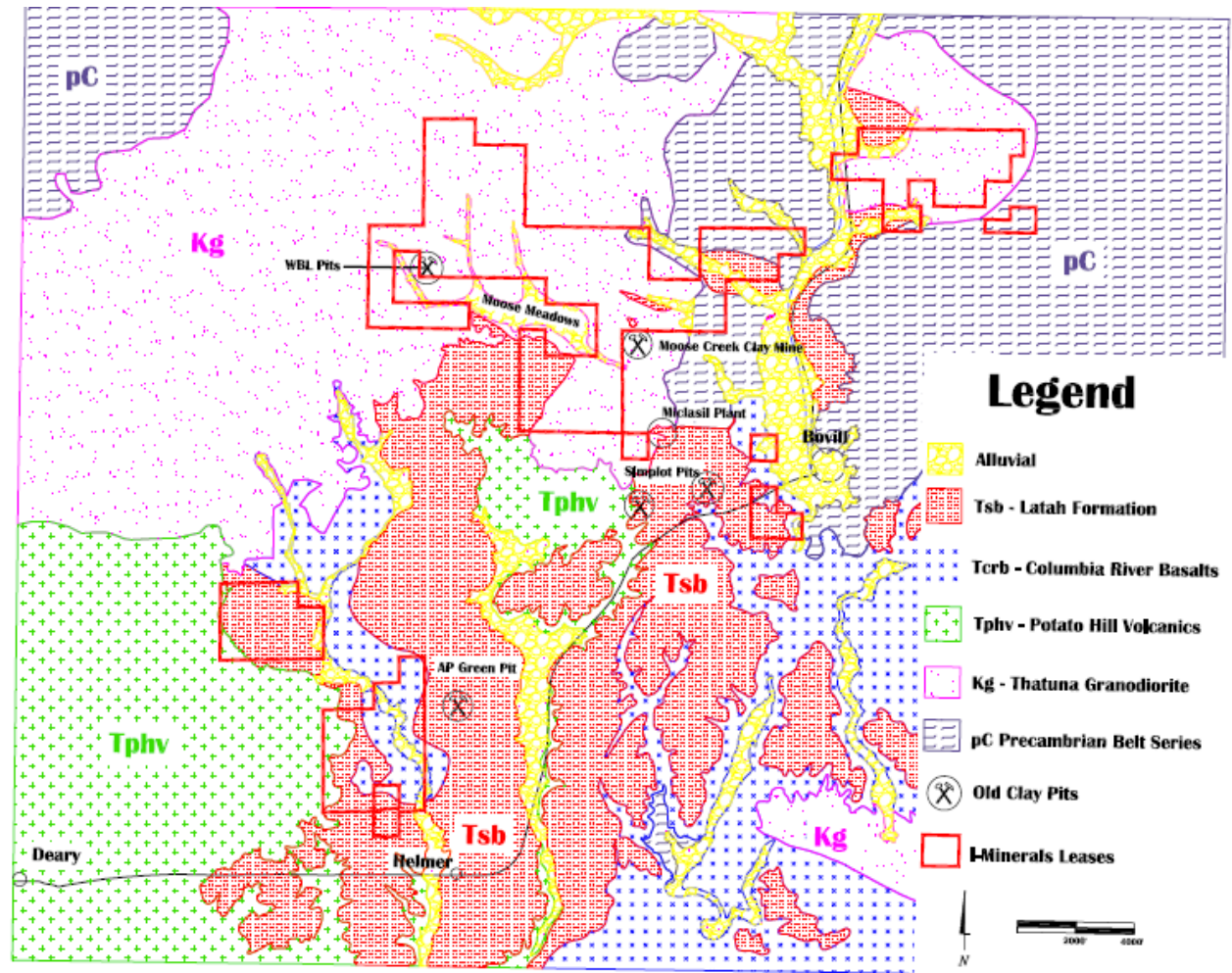
# Project Update

- ✓ Feasibility Study completed 2016
  - Costs of development and construction within  $\pm 15\%$  accuracy
  - Technical Economic Model completed March 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 showing robust economics with 26 year mine life with a stripping ratio of 0.54 to 1
  - NI43-101 compliant Technical Report submitted to SEDAR
  - Visit [www.imineralsinc.com](http://www.imineralsinc.com) to view report
  
- ✓ Application for Reclamation Plan Approval with IDL has been filed  
When approved we have a “Bankable Feasibility Study” for financing
  
- ✓ I-Minerals will be in operation in 2018



# Geology of Helmer-Bovill Property

- AP Green mined sedimentary clay for refractory brick north of Helmer
- Simplot originally mined sedimentary clay near Bovill for Potlatch plant in Lewiston, but due to poor brightness switched to primary clays 1 & 3 miles northwest of plant and near Stanford 11 miles to the west



# Geology of Helmer-Bovill Property

## Thatuna Batholith (Kg)

- Cretaceous
- Lobe of Idaho Batholith injected into Belt Supergroup (pC)

