



Developing the Future of Salt Mining and Hydrogen/Energy Storage in Atlantic Canada

CSE: VRTX | OTC: VTECF | FRA: AA3
2026 Corporate Presentation



Vortex Energy

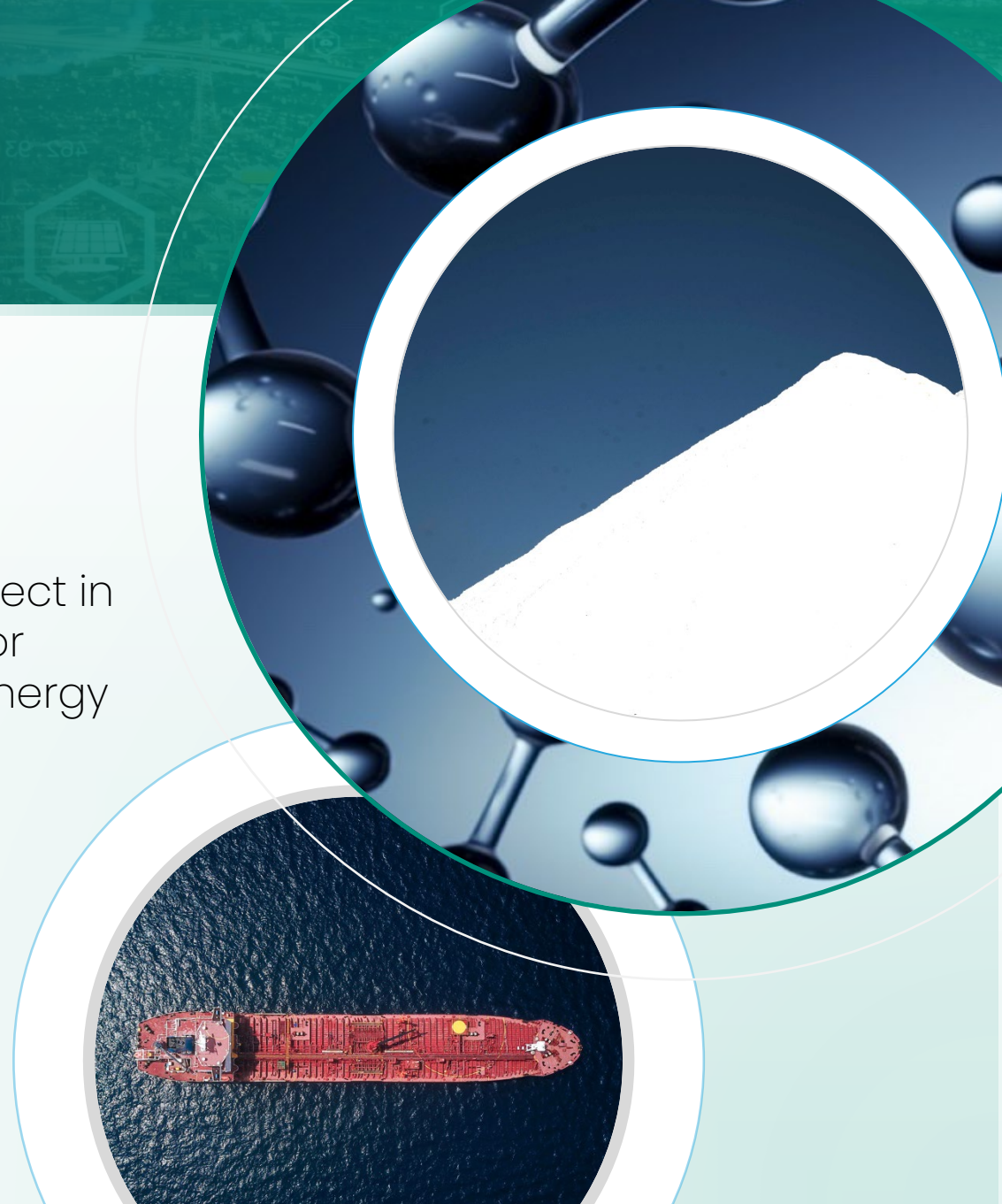
Overview

Advancing salt-based energy storage opportunities in Newfoundland



Vortex Energy is advancing the Robinsons River Salt Project in Newfoundland and Labrador to evaluate its potential for underground hydrogen storage and compressed air energy storage (“CAES”) in solution-mined salt caverns.

- **CAES Cavern Storage** – Vortex is evaluating whether prospective salt intervals at Robinsons River could support the future development of solution-mined caverns for long-duration energy storage, subject to further geological, geotechnical and engineering evaluation.
- **Hydrogen Cavern Storage**– The Robinsons River Project contains prospective subsurface salt intervals that are being evaluated for their potential to support solution-mined hydrogen-storage caverns. Recent interpretations provide a refined technical framework for selecting future drilling locations and evaluating cavern-development potential.



Investment Highlights

Prospective Salt on the Property

- Updated integration of historical drilling, seismic and gravity data has refined the interpretation of prospective subsurface salt intervals and identified priority locations for future drilling and technical evaluation.

Salt Market

- In 2025, the global salt market was valued at USD 26.92 billion¹, with consumption totaling around 40 million tons in the US.³

Compressed Air Energy Storage Market

- The global compressed air energy storage (CAES) market is valued at \$7.8 billion in 2025 and is projected to grow to \$38.3 billion by 2034, driven by a CAGR of 18.72%.²

<https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/salt-market-103011>¹

<https://www.imarcgroup.com/compressed-air-energy-storage-market>²

Green Energy Infrastructure

- Newfoundland and Labrador's wind resources and emerging hydrogen and renewable-energy developments provide a strategic regional setting for evaluating large-scale energy-storage opportunities.

Globally Recognized Team with Regional Ties

- Comprised of experts in salt, cavern storage, government and policy that can help shape the emerging landscape.

Access to Global Markets

- Located approximately 35 km south of Stephenville, Newfoundland and Labrador, within a region offering access to transportation, electrical and port infrastructure and proximity to potential North American and European energy markets.

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/periodicals/mcs2026/mcs2026-salt.pdf>³



Vortex Energy

Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES) Overview

The global compressed air energy storage market size was anticipated at \$7.8 billion in 2025 and is expected to grow to \$38. billion by 2034.

