



June 12, 2012

Original Issued: May 12, 2008

**Revised Chief Inspector's Directive
British Columbia Mineral and Coal Exploration Hours of Work**

Dear Mine Manager:

The Association for Mineral Exploration (AME BC) has requested a directive related to extended hours of work in the exploration sector.

The Health, Safety and Reclamation Code (*Code*) for mines in BC requires that:

Part 1.5.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of the *Employments Standards Act*, the manager shall ensure that, over the period of any work schedule, no worker shall be scheduled to work more than an average of 50 hours per week.

AME BC has requested on behalf of their members that an average of 56 hours per week over the rotation schedule be approved with a safety management plan.

This request is approved subject to the following three conditions:

1. The Mine Manager shall ensure that an extended shift of up to 56 hours average for mining exploration only, affords protection for the workers equal to or greater than the protection established by the Health Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia section 1.2.2(a)

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2. The safety management plan shall include a mechanism or program to monitor, intervene and mitigate exploration workers' exposure to workplace fatigue. Such a program would allow workers to report to first-aid if they are suffering from fatigue and present a hazard to themselves or others. They would then be accommodated with some down-time to recover without lost wages or perception of coercion. A written plan shall be developed, discussed with and signed by all workers on the exploration site.

3. This directive does **not** apply to underground exploration work or mine construction or production.

Note that the 56 hour work week must be averaged over the work cycle.
For example given a 4 week on 2 week off schedule working 12 hour days.

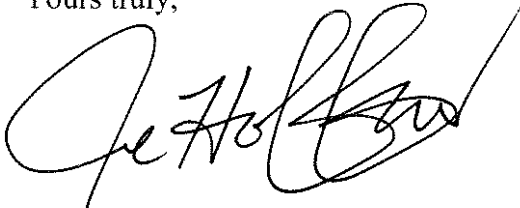
$4 \text{ weeks} \times 7 \text{ days} \times 12 \text{ hr /day} = 336 \text{ hours}$

Averaging these hours over 6 weeks

$336 \text{ hours} / 6 \text{ weeks} = 56 \text{ hours averaged over the rotation.}$

This safety management plan referred to in #2 must be sent to an Inspector in the regional office and be maintained on file with the permit information at that office. Failure to do so, will be considered as non compliance with this Directive and the operation will be prohibited to work extended hours.

Yours truly,



Al Hoffman, P.Eng.
Chief Inspector of Mines

Enclosure

pc: Health, Safety and Permitting Staff
AME BC

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES
MINES AND MINERALS RESOURCES DIVISION
REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND INSPECTORS**

Victoria Region: Fax: 250- 952-0481, Telephone: 250 952 0793
P.O. Box 9320, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9N3
Location: 6th Floor, 1810 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 9N3

Chief Inspector of Mines: Al Hoffman 250-952-0494
Deputy Chief Inspector of Health and Safety Rolly Thorpe, 250-952-0471
Deputy Chief Inspector Permitting & Reclamation, Diane Howe 250-952- 0183

Southwest Victoria: Fax: 250-953-3878
PO Box 9395, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9M9
Location: 6th Floor, 1810 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 9N3

Senior Inspector of Mines: Ed Taje, 250-952-0732
Inspector of Mines, Health and Safety, Gerry Barcelona, 250-952-0495
Junior Inspector of Mines, Mike Olsen, 250-953-3881

Northwest Smithers: Fax: 250-847-7603
P.O. Box 5000, Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Location: 3726 Alfred Avenue

Senior Inspector of Mines, Health and Safety, Doug Flynn 250- 847-7386
Senior Inspector of Mines, Permitting, Jill Pardoe 250- 847-7768

Central/Northeast Prince George: Fax: 250-565-4328
Location: 350 – 1011 - 4th Avenue, Prince George, BC V2L 3H9

Senior Inspector of Mines, Victor Koyanagi, 250-565-4323
Acting Senior Inspector of Mines, Al Day 250-565-6131

South Central Kamloops: Fax: 250- 371-6070
Location: 162 Oriole Road, Kamloops, BC V2C 4N7

Director, Joe Seguin 250- 371-6051
Senior Inspector of Mines, Health and Safety, Steve Rothman 250-371-3781
Inspector of Mines, Bruce Hupman, 250 371-3714
Inspector of Mines, Health and Safety, John Cox 250-371-3915

Southeast Cranbrook: Fax: 250- 426-1767
1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, BC V1C 7G1

Senior Inspector of Mines, Health and Safety, Phil Pascuzzi, 250-426-1701
Senior Inspector of Mines, Glen Hendrickson, 250-426-1705

