



Public Comment and Consultation – Health and Safety Review

Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mining in British Columbia

Introduction

Government has accepted the recommendations stemming from the Independent Expert Engineering Panel investigation, the Chief Inspector of Mines Investigation into Mount Polley and the Auditor General's report on the Mining Sector. Addressing many of these 43 recommendations may involve amendments to the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC (Code).

In order to review the Code, Bill Bennett, the Minister of Energy and Mines appointed members to the Code Review Committee (Committee) under section 34 of the Mines Act in June 2015. The Chief Inspector of Mines chairs the Committee.

The initial portion of the Code Review, which involved changes to Part 10, to address tailings storage facilities, is now complete and is expected to be in-force in mid-2016. The Code Review is now moving onto the remaining parts of the Code, which involve the technical sections dealing with health and safety on mine sites.

Further information on the Code can be found here:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/health-safety/health-safety-and-reclamation-code-for-mines-in-british-columbia>

Public Comment Period

In undertaking the review, the Committee will hold a 60 day public comment period. Submissions are invited on how best to implement changes to improve health and safety on mine sites through potential changes to the Code.

The terms of reference for the Code Review have outlined the areas for review, they are:

- Occupational health program exposure limits and monitoring requirements;
- Geotechnical standards for pit slopes, waste dumps and underground development;
- Use and installation of equipment for underground coal mines;
- Mechanical and equipment maintenance standards;
- Emergency Preparedness and Mine Rescue requirements;
- Qualification and certification requirements for selected professionals and skilled trades positions;
- References to standards.

The public comment period will commence July 15, 2016 and will be open until September 30, 2016. Please provide submissions to the Code Review Secretariat at CodeReview@gov.bc.ca.

All written comments received by the public during this period will be provided to the Committee for consideration. All public comments received by the Secretariat for the Code Review become property of the Province of BC and may be published online.