## Potato Hill Volcanics (Tphv)

- Eocene
- rhyolitic & dacitic

## Columbia River Basalts (Tcrb)

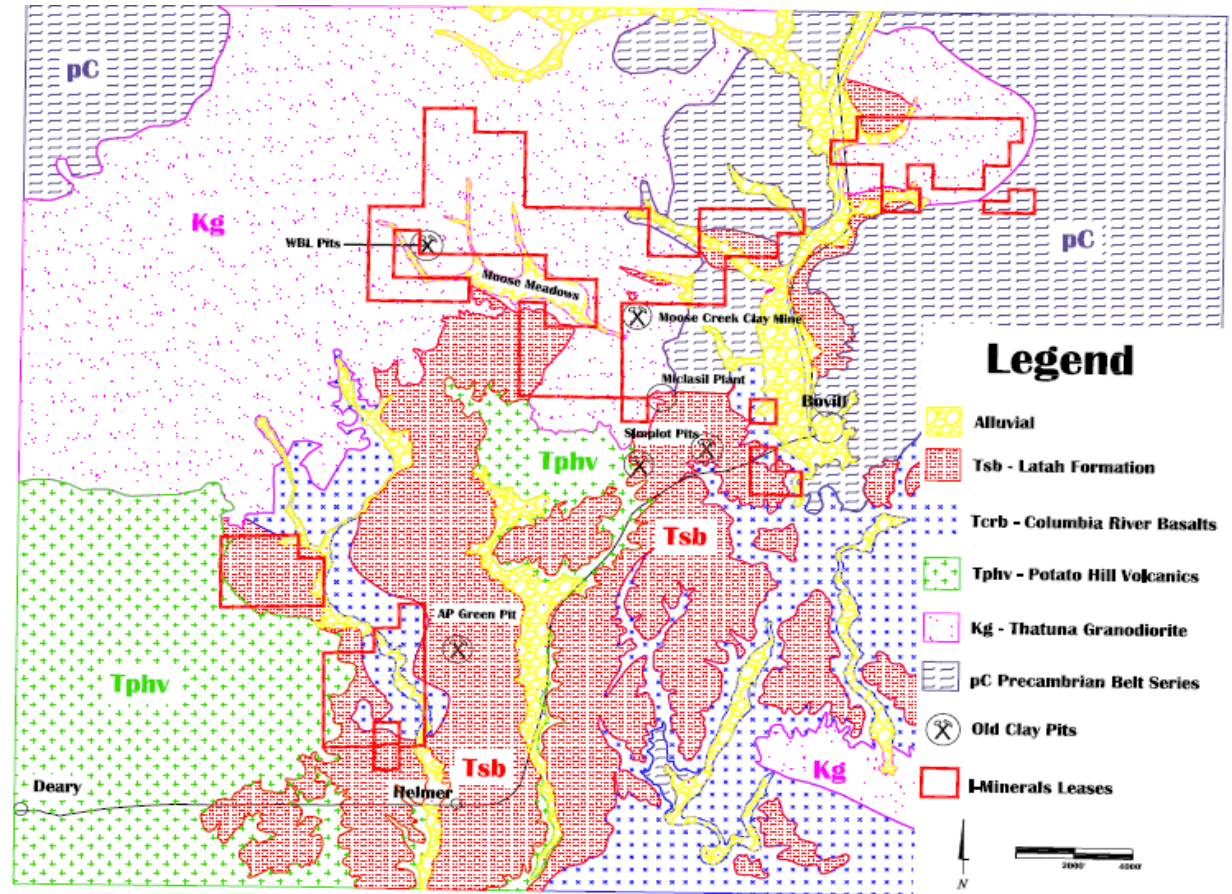
- Miocene
- dammed streams & created lakes (Helmer embayment, in red)

## Tropical Weathering Episode

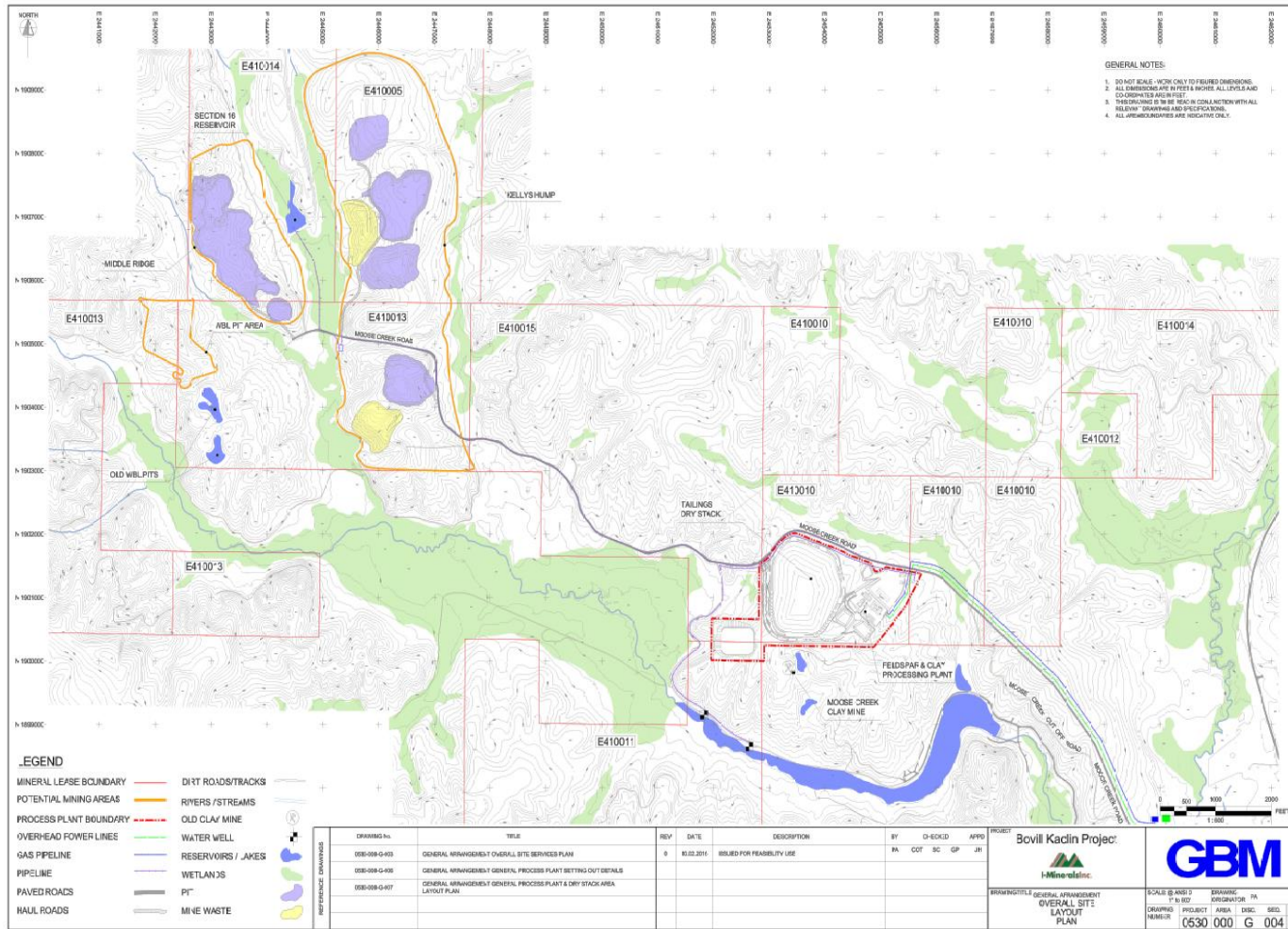
- late Miocene
- earlier lithologies were weathered

## Latah Formation (Tsb)

- late Miocene
- erosion of primary clay
- sediments deposited in lakes



# Project Layout



- Weathering of granodiorite produced alteration rind over area as much as 200' thick
- Stream erosion created series of ridges and valleys
- Primary clay along ridges
- Favorable for mining and permitting with minimal wetland disturbance

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## Weathered Granodiorite



- K-spar & quartz are resistant to weathering
- Na-spar alters to kaolinitic clays (kaolinite & halloysite)
  - Drill core show kaolinite is ubiquitous decreasing with depth as LOI decreases reflecting the decrease in weathering
  - Halloysite found in pods >10 acres up to 40% of total clay
- Quartz, K-spar, halloysite and kaolinite can be upgraded by processing
- Quartz can be processed to high purity levels
- Halloysite can be processed to +90% levels with unique morphology imparting special properties

