

# Corporate and Social Responsibility Action Plan North Country Gold Corp.

North Country Gold Corp. (NCG) has developed management plans that represent areas of potential risk. In order to provide an accountability framework to support NCG's commitment to the communities and the protection of the land and environment, this Action Plan has been developed. This plan is a proactive tool for the management of environmental risks.

The Action Plan is focused on the following:

- Spill Response
- Emergency Response
- · Abandonment and Reclamation
- Flora and Fauna
- Fuel Storage
- Water Quality
- Waste Management
- · Archaeological Sites

# **INTERNAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

# **Table of Contents**

	Page#
INTRODUCTION	. age
1. PLANNING	4
2. STAKEHOLDERS	6
3. FLORA AND FAUNA EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST	6 8
4. AIRBORNE OPERATIONS	9
5. LAND DISTURBANCE	10
6. TRAVERSING	11
7. DRILLING OPERATIONS	11
8. CAMP SITE SELECTION AND DESIGN	13
9. WATER MANAGEMENT	13
10. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	13
11. WASTE MANAGEMENT	14
12. REHABILITATION	14
13. REPORTING AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT	15

The following Environmental Principles have been developed by NCG

These principles form the guiding base for the Environmental Operating Procedures that apply to all of our exploration activities within the Nunavut Territory.

- Environmental management is an integral component of our exploration programs and is the responsibility of all program personnel.
- Any potential environmental impact from our activities will be assessed and minimized.
- Environmental standards and quality of work will be continuously improved and maintained in conjunction with effective exploration.
- All relevant government laws and regulations for the protection of the environment will be known and complied with.
- All contractors and employees will be informed of our Environmental Policy, Environmental Principles, Environmental Management Standards, Environmental Operating Procedures and their designated environmental responsibilities.
- Effective communication and a close liaison will be maintained with nearby communities and regulatory authorities.
- Exploration activities will be conducted with due regard for the protection of wildlife, flora and sites of natural, cultural and historical significance.
- Programs will be established to recycle and conserve resources.

#### **Environmental Operating Procedures**

# **INTRODUCTION**

NCG is committed to maintaining high standards in environmental practices.

Exploration activities generally have a very low degree of impact upon the environment. We work in remote and relatively pristine areas, with particularly sensitive ecosystems and challenging environmental and climactic conditions. We must be diligent and innovative in the management of our activities to ensure minimal impact to the environment.

#### 1. PLANNING

Exploration programs will be carefully planned to minimize disturbance and effectively manage environmental risks.

#### **Risk Assessment**

The activities associated with the proposed exploration program will be assessed for environmental risks and impacts. Variables such as topography, climate, fauna, vegetation and stakeholders must be considered. Procedures and/or processes will be implemented to manage and mitigate the identified environmental risks and impacts.

# **Emergency Preparedness**

A Spill Response Plan has been established for exploration programs and remote camp locations. The plan includes contingencies for probable environmental emergencies as a result of natural occurrences and/or as a result of program activities.

#### **Expenditure / Budget**

Activities such as site clearance surveys, environmental training, and rehabilitation will be included in the program budget. These are a genuine program costs and must be treated as such. Good environmental planning and management will minimize environmental damage.

# **Due Diligence**

The environmental status of land will be reviewed prior to acquisition and any potential environmental liabilities recognized. This may involve discussions with landholders or joint venture partners, on-site inspections, reviewing maps, photographs arid previous reports of the area. This process will be continued during the life of the program and will include mapping or photographing of possible sensitive sites.

### **Legislative Requirements**

All relevant legislation will be known, communicated and complied with.

#### **Authorizations**

Any stakeholders of the land that will be explored will be notified. Relevant approvals from stakeholders and regulatory authorities will be obtained before exploration commences.

NCG has received a number of authorizations in order to conduct exploration activities in Nunavut. These authorizations include:

- NWB-2BE-CRA1015 Type B Water Licence, NWB
- N2009C0019 Class A, INAC Hayes
- N2009C0018 Class A, INAC Bullion
- KTL306C031 Class III, KitlA Crater
- KTL305C004 Class III, KitIA Ingot
- 07EN021 Screening Decision, NIRB

The Terms and Conditions of each of these authorizations are the rules that NCG must abide by when conducting all activities. In addition to these there are a number of Acts, Regulations, Guidelines and Recommendations that must also be followed. These include (but are not limited to):

- Fisheries Act
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Operational Statements and Guidelines
- Caribou Protection Plan/Caribou Protection Measures
- Keewatin Land Use Plan
- Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act
- Territorial Lands Act
- Territorial Land Use Regulations
- Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
- Environmental Protection Act
- Canadian Environmental Protection Act
- Species At Risk Act
- Territorial Wildlife Act
- Guide to Spill Contingency Planning and Reporting
- Public Health Act

# **Responsibilities and Accountabilities**

Environmental responsibilities will be assigned and communicated to all members of the program team. This includes employees, contractors and sub-contractors. Contractor responsibilities will be outlined in the environmental schedule of the contract. The primary responsibility for protecting the environment from impacts related to program activities is assigned to the Program Supervisor.

