



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada

NWT MINING- RELATED & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT GLOSSARY



Canada

Resource development and environmental stewardship are closely linked in the NWT. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) promotes investment in resource development and responsible management of the environment within the NWT. This glossary offers definitions for commonly used terms applied to mining and environmental management activities. While these words may have multiple definitions, they are provided here only as they apply to mining and the environment. Every attempt has been made to provide plain language definitions.

The NWT Mining-Related and Environmental Management Glossary was produced by DIAND.

For more information, contact:

Department of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development
PO Box 1500

4914 – 50th Street

Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

Phone: (867) 669-2500

Fax: (867) 669-2715

E-mail: NTcommunications@inac.gc.ca



Abandoned Workings A mine where mineral or ore is no longer being extracted and the operator has no further intention of continuing operations at the site.

Abandonment The dismantling of a facility to make it permanently incapable of use. This includes the removal of associated equipment and structures, and any other measures required to ensure the facility is left permanently safe and secure.

Acceptable Risk The amount of possible misfortune or hazard to which people or groups are willing to be subjected.

Aboriginal Peoples

Descendants of the original peoples of Canada. Section 35(2) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982 defines Aboriginal peoples of Canada as Indians, Inuit and Métis. The Aboriginal peoples of the NWT are grouped into six major regions and speak seven major Aboriginal languages.

Access The right to enter or exit a privately owned tract of land from a public way without trespassing on privately owned property.

Access Agreement Formal consent to use surface area on private lands.

Accredited Laboratory The formal recognition of a laboratory's competence to carry out specific tests. It covers a lab's quality system and its technical capability.



DIAND's Taiga Environmental Laboratory is an accredited lab in the NWT.

Acid Drainage Any drainage from mine workings, waste or tailings with pH levels below 7. May also refer to ground water pumped to the surface from the mine.

Adaptive Management

Monitoring and evaluating a reclaimed area followed by any necessary actions to achieve intended results. Adaptive management also allows information to be fed back into the planning and design process so future reclaimed areas will fulfill desired results.

Adit An opening driven horizontally into the side of a mountain or hill for providing access to a mineral deposit.

Aeration The process of blowing air (or another gas such as carbon dioxide) through a liquid or solid.

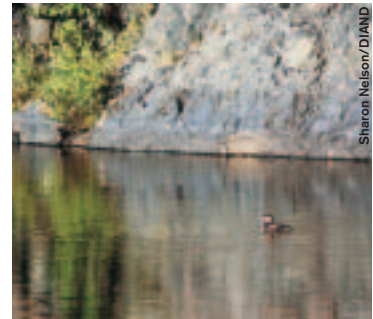
Aggregate A mass of rock particles, mineral grains or a mixture of both.

Alkaline Soil A soil that has a pH greater than 7.

