

# SOURCEROCK LITHIUM BRINE PROJECT

Ontario's First Lithium Brine Project – Metal Energy Controls A Dominant Land Position of Untested Regional Lithium Brine Targets





# Forward-Looking & Cautionary Statements

#### We Are In The Mineral Exploration & Development Business. It Is Inherently Risky, And All Investors Should Be Keenly Aware Of This

This presentation contains forward-looking statements. All statements, other than of historical fact, that address activities, events or developments that Metal Energy Inc. believes, expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future (including, without limitation, statements regarding the estimation of mineral resources, exploration results, potential mineralization, potential mineral resources and mineral reserves) are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are generally identifiable by use of the words "may", "will", "should", "continue", "expect", "anticipate", "estimate", "believe", "intend", "plan" or "project" or the negative of these words or other variations on these words or comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond Metal Energy Inc.'s ability to control or predict, that may cause the actual results of the project to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations include, among other things, without limitation, failure to establish estimated mineral resources, the possibility that future exploration results will not be consistent with Metal Energy Inc.'s expectations, changes in world commodity markets and other risks disclosed to the Canadian provincial securities regulatory authorities. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made and, except as may be required by applicable securities laws, Metal Energy Inc. disclaims any intent or obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

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- The reader is cautioned that Metal Energy Inc. has not undertaken any independent investigation of the dimensions, quantity or grade of the mineralization referred to above, therefore this historical data should not be relied upon. Metal Energy Inc. views this historical data as a conceptual indication of the potential size and grade of deposits in the area, and this data is relevant to ongoing exploration efforts. In view of when the resources were estimated and the differences in metal price and operating costs prevailing at the time compared to today.
- Metal Energy Inc. does not consider the resources to be compliant with respect to requirements of NI43-101. Metal Energy Inc. does not treat any of the historical resources as current mineral resources or mineral reserves
- The technical information contained in this Metal Energy Inc. Presentation has been reviewed and approved by Mike Sweeny, P.Geo, Vice-President, Exploration & Development of Metal Energy Inc., who is a Qualified Person as defined in "National Instrument 43-101, Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects." All currency numbers are in \$CAD unless otherwise stated.
- \*Note on Conceptual Exploration Targets: The potential tonnage and grade of these targets are conceptual in nature. There has been insufficient exploration to define them as mineral resources and it is uncertain if further exploration will result in the targets being delineated as mineral resources. Metal Energy Inc only considers these targets to be an indication of the presence of mineralization on the property and of the potential of property to host an economic deposit at this time. Metal Energy Inc advises that no one should consider these targets as mineral resources.







### SourceRock Li Brine Project | Location

- Thunder Bay area northwestern Ontario's exploration and mining hub for more than 100 years and counting
- Excellent infrastructure
  - highways
  - railroad
  - international seaport
  - powerlines
  - gas lines
  - labour force
- Ontario and Federal government recently announced financial support for hard rock Li development for 3 separate companies in the area (Rock Tech Lithium, Green Technology Metals, Avalon Advanced Materials)



#### MERG: TSXV | MEEEF: OTCQB

## SourceRock Li Brine Project | The Project

- Original project earn-in (6,468 hectares)
- Staked an additional 84,820 hectares
- Total land package 91,288 hectares (913 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Measures ~ 10 to 20 km wide x 95 km long
- Covers the deepest parts of the Sibley sedimentary basin, with sedimentary thickness between 500 m and 1,000 m





Li, Y-L., et. al. 2023. Origin of lithium-rich salt lakes on the western Kunlun Mountains of the Tibetan Plateau: evidence from hydrogeochemistry and lithium isotopes. Ore Geology Reviews, volume 155



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Balazs, A. et. al. 2017. Tectonic and climatic controls on asymmetric half-graben sedimentation: inferences from 3-D numerical modeling. Tectonics, volume 36, issue 10. Pages 2123 - 2141



### SourceRock Li Brine Project | Geological Setting



Image: Breaks, F.W. et. al. 2003. Fertile Peraluminous Granites and Related Rare-Element Mineralization in Pegmatites, Superior Province, Northwest and Northeast Ontario: Operation Treasure Hunt. OGS. Open File Report 6099 \*Breaks, F.W. et. al. 2008. The Georgia Lake Rare-Element Pegmatite Field and Related S-Type, Peraluminous Granites, Quetico Subprovince, North-Central Ontario. OGS. Open File Report 6199