CAGR of 18.72% from 2026 to 2034

IMARC Group

Increasing deployment of intermittent wind and solar generation is creating demand for long-duration storage technologies that can help balance electricity supply and demand and support grid reliability.

U.S. Department of Energy, Compressed-Air Energy Storage Technology Strategy Assessment, July 2023.

CAES uses electricity to compress air for storage in a confined space, including suitably designed underground caverns. When electricity is required, the compressed air is released and expanded through generation equipment to produce power.

IEA, Glossary. Compressed Air Energy Storage

CAES offers long-duration electricity storage that supports renewable integration, peak-demand management and grid flexibility. Performance and commercial viability depend on site geology, system design and market conditions.

U.S. Department of Energy, CAES Storage Assessment



Salt - An Established Commodity and Energy-Storage Medium

Halite / Road Salt

- According to Fortune Business Insight, the global industrial salt market size was valued at \$26.92 billion in 2025, with global industrial salt market forecast expected at a CAGR of 4.4% from 2025 to 2032.¹
- The United States produced an estimated 40 Mt of salt in 2025 and imported approximately 19 Mt. Apparent consumption was approximately 57 Mt, with net imports accounting for an estimated 31% of consumption.²
- Highway de-icing accounted for approximately 37% of U.S. salt consumption in 2025, while the chemical industry accounted for approximately 42% of salt sales.³

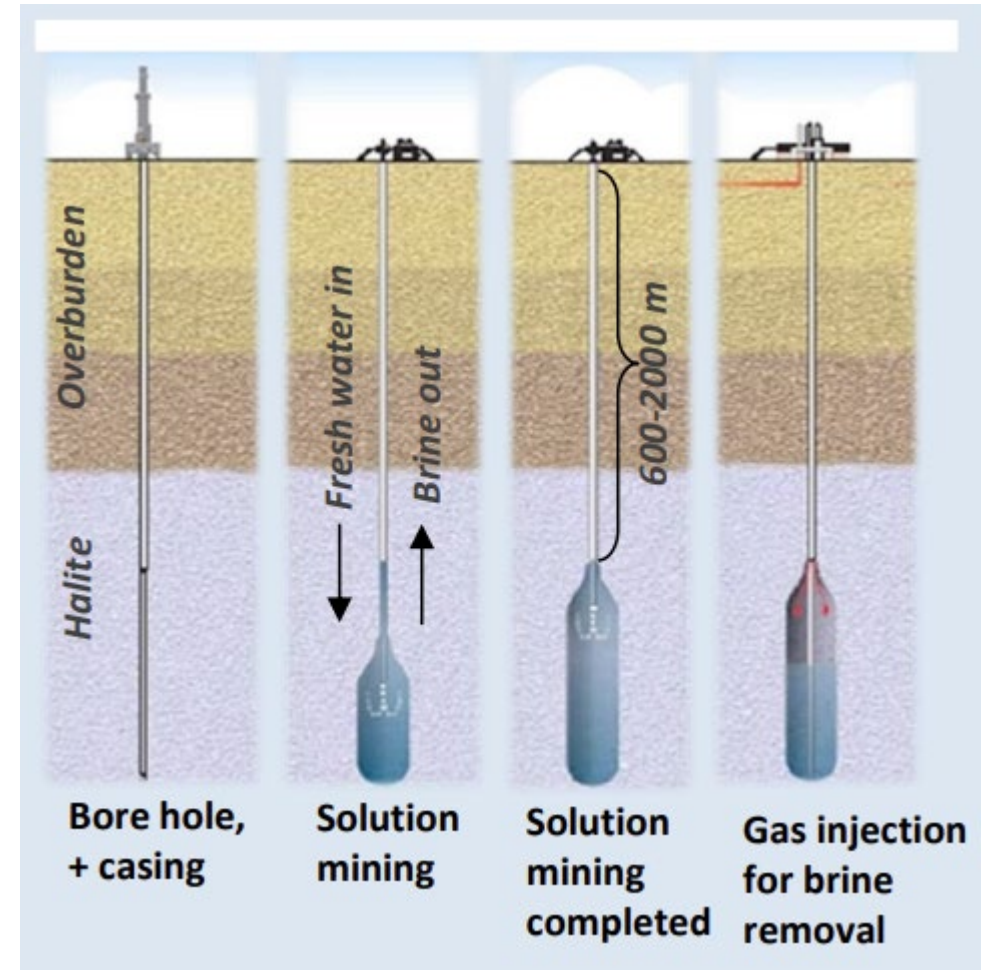
Market	Value	Applications
Commercial Salt	\$720 million	Water treatment, drilling fluids, infusion, dialysis solutions, pharmaceuticals
Chemical Use	\$220 million	Chlorine, poly vinyl chloride
Road De-Icing	\$220 million	Winter road maintenance, commercial users, private households
Food Industry	\$300 million	Food processing, baking industry, condiments & preservatives

Source: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/periodicals/mcs2026/mcs2026-salt.pdf>²
<https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/salt-market-103011>¹

Salt Cavern How it Works



- 1) Geological Characterization
Thick, laterally continuous salt may occur in domal or bedded geological settings. Drilling, core analysis, geophysical logging and engineering studies are required to determine whether a particular salt interval is suitable for cavern development.
- 2) Well Construction
A well is drilled and cased into the target salt interval. The well and casing system are designed to isolate surrounding formations and support controlled cavern development and future operation.
- 3) Solution Mining
Water is injected through the well to dissolve the salt, while the resulting brine is withdrawn to surface. Injection and withdrawal configurations are controlled to develop the cavern toward its engineered shape and dimensions.
- 4) Completion and Operation
Following solution mining, the cavern is debrined, tested for mechanical integrity and equipped for its intended application. Depending on geology, design and regulatory approval, potential uses may include natural-gas or hydrogen storage and compressed air energy storage.