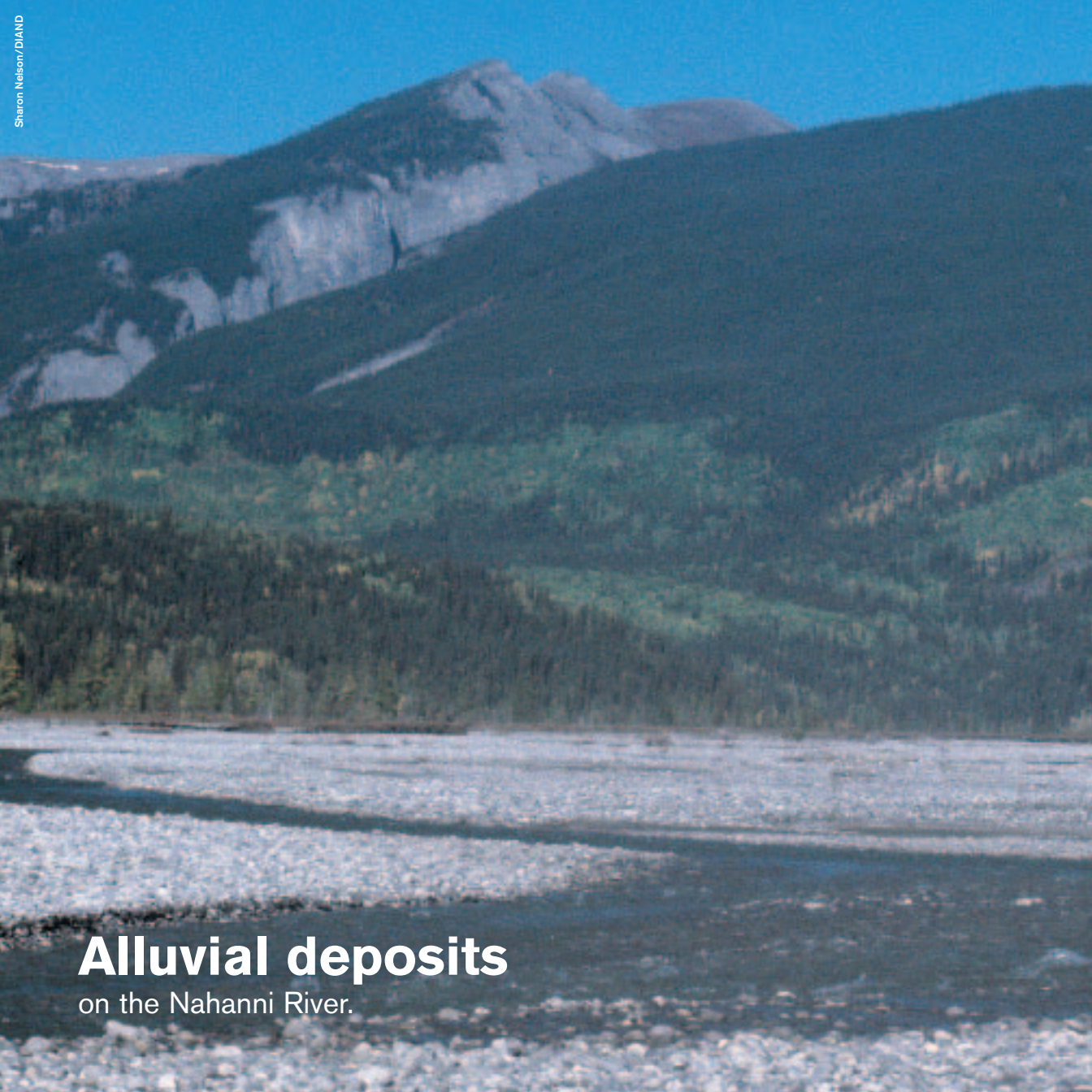
Alluvial Deposit Relatively recent deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel deposited in river beds, flood plains, lakes or at the base of mountain slopes by rivers and streams.

Angle of Repose The angle between the horizontal and the maximum slope that soil assumes through natural processes.

Aquatic Environment All organic and inorganic matter and living organisms and their habitats that are related to, live or are located in or on the water at the beds of shores of a water body.



Birds, fish and plants are plentiful in northern waters.



Alluvial deposits

on the Nahanni River.

Aquifer A layer of permeable rock that can store significant quantities of water through which groundwater moves.

Armouring Channel erosion protection by covering the channel with protective material such as riprap (loose stones) or gabions (wire containers holding coarse rock aggregate).

As-Built Drawings Engineering drawings that show a constructed or reclaimed site. This includes all changes from the original design that were implemented during construction and/or reclamation.

Assessment A written evaluation regarding the importance, size or value of a particular thing.

Assimilative Capacity The amount of pollutants a water body may absorb while continuing to meet water quality standards.

Backfill Material excavated from a site and reused for filling the surface or underground void created by mining.

Background An area near the site under evaluation not influenced by chemicals released from the site, or other impacts created by onsite activity.

Background Concentration

The concentration of an element or any chemical property of a naturally occurring mineral in an area where concentration is irregular.

Baseline A surveyed condition and reference used for future surveys.

Bedrock Solid rock under soil, gravel or loose boulders; the Canadian Shield is composed of bedrock.



Bedrock is predominant in the NWT.

Bedrock spoil Bedrock material that has been mined and dumped. It may consist of hard fragments of varying size or small particles.

Berm A mound or wall, usually of earth, used to retain substances or to prevent substances from entering an area.

Best Management Practices

Any program, technology, process, operating method, measure, or device that controls, prevents, removes, or reduces pollution and impact on the environment.