## Crystallization & Weathering

- Crystallization of quartz and feldspar
- Weathering of Na-spars to clays
- **Crystallization**
  - Feldspars (Na-spar & K-spar)
    - Feldspar grains need to liberate during grinding
    - Cannot contain excessive mineral inclusions and iron in the crystal lattice (<0.1% Fe as Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>)
  - Quartz
    - High purity quartz must have non-SiO<sub>2</sub> contaminants ranging from about 1500 ppm down to 10 ppm
    - Crystallization of quartz has to occur in a system with unique geochemical, cooling and crystallization history with temperature, pressure & water content most critical for purity (Regis, 2004)

# Metallogenesis

## Crystallization (cont.)

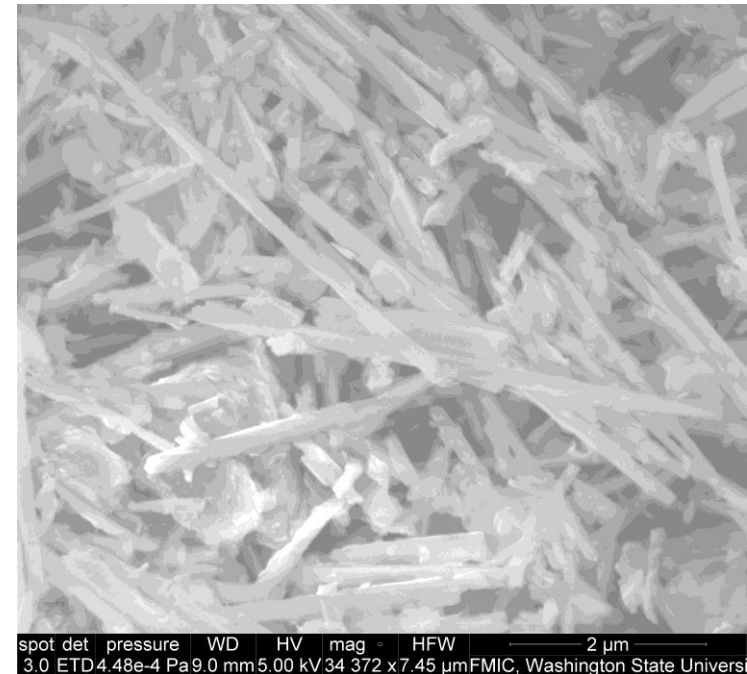


- Clark (2003) identified phase of Thatuna batholith referred to as Kmcp
- Border zone near Precambrian country rock
- Crystallization in Thatuna affected by cooler rock and outgassing from hydrous minerals of country rock
- May have aided in 'tight' crystallization of quartz described by Regis (2004)

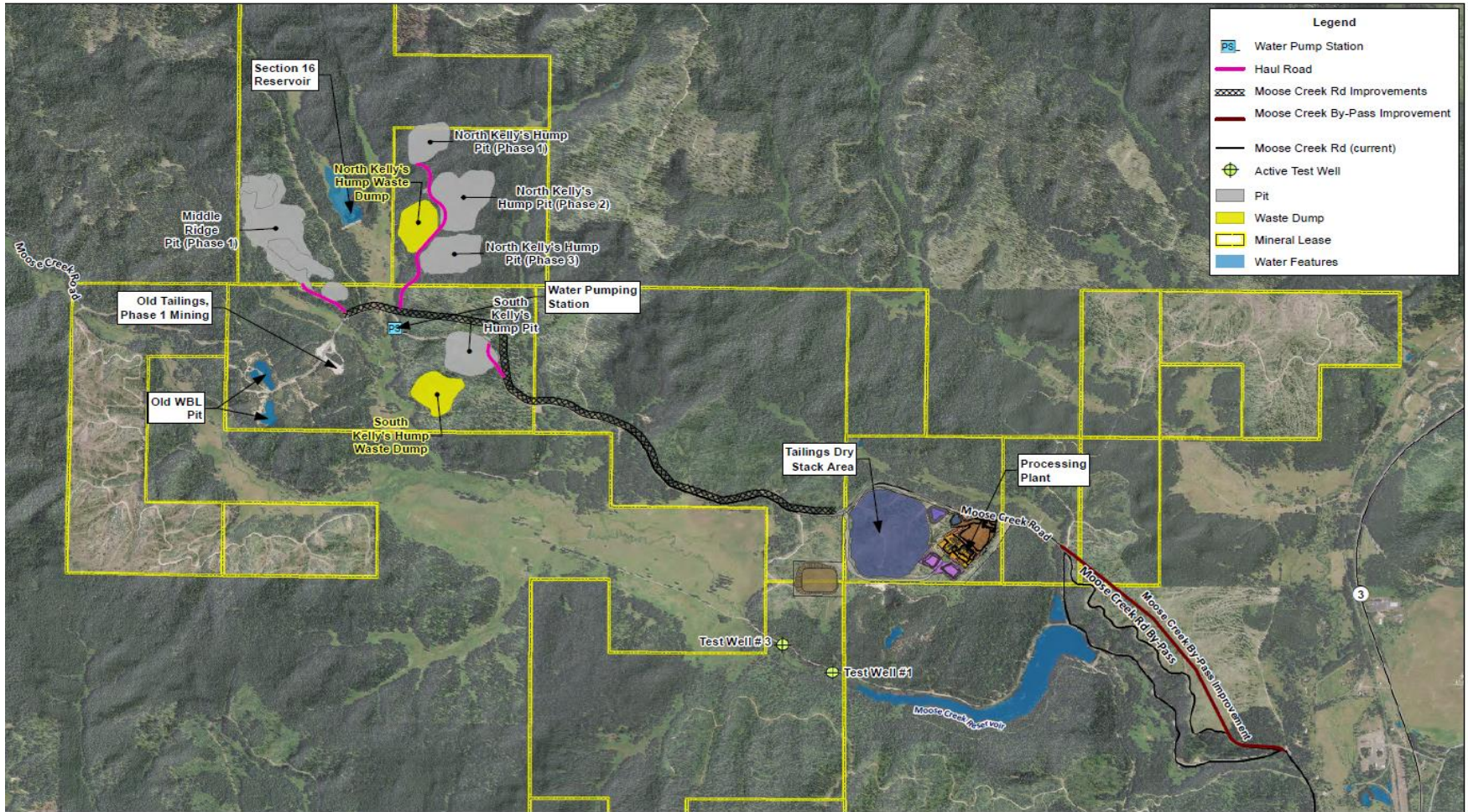
## Crystallization & Weathering

### - Weathering

- Na-spars to kaolinite and halloysite
- Unknown if halloysite is formed first then altered to kaolinite OR if kaolinite was formed then weathered to halloysite
- Halloysite content increases with depth as effects of weathering diminish (Yuan, 1994)
- I-Minerals found halloysite concentrations decrease with depth
- Contradiction shows further research is needed



