

***Update on National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative
July 1, 2006, Joan Kuyek***

All publications and newsletters from the National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative can be found at www.abandoned-mines.org.

Activities of NOAMI in 2005-6:

1. National Inventory of Orphaned and Abandoned Mines

The report *Capacity Building for a National Inventory of Orphaned/Abandoned Mines in Canada* (Cal Data, 2005) reviewed Canadian, US and international efforts to inventory orphaned/ abandoned mines. Recommendations were made for an inventory that would include all inactive mineral sites, is web-based and has a map interface. The system would act as a portal to existing inventories maintained within the provinces, territories and federal agencies. Use of a map interface would allow ease of use without expert knowledge of inventory data systems.

Various options were explored to determine the most suitable host for the NOAMI Internet map site. The Mineral and Mining Statistics Division of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) was selected to host the portal. NRCan maintains several sites using MapGuide based technology, which deal with mineral producers and related areas, such as Aboriginal communities. These sites can be visited at:

http://mmsdl.mms.nrcan.gc.ca/maps/intro_e.asp

<http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/aboriginal/aboriginal-maps-e.htm>

A mandate has been given to NRCan by NOAMI to develop a working model of the database populated with OAMs for several jurisdictions. Subsequent phases would integrate datasets for the other provinces and territories to produce a nation-wide inventory.

2. Report On The Legislative, Regulatory, And Policy Framework Respecting Collaboration, Liability, And Funding Measures In Relation To Orphaned/Abandoned, Contaminated, And Operating Mines In Canada by Joseph F. Castrilli . *to be released late this summer.*

NOAMI commissioned Joseph Castrilli last year to undertake this research and write a report. He has now submitted the final draft of the report, and it should be released and posted to the NOAMI site by August 1.

This report reviews the legislative, regulatory and policy framework respecting collaboration, liability and funding at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels in

Canada in relation to orphaned/abandoned, contaminated and operating mines. The legal and policy framework in relation to contaminated and operating mines is included in the review to address concerns that current mining activities not add to the legacy of orphaned/abandoned mines in future. The report relies on guidelines for the review prepared by the National Orphaned/Abandoned Mines Initiative.

The report provides overall findings respecting collaboration, liability, and funding measures in relation to orphaned/abandoned, contaminated, and operating mines in Canada.

The report provides two types of recommendations. The first type expands on recommendations made in earlier reports respecting the need for, and the particulars with respect to, laws that (1) facilitate volunteers in the rehabilitation of orphaned/abandoned mines, and (2) establish permanent funding arrangements for addressing the orphaned/abandoned mine problem that are not reliant entirely on public funds. The second type provides recommendations under each of the nine categories referred to above: (1) licence/permit, (2) assessment, (3) monitoring, (4) liability, (5) emergency response, (6) financial instruments, (7) application/exemption, (8) designation of orphaned/abandoned sites, and (9) community involvement. This second type of recommendation addresses orphaned/abandoned, contaminated, and operating mines.

3. Assessing Liabilities and Funding Options Workshop and Proceedings. This conference took place in Ottawa in November 2005. The proceedings (including all presentations) are now on the NOAMI website.

A key objective for NOAMI is “to identify funding approaches and document preferred options that could be adapted to the needs of each jurisdiction to fund the remediation of orphaned/abandoned mine sites across Canada”.

The report, *Potential Funding Approaches for Orphaned/Abandoned Mines in Canada* (Castrilli 2003), reviewed and recommended a variety of funding options for consideration in the cleanup or management of liabilities related to orphaned/abandoned mines (OAMs).

A multi-stakeholder workshop on *Assessing Liabilities and Funding Options* (was held in Ottawa on November 2 and 3, 2005. The objective of the workshop was to further develop and discuss funding approaches and related issues for OAMs with other Canadian stakeholders. The workshop was professionally facilitated and attended by over 70 participants from industry, Aboriginal Canadians, non-governmental organizations, and provincial/territorial and federal governments. A keynote presentation was made on the findings of the funding approaches report.

Key themes of technical site assessments, accounting for and reporting on liability, assessing community and health impacts, and funding options were examined through Canadian and international case studies and panel presentations. The Rollup discussion summarized highlights of the plenary discussion for each of the key themes, and

identified gaps and future priorities for NOAMI. These recommendations will help to develop terms of reference for the assessment, reporting and funding of liabilities associated with orphaned/abandoned mines. These proceedings, as well as other NOAMI reports, can be downloaded from www.abandoned-mines.org.

4. A guidance document of funding options be prepared and presented at Mines Ministers' for their consideration. To make the information on funding options more accessible for public servants and politicians to use, a Task Group was struck consisting of various members of the NOAMI Advisory Committee. The Task Group's principal objective is to develop a "toolkit" for use by jurisdictions across Canada to help guide the establishment of potential funding options for the rehabilitation of orphaned/ abandoned mines. A contractor was hired to carry out the work for the Task Group.

5. Conference: Orphaned and Abandoned Mines: A Workshop to Explore Best Practices, October 26 – 27, 2006, Viscount Gort Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba

A conference to explore and understand the best, emerging and innovative practices relating to the management of orphaned and abandoned mines. Approximately 60-80 individuals dealing with orphaned and abandoned mines including: Provincial, Territorial and Federal Government officials; Communities of interest; Aboriginal peoples; NGOs; Academics; Scientists; mining industry representatives.

The out come is expected to be report of workshop proceedings capturing presentations and resulting discussions, as well as a listing of possible elements that may constitute a "tool kit" of best practices to address the legacy issues of orphaned/abandoned mine sites.

Money has been set aside in the budget to enable a number of NGO and Aboriginal representatives to attend. Please see the RCEN website for applications. The conference is also seeking proposals from presenters.

6. Mines Ministers Meeting in Whitehorse August 27, 2006. NOAMi will be hosting a tour by Mines Ministers from across Canada of the Brewery Creek Mine just prior to their Annual Meeting. Representatives of NOAMI will be on the tour with the ministers.