

De Beers Canada Inc. Exploration Division
OP 018 – Abandonment of Exploration Activity

1. Purpose and Scope

These operating procedures provide direction for the protection of the environment during day-to-day operations undertaken on a routine basis during exploration by De Beers Canada Inc. – Exploration Division (DBCE), and specifically discuss procedures for abandonment of exploration activities.

2. Responsibilities

- Responsible Person

3. Procedures

- 3.1. Local, regional, provincial and federal regulations shall be referenced to establish whether specific activities are required prior to abandoning exploration sites. The Responsible Person shall ensure that the appropriate measures are taken with respect to regulatory requirements, in particular with respect to culverts, water crossings and work near or around waterways.
- 3.2. A number of activities are required to ensure exploration sites are returned to as natural a state as possible. The activities required will vary depending on site conditions and local, regional, provincial and territorial requirements. The following activities will be carried out, as a minimum (Refer to the Camp Close Out Checklist - CL 034 and Drill Hole Closure Checklist – CL 033):
 - Out-slope and remove all berms from roads no longer required, 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.
 - Backfill and grade all open excavations such as the exploration trenches, adits, sumps 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. Bury all pit privies.

Prepared by: M. Pickard	Approved By: M. Pickard	Date Issued: 03 July 2001
Form No.: OP 018	Revision No: 04	Date of Revision: 18 July 2006

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- Close, or otherwise make safe from unauthorised entry, all tunnels, shafts, and other openings.
- Refer to “OP 017 – Environmental Protection Measures for Surface Drilling Programs” for specific requirements regarding Drill Hole close-out.
- Set up a routine for any post-closure inspection and testing procedures that may be required as part of a closure plan.
- Remove all trash and other foreign material from the exploration area, in accordance with the DBCE Waste Management Procedure (OP 022).
- Wherever practical, scarify compacted areas where roads or buildings have been to encourage re-vegetation.
- Where possible and during appropriate seasons, revegetate all disturbed areas by planting with indigenous trees and/or vegetation suitable for the area. In addition, or as an alternative, prepare the disturbed surfaces in a way that will encourage natural revegetation.
- Repair, replace or remove security gates and fences as appropriate.
- 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.
- Advise interested parties (internal and external) that the site has been abandoned, in accordance with the procedure for Communication (PROC 4.4.3 SYS)
- Where practical and reasonable, a final inspection with the lead agency may be arranged.

4. References

- 4.1.1. Waste Management Procedure (OP 022)
- 4.1.2. Environmental Protection Measures for Surface Drilling Programs (OP 017)
- 4.1.3. Communication (PROC 4.4.3 SYS)
- 4.1.4. Camp Close Out Checklist (CL 034)
- 4.1.5. Drill Hole Closure Checklist (CL 033)

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