

THE CANARY

BACKGROUND

This is the seventh 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

A protocol has been developed to guide the judgement of performance against the MCEP criteria. The Working Group reviewed and refined this protocol in June/July 2004.

Field trials commenced in July 2004. The first three field trials have now been conducted, with two more to follow in Australia in addition to one in Brazil. The Australian field trials are expected to run through November or December 2004, while the Brazilian field trial will take place in 2005. The purpose of these trials is to test the MCEP process, not the mines, and the trials place an emphasis on research and learning. They aim to evaluate the MCEP principles and criteria – their applicability, relevance and any gaps. The first two field trials assisted in refining the protocol and the field trial process. At the third field trial, the team attempted to score the site's performance against each criterion by using draft performance measures and a five-level scale. The performance measures, based on international standards, will be further developed prior to and during the final field trials. Working Paper 2, slated for 2005, will explore the learnings from the field trials.

PUBLICATIONS

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

New download available at the site:

- Notes of discussions at Working Group meeting 9.

CONTACT

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