



Action Plan 2000

Status Reports

Reports on the activities of working groups arising from
Action Plan 2000 of the Mines Ministers' Conference submitted
for consideration at the 58th Mines Ministers' Conference

QUÉBEC CITY, QUEBEC

S e p t e m b e r 2 0 0 1



Action Plan 2000 Status Report

Introduction

The Status Reports contained hereunder reflect the actions taken on the major issues under the direction of the provincial, territorial, and federal Ministers of Mines at the Mines Ministers' Conference 2000, affecting the mining industry in Canada.

The reports were prepared either by working groups established by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mineral Industry (IGWG) or by officials responsible for a specific issue.

The views contained in the reports do not therefore necessarily reflect those of IGWG as a whole.

Enquiries about these reports should be directed to:

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Action Plan 2000 Status Report

Address with the industry the issue of abandoned mines

Ministers shared a common concern regarding the need to work to rehabilitate abandoned mine sites. Responding to the industry's recommendation and building on the work of IGWG, Ministers supported the establishment of an industry-government working group reporting to IGWG, which will examine the steps to be taken to facilitate action in this area.

Ministers would invite this joint working group to organize a multi-stakeholder workshop before the next Mines Ministers' Conference.

Ministers asked that provincial and territorial mines directors or their equivalents, working as a sub-committee of IGWG, together with other appropriate officials and consulting with industry as required, share their best practices and experiences in these areas.

ISSUE

In June 2001, a workshop was held in Winnipeg to review the issue of orphaned/abandoned mine sites and identify processes for moving forward.

The 63 attendees represented:

- 12 provinces and territories;
- 7 NGO groups;
- 5 First Nations;
- 5 federal government departments, offices and boards;
- 7 mining companies;
- 5 mining industry associations;
- 3 communities;
- 3 consultants; and
- 1 academic.

The group developed consensus guiding principles and recommendations for Ministers to consider at the 2001 Mines Ministers' Conference.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles are:

- The remediation of orphaned/abandoned mine sites must be based on concern for public health and safety, respect for ecological integrity, and sustainable development;
- All work currently ongoing with respect to taking inventory and remediation must continue to be based on sound science and good communication among all parties;

Action Plan 2000 Status Report

- Work towards eliminating future abandonments must continue, including the tightening of regulatory approaches;
- Implement the “polluter pays” principle;
- Targeted end-use and reclamation standards must be acceptable to local communities;
- Although the objective must be comprehensive reclamation of all sites, the approach must be cost-effective and based on an acceptable method of prioritizing sites;
- Transparency and disclosure must be present in all decision-making processes; and
- Encompass the notion of “fairness” in all endeavours.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That a national multi-stakeholder advisory committee be formed and funded to address the following issues/initiatives and report back to Mines Ministers in 2002:

- developing capacity for a national inventory of active, closed, and orphaned/abandoned mine sites based on compatible inventories in each province and territory, and including a nationally acceptable categorization and priority-ranking system;
- engaging other relevant federal, provincial and territorial departments and ministries;
- developing a plan to foster community involvement in decision-making about closure and reclamation standards, and to ensure that targeted end-use and reclamation standards are acceptable to local communities;
- developing a plan to foster transparency and disclosure in all processes;
- developing a plan for shared responsibility and stewardship where ownership cannot be established;
- evaluating the efficacy of approaches including: “Good Samaritan legislation,” “permit-blocking,” “non-compliance registries,” and “allocative” vs. “joint and several liability”;
- evaluating models and mechanisms to pay for the remediation of orphaned/abandoned sites, including insurance options and contingency funds; and
- securing appropriate funding for the above at a level to be determined by IGWG and other stakeholders by November 2001.

THE OPPORTUNITY

With adequate resources and resolve, significant progress can be made in the assessment, characterization and remediation/reclamation of orphaned and abandoned mine sites within 5-10 years.