# Bovill Kaolin Project – Project Layout



Imagery: 2015 NAIP, 1 meter resolution  
 Source: NRCG/USDA Digital Gateway  
 Topography: 10 meter National Elevation Dataset  
 Source: USGS  
 Other Data Sources: State of Idaho Geospatial Clearinghouse (INSIDE Idaho);  
 Clearwater National Forest; BLM, USGS; I-Minerals



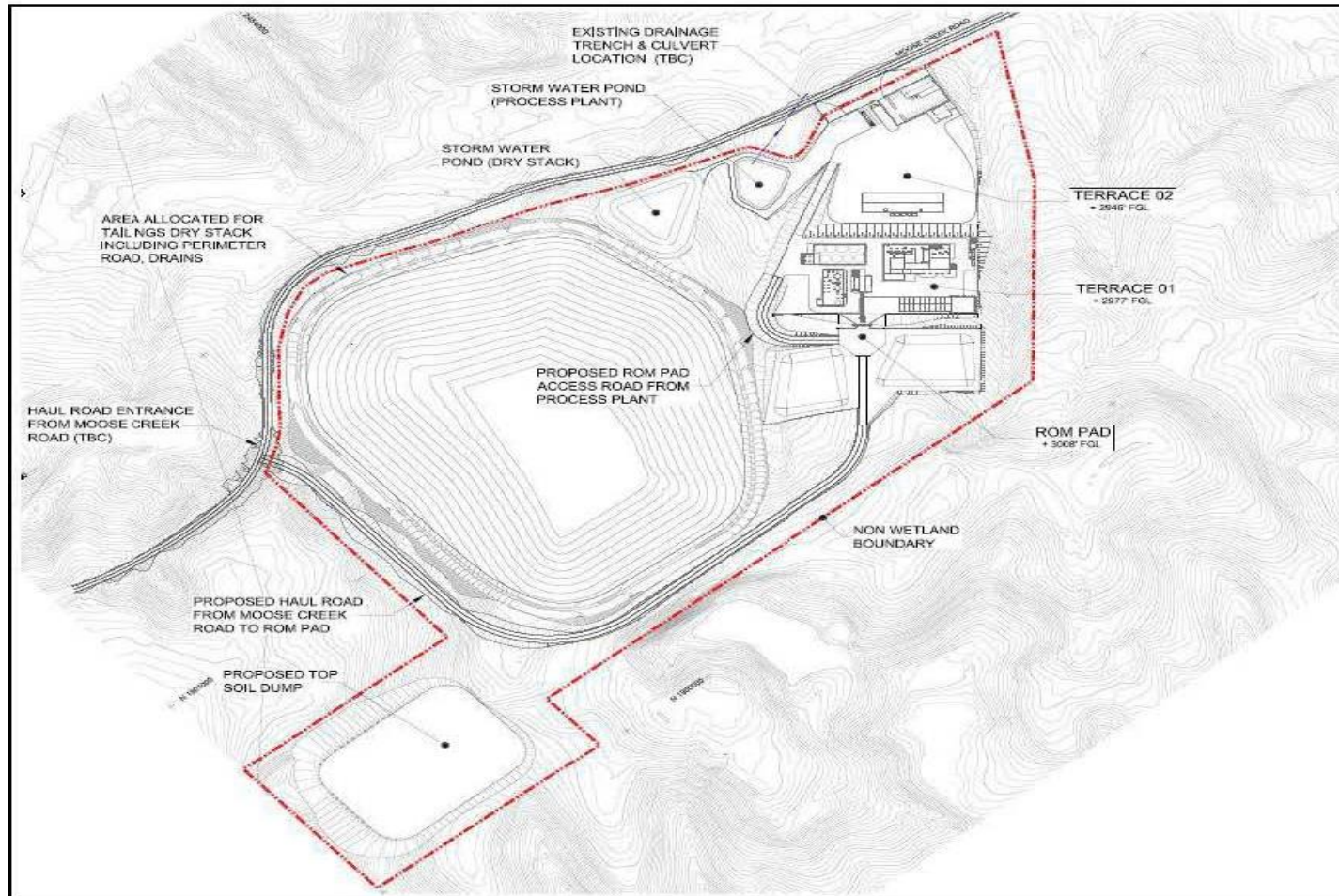
0 1,500 3,000  
 Feet

Map Production Date: 4/8/2018  
 Document: G:\I-Minerals\inc\pan\p\_0608\10ch\43101\_LegLand.mxd



