

Abandonment of Exploration Activity

OPERATING PROCEDURE 018

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1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

These operating procedures provide direction for the day-to-day operations undertaken on a routine basis during exploration by DBCEI. This section consists of the procedures for abandonment of exploration activity.

2.0 RESPONSIBLE PERSON

The Geologist in charge of the project is the responsible person.

3.0 PROCEDURE

1. Out-slope and remove all berms from roads no longer needed, and install appropriate water barriers and other erosion control structures. Remove culverts, low bridges and other structures, which may cause blockage or unwanted diversion of watercourses.
2. Backfill and grade all open excavations such as the exploration trenches, adits, and shaft waste dumps as close to the original contour as possible. Grade to contour or smooth out drill sites, building sites, roads or other major disturbances resulting from construction during the exploration programme.
3. Cap or plug all drill holes and close, or otherwise make safe from unauthorised entry, all tunnels, shafts, and other openings. Make sure that procedures on site abandonment contained in local mining regulations have been correctly followed.
4. Set up a routine for any post-closure inspection and testing procedures that may be required as part of a closure plan.
5. Remove all trash and other foreign material from the exploration area. If government regulations allow it, bury inert, non-polluting waste at 0.6 metres deep in an area where it will not affect or be affected by surface or ground waters.

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6. Wherever practical, scarify compacted areas where roads or buildings have been so that vegetation can grow back more rapidly.
7. Where possible and at the proper time of the year, revegetate all disturbed areas by planting with trees which are suitable for the area. If re-seeding with grass or other vegetation, use only indigenous species native to the area. In addition, or as an alternative, prepare the disturbed surfaces in a way that will encourage natural revegetation. Use only indigenous species for revegetation.
8. Inspect gates and fences used for access to ensure that they have not been damaged. Repair and/or replace as required.
9. When finally abandoning exploration sites in claim staked areas close to settled areas, remove any physical evidence of work such as non-biodegradable flagging ribbons or pickets. Be aware that most jurisdictions do not allow staking posts or survey monuments to be removed.
10. Advise local residents, landowners native groups and government officials that you are abandoning the site.

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