

MINING CERTIFICATION EVALUATION PROJECT

THE CANARY
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BACKGROUND

This is the fifth in a series of regular updates on the Mining Certification Evaluation Project (MCEP).

The MCEP is a joint R&D exercise with participation from the mining industry, NGOs, labour, government agencies, the financial and accounting sector and research institutions. It aims to evaluate whether independent third party certification of performance can be applied to the mining sector.

PROJECT PROGRESS

From November 2003 to January 2004, *Working Paper 1 – Principles and Criteria for Certification* has been open for public feedback. Thanks to those who have submitted comments and ideas. These have been taken into account in preparing the final version of the paper, now available on the project web site (address below).

The MCEP has commenced planning for a series of field trials during 2004 at mine sites in Australia. These trials are to test the MCEP concepts, not the mines, and will place an emphasis on research and learning. They aim to evaluate the principles and criteria – their applicability, relevance and any gaps – as well as methods for their assessment and processes for local stakeholder engagement.

An independent auditor has been commissioned to develop an 'audit protocol', which will be used to guide the judgement of performance against the MCEP criteria. The Working Group will review and refine this protocol in February-March 2004.

PUBLICATIONS

The MCEP web site is online at:
<http://www.minerals.csiro.au/certification>

New downloads available at the site:

- Notes of discussions at Working Group meeting 6.
- Final version of Working Paper 1.

CONTACT

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