## **Induction and Training**

Field employees and contractors will undergo an environmental induction that includes relevant regulations.

#### **Contractors**

Preference will be given to contractors who display high standards of environmental management and performance.

#### **Closure Planning**

The short term and long term environmental implications of our activities must be considered and plans developed to eliminate or mitigate these impacts upon program closure.

#### 2. STAKEHOLDERS

A stakeholder is an individual or group (i.e. landholder, local group, regulatory authority, community, etc.) concerned with or potentially affected by our exploration activities. Stakeholders will be identified for each program. Regular communication will be maintained with these stakeholders for the duration of the program, and afterwards in some cases. Any agreement made with stakeholders should be documented.

#### **Cultural and Heritage Issues**

Cultural objects, remains and sites of spiritual, archaeological, anthropological or historical significance will be protected.

- Surveys may be required to identify sites of sacred, heritage and cultural significance. The
  results of these surveys must be documented.
- Any additional sites encountered during exploration will be left undisturbed and reported to the appropriate authority.
- · Any discussions with local communities or traditional owners should be documented.

For more information, please refer to the Archaeology and Palaeontology Plan.

#### 3. FLORA AND FAUNA

All reasonable care will be taken to avoid interference with rare or endangered species of native flora or fauna.

#### Flora

All reasonable care will be taken to avoid unnecessary impacts to flora and to mitigate required impacts.

#### Fauna

**Approaching and feeding wildlife is prohibited.** NCG. has made commitments to communities and regulatory agencies that wildlife will not be harassed or disturbed. Not only are these commitments made by NCG but they are also part of the Terms and Conditions provided by regulatory authorities.

**Sightings of wildlife are to be recorded on the wildlife sheets provided.** This is a requirement for our conducting exploration in Nunavut. This information is reported by NCG to all regulatory agencies in annual reports. Wildlife sighting sheets will be posted at the drill sight, camp kitchen and in the camp office. Field crews will also carry wildlife sighting sheets with them in their field books. This information will be entered in to a master spreadsheet which will comprise part of the annual report.

Harassment of all wildlife is strictly forbidden by all individuals conducting business on behalf of NCG. Appropriate measures will be taken to penalize any individual(s) who have been involved in such activities.

**Firearms may be carried for safety reasons**, but only if such firearms are properly registered (to be verified by the Project Manager) and stored in accordance with applicable legislation. A secure lock & key gun case is kept by the Project Manager for storage of all firearms at camp. Carrying a firearm must first be acknowledged by the Project Manager/Camp Manager. All such firearm discharges must be reported to the Project Manager and the Camp Manager.

Hunting of wildlife, while conducting business on behalf of NCG, is strictly forbidden by ALL NCG employees. The regulatory agencies have made this a Term and Condition as part of our LUPs. There are NO exceptions to this rule.

Low-level aircraft and helicopter flights must make efforts to avoid areas which are crucial nesting and denning habitats. A pre-screening survey of the area must be conducted prior to any low-level geophysical surveys to ensure that there is no wildlife present in the area.

Helicopters will not land in any area where wildlife are present unless under an emergency situation. Should an emergency situation arise this will be documented and reported to the appropriate regulatory agencies and will be noted in the annual report.

**Nuisance wildlife is to be reported immediately**. Proper food storage and handling of cooking wastes will prevent problems with attracting wildlife. All wastes will be stored such that they are not accessible to any wildlife until such time that they can be appropriately disposed of. Should any wildlife become a nuisance, the GN Wildlife Biologist and the KitlA will be notified immediately. There is a table of emergency contact numbers below.