U.S. Department of Energy (2019), System Level Analysis of Hydrogen Storage Options

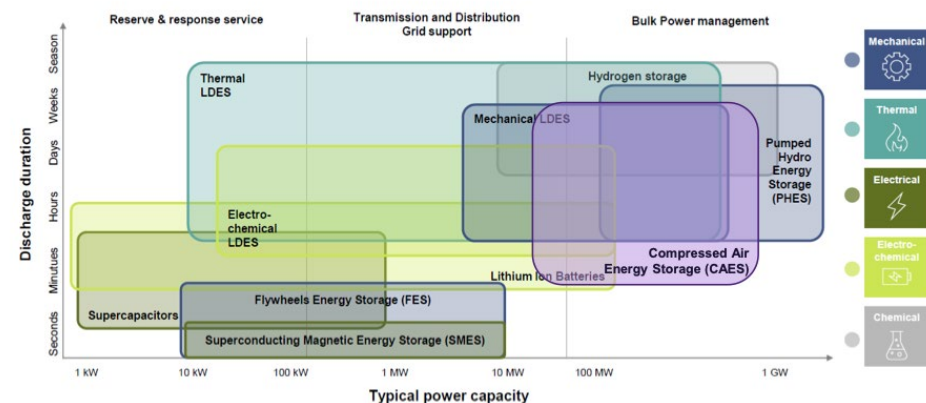
Source: https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/LPO_ACES_EA_executed_FONSI_April2022.pdf

Potential Application of Compressed Air Energy Storage



- **Potential Grid Services**
 - CAES can provide long-duration electricity storage and may support load shifting, reserve capacity, renewable-energy integration and other grid-balancing services.
- **Adiabatic CAES ("A-CAES")**
 - Delivers affordable energy storage with attractive specific capacity costs on the market – free of CO₂ and NO_x emissions
- **Site-Specific Geological Requirements**
 - CAES caverns may be developed in suitable domal or bedded salt, with cavern feasibility depending on salt thickness and continuity, depth, purity, interbeds, structural setting, geomechanical behaviour and the required operating-pressure range.
- **Partnerships**
 - Vortex is evaluating potential technology and engineering collaborators to assess whether CAES could represent a suitable future application for the Robinsons River Project.

Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES) Perfectly positioned within LDES



Typical properties

- **Power range**
- **Discharge time**
- **Reaction time**
- **Storage size**
- **Storage period**

50–260 MW_{el}* per Unit
4–8+ hours
<10–15 min
> 2000 MWh_{el}
Multiple days/ weeks

* Power range is per expansion train

Benefits

- **Efficiency**
- **Availability**
- **Flexibility**
- **CO₂ reduction**



Source: https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/Technology%20Strategy%20Assessment%20-%20Compressed%20Air%20Energy%20Storage_0.pdf



Hydrogen Market Overview

220 MW ACES Delta

The ACES Delta project in Utah is designed to use more than 220 MW of electrolysis capacity to produce up to 100 t of green hydrogen per day. The hydrogen is planned to be stored in two solution-mined salt caverns providing more than 300 GWh of dispatchable energy-storage capacity. All 40 electrolyzers had been installed and commissioning was underway as of early 2026.

ACES Delta, Advanced Clean Energy Storage Site; HydrogenPro, project update dated February 27, 2026

International \$28.6 Billion

Canada and Germany continue to pursue a transatlantic market for renewable hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives. In 2025, the governments advanced plans for a jointly funded H2Global auction, with each country committing up to €200 million to help bridge the gap between supply costs and buyer willingness to pay.

German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Market Consultation Launched for Joint German-Canadian Auction under H2Global, July 28, 2025

According to the Straits Research, the global hydrogen energy storage market was valued at \$17.78 billion in 2025 and is expected to reach \$28.61 billion by 2034, at a CAGR of 5.43%.

Source: Straits Research

Large-Scale Storage Requirement

Underground salt caverns are being evaluated and developed for large-scale, long-duration hydrogen storage. Their potential advantages include large working-gas capacities and the ability to inject and withdraw hydrogen over repeated operating cycles

U.S. Department of Energy, Technology Strategy Assessment: Bidirectional Hydrogen Storage, July 2023

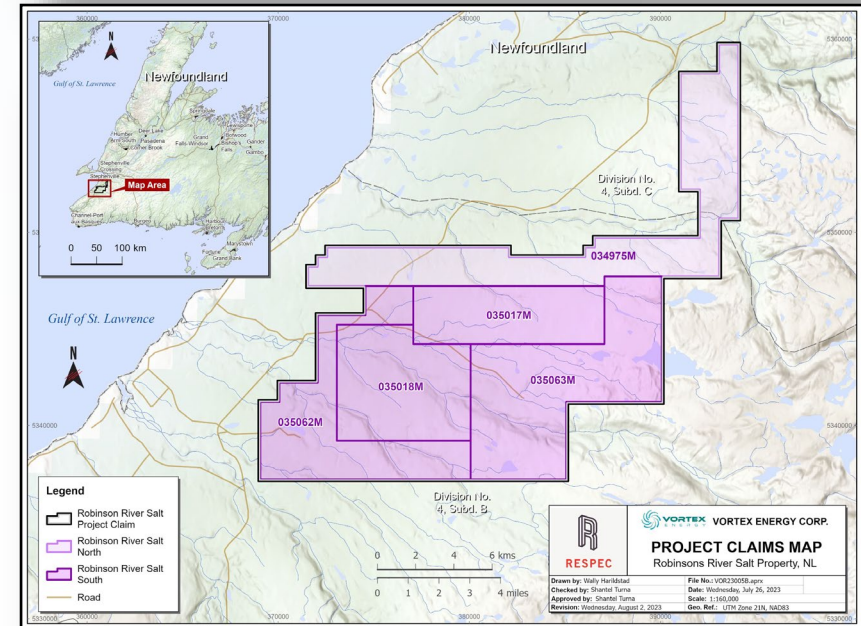
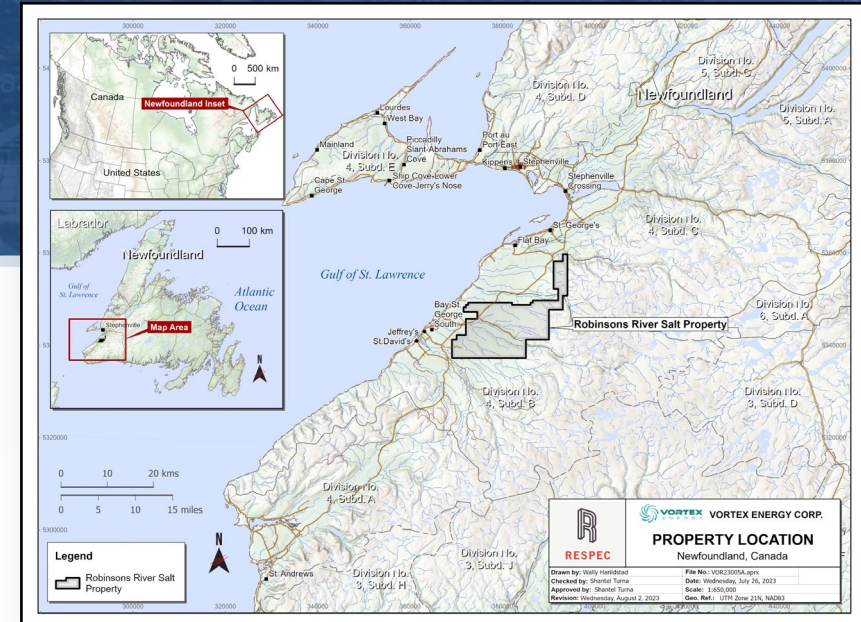


