



The MEND Monitor

Australian Centre for Minerals Extension and Research (ACMER)

ACMER, which was formed in 1998, has the mission of providing the scientific and technological rigour and support to enable the minerals industry to plan, operate and close mines in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. This mission is pursued through research, technology transfer, training and advisory services. The Centre is governed by a Board composed of members from industry and government, with a representative from collaborative research organisations, and an independent chair.



The core of the research program focuses on providing effective solutions for environmental management and sustainable mine closure. Current projects are addressing a diverse range of topics, such as, designing covers for the long-term containment of mine waste, developing standard protocols for the long-term prediction and monitoring of mine lake water quality, developing a risk assessment model for tunnel erosion on waste rock dumps, developing completion criteria for reconstruction of native ecosystems, and reducing the impact of cyanide-bearing tailings solutions on wildlife.

ACMER has an active technology transfer program covering the full spectrum of environmental and social issues affecting the minerals industry from exploration to operation and closure. In 2006, ACMER will be conducting at least six short courses and six workshops addressing such issues as cyanide management, mine water management, environmental monitoring, biodiversity management, mine closure, and community engagement.

ACMER, along with MEND in Canada, ADTI in the USA, PADRE in Europe and INAP are partners in the Global Alliance. This network facilitates linking of regional activities, identification of parallel research needs associated with acid drainage, and coordination of technology transfer.

More information on ACMER and its activities can be found on their website at www.acmer.com.au

12th Annual BC MEND Metal Leaching/Acid Rock Drainage Workshop

The workshop was held November 30 and December 1, 2005 in Vancouver. The focus of the presentations was on the challenges faced in mine drainage prediction. This is a topic of significant interest, attracting over 170 delegates. CD-ROM of the Proceedings can be ordered at: www.bitech.ca or books@bitech.ca

New MEND Project for 2006

Performance of Water Cover at Louvicourt Mine

The long-term performance of the shallow water cover at Louvicourt Mine will be investigated by comparing geochemistry results from the 1996 and 2005 sampling campaigns. Additional information will be provided on the impacts of the fully established periphyton layer at the tailings-water interface, and on the mineralogy of the submerged tailings. This project is based on recommendations from an earlier study undertaken on the Louvicourt site (MEND 2.12.1). Aur Resources is a co-sponsor of the project. *Contractors: NRCan, INRS-ETE and McMaster University.*

Upcoming Events

7th ICARD (International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage)

Hosted in conjunction with the SME Annual Meeting, March 27-30, 2006, St. Louis, MO, USA. Technical sessions to include: Prevention and Control, Case Studies: Lessons Learned Characterization and Treatment. www.smenet.org/meetings



30th Annual BC Mine Reclamation Symposium

June 19-22, 2006, Smithers, BC. The theme is *Case Studies of Mine Reclamation and Environmental Protection*. www.trcr.bc.ca

31st Canadian Land Reclamation Association – Reclamation and Remediation Conference

August 20-23, 2006. Ottawa, ON. Theme will be *Reclamation and Remediation: Policy to Practice*. www.clra.ca

To obtain information on MEND or its publications, please visit the web site at: mend.nrcan.gc.ca or send an e-mail to: mend_nedem@nrcan.gc.ca