

# Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Mines and Mineral Resources Division Regional Mine Reclamation Bond Calculation Policy

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VERSION 1.0 April 2018

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**Approved:** *Original Signed by: Julie Chace, Executive Regional Director, Mines and Mineral Resources Division.*

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**Effective Date:** April 1, 2018

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**Relationship to Previous Policy:** This policy replaces all previous policy regarding regional mine reclamation bond calculations.

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## **Name of Policy:** Regional Mine Reclamation Bond Calculation Policy

### **Business Area:**

Health Safety and Permitting Branch; Regional Mine Permitting and Reclamation

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to Inspector of Mines responsible for permitting Regional Mines and to provide a tool for determining the appropriate reclamation bond amount.

The purpose of the guidance is:

- To provide Regional Inspector of Mines- Permitting with a defensible and consistent means of assessing reclamation liability for regional mines
- To avoid financial risk and liability to the public/government by ensuring the assessed security represents the cost of mine reclamation to the Province
- To encourage dialogue between proponent and Inspector, with the aim of limiting unnecessary disturbance and prompting progressive reclamation
- To promote transparency in bonding levels and methodology to First Nations and the public.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all associated regulatory processes and administration required to determine the appropriate bond amounts in relation reclamation of regional mines, which in this context is defined as: mineral and coal exploration sites, placer mines, pits or quarries that are below an environmental assessment threshold.

This policy impacts the following procedural steps

- review of a NOW application for a new or amended Mines Act Permit;
- First Nations consultation, stakeholder engagement and agency referrals
- Setting permit conditions
- determining the appropriate reclamation security,
- compliance verification inspections
- permit closure and bond return

### **Definitions:**

**“Regional Mines”** means placer mines, pits or quarries as well as mineral and coal exploration sites.

**“Reclamation”** means actions taken to mitigate or reverse the impacts of mining activities on the land base on the premise that mining should be a temporary use of the land. It encompasses a range of concepts and activities including ecological restoration, revegetation and rehabilitation. It is guided by the standards within Part 10.7 of the HSRC. Parts 9.10.1 and 9.13.1 specify requirements for reclamation of mineral and coal exploration. These



requirements can be refined and clarified based on the site specific requirements as detailed in the permit application and any necessary permit conditions.

**“Inspector”** means a person appointed by the chief inspector as an inspector of mines with required delegations under Section 10 of the Mines Act.

### **Policy:**

When making a determination of the appropriate level of reclamation bond for activities being authorized by a regional mine Mines Act Permit, an Inspector should be guided by the most up to date version of the “Regional Bond Calculator” and associated “Regional Mine Reclamation Bond Calculator Guidance Document”. Both these documents are available on the Ministry website and internal filing system.

The Regional Reclamation Bond Calculator was developed to assist Inspectors of Mines in the determination of the appropriate bond amount. It is not to fetter the decision of the Inspectors as the bond calculation may be modified by the Inspector to account for the site specific circumstances.

### **Related Guidance/Considerations:**

The Regional Bond Calculator and Guidance document will be updated periodically to reflect updated cost information and reclamation methodologies. It will also be reviewed for consistency with the Provincial Reclamation Policy when it is developed.