

Email from Andrew Rouse, WWF Australia
Tuesday 18 July 2006

TO MCEP Contact List

Hi All

Apologies for any cross posting.

I would like to update you on developments with mine site assurance since the completion of the Mining Certification Evaluation Project (MCEP) in February this year.

As you may be aware, a multi-stakeholder meeting was held in Vancouver in 7-9 June to discuss options for a developing a system of 3rd party assurance in the mining industry.

There was a strong level of support for developing some form of mine site assurance, resulting in the establishment of the Responsible Mining Assurance Initiative and a coordinating committee for the Initiative. A meeting statement regarding the establishment of the Initiative is below.

The discussions at the meeting drew upon MCEP and its findings and, I envisage, will continue to do so as the Initiative progresses with the task of developing standards and the methodology for mine site assurance.

A full report on the Vancouver meeting is currently being finalised. Please contact me or a member of the coordinating committee if you would like a copy.

Regards

Andrew

Andrew Rouse
WWF
Program Manager - Resource Conservation
1st Floor 288 Russell Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Phone + 61 3 9669 1301
Mobile: 0424 750 406

Email arouse@wwf.org.au

www.wwf.org.au

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Vancouver Dialogue Meeting Statement:

Following in the spirit of a number of mining related initiatives including the Mining Certification Evaluation Project, the Framework for Responsible Mining, the World Bank's Extractive Industries Review, the MMSD Report and the Global Mining Initiative, the ICMM and the ICMM Sustainable Development Principles, and the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices, a multi-stakeholder group conducted a dialogue in Vancouver (7th - 9th June 2006) to discuss options for developing a system of independent 3rd party assurance for mining.

As a result of this dialogue, the Responsible Mining Assurance Initiative has been established by a group of mining companies, retailers, non-government organisations, and trade associations to further develop options for independent third-party assurance in the mining sector. A coordinating committee drawn from the group will facilitate a process for the identification of responsible mining standards and a governance model for the assurance system. We set a goal of establishing initial standards and a system for governance by July 2007.

Members of the coordinating committee include:

Dave Baker, Newmont dave.baker@newmont.com

Dee Breazeale, Wal-Mart/Sam's Club dee.breazeale@samsclub.com

Stephen D'Esposito, EARTHWORKS sdesposito@earthworksaction.org

Anne-Marie Fleury, International Council for Mining and Metals* anne-marie.fleury@icmm.com

Robert Headley, Tiffany & Co. robert.headley@tiffany.com

Marta Miranda, WWF-International marta.miranda@wwfus.org

Michael Rae, Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices
michael.rae@responsiblejewellery.com

Mick Roche, BHP Billiton michael.t.roche@bhpbilliton.com

Two additional community members, yet to be determined, will join the coordinating committee.

A full report on the Vancouver Dialogue is currently being prepared and will be available on request from any member of the coordinating committee or from meeting participants.

Participants in the Vancouver Dialogue recognized that many others are interested in participating in these discussions and committed to outreach to others and developing a process that creates an opportunity for all those who are interested to participate.

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