Bioaccumulation Occurs when plants or animals collect contaminants in their tissues over time. When low amounts of contaminants are continually absorbed, they build up and can cause illness.

Bioavailability The amount of a chemical that may enter target tissues following exposure.

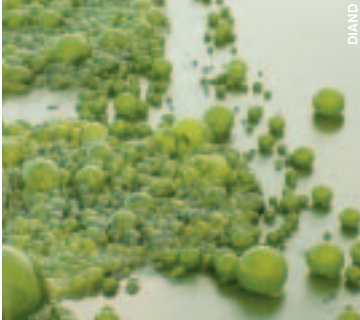
Biodegradable Material that will decompose under natural, biological conditions and processes.

Biodiversity The variety of plants and animals that live in a specific area.



Trees, shrubs and groundcover illustrate the biodiversity within an area.

Bioremediation The use of micro-organisms or vegetation to reduce contaminant levels in soil or water.



Algae helps to reduce contaminant levels. (Colomac Mine Site.)

Bioindicators Organisms that are used to detect changes in environmental pollutant levels.

Biome A large ecological community over a large area often characterized by a particular vegetation.

Bog A peat-covered or peat-filled wetland, which generally has a high water table, is very acidic and low in nutrients.

Borrow Pit A source of fill or embanking material.

Buffer An area designated to be undisturbed by an industrial activity or a transitional area between two different land uses that mitigates the effect of one land use on the other. Buffers may preserve environmental features, provide safety, or protect property.

Buffering Capacity The ability of a substance to resist an increase or decrease in pH.

Canada Mining Regulations

Federal regulations respecting the administration and disposition of minerals belonging to her Majesty in right of Canada under all lands forming part of the Northwest Territories.

Capping System An impermeable system designed to reduce surface water infiltration, control gas and odour emissions, improve aesthetics, and provide a stable surface cover.

Certificate of Title A document based on a title search stating the title or interest in property is vested in a designated person, and showing outstanding liens, charges or other encumbrances. Where more than one name appears on a title each person must sign documents relating to the property for the documents to be valid.

Claim A portion of land held under the federal or local laws by one claimant or an association by virtue of location and record. In Canada, the common size is 1,320 sq. ft. or 40 acres. (Approximately 400 m² or 16 hectares.)

Clean Fill Uncontaminated material used for site development or to replace excavated contaminated materials in remediation and reclamation.

Commissioner's Land

Land controlled, managed and administered by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Composite Sample A sample comprised of two or more subsamples.

Concentration Separating a mineral from its host rock in preparation for further processing. Also the amount of a chemical or substance in the air, soil or water.

Conservation The planning, management and implementation of an activity with the objective of protecting the essential physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the environment against degradation.



Edézhzié is an area being considered for permanent protection in the Deh Cho Region of the NWT.

Containment Technologies that reduce the mobility of a contaminant via construction of physical barriers. Also used to reduce the flow of water through contaminated material.



Potentially contaminated water is contained at the mine site. (Giant Mine.)

Contaminant Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance in the air, soil or water that has an adverse effect. Any chemical substance with a concentration that exceeds background levels or which is not naturally occurring in the environment.

Contaminated Site A site at which substances occur in amounts above what would be natural and pose, or likely will pose, a hazard to human health or the environment, or exceeds levels specified in policies and regulations.

Contouring The process of shaping the land surface to fit the form of the surrounding land.

Corridor A narrow strip of land that differs from its surrounding landscape. Corridors may be isolated strips, but are usually attached to a patch of similar vegetation.

Cover The area of ground covered by all living and dead plant material that is produced naturally on a site. Also known as ground cover, canopy cover or aerial cover. Bare soil is not cover.



A variety of berries, bushes and plants can be found throughout the territory.

Crown Land Land controlled, managed and administered by the federal government. In the NWT, DIAND is responsible for the majority of Crown land.

Cumulative Effects The combined environmental impacts that accumulate over time and space as a result of a series of similar or related actions or activities.

Cut Line A line constructed through vegetation for the purpose of conducting an exploration program.

Decommissioning The process of permanently closing a site and removing equipment, buildings and structures. Rehabilitation and plans for future maintenance of affected land and water are also included.

Decontamination The removal, reduction, or neutralization of substances, wastes or hazardous material from a site in order to prevent or minimize any adverse effects on the environment now or in the future.

