

Reclamation Terminologies

Mine Reclamation and Closure Workshop
February 1-3, 2005



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Terminology

- Different people use different words/languages to describe the same thing
- Sometimes leads to confusion
- Makes it harder to translate
- Different regulators, provinces and countries also use different words in their legislation

Reclamation Workshop Terminology

- The group needs to agree on common reclamation terminologies for this workshop
- We can use technical and non-technical words
- Two areas of terminologies which we will focus on today
 1. 4 R's
 - Restoration
 - Reclamation
 - Rehabilitation
 - Remediation
 2. Goals/Objectives/Criteria

Terminology – 4R's

- Restoration

- Return to conditions before mining (physical, chemical, biological)
 - Includes surface and groundwater patterns, plants, and animal ecosystems
- Few instances where 100% restoration is possible

- Reclamation

- Restore physical, chemical and biological quality of air, land and water regimes
- Improve or make better, but not the same as before
- Return to viable and where practicable, self-sustaining ecosystems
- Processes that transform land back to the flow of normal changes of the landscape

Terminology – 4R's

- Rehabilitation

- The return to a form and productivity level that conforms to a defined land use
- The return of disturbed areas to a safe, stable, productive and self-sustaining condition

- Remediation

- To correct problems so that they are no longer considered a human or environmental health problem
- Procedures or strategies used to address a hazardous waste site
- Activities carried out to clean-up or mitigate contaminated land or water

Terminology Goals/Objectives/Criteria

- All three terms used interchangeably in regulatory documents (water licenses, reclamation guidelines, reclamation policy, reclamation plans, permits and environmental agreements)
- Guidelines, rules, characteristics,
- Endpoints, set of indicators to prove successful completion
- Statements of conditions
- Means of judging performance

Terminology Goals/Objectives/Criteria

- Webster's Dictionary
 - Goal: the end toward which effort is directed
 - Objective: something toward which effort is directed: an aim, goal, or end of action
 - Criteria: a standard on which a judgment or decision may be based