Special caribou protection measures are required for areas of Nunavut so as to avoid disturbance of migrating and calving herds. These are found in the DIAND Caribou Protection Measures, see Appendix I. In keeping with the Caribou Protection Measures, NCG will cease all activities when caribou are present and will not resume activities until the caribou have moved safely out of the area. This includes drilling, driving of snowmobiles and/or ATV's, low-level airborne surveys, mapping, prospecting, sampling, etc. When caribou are present in the area around the camp, the camp will go on "quiet mode" with no flights and no activity UNLESS IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. Personnel will be encouraged to remain quiet and out of sight. Absolutely no activities will be conducted that will obstruct or divert caribou. No drilling will be conducted within 5 km of a designated caribou crossing and no camp will be constructed or blasting occur within 10 km of a designated caribou crossing, DURING ACTIVE MIGRATION TIMES.

All human-bear interactions are to be reported immediately to the Project/Camp Manager, who will then contact the KitlA, The Government of Nunavut-Department of Environment, Environment Canada, HTO's and the Government of Nunavut Wildlife Biologist. A copy of the Bear Safety material is located in the office at the camp and in the office in Edmonton. Employees and contractors are given an orientation when they arrive at site which includes information on working safely in bear country.

# Wildlife Emergency Contact Information

Name	Position	Contact #
Dustin Fredlund	GN Wildlife Manager, Kugluktuk	867-982-7441
Allen Niptanatiak	GN A/ Wildlife Manager, Kugluktuk	867-982-7483
M Dumond	GN Wildlife Biologist, Kugluktuk	867-982-7444
Jorgen Bolt	GN Wildlife Tech., Kugluktuk	867-982-7446
Mitch Campbell	GN Wildlife Manager, Arviat	867-857-2828
Sarah Medill	GN Wildlife Deterrent Specialist, Igloolik	867-934-2075
Monica Angohiatok	GN Conservation Officer, Kugluktuk	867-982-7450
Jacob Keanik	GN Conservation Officer, Gjoa Haven	867-360-7605
Geoff Clark	KitIA Director, Lands, Environment & Resources, Kugluktuk	867-983-2458
Stanley Anablak	KitIA Senior Lands Officer, Kugluktuk	867-983-2458
Luigi Torretti	KitIA Senior Environment Officer, Kugluktuk	867-983-2458
John Williamson	NCG, President, Edmonton	780-437-6624
Jo Price	NCG, Project Manager	780-437-6624
Andy McMullan	BEARWISE, Yellowknife	867-766-4847

**No eggs or nests are to be disturbed by any activities.** If an employee or contractor comes across any active nests, they are to cease all activities immediately to ensure that the nest is not disturbed. Coordinates are to be recorded on the wildlife sighting sheets. These coordinates are to be reported to the Environment Manager who will contact Environment Canada. Work will not resume until the nest is no longer occupied, mid to late July. Moving or disturbing the nest of a migratory bird is in contravention of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

**Den sites will be avoided.** All den sites are to be avoided. If a den site is discovered, the GPS coordinates will be recorded so that the site can be avoided. These coordinates will be provided to the appropriate regulatory authorities. No dens are to be disturbed. Any exploration activities will cease immediately.

The following buffers are provided (by the Government of the Northwest Territories) for active dens between the den and all exploration activities between May 1<sup>st</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>:

Wolves 800m buffer

Grizzly Bear 300m buffer Wolverine 2km buffer Fox 150m buffer

The Nunavut Atlas shows that the area covered by the license receives few hunting, trapping or fishing parties. Hunters from Pelly Bay used to travel to the Curtis and Stewart Lakes and to the Walker Lake and Hayes River areas in winter to hunt caribou. Several hunters from Pelly Bay are known to travel by snowmobile to the Curtis and Stewart lakes vicinity in April to hunt caribou. Hunters from Gjoa Haven are also known to travel to the NW part of the license area to hunt caribou.

#### **4. AIRBORNE OPERATIONS**

Our exploration activities require airborne support due to the remote locations. Additionally, due to the lack of serviceable airstrips in the region, this support involves aircraft equipped for off-strip operations (float planes, helicopters). These types of aircraft have a minimal potential impact upon the environment. The potential impacts include: petroleum product spill and disturbance of fauna and people from low altitude flying and frequent landings/take-offs. The likelihood of disturbing or disrupting people is considered low due to the remote locations of the activity. All stakeholders will be contacted prior to the commencement of operations. The requests of all stakeholders will be respected.

#### **Airstrips**

The existing airstrip will be upgraded to allow for larger aircraft to land safely. Currently only a twin otter is able to land on the airstrip. This seriously limits the ability to bring in supplies and crews.