Deposit An accumulation of sediments, minerals, ore, etc.

Development Work carried out for the purposes of exposing and working a mineral deposit.

Dewater To remove water from a mine (underground or open pit) or from a mixture of crushed rock and water.

Disposal The relocation, containment, treatment or processing of unwanted materials. This may involve the removal of contaminants or their conversion to less harmful forms.



Development

of Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.

Drainage The removal of excess surface water or groundwater from land by natural runoff and permeation, or by surface or subsurface drains.



The pump house at Colomac Mine removes excess surface water.

Line Gagnon/DIAND

Drainage Basin Area tributary to (or draining to) a lake, stream, reservoir or other body of water.

Dyke A vertical or near vertical thin body of igneous rock that while in its molten state intruded into a crack in older rocks.

Easement (Surface Lease)

A non-possessing interest held by one person in the land of another whereby the first person is accorded partial use of such land for a specific purpose. Examples of easements are rights of way for electric power lines or pipelines.

Ecological Integrity Quality of a natural, unmanaged or managed ecosystem, in which the natural ecological processes are sustained, with genetic, species and ecosystem diversity for future assurances. A critical range of variability in bio-diversity, ecological processes and structures, regional and historical context, and sustainable cultural practices.

Ecosystem A community of plants, animals and non-living things that exist in the same place.



The NWT has unique and diverse ecosystems.

Sharon Nelson/DIAND

Effluent Treated or untreated liquid waste material that is discharged into the environment from a structure such as a settling pond or a treatment plant.

End Land Use The allowable use of disturbed land following reclamation. Municipal zoning and/or approval may be required for specific land uses.

Environmental Assessment

Examination of a development proposal's environmental, social and economic effects.

Environmental Degradation

Any change or disturbance to the environment perceived to be harmful or undesirable.

Environmental Hazards

Any biological, chemical, or physical agents found in or transmitted through the air, water, food, soil, or manufactured items that may adversely affect the physical and psycho-social health or well-being of the public.

Environmental Impact Review

Examination of a development proposal undertaken by a review panel.

Environmental Impact Statement

A report submitted by a company to describe a project or development, the possible positive or negative impacts of its actions, and its plans to reduce, mitigate or avoid these impacts. The report is based on studies and is reviewed by the appropriate water board, government agencies and the public.

Environmental Impact Study

A written report compiled prior to a production decision that examines the effects proposed mining activities will have on natural surroundings.

Environmental Management System (EMS)

An environmental management process developed by an operator to assess, mitigate and/or address risks to the environment arising from an industrial activity. An EMS promotes ongoing improvement of operations, and includes: policy development, standard operating procedures, training, auditing, reporting, monitoring and public involvement.

Environmental Quality A measure of the condition of an environment (soil, water, air) relative to the requirements of one or more species and/or to any human need or purpose.

Erosion The wearing away of rock, soil or other surface material by water, rain, waves, wind or ice; the process may be accelerated by human activities.



Eroded banks of Harris Creek.

Sharon Neilson/DIAND

Esker A long winding ridge of gravel, sand, etc. originally deposited by a meltwater stream running under a glacier.



Exploration camp and landing strip on a broad sandy esker.

Northwest Territories Geoscience Office

Excavation Cutting or digging the earth's surface altering the original landscape by making a hole or a hollow (pit).

Exploration Prospecting, sampling, mapping, drilling and other work involved in searching for and locating a deposit.

Ex Situ Treatment A method of treatment and/or disposal for contaminated soils, sludges, and waters (generated as a result of decontamination activities) once they have been physically removed or excavated from where they originated.

Extraction Digging up and removing resources that are used for specific purposes.

Fill (Backfill) Depth to which material is to be placed (filled) to bring the surface to a predetermined grade. Can also be the material itself.

Filtration The process of separating liquids from solids by passing the liquids through filters like sand or charcoal beds.

First Nations Lands Settlement lands of the First Nations; or lands situated within boundaries of a local government and referred to in a First Nations' land claim agreement as municipal lands.



The Mackenzie Delta at the Beaufort Sea is a small portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Sharon Neilson/DIAND

Fluvial Deposits Material that has been transported and deposited by streams and rivers.

