



# Mineral Titles

## Information Update

### No. 24 – Cell Status After Registration of an Abandonment or Reduction Event on a Cell Claim

Revision Date: November 4, 2015

When an abandonment event is registered on a claim in Mineral Titles Online (MTO), the claim title ceases to exist immediately upon registration. When a reduction event is registered in MTO, the newly reduced claim area takes effect immediately. However, cells that are abandoned or discarded **become available no sooner than 10 am (PST) on the day that follows the good-to-date of the claim as stated on MTO at the time of the abandonment or reduction event.**

This provision is intended to prevent recorded holders from registering abandonment or reduction events and then immediately registering new cells claim over the same discarded cells. Other jurisdictions, such as Ontario, have comparable provisions where an abandoned claim is advertised for a period of time before the ground subsequently becomes available.

The aim of such provisions is to encourage exploration and development on ground being held. The *Mineral Tenure Act (Act)* provides that a claim must be maintained by performing exploration and development work and registering that work during the first anniversary year of the claim. If circumstances arise where the recorded holder cannot perform exploration and development work, the *Act* provides for a payment in lieu of exploration and development.

The Ministry realizes that there will be situations where a recorded holder has a legitimate business reason for abandoning or reducing a claim and registering a new claim or claims over some or all of the cells. In such cases, the recorded holder may consider subdividing claims ([Information Update 35](#)), or send a letter or email to the Mineral Titles Branch at the Vancouver address or, [Mineral.Titles@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mineral.Titles@gov.bc.ca) and the case will be reviewed.

#### History of Changes – For Informational Purposes:

*January 12, 2005 – abandoned and reduced cells became available for acquisition immediately after the registration of the applicable event.*

*January 3, 2007 – availability of abandoned and reduced cells for acquisition was changed to midnight of the existing good-to-date of the claim as it existed in MTO at the time the abandonment or reduction event was registered.*

*December 2, 2008 – availability of abandoned and reduced cells for acquisition was changed to 10 AM of the day following the good-to-date of the claim as it existed in MTO at the time the abandonment or reduction event was registered.*

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For more information on Subdivision of Cell claims, please review [Information Update No. 35](#).