

# THE CANARY

## BACKGROUND

This is the eighth 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

Four Australian field trials of the certification process were completed in the period July – October 2004, using a draft audit protocol based on the criteria for assessment designed by the Working Group. For each field trial, an independent consultant acted as Team Leader.

Each field trial lasted for five days, including an introductory presentation and a close-out meeting at which preliminary findings were discussed with the site staff. During the trial, in addition to collecting information on the site's performance against the criteria, team members were asked to take notes on the appropriateness of the questions and the trial audit process.

The first two field trials were primarily concerned with testing the audit protocol questions to determine if they could feasibly be covered in the allotted time period, if they were adequately comprehensive, and if the information sought could be obtained. The third and fourth trials involved scoring the sites' performance, using a trial scoring system.

Two international field trials will follow: one in New Zealand in March and one in Brazil in April. Working Paper 2 will discuss the issues identified during the field trials as relevant to the audit process.

## 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 10.

## CONTACT

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