## Helipads

Helicopter landings and take-offs have little impact upon the flora or ground surface. However, helicopters require an area clear of obstructions that allows for safe maneuverability of the aircraft. The size of this area is dependant upon the aircraft type. The vast majority of our operations to date have been north of the tree line where the clearing of vegetation for landing site preparation is unnecessary.

- Landing sites will be selected, whenever possible that have a competent ground surface and are naturally free of vegetation or marginally covered.
- Landing sites that are designated for repetitive use which are blanketed by ground cover vegetation must have a helipad constructed.
- Helipads will be constructed in such a way as to minimize surface contact with vegetation.
- Helipads will be constructed using dimensional lumber unless trees that have been cleared for the landing site are suitable for use.

 Vegetation clearing will be conducted as per the relevant section under "Land Disturbance" of this document.

#### **5. LAND DISTURBANCE**

All necessary permits and permissions will be obtained prior to conducting any land disturbance. Great care will be taken to avoid and/or minimize land disturbance such as earthmoving and vegetation clearing. When clearing is unavoidable, it must be carried out in a manner that does not promote erosion. Whenever possible, areas that are naturally free of vegetation will be selected for logistical support sites (e.g. campsite, heli-pad). Operations requiring vehicle access will be conducted during the winter-spring period in order to take advantage of ice-covered waterways and frozen snow-covered ground to prevent disturbance of the soil and ground cover vegetation.

#### Supervision

Earth moving and clearing activities will be supervised at all times by a NCG representative who should clearly define the area to be disturbed using temporary markers.

# **Earthmoving**

Earthmoving is limited to the construction of small pits and sumps for the collection and disposal of benign waste (e.g. ashes/coals from burnt garbage, drill fluids, grey water and sewage).

Topsoil (or surface material useful for regeneration or re-vegetation) will be removed and stockpiled separately from subsoil. Topsoil should be returned as soon as possible (preferably within six months) to maintain seed viability, nutrient quality and microbial activity.

# **Clearing Vegetation for Vehicle Access**

Since all operations requiring vehicle access will be conducted during the winter-spring period, the only vegetation clearing that may be necessary involves the removal of trees. This should only be done if access cannot be obtained via frozen waterways, natural and/or existing clearings and existing tracks.

- Keep the track width to a minimum.
- Weave around large trees and avoid creating long straight stretches.
- Use naturally cleared areas and consider the thickness of vegetation.
- Tracks should be positioned along ridges.
- Whenever possible, avoid clearing on steep slopes, side hills and drainage banks.

#### **Clearing Vegetation in General**

- Determine the exact requirements to avoid unnecessary and excessive clearing.
- · Lop branches in preference to felling trees.
- Leave felled timber in a manner acceptable to the authorities. Otherwise, stockpile the
  cleared vegetation for subsequent re-spreading over the track. This is to protect exposed
  soil from erosion and to enable seed stocks to regenerate. Do not place felled vegetation
  where it will alter or disturb natural drainage channels.

#### **Geochemical Sampling**

When taking soil/ till samples, areas naturally free of vegetation (frost boils) will be selected whenever possible. When this is not possible the organic layer and any topsoil should be put to one side and replaced after the sample is collected.

#### **6. TRAVERSING**

#### Gridding

- Foot accessible grid lines for geophysics, geochemistry and geology will be at minimal width.
- No large trees are to be felled. Branches will be cut to allow foot access and line of sight.
- The blazing of trees will be avoided unless required by government regulations.
- Do not leave pointed stakes that will endanger humans or animals.
- Wooden survey pegs will be used in preference to steel.
- Steel markers will only be used as permanent survey points and where possible will be
  positioned where they will not cause injury to animals or people, or interfere with vehicle
  movement
- Care will be taken to ensure all pegs are removed at the completion of exploration.
- Flagging tape and spray paint will be used sparingly. If possible, biodegradable items will be used.
- Hip-chain line will be broken after crossing a track or trail and care taken to ensure that the line has fallen clear of the right of way.

#### **EM Induction Surveys**

Wires will be watched, if practicable, during surveys to avoid endangering animals or people in the area. If potential exists for other people to be present in the area, warning signs will be erected. At no time are wires or cables to be left unattended.

#### 7. DRILLING OPERATIONS

Contracts for exploration drilling services will stipulate adherence to the environmental component of the NCG Corporate and Social Responsibility Policy and these Environmental Procedures and include penalties for non-compliance.

## **Drill Sites**

- Select sites to minimize damage to the environment.
- Sites should be as small as practicable but include enough area for fire protection.
- Avoid locating drill sites on steep slopes.
- Prepare sites as per the guidelines in section 5 (Land Disturbance).