The Robinsons River Project



Robinsons River Project

- 943 CLAIM UNITS – 23,575 HECTARES
- The Project is being evaluated for its prospective subsurface salt and potential future underground energy-storage applications.
- Updated geological and geophysical interpretations provide a technical framework for selecting future drilling locations and advancing project evaluation.
- The population of Newfoundland and Labrador is 531,948
- Situated within a region containing established communities and road, electrical and service infrastructure.





Regional Access & Infrastructure



Accessibility

The Project is accessible from the Trans-Canada Highway through existing provincial, local and resource roads. Forestry and logging roads provide access to portions of the property; however, road condition, seasonal accessibility and suitability for future construction or operations require site-specific evaluation.



Stephenville Community

Stephenville, located approximately 35 kilometres north of the Project in a straight line and approximately 58 kilometres by road, is the nearest major regional service centre. The community provides accommodations, food services, fuel, health care, government services and an airport.



Port Access

The Port of Stephenville is a sheltered, deep-sea port that reports year-round operation, a 293-metre berth and approximately 9.8 to 10.1 metres of water depth at the berth. The port provides regional marine infrastructure; however, Vortex has not established project-specific access, capacity, shipping arrangements or commercial terms.



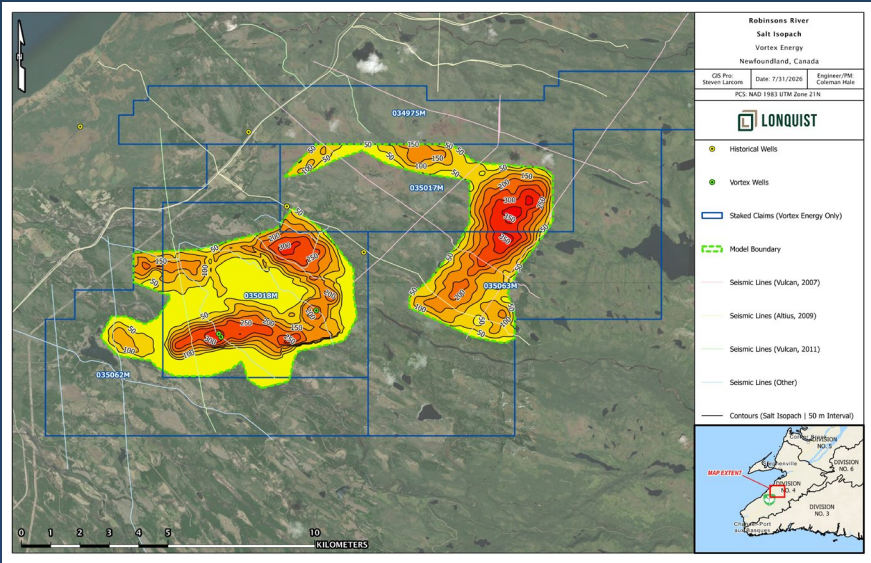
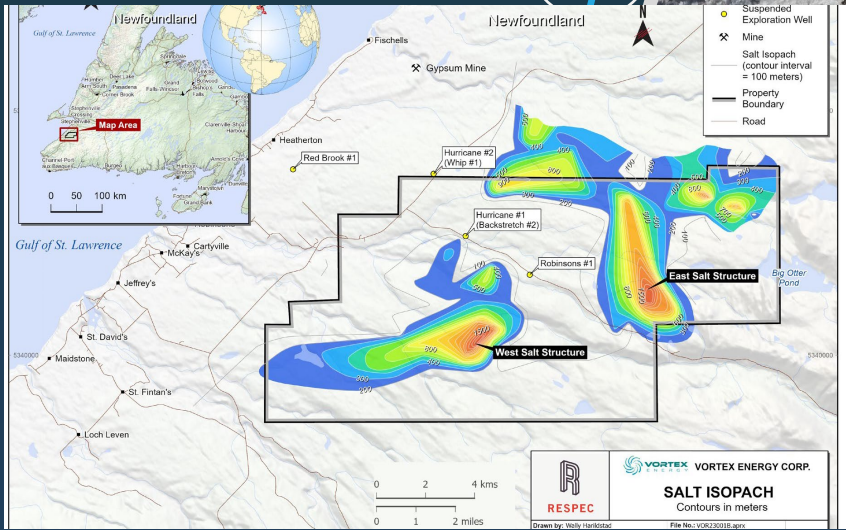
Skilled Workforce

Western Newfoundland has established construction, transportation, industrial-service and resource-sector capabilities. Project-specific labour requirements, availability and training needs will be evaluated as the development concept advances.