**Figure 2-3. Mine Layout**  
 I-Minerals USA Inc., Bovill Kaolin Project,  
 Latah County, ID

# Bovill Kaolin Project – Tailings & Plant Facility



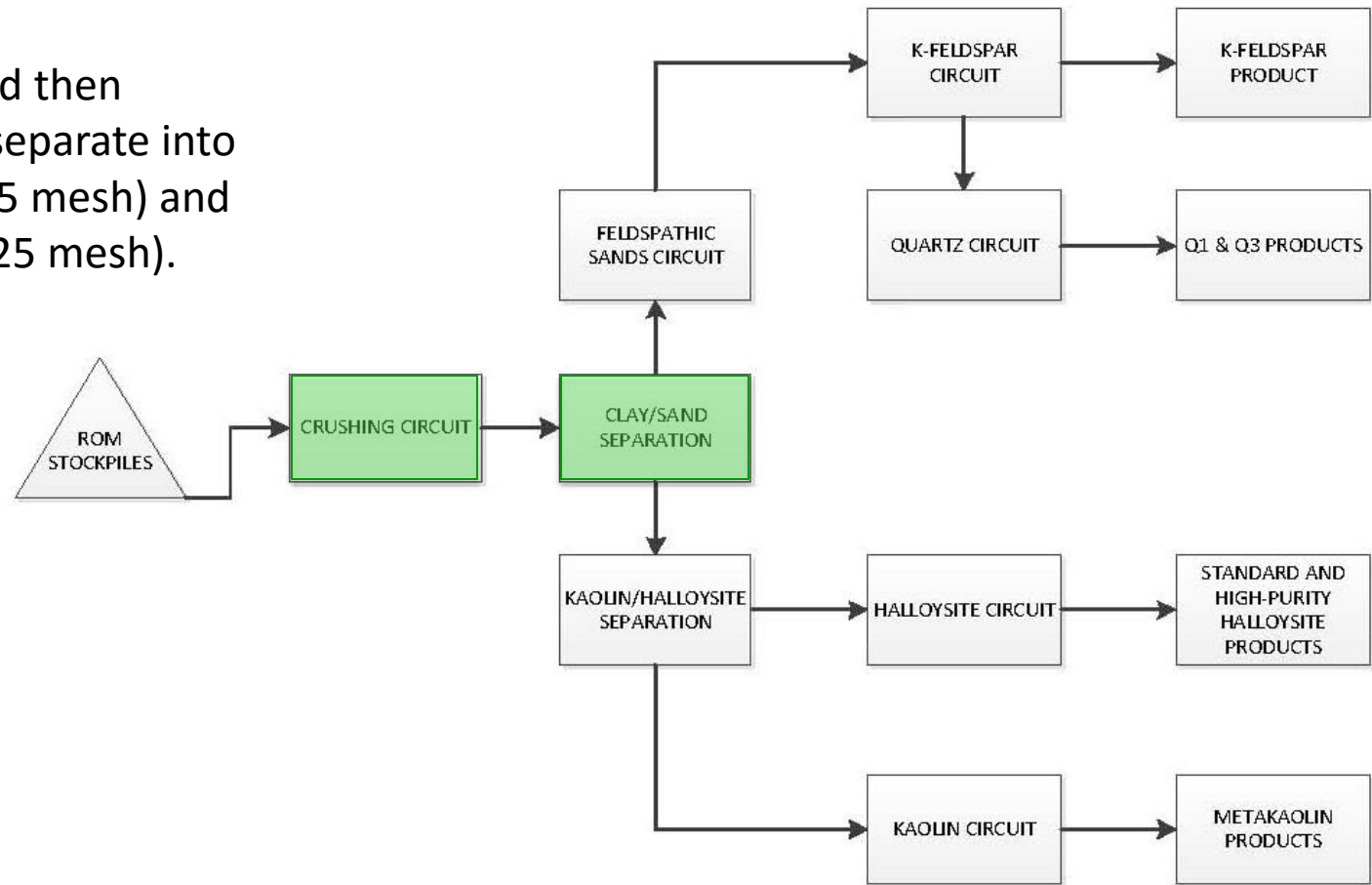
# Bovill Kaolin Project – Plant layout



# Mineral Processing

## Process Description

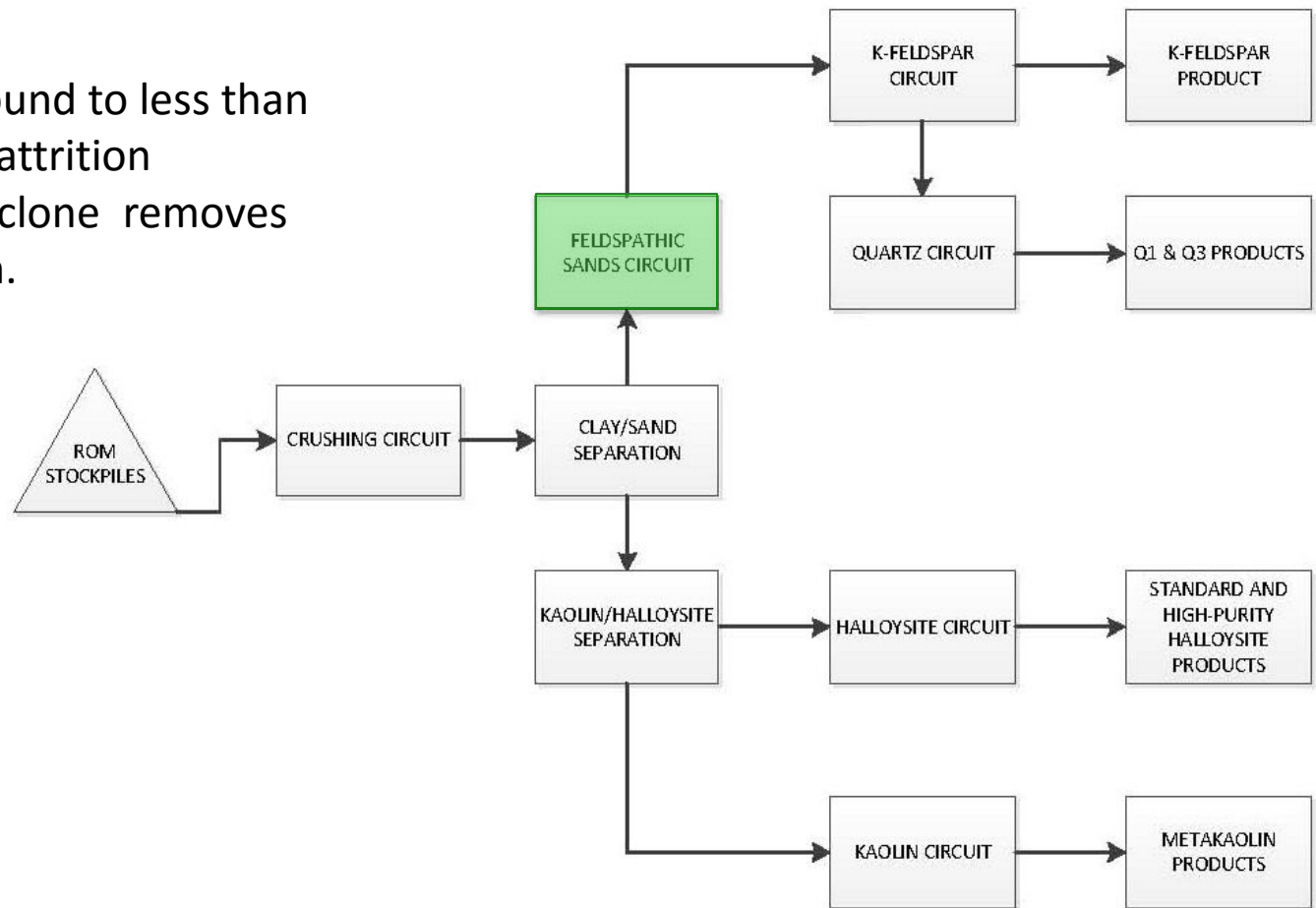
Ore is crushed and then wetscreened to separate into clay fraction (<325 mesh) and sand fraction (>325 mesh).