# Sumps

- Natural depressions will be used in preference to excavation.
- Ensure the number and size of sumps is adequate to contain all potential drilling fluids.
- · Sumps should be positioned down slope of drill collars to ensure run-off flows into the sump.
- If excavation is required, the organic layer and any topsoil should be stockpiled separately for replacement during backfilling.
- Excavated sumps should be fenced or barricaded until they have been backfilled.
- Excavated sumps should be allowed to dry out (by evaporation) prior to burial.

# **Drilling Fluids**

- Bio-degradable drilling fluids will be used at all times where possible.
- Drilling fluids will be contained in sumps or by another suitable and approved method (e.g. tank).
- Fluids will be disposed of according to regulations.

#### Groundwater

 If encountered, artesian water flow will be controlled to prevent erosion of the ground surface and the silting of watercourses. These will be reported immediately to the INAC Water Resource Officer.

# Waste

- Receptacles will be provided for rubbish at drill sites. No waste of any description will litter the site.
- Food waste will be removed from drill sites daily.
- Waste will be disposed of according to regulations and land use permits.

#### **Reverse Circulation/Percussion**

When handling drill samples (cuttings), care will be taken to prevent mixing of sub-soil with topsoil if they are significantly different from each other. A tarp or similar device should be placed around the hole to contain drill cuttings and to prevent contact with the ground surface. Water injection should be used to control dust. On completion of the hole, all cuttings not required for analysis or storage will be poured back into the hole or otherwise disposed of according to regulations.

# **Drilling on Ice**

Drilling fluids and cuttings will be contained to prevent contact with the ice surface or water. A method to clean up an accidental spill of this material will be devised and the required equipment made available prior to the commencement of operations. Fluids and/or cuttings will be disposed of on land in a natural depression or excavated sump or otherwise in accordance with the land use permit.

#### **Spill Prevention**

Methods will be implemented for the handling and care of petroleum products, drilling additives, etc. so as to prevent accidental spillage of these materials. Drip pans will be placed under leaking equipment and, if practicable, the leaks will be repaired as soon as possible. For more information, please refer to the Spill Prevention Plan.

## **Core Cutting**

Wastewater from core sawing will be controlled to prevent erosion of the ground surface and the silting of watercourses. Where practicable, it should be contained and recycled through the core saw.

Cuttings from sulphide-rich core have the potential to acidify any soils with which they contact. All cuttings and unwanted core off-cuts or pieces will be contained and disposed of by burial or otherwise disposed of according to regulations.

#### **Capping of Drill Holes**

- All holes will be temporarily plugged immediately upon completion, using whatever safe means available (e.g. rocks), to eliminate any hazard to wildlife.
- Prior to, or on completion of the program, all open holes will be plugged with a proper downhole plug and the area above the plug filled in.
- If later relocation of the hole is not required, casing will be removed whenever possible.
- Remaining casing will be cut off to ground level or below and capped.
- Any excess drill chips will be poured back down the hole.
- Any holes with flowing water will be permanently sealed unless written instruction from the relevant authority indicates otherwise.

#### **Drill Safety**

All drill personnel and contractors will be basic CPR trained. The NCG Safety officer will be responsible for all emergency and safety operations at a drill site. Temporary emergency shelters will be used at each drill site equipped with cots, food and a heat source. All drill operations will be helicopter supported at all times and radio contact with the main camp will be maintained via helicopter radio, satellite phones or hand-held two way radios.

#### **8. CAMP SITE SELECTION AND DESIGN**

To prevent disruption to flora and fauna, camps, wherever possible, will be located in naturally clear areas, not on migration routes (e.g. esker trails) and at least 50 metres from surface water.

To mitigate potential impacts, decisions regarding site selection and the type of structures and facilities to be established must consider the following criteria:

- Number of people to be accommodated.
- Duration of the camp.
- Activities to be undertaken at the camp.
- The time of year.
- Land use permit stipulations.

#### **Fire Protection and Prevention**

- Fire regulations will be observed at all times and permits obtained if necessary.
- The use of open fires will be avoided. Fires should be only be used for general garbage disposal and will be contained in an excavated pit or in a steel container, such as an empty fuel drum. Embers should be buried or transported from site to an approved landfill location.
- Personnel will be advised that disposing of cigarettes onto the ground is prohibited.
- Additional precautions such as prohibiting smoking and open flames will be implemented for areas of greater risk.