Freeboard The vertical space remaining in a containment structure; the vertical distance between the surface of the water and the top of a dam or dyke.

Generic Remediation Criteria

Criteria and numerical values for the concentration of chemical substances in soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment that can generally be applied to all sites to determine whether contaminants exceed a set concentration.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

A computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing things that exist and events that happen on the earth. GIS technology combines database operations such as a query and statistical analysis, with the visual presentation and geographic analysis of maps.

Geography The study of the natural features of the earth's surface including topography, climate, soil, vegetation etc.

Geology The scientific study of the origin, history, structure and composition of the earth.

Glacial Drift All material moved by glaciers and by the action of melt-water streams and associated lakes.

Granite A coarse grained intrusive igneous rock consisting of quartz, feldspar and mica.

Ground Cover Any living or dead vegetative material producing a protective mat on, or just above, the soil surface.



Berries and plants provide ground cover.

Groundwater All subsurface water that occurs beneath the water table in rocks and geological formations that are fully saturated.

Habitat The specific area in which a particular type of plant or animal lives.

Hazardous Waste A waste that contains any substance (solid, liquid or gas) that is harmful or potentially harmful to life or the environment.



Barrels and old tanks. (Colomac Mine site.)

Horizon The geological deposit of a particular time identified by distinctive fossils; or any of the reasonably distinct layers of soil or its underlying material in a vertical section of land.

Hydrogeology The study of groundwater with particular emphasis on the chemistry and movement of water.



Habitat

The NWT has abundant wildlife including grizzly bears, caribou, bison and birds.

Igneous Rocks formed by the solidification of molten material.



Karen Goehmaier/DIAND

An igneous rock, Acasta gneiss, is the world's oldest rock.

Impermeability Material through which fluids cannot pass.

Impervious Resistant to penetration by fluids or roots.

Incineration Destroying contaminants by burning in a controlled environment, to reduce them to ashes, inert gases, or vapours.

Indicator Minerals or Plants Trace minerals that are typically found near other minerals as well as plants characteristic of specific soil or site conditions.

Infiltration (Percolation/Runoff) Downward water movement into soil.

Inorganic Not pertaining to or derived from plant or animal origins.

In Situ Treatment (Ex Situ Treatment) A method of managing or treating contaminated soils, sludges and waters “in place” in a manner that does not require the contaminated material to be physically removed or excavated from where it originated.

Integrated Resource Management A co-ordinated, multi-practice approach to land and resource management.

Keystone Species A species that is disproportionately important to the maintenance of community integrity. Without it significant changes to the community would occur.

Kimberlite A type of rock (produced by volcanic activity) that may contain diamonds.



Northwest Territories Geoscience Office

Diamonds can be found in kimberlite.

Kimberlite Pipe An occurrence of kimberlite in a narrow, cylindrical, vertical shape.

Landfill An engineered waste management facility at which waste is disposed by placing it on or in land in a manner that minimizes adverse human health and environmental effects.