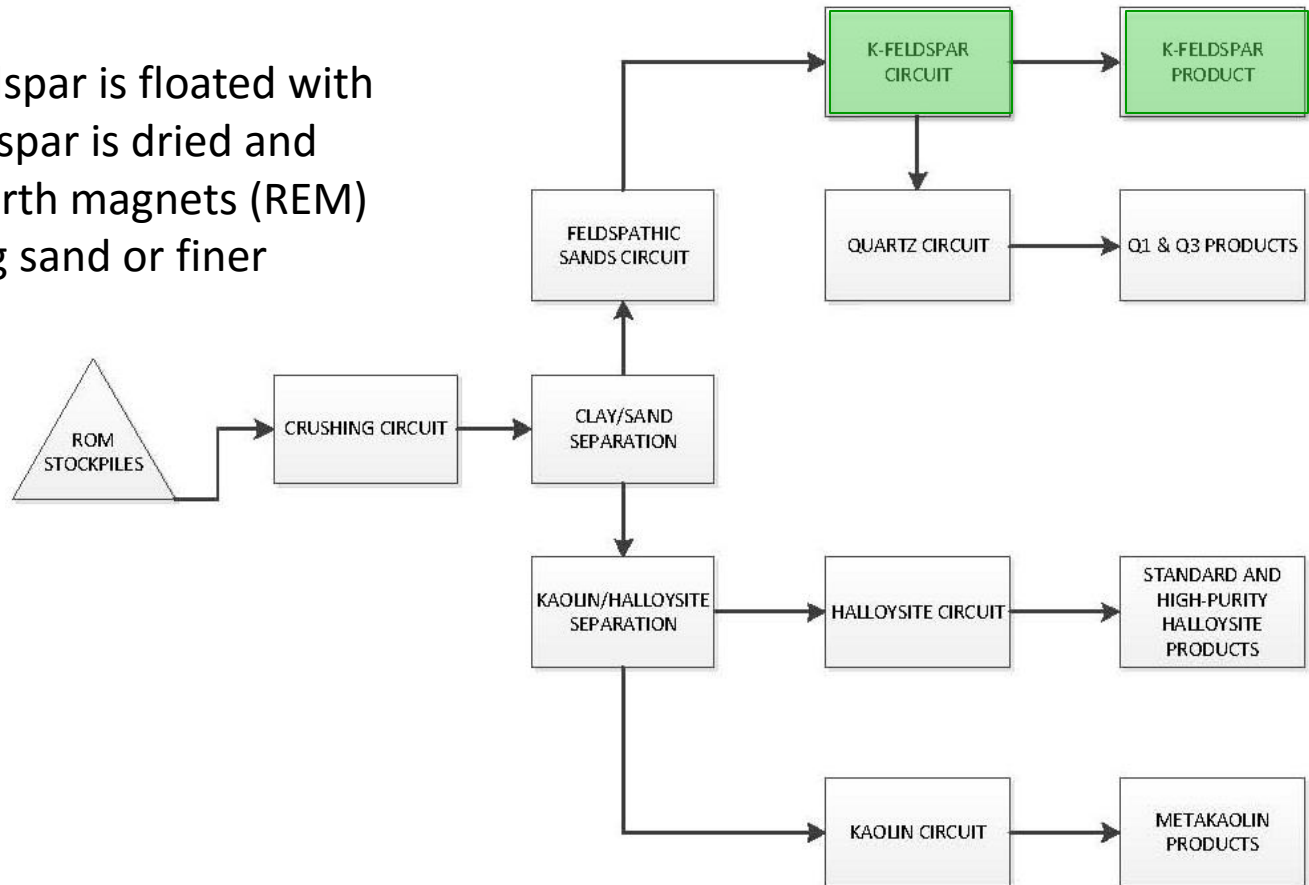
# Mineral Processing

Sand fraction is ground to less than 30 mesh and after attrition scrubbing, hydrocyclone removes <200 mesh fraction.



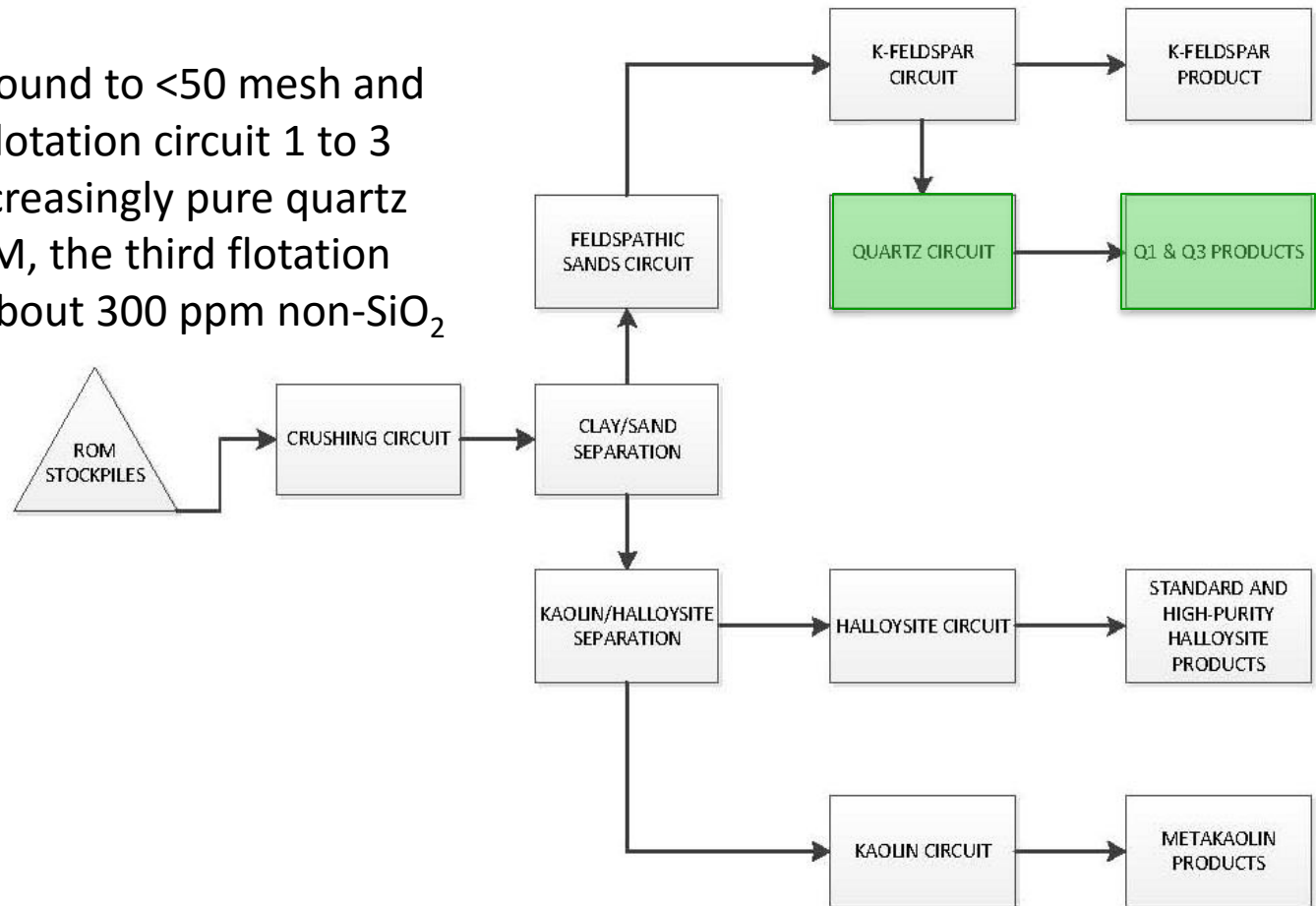
# Mineral Processing

After iron float, feldspar is floated with quartz sinking. Feldspar is dried and run through rare earth magnets (REM) with products being sand or finer grind feldspar.