Property Geology

- The Project lies within the Carboniferous Bay St. George Subbasin, part of the broader Maritimes Basin, which hosts evaporite-bearing rocks of the Codroy Group.^{1,2}
- The updated Drill hole VTX-West-24-02 intersected approximately 278 m of gross salt-bearing stratigraphy within the western target area; the interval includes salt and non-salt material.³
- Integrated drilling, seismic and gravity data support a substantial western salt-bearing body, including the “Cloverleaf” step-out where interpreted salt thickness may reach approximately 350 m.³
- Reprocessed gravity data identify a large, untested eastern target that may contain additional, potentially cleaner salt; this remains an unconfirmed exploration hypothesis.³
- Recommended work includes core characterization, density measurements, geophysical refinement, water and brine-management studies and targeted drilling before cavern suitability or storage capacity can be evaluated.³

Sources: RESPEC Consulting Inc., Independent Technical Report on the Robinsons River Salt Property, July 31, 2023.¹
 Durling, P. et al., Seismic Expression of the Codroy Group in the St. George’s Bay Lowlands and Offshore Area, Western Newfoundland, Geological Survey of Canada, 2023.²
 Lonquist Field Service (Canada), ULC, Robinsons River Salt Project Technical Study, 2026; summarized in Vortex Energy Corp, Vortex Energy Receives Final Results on Technical Study for Robinsons River Salt Project, 2026.³



Geology Map of the Robinsons River Salt Property, Newfoundland

Drilling Confirms Western Salt-Bearing System

Drilling has confirmed halite-bearing stratigraphy within the western target area^{1,3}

Highlights:

- Drill hole VTX-West-23-1 was drilled to 608 metres, with the first salt rock reported at approximately 581.5 metres depth.¹
- Logging identified predominantly halite-bearing salt with intermixed mudstone and localized potash minerals, including carnallite and possible sylvite.²
- Selected core is undergoing mineralogical, petrophysical and geomechanical investigation to assess salt composition, impurities, sealing properties and mechanical behaviour.⁴
- Additional core characterization and drilling are required before cavern design or storage capacity can be evaluated.³

Sources: RESPEC Consulting Inc., Independent Technical Report on the Robinsons River Salt Property, July 31, 2023¹

Durling, P. et al., Seismic Expression of the Codroy Group in the St. George's Bay Lowlands and Offshore Area, Western Newfoundland, Geological Survey of Canada, 2023.²

Lonquist Field Service (Canada), ULC, Robinsons River Salt Project Technical Study, 2026; summarized in Vortex Energy Corp., Vortex Energy Receives Final Results on Technical Study for Robinsons River Salt Project, 2026.³

Vortex Energy Corp., Update on Technical Research and Exploration Activities at the Robinsons River Salt Project, July 17, 2025.⁴



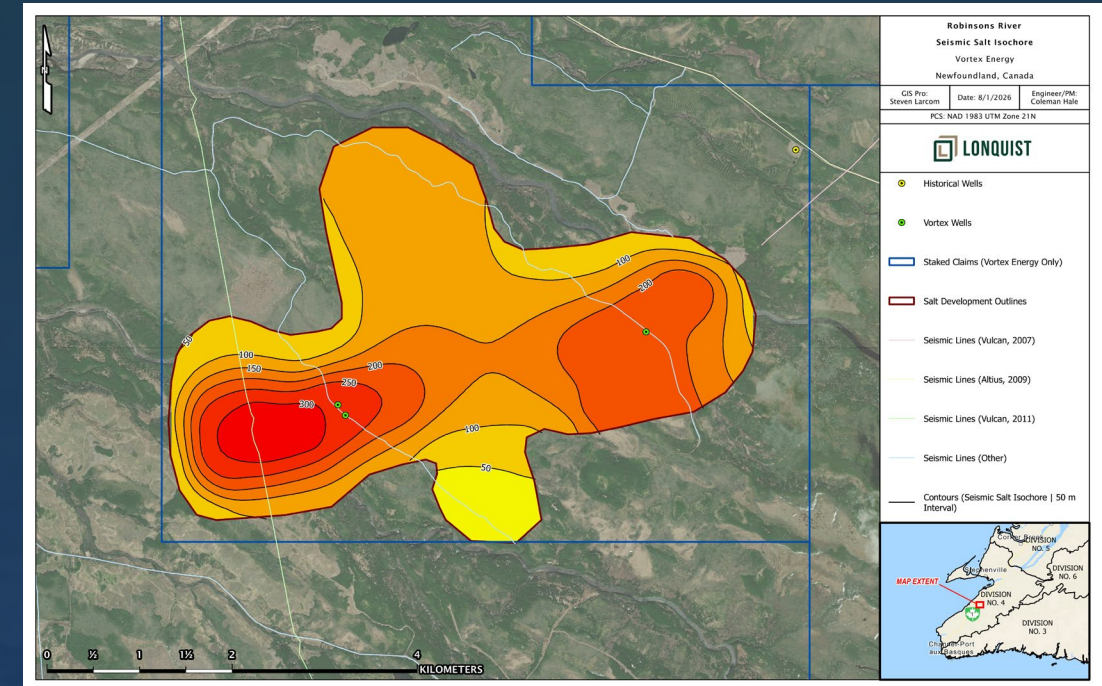
Halite-bearing core from VTX-West-23-1 near the first reported salt intersection



Evolution of the Geological Model



- 2023 Conceptual Model: Historical seismic and gravity data were interpreted as two large potential salt structures, forming the basis of a preliminary cavern-layout and storage-capacity assessment.¹
- 2023-24 Drilling: Vortex drilling confirmed salt-bearing stratigraphy in the western target area but demonstrated that salt distribution is more complex and interbedded than represented in the original model.^{2,3}
- 2026 Reinterpretation: Lonquist's integration of drilling, seismic and reprocessed gravity data supports a substantial western salt-bearing body and the approximately 350-metre "Cloverleaf" step-out opportunity.⁴
- Additional Exploration Target: Reprocessed gravity also identifies a large, untested eastern target that may contain additional salt but requires geophysical refinement and drilling confirmation.⁴



Updated seismic-derived interpretation of prospective salt thickness developed during the 2026 technical review. Values are interpretive and constrained by available seismic coverage and drilling control