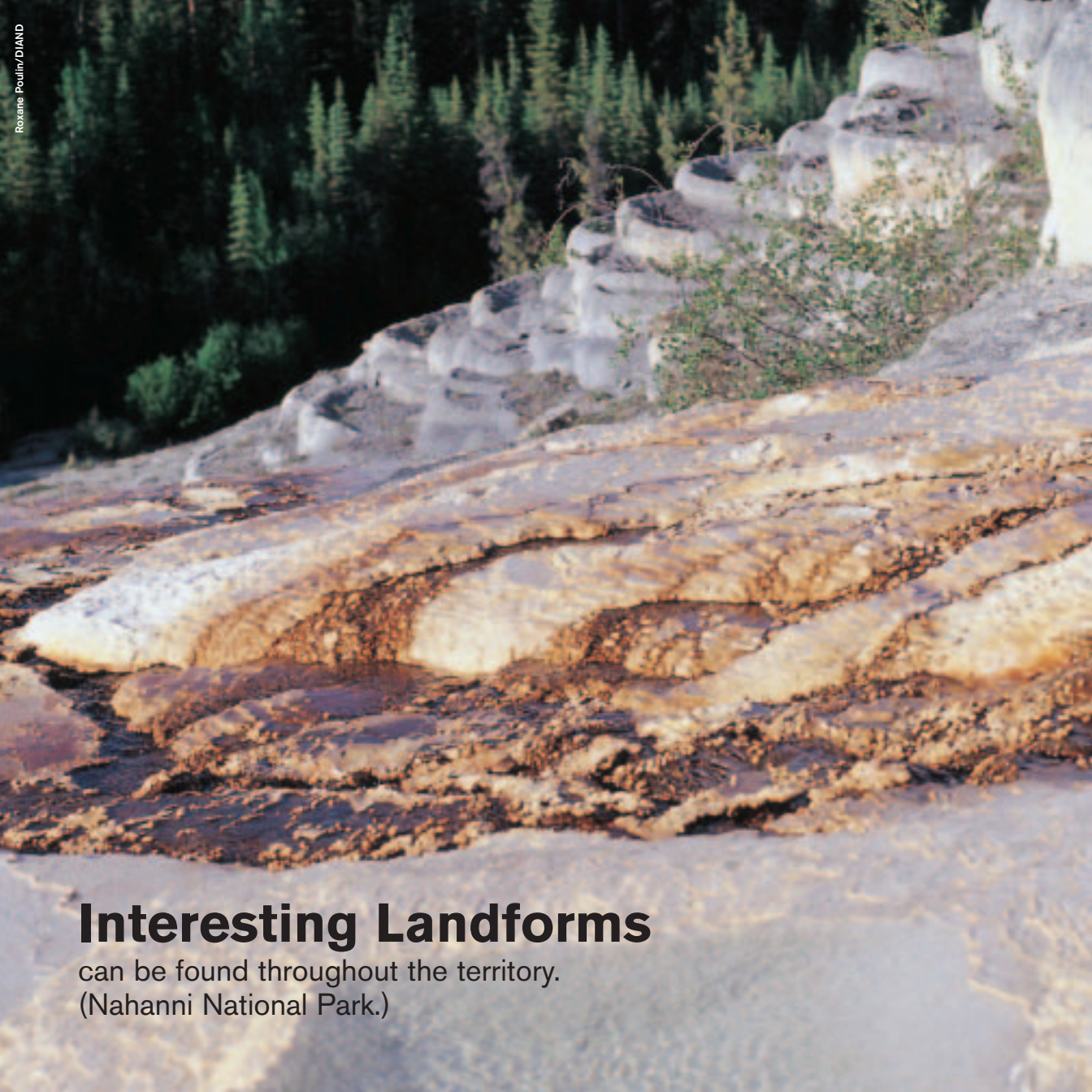
Landforms The various shapes of the land surface resulting from a variety of actions such as deposition or sedimentation, erosion and earth crust movements.

Landscape All the natural features such as fields, hills, forests, water, that distinguish one part of the earth's surface from another. Usually that portion of land or territory which the eye can see in a single view.



Denise Bicknell/DIAND

Fall colours warm the northern landscape.



Interesting Landforms

can be found throughout the territory.
(Nahanni National Park.)

Land Use Planning The development of plans for the uses of land that, over long periods, will best serve the general good, together with the formulation of ways and means for achieving such uses.

Leachate Water or other liquid that has washed (leached) from a solid material, such as a layer of soil or water; leachate may contain contaminants.

Leaching Occurs when a liquid (for example, water) passes through a substance picking up some of the material and carrying it to other places. This can happen underground in solid rock or above ground through piles of material.

Lessee A person who has taken out a lease on such things as property or land.

Local Government Any local government established under the laws of the NWT, including a city, town, hamlet, village, charter community or settlement, incorporated or not.

Metal A group of elements possessing certain qualities including metallic lustre, malleability, ductility, high specific gravity and good conductivity of heat and electricity.

Base Metal - relatively inexpensive metals such as copper, lead and zinc.

Heavy Metal - base metals that commonly occur in urban and industrial pollution.

Precious Metal - relatively expensive metals such as gold, silver and platinum.



Gold bars were poured at Con Mine.

Mine Any open surface or subsurface excavation for the purpose of extracting various substances by drilling, blasting, cutting, etc.



Information is recorded hundreds of feet below ground. (Giant Mine.)

Mineral Any class of naturally occurring solid, inorganic substances with a characteristic crystalline form and the same chemical composition.

