



Minerals and Metals Sector *Update*

World Bank Invites Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM)

Gary Nash, ADM, Minerals and Metals Sector, Natural Resources Canada, was appointed as a member of the World Bank's Extractive Industries Advisory Group. This committee will be tasked with the identification of and reporting on best practices in the mining, and oil and gas industries. Other issues to be examined include the contribution of extractive industries to sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Mr. Nash has extensive experience in dealing with issues related to the mining and metals industry, both in the public and private sectors.

Scientist Contributes to Successful Outcome of EU Hazard Classification of Iron (Ferrous) Sulphate

Jim Skeaff, CANMET Mining and Mineral Sciences Laboratories, wrote a literature-based report on the fate of ferrous sulphate in water at various levels of acidity. Ferrous sulphate is a flocculating agent for water purification systems and is also a registered pesticide. The report was forwarded to the EU (European Union) Classification and Labelling Committee (CLC) for consideration on the hazard classification of ferrous sulphate with respect to its danger to the aquatic environment. The EU's CLC determined that concerns over the potential toxicity of ferrous sulphate and its long-term environmental effects were unfounded due to its rapid precipitation from the water column. Therefore, ferrous sulphate was not classified as dangerous to aquatic environments. Had ferrous sulphate been classified as a dangerous substance, the use of iron in various applications would have now been restricted, with a resultant large economic impact.

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Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development Comes Into Effect

As of February 2005, the new Forum has now come into effect with 26 members confirmed. This Forum is the result of an initiative sponsored by Canada and South Africa at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development. It will bring together governments with an interest in policy, governance and other issues related to the mining, minerals and metals sectors. Canada has agreed to act as the Secretariat for the initial five-year period of the Forum, after which an assessment of whether or not it should continue will be made. The inaugural meeting will take place this fall.

Canada and South Africa wish to thank the donors that have supported the Global Dialogue Process. These include the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Kingdom's Department of International Development, and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

To obtain a list of participating countries to date and other information, please visit the Global Dialogue web site at www.globaldialogue.info.

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