#### 9. WATER MANAGEMENT

Precautions will be taken throughout our operations to prevent direct or indirect pollution of watercourses.

- Used water will be contained in excavated sumps or natural depressions. Water flow will be controlled to prevent erosion of the ground surface and the silting of watercourses.
- Proposed potable water should be tested for water quality.
- Regular water monitoring should be considered for areas of advanced exploration or semipermanent camps.

#### **10. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Whenever possible, the use of hazardous materials will be avoided. Other methods or non-hazardous substitutes will be employed.

- Exploration sites will have procedures in place for the storage, handling and disposal of hazardous materials.
- Whenever a substance is taken from its primary container and placed into a secondary container, the secondary container will be adequately labeled as to its contents.
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) will be available for all hazardous materials on site.
- Fuels, oils and chemicals must be properly contained and stored at a minimum distance of 100 metres away from surface wafer unless expressly authorized by a land use permit or in writing by an inspector.
- Bulk tanks of fuel will be equipped with secondary containment that is capable of holding 110% of the primary tank.
- Flammable materials will be stored in cleared areas or in a metal storage cabinet that is segregated from combustible material.
- Disposal of hazardous materials will occur off-site at an authorized facility.

# **11. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

#### General

All foreign material introduced to an area by employees or contractors will be collected and removed from the site to an approved landfill site unless the land use permit allows for on site disposal. All domestic and personal waste shall be managed in accordance with local health requirements:

General garbage will be incinerated unless otherwise contradicted by government regulations. Food wastes will not be stored on site; it will be incinerated and buried or shipped off site. Incineration will be conducted within an approved container (e.g. diesel-fired incinerator) and all incinerator ash will be stored in steel drums, shrink wrapped to seal the container and back-hauled off site to an approved facility. On site disposal of garbage will be avoided during reconnaissance' activities. 'The garbage will be returned to the base of operations for proper disposal. . Food-waste must be removed from remote locations on a daily basis. Food must be removed from remote locations whenever the locations are unoccupied.

Pacto toilets are currently being used at site. In 2011 a commercial washroom will be installed at site with a waste treatment system.

Wastewater (grey water) from kitchen or showering facilities will be directed to sumps designed to prevent discharge of particulate material. The sumps will be located more than 100 metres away from surface waters and be approximately 3 ft deep. The sump will be located outside the main shelter and be covered to prevent animals from accessing the pit. Biodegradable soaps and detergents are to be used at all times.

### Recycling

Recycling programs should be initiated whenever practicable.

#### 12. REHABILITATION

All reasonable steps will be undertaken to return the land surface to its' original form, and to promote healthy re-vegetation and sustainable natural development. Rehabilitation varies depending on the speed of natural growth. Local land management authorities should be consulted concerning proven and recommended methods for rehabilitation and re-vegetation.

At the completion of exploration in an area, an inspection will be made to assess whether all rubbish has been removed, all drill holes have been capped, excavations have been backfilled. Topsoil replaced and bare lines scarified.

Regardless of location, the following steps are to be taken to aid natural rehabilitation of tracks, drill sites, camp sites, excavations, etc as soon as practicable after exploration is complete:

- Remove rubbish and waste material. Fill in all holes, trenches, and sumps with the stockpiled subsoil and compact it.
- Backfill excavations with the stockpiled subsoil and topsoil.
- Re-contour disturbed topography, particularly natural drainage patterns, as much as possible.
- Contour rip cleared or compacted surfaces to prevent erosion and to trap seeds. Compacted areas should be ripped to a depth of 0.5m where practicable using rippers with a minimum spacing of lm.
- Cap all drill holes.
- Spread topsoil (or surface material useful for regeneration or re-vegetation) over all disturbed areas as a rooting medium for re-vegetation.

- Spread any cleared vegetation to trap wind-blown seeds, promote re-growth and minimize erosion.
- Close off all cleared lines and tracks.
- Photographs should to be taken of sites before, during and after the operation where surface disturbance is expected.
- Rehabilitated areas should be monitored after exploration is complete either by physical inspection or by contacting the appropriate licensing authority.

# 13. REPORTING AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

# **Incident Reporting and Investigation**

Any significant environmental incident must be promptly reported and adequately investigated. Authorities must be notified as per regulations.

Examples of environmental incidents resulting from activities are:

- Hazardous materials spill.
- Bush fire.
- Introduction of noxious weeds or diseases.
- Damage to a heritage, cultural or sacred site.
- Contamination of surface or ground water,
- Significant erosion requiring major rehabilitation.