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#### SourceRock Li Brine Project | Geological Setting



### SourceRock Li Brine Project | Geological Setting

- A 500 1,000 m deep, ancient salar basin (1.6 1.1 Ga)
- Pre-existing major Archean pegmatite field with notable Li occurrences (fertile parental Li source rock)
- Faulted (Black Sturgeon Fault, half-graben formation), sediments deposited (Proterozoic Sibley Basin), rifted (Midcontinental Rift System),
- <u>BILLIONS</u> of years of faulting and fluid-rock interactions increase potential for concentrating Li in brines
- Salt (Na) and sylvite (K) previously observed in drill holes in both sediments and basement rocks (pathfinders)



# SourceRock Li Brine Project | Exploration History

- Early 2000's, Sibley Basin saw increased exploration for Ni-Cu-Co-PGE's and U
  - Extensive airborne EM surveys identified laterally extensive EM anomalies, diamond drilling completed
- Several deep drill holes indicate highly saline brines and salt features in both Proterozoic sediments and Archean basement rocks
  - Halite and sylvite veins formed in Archean rocks at depths of up to 180 m beneath the Sibley sediments
  - Most of the Archean rocks are saturated with salt water
  - Pegmatites were intersected in most holes that reached Archean rocks (not assayed for Li?)
  - Sibley sediments sampled, returned ~60 m of 100 to 200 ppm Li (enriched!!)
  - Petrographic evidence indicates some sediments were previously cemented with halite but it has now largely been dissolved
  - Visual observations of salt encrustations forming on the drill rods and core
- Exploration program results concluded the EM anomalies were likely due to saline fluids and faults
  - And have never been followed up for Li brine exploration... UNTIL NOW!!



SourceRock Li Brine Pi	roject	t   Li	<b>Brine Chemis</b>	try
Evaporation		Рeriodic Tab н	le	- <sup>2</sup> He
		Littorean Littorean Na Na Saturation Calctum Calctum Calctum Saturation Calctum Saturation Calctum Saturation Calctum Saturation Satura	Z2     Z4     Z4     Z5     Z8     Z7     Z8     Z9     Z0       Tiarrau     Varaschur     Chromitum     Maragan     Iron     Cobul     Nickel     Cupper     Znc       40     41     42     43     44     45     47     A8       Zrr     Nb     Mo     Tcc     Ru     Rh     Pd     Ag     Cd       Zircankan     Nicklam     Marytek     Tachenkin     Ruthenkan     Huddum     Pathadum     Sirver     Cadmitu       Zir     73     74     75     76     77     78     73     80       Haftisch     Tangtekn     Humethen     Communic     Communic     Demotek     Humethen       104     105     106     107     108     108     110     111     112       Rf     Db     Sg     Bh     Hs     Mt     Ds     Renge, Crum       Ruthender     Dutinium     Beaborg     Bothium     Hascium     Hascium     Keinnellam     Communic	m ledkam Tin Animory Isfurium bodine Xaron 81 82 83 84 85 88 y Thalium Lasad Bismuth Potorium Aalaime Rodon T13 114 115 118 117 118
Calcite so Po	ncreasing O	<ul> <li>Alkali metals</li> <li>Metalloids</li> <li>Actinides</li> </ul>	Sol       S	59 100 101 102 103 LT Einsteint. Fermium Mendele. Nobelium Lawrenc

Bakker, E. 2018. L'impact de la croissance des plantes et l'absorption du potasse sur l'evolution mineralogique des argiles du sol. Earth Sciences. HAL ID: tel-01835126



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## SourceRock Li Brine Project | Li Brine Chemistry

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	Salar de Atacama <sup>1</sup>	Salar de Maricunga <sup>2</sup>	Salar de Olaroz <sup>2</sup>	Salar de Hombre Muerto <sup>2</sup>	Salar de Cauchari <sup>3</sup>
Country	Chile	Chile	Argentina	Argentina	Argentina
Lithium (mg/l)	1,840	1,250	690	740	590
Potassium (mg/l)	22,630	8,970	5,730	7,400	4,850
Magnesium (mg/l)	11,740	8,280	1,660	1,020	1,420

#### Potassium (K) concentration is typically 10x Li concentration in South American salars

At SourceRock, do sylvite veins (high concentrations of K) indicate high potential for Li?