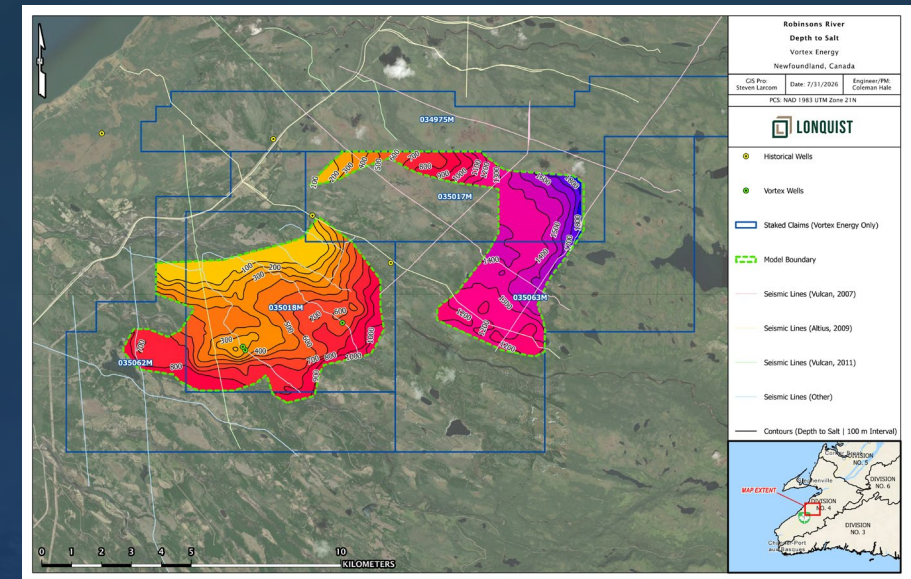
Sources: RESPEC Consulting Inc., Independent Technical Report on the Robinsons River Salt Property, July 31, 2023.¹
Vortex Energy Corp., Vortex Energy Intersects Salt on the Western Salt Structure, December 14, 2023.²
Vortex Energy Corp., Vortex Energy Intersects Salt on the Western Salt Structure, December 14, 2023.³
Lonquist Field Service (Canada), ULC, Robinsons River Salt Project Technical Study, 2026.⁴



Depth to Salt and Exploration Implications



- Drilling confirms that the depth and composition of salt-bearing stratigraphy vary materially across the western target area.
- VTX-West-23-1 first encountered salt at approximately 581.5 metres, while VTX-West-24-2 encountered visible salt beginning at approximately 327 metres.
- The large eastern target remains untested, with its prospective top interpreted at approximately 1,100–1,300 metres below surface.
- Salt depth is an important input to future drilling, well design, operating-pressure limits, cavern geometry and project economics. Additional drilling and geotechnical data are required.

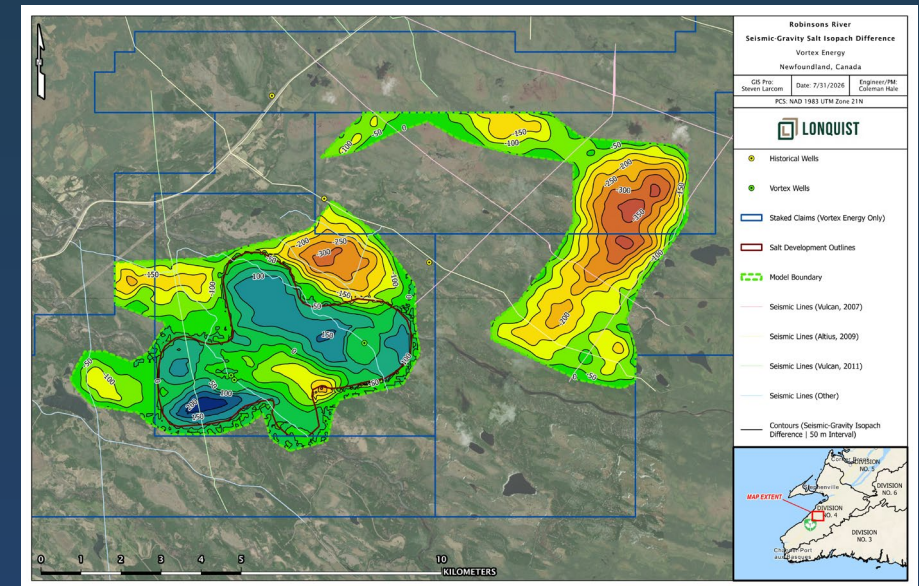


Interpreted depth to prospective salt-bearing stratigraphy. Depths outside drilling control are interpretive and require confirmation

Integrated Geophysical Interpretation

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- Airborne gravity-gradiometry and magnetic surveys provided property-scale density and structural information for the original 2023 subsurface model.¹
- Gravity lows may be consistent with lower-density evaporites, but can also reflect non-salt lithologies, geological structure and processing assumptions; they are not direct evidence of salt.^{1,2}
- Lonquist reprocessed and recalibrated the gravity interpretation using available seismic and drilling control, including wells that did not intersect material salt.^{1,2}
- Additional drilling, density measurements and geophysical refinement are required to confirm salt distribution and improve the subsurface model.²



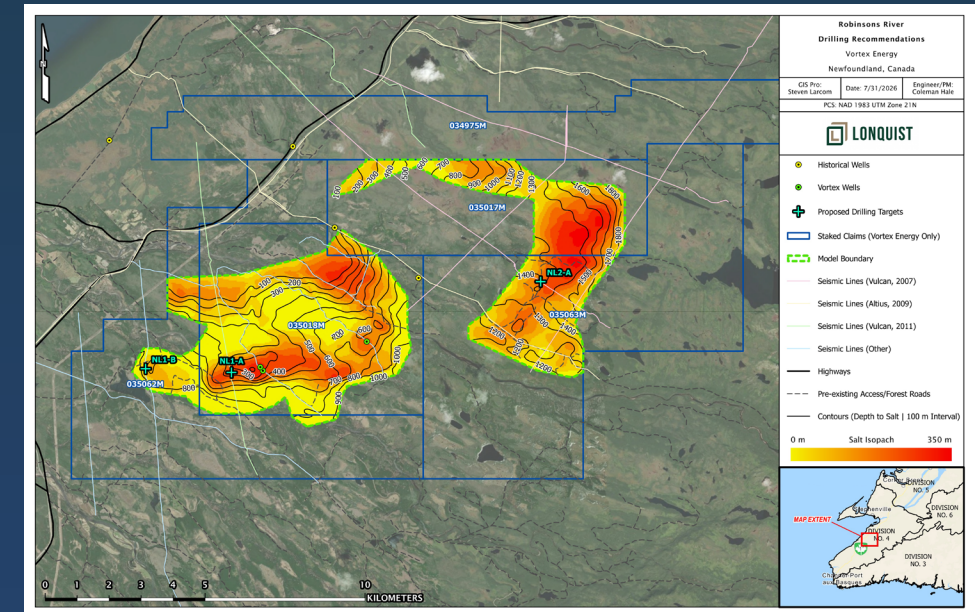
Difference between seismic- and gravity-derived salt-thickness interpretations. The datasets are related but do not provide identical representations of salt distribution