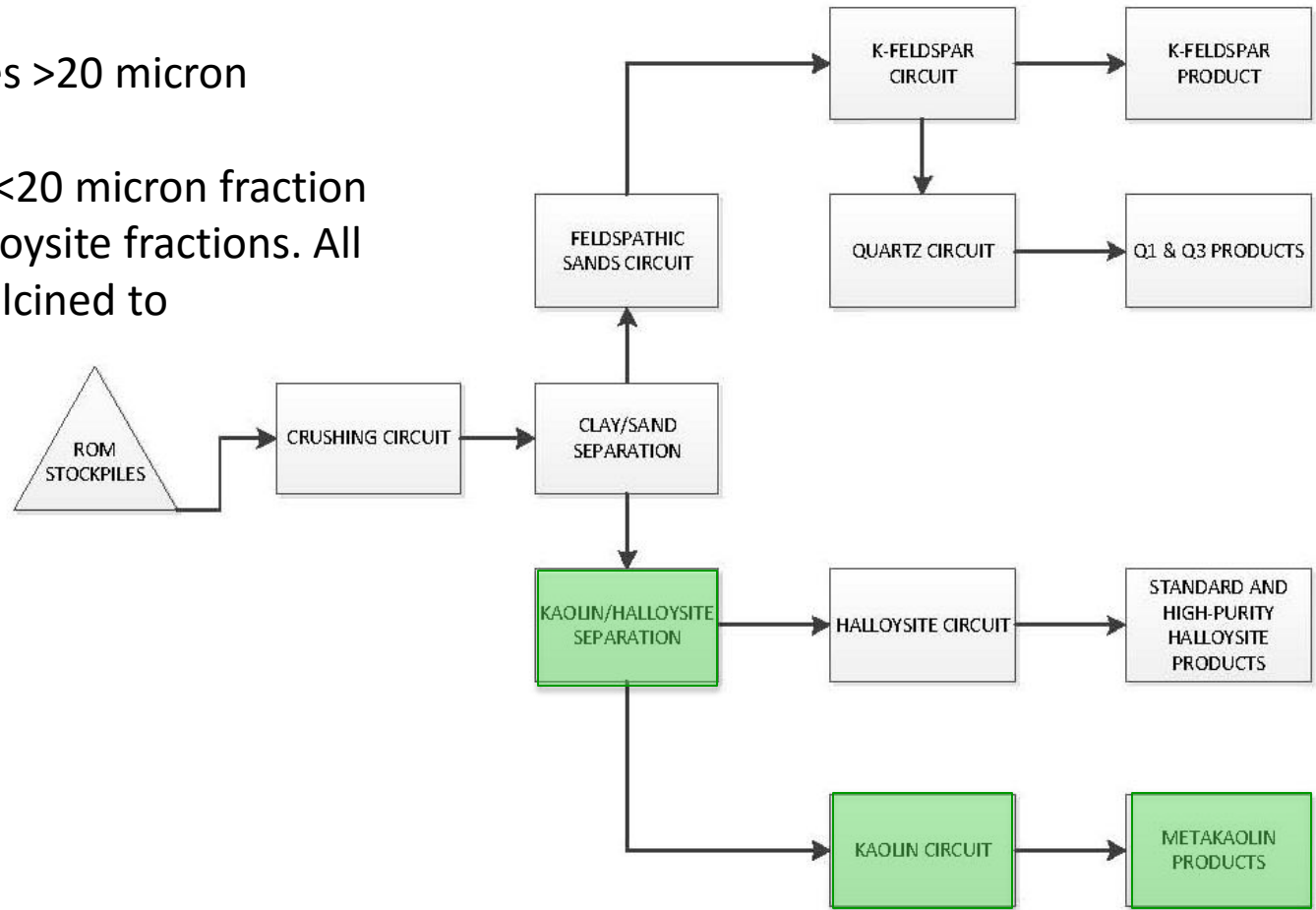
# Mineral Processing

Quartz sinks are ground to <50 mesh and then put through flotation circuit 1 to 3 times to deliver increasingly pure quartz products. After REM, the third flotation product contains about 300 ppm non-SiO<sub>2</sub> contaminants.