Lithium mine production (tonnes)

Dank A	Country \$	Year					
Rank \$		<b>2018</b> <sup>[2]</sup> <b>≑</b>	2019 <sup>[3]</sup> \$	<b>2020</b> <sup>[4]</sup> <b>≑</b>	<b>2021</b> <sup>[4]</sup> <b>♦</b>	<b>2022</b> <sup>[5]</sup> <b>♦</b>	
1	🌉 Australia	51,000	45,000	39,700	55,000	61,000	
2	Chile	16,000	19,300	21,500	26,000	39,000	
3	China China	8,000	10,800	13,300	14,000	19,000	
4	- Argentina	6,200	6,300	5,900	6,200	6,200	
_	United States	—	—	—	5,000 <sup>[a]</sup>	—	
5	📀 Brazil	600	2,400	1,420	1,500	2,200	
6	<b>Zimbabwe</b>	1,600	1,200	417	1,200	800	
7	Portugal	800	900	348	900	600	
8	Bolivia	—	700 <sup>[8]</sup>		540 <sup>[9]</sup>	—	
—	Canada	2,400	200		—	500	
_	📂 Namibia	500				_	

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_countries\_by\_lithium\_production





https://wealthminerals.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Atacama-43-101-final-mar10 17.pdf

Salar de Atacama 90km x 50 km

Production Area 25km x 10 km

At SourceRock, the Half Graben and Archean Unconformity is comparable in Geological Setting and Scale to the world class Salar de Atacama where a closed fault-bounded basin hosts Highgrade Brines up to 4000 ppm Lithium.



- ~30% of world Li production comes from brines in an area measuring 25 km x 10 km (250 km<sup>2</sup>)
- SourceRock project area covers 913 km<sup>2</sup>
- If there's Li in the brines at SourceRock, this represents a unique opportunity for Metal Energy dominating a regional geological area



Figure 10. Continental Lithium Brine Formation (L. Munk, S. Hynek, D. Bradley, D. Boutt, K. Labay, Hillary Jochens, 2016).





## SourceRock Li Brine Project | DLE

#### **Direct Lithium Extraction (DLE):**

- Concept is not new and has been around for decades
- Similarities with
  - ISR/ISL operations in the U industry
  - Oil & gas operations
  - REE separation
- Has to be tailored to each project individually
- Small footprints, low operating costs, high purity recovery





Kumar, A., et. al. 2019. Lithium Recovery From Oil and Gas Produced Water: A Need for a Growing Energy Industry. American Chemical Society Energy Letters 2019, 4, 1471-1474



### SourceRock Li Brine Project | Summary

#### **Criteria for Developing Li Brine Potential (USGS)**

#### **REQUIREMENTS**

- Arid climate
- Closed basin containing a salar or playa
- Tectonically driven subsidence
- Suitable Li source rocks
- One or more "adequate" aquifers
- Sufficient time to concentrate a brine

#### SOURCEROCK CRITERIA

- **1.6-1.1** Ga, when Prot. rocks were exposed and salar(s) formed
- Rift basin, halite (salt) beds, cap rocks
  - Black Sturgeon fault, half-graben, Midcontinent Rift System
- Associated igneous or geothermal activity Igneous mantle plume, metamorphism, multiple events
  - **Quetico Subprovince Li pegmatite fields**
  - Highly porous and permeable stratigraphy, ground water under pressure
  - More than a billion years



### SourceRock Li Brine Project | 2023 Exploration Plans

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Land acquisition
- Initiate consultation with Indigenous and communities
- Permit applications
- Data compilation
- Diamond drilling

#### **STATUS**

- Complete (~91,288 hectares, 913 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Company introduction letters have been emailed, additional consultation required
- Exploration permit issued for preliminary target areas on original project
- On-going
- Planned for Q3/Q4 2023 (proof of concept drill program)



### SourceRock Li Brine Project | Future News?

WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED:

- Basement rock Li potential (Li fertile pegmatites)
- More detailed geological updates from historic operations
- Fluids under pressure (methane, helium potential?)
- Na batteries for EVs (already in development, CATL/BYD)



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