Sources: RESPEC Consulting Inc., Independent Technical Report on the Robinsons River Salt Property, July 31, 2023.¹
Lonquist Field Service (Canada), ULC, Robinsons River Salt Project Technical Study, 2026.²



Drill Recommendations and Next Steps

- • •
- Eastern Target: Proposed target NL2-A would test the depth, thickness and salt quality of the large, untested eastern gravity target. Potentially cleaner salt is an exploration hypothesis that remains unconfirmed by drilling.
- Western Targets: Proposed targets NL1-A and NL1-B would provide additional control within the established western system and western gravity anomaly, improving confidence in the geological and gravity models.
- Cloverleaf Step-Out: Follow-up drilling may test the locally thickened Cloverleaf area, where seismic interpretation indicates approximately 350 m of prospective salt-bearing stratigraphy
- Pre-Drilling Work: Recommended work includes detailed VTX-West-24-02 core characterization, representative density measurements, salt-percentage determination and assessment of freshwater availability and brine-disposal capacity.
- Positive results would support detailed well design, model refinement, geomechanical testing and subsequent cavern-suitability and storage-capacity assessment.



Conceptual drilling targets identified through the 2026 integrated technical review. Locations are approximate planning concepts and are not approved drill sites

Vortex's Collaboration With the U of A Receives Alberta Innovates & NRCAN Funding

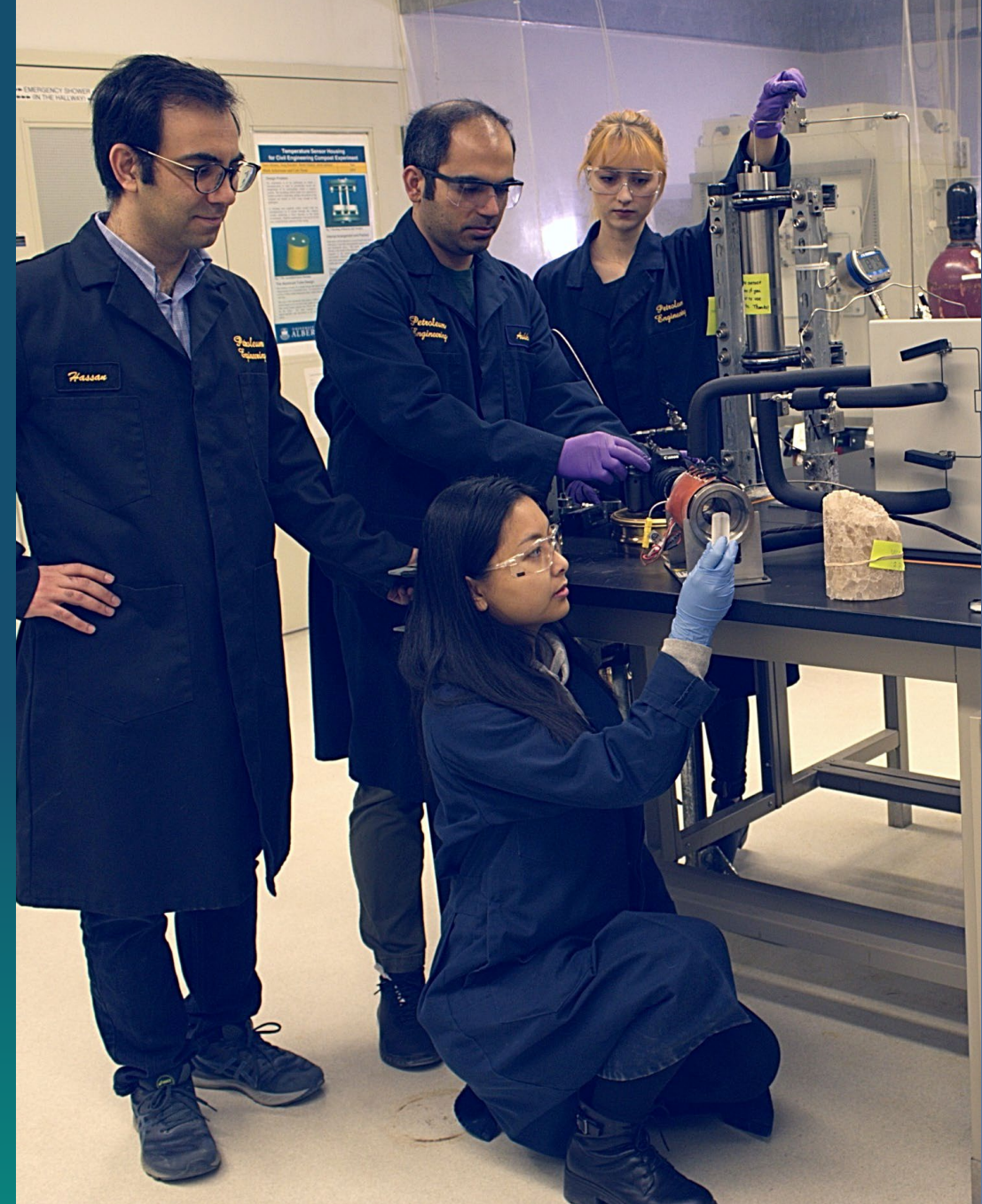


Hydrogen Storage Research

- Researchers are testing recent drill core to characterize mineralogy, porosity, permeability and geomechanical behaviour relevant to underground hydrogen storage.
- Supported by Alberta Innovates, NRCan, NSERC and Mitacs.