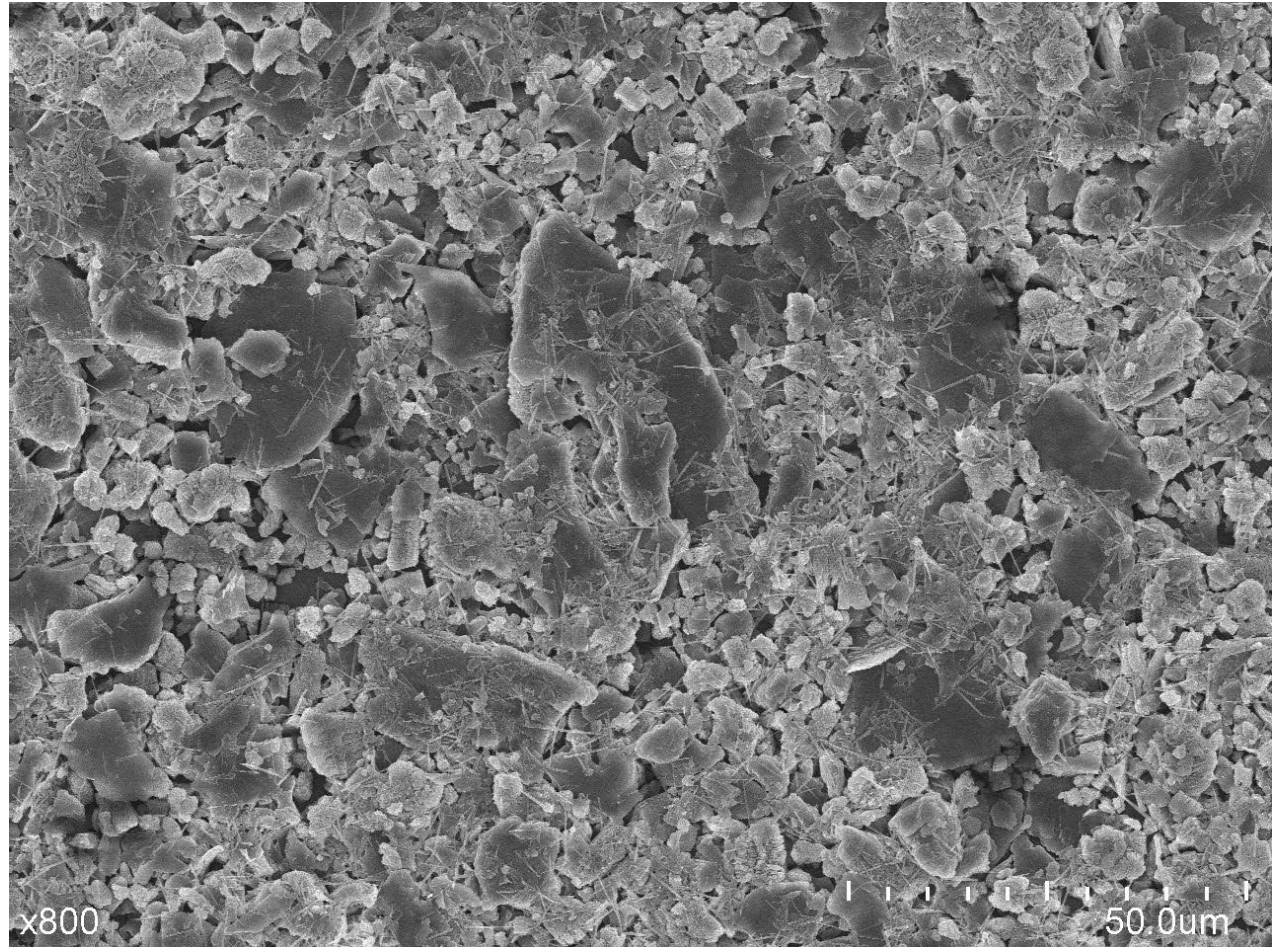
# Mineral Processing

Hydrocyclone removes >20 micron fraction to tailings.  
Centrifuge separates <20 micron fraction into kaolinite and halloysite fractions. All kaolinite fraction is calcined to metakaolin.



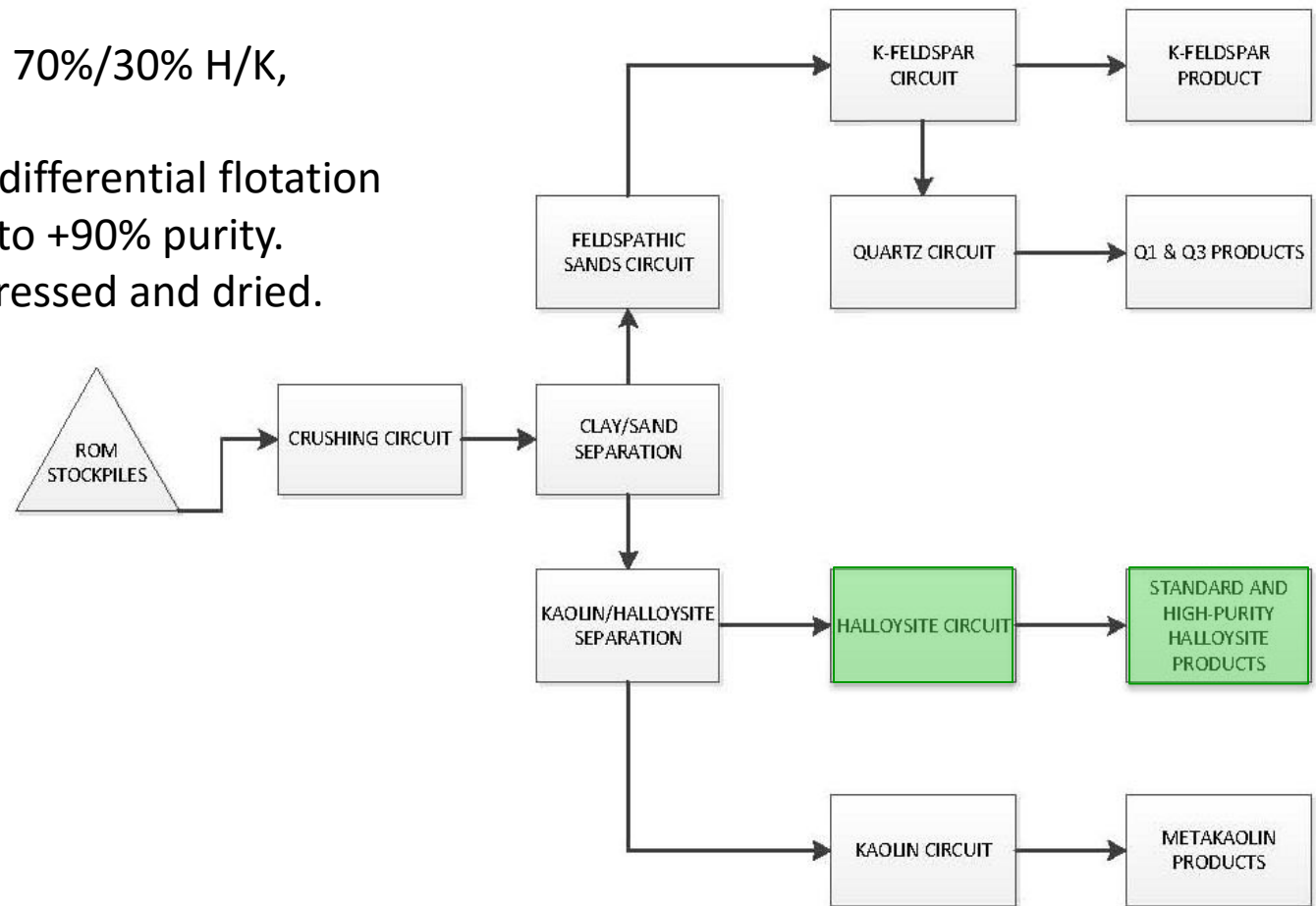
# Kaolinite Fraction

Kaolinite fraction still has small amount of halloysite calcined into metakaolin at about 850°C.



# Mineral Processing

Halloysite fraction is 70%/30% H/K,  
standard product.  
Proprietary process differential flotation  
improves halloysite to +90% purity.  
Products are filter pressed and dried.



# >90% Halloysite Product

Exceptional aspect ratio, low toxic metal content and no deleterious minerals (cristobalite, asbestiform minerals) yields very desirable product.