Action Plan 2000 Status Report

Orphan Mine Sites Workshop

List of Attendees

NAME	AFFILIATION
Dr. Anthony Andrews Executive Director	Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
John Barr, Supervisor	Billiton Base Metals
Barry Briscoe Manager, Manitoba Division	Environmental Protection Branch Environment Canada
Linda Byron-Fortin Environmental Coordinator	Kidd Mining Division Falconbridge Ltd.
Laura Calm Wind, Executive Director	Windigo First Nations
Scott Clausen, Advisor, Environmental Assessment & Project Facilitation	Minerals and Metals Sector Natural Resources Canada
Wayne Cluskey Principal	Office of the Auditor General of Canada and Commissioner of the Environment
Alan G. Colodey Industrial Programs Head	Environmental Protection Branch Pacific & Yukon Region, Environment Canada
Ross Conner Supervisor, Environmental Systems	Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Limited
Hugh Copland Engineer of Mines	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
W.R. (Dick) Cowan Director of Mine Rehabilitation	Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
Lois Craig, Assistant Deputy Minister	Yukon Government
Jean Dionne, Engineer	Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec
Audie Dulewich, Mayor	Town of Lynn Lake
W. Wayne Fraser Director, Environment	Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited

Action Plan 2000 Status Report

Elizabeth Gardiner Vice-President, Technical Affairs	The Mining Association of Canada
Serge Ashini Goupil, President	Public Native Affairs
Gerald Harper, President	Gamah International Limited
Dan Hemsworth Contaminated Site Management Specialist	Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour
Ed Huebert, Executive Vice-President	Mining Association of Manitoba Inc.
Tom Hutchinson Professor	Environment & Resource Studies, Trent University
David J. Hutchison	Contaminated Sites Division, Environment Canada
Sarah Johnnie, Board Member	Mining Watch Canada
Donald S. Jones Director, Mineral Management	Nova Scotia Natural Resources Minerals and Energy
Christine Kaszycki Assistant Deputy Minister	Minerals Division Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines
Heather Kleb Senior Program Officer, Mining Standards	NOPP-Minerals & Metals Division, Environment Canada
Walter Kuit, Director, Environmental Affairs	Cominco Ltd.
Joan Kuyek, National Co-ordinator	Mining Watch Canada
Brennain Lloyd, Coordinator	Northwatch
Stefan B. Lopatka Senior Advisor	Environmental, Water and Marine Management Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
Ken MacDonald Inspector of Mines	British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines
W.O. (Bill) Mackasey, Director	WOM Geological Associates Inc.

Action Plan 2000 Status Report

Sam McEwan Director, Mines Branch	New Brunswick Natural Resources and Energy
Robert L. McIntyre, Representative	Yukon Chamber of Commerce
Len Mandville Mineral Development Geologist	Department of Mines and Energy Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
John Martschuk Director, Environmental Services	Barrick Gold Corporation
Rodney McKay, Musselwhite Coordinator	Windigo First Nations Council
Bruce K. McKnight Executive Director	British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines
Sue Moodie	Yukon Conservation Society CCSG Associates
D.E. (Dave) Nutter Senior Advisor, NWT Region	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Kevin O'Reilly Research Director	Canadian Arctic Resources Committee
B. Mark Podolak Provincial Analyst	Real Property Management Division Treasury Board Secretariat
Victor M. Power	Ontario Association of Mining Municipalities
Chris Powter Program Manager, Land Management	Environmental Science Division Alberta Environment
Wally Rayner, Consulting Geologist	N.W. Rayner & Associates
Patrick Reid, President	Ontario Mining Association
John Robertson, Supervisor	Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
Kent Santo, Environment Coordinator	New Britannia Mine
Carl Schulze Resident Geologist	Department of Sustainable Development Government of Nunavut
Rick Schwenger Regional Reclamation Manager	Noranda Inc.

Action Plan 2000 Status Report

Richard Snider Project Officer, Shield EcoRegion	Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management
Gregg Stewart Senior Reclamation Geologist	British Columbia Ministry of Energy and Mines
Lisa Sumi Research Director	Environmental Mining Council of British Columbia
Stephen Traynor, Director, Operations	INAC, Nunavut Region
Gilles Tremblay, Manager, MEND3	Natural Resources Canada
Robert Tremblay Engineer	Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec
Jim Vance Group Leader, Environment Programs	CANMET Natural Resources Canada
Bob Van Dijken, Consultant	Whitehorse, Yukon
Sam Wallingham, Representative	Council for Yukon First Nations
Doug Walton Head, Contaminated Sites Remediation Unit	Province of British Columbia
Jared Whelan, Project Manager	World Wildlife Fund
Edwin J. Yee Senior Consultant, Toxic Chemicals	Manitoba Conservation
Ernie Armitt, Director of Mines	Manitoba Industry Trade and Mines
Ben Edirmanasinghe Chief Mining Engineer	Manitoba Industry Trade and Mines
Gary Ostry Manager, Minerals Policy and Incentives	Manitoba Industry Trade and Mines
David Shefford, General Manager	Norman Regional Development Corporation
Ric Syme, Director, Geological Survey	Manitoba Industry Trade and Mines