Ambient Noise Tomography Survey

- Researchers completed the field component of an ANT survey.
- The program deployed 188 passive-seismic instruments across approximately 335 km², collecting data for three-dimensional subsurface velocity modelling.
- The ANT dataset is being integrated with drilling, seismic and gravity information to refine the geological interpretation and guide future drill targeting.



Vortex Energy Team

PAUL SPARKES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Paul Sparkes is an accomplished business leader and entrepreneur with over twenty-five years of experience in media, finance, capital markets and Canada's political arena. Paul spent a decade as a leader in the broadcast and media industry as CTV globemedia's Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs. He also held senior positions in public service, including with the Government of Canada as Director of Operations to Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, and as a senior aide to two Premiers of Newfoundland and Labrador. Paul was a Co-Founder and executive vice chairman at Difference Capital Financial and serves on a number of private and public boards. He is currently President of Otterbury Holdings Inc. and is an advisor and deal maker for growth companies in the private and public markets.

SHAWN RYAN

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Shawn grew up in Timmins Ontario and began his career in exploration in the early 80's working with Kidd Creek Mine's geophysics team and various other local contracting firms. Shawn moved to the Yukon in 1990 to collect wild mushroom and settle in Dawson City. In 1996 he decided to try his luck as a Prospector. He focused his prospecting in the Dawson District looking for the sources of all the alluvial gold. His research led to perfecting soil sampling techniques that led him to mapping out many new gold discoveries. He has been honored with the Yukon Chamber of Mines Prospector of the Year in 1998 for the Horn, high grade gold skarn discovery in the Tombstone Mountains north of Dawson City, and with RyanWood Exploration in 2009 for initiating what is now called "The Yukon Second Gold Rush". Shawn received the Spud Huestis Award for excellence in prospecting and mineral exploration from AME BC in 2010 for the White Gold Discovery (Kinross). In 2011 Shawn was also honored with the Bill Dennis, Prospector of the Year Award by the PDAC for prospecting success with a Canadian discovery on the White (Kinross) and Coffee (Goldcorp) Projects. During the last 10 years (2012 -2022) Shawn and the GroundTruth Exploration team have been working on developing new exploration techniques (Drones to Drills™) that have dramatically dropped the exploration cost by roughly 70%, can be worked all year round and is extremely environmentally friendly.

PIOTR KUKIALKA, PH.D, P.GEO

TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Piotr Kukialka, M.Sc, P.Geo, is a salt cavern specialist with broad experience across a variety of world class projects in Canada, the United States, and Europe. With over 20 years in industry, Piotr has provided technical, geological, and engineering support in the solution mining field for all types of salt caverns (storage, waste disposal, and brine production). He has worked for DEEP. Underground Engineering GmbH (Germany), and consulted for Encana / Cenovus, CNRL, CBW Engineering / SubTerra Engineering, and Pure Environmental. Mr. Kukialka is a Ph.D. candidate (2023) in solution mining and salina geology at the AGH University of Science and Technology, Krakow, Poland.

Dr. Jared Suchan, PH.D. P.GEO

VP of Exploration

Dr. Suchan is a professional geoscientist with nearly 10 years of experience in the exploration and development of mining projects in Canada. He received his Ph.D. in Environmental Systems Engineering in 2023 and his Honours B.Sc. in Geography and B.Sc. in Geology in 2016 from the University of Regina. His expertise is in the development and execution of early-stage mineral exploration programs in the remote regions of Canada. His previous experience includes coal mining operations and uranium exploration in Saskatchewan, rare earth element and diamond exploration in the Northwest Territories, and gold exploration in the Yukon. Dr. Suchan currently serves as the Chief Operating Officer for the rare earth element exploration company Northern Critical Minerals Corp., and as a Managing Partner with the mineral exploration project generator company Voyageur Exploration Ltd.

Legal Disclaimer

This material includes “forward-looking” statements or information within the meaning of Canadian securities legislation and the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements relate to future events or the anticipated performance of Vortex Energy (“the Company” or “Vortex Energy”) and reflect management’s expectations, objectives or beliefs regarding such future events and anticipated performance. In certain cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as “further” “suggests”, “further evidence”, “potentially”, “possibly”, “indicates” or variations of such words and phrases or statements that certain actions, events or results “may”, “could”, “would”, “might”, or “will be taken”, “occur” or “be achieved”, or the negative of these words or comparable terminology. Forward looking statements rely on a number of assumptions which management believes to be reasonable, including assumptions regarding the Company’s ability to obtaining necessary financing, personnel, equipment and permits to complete its proposed exploration plans, and to identify additional properties for exploration.

Although the Company has attempted to identify important factors that could cause actual performance to differ materially from that described in forward-looking statements, there may be other factors that cause its performance not to be as anticipated. The Company neither intends nor assumes any obligation to update these forward-looking statements or information to reflect changes in assumptions or circumstances other than as required by applicable law. There can be no assurance that forward-looking statements will prove to be accurate, as actual results and future events could differ materially from those currently anticipated. The information contained in this document is drawn from sources believed to be reliable, but the accuracy and completeness of the information is not guaranteed, nor does the Company assume any liability. The Company disclaims all responsibility and accepts no liability (including negligence) for the consequences for any person acting, or refraining from acting, on such information.

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The scientific and technical information contained on this Corporate Presentation relating to the Robinsons River Project have been reviewed and approved by Dr. Jared Suchan, P. Geo, the Vice President, Exploration, of the Company and a “Qualified Person” as defined by National Instrument 43-101.

By their very nature forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause the actual performance of the Company to be materially different from any anticipated performance expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. Such factors include various risks related to the Company’s operations, including, without limitation, fluctuations in spot and forward markets for lithium and other metals, fluctuations in currency markets, changes in national and local governments in Utah and generally, the speculative nature of mineral exploration and development, risks associated with obtaining necessary operating and environmental permits, the presence of laws and changes in regulations that may impose restrictions on mining, limitations in respect of management time and resources, lack of personnel and equipment necessary to carry out the Company’s proposed exploration and development and other delays (including in obtaining financing) which could result in the Company missing expected timelines, and the fact that the Company may not be able to identify additional mineral properties for acquisition or option on acceptable terms.



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