Minesoil Soil produced by mining and reclamation activities that is capable of supporting plant growth.

Minewater Water that is pumped or flows out of any underground working or open pit.

Mining Recorder's Office

Provides information on the Canadian Mining Regulations and administers subsurface rights, issues applications for prospectors' licences, claim tags, mineral claims, prospecting permits and maintains the MINERS database.

Mitigation Reducing the negative impacts of a particular land use or activity on the environment.

Monitoring Observing the change in geophysical, hydrogeological or geochemical measurements over time.

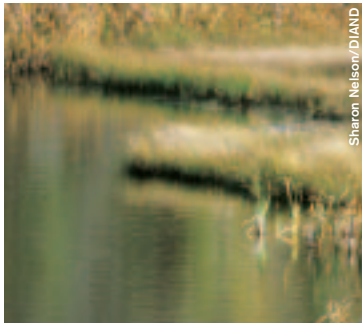
Muskeg Natural and undisturbed areas covered with Sphagnum mosses, tussocky sedges, and an open growth of scrubby trees.



Muskeg on the tundra.

Sharon Nelson/DIAND

Native Landscape A landscape that contains plants and plant communities that are indigenous to a particular region.



Reeds and grasses are part of the native landscape.

Sharon Nelson/DIAND

Neutralization Raising the pH of an acidic material, or lowering the pH of an alkaline material to a pH level of 7.

Occupant A person, other than the registered owner, who is or is entitled to be in possession of the land.

Open Pit Mine Any open surface excavation for the extraction of minerals/ore by drilling, blasting or cutting.



BHP Billiton's Ekati Mine was Canada's first open pit diamond mine.

Sharon Nelson/DIAND

Ore A mineral or solid material containing a precious or useful substance in a quantity and form that makes its worth extracting.

Overburden Material of any nature, including loose soil, sand, gravel, that lies above bedrock or a deposit.

Permafrost Ground (soil or rock) that remains at or below 0°C for at least two years.

pH A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution ranging from 0 to 14, with 7 representing neutral solutions. Alkaline has a pH greater than 7; and an acidic solution has a pH below 7.

Permeability The ease with which gases, liquids, or plant roots penetrate or pass through soil or a layer of soil. The rate of permeability depends upon the composition of the soil.

Permit Authorization to use land or water.

Pollutant A contaminant that negatively affects the physical, chemical or biological properties of the environment.

Potable Water Water that is safe for human consumption.

Polishing Pond The last in a series of settling ponds where mill effluent, final sedimentation, or contaminant remediation takes place.



Polishing pond. (Giant Mine.)

DIAND

M
P

Processed Kimberlite The portion of washed or milled kimberlite that is too poor to be treated further and has little or no economic value.

Reclamation The process of returning a disturbed site to its natural state or one for other productive uses that prevents environmental impacts or threats to human health and safety.

Regulatory Authority The person or group responsible for issuing licences, permits or other authorizations required for development under any federal or territorial law. This excludes designated regulatory agencies or local government.

Remediation The removal, reduction, or neutralization of substances, wastes or hazardous material from a site in order to prevent or minimize any adverse effects on the environment and public safety now or in the future.



Remediation at Colomac Mine.

Doug Pekrul

Remote Sensing Measuring the property of an object or surface without direct contact. This often involves gathering scientific information about the earth's surface from high above and over broad areas, using instruments mounted on aircraft or satellites.

Restoration The renewing, repairing, cleaning-up, remediation or other management of soil, groundwater or sediment to so that its functions and qualities are comparable to those of its original, unaltered state.

Revegetation Replacing original ground cover following a disturbance to the land.

Right-of-Way An easement in lands belonging to others that is obtained by agreement or lawful appropriation for public or private use. The right of passage for crossing over someone else's land.

Risk Analysis Identifying and evaluating risk using qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Risk Assessment Reviewing the risk analysis and options. Risk assessment considers such factors as risk acceptability, public perception of risk, socio-economic impacts, benefits, and technical feasibility. It forms the basis for risk management.

Risk Management Selecting and implementing a strategy that will control risk. This also includes monitoring and evaluating its effectiveness to ensure the desired outcomes.

Runoff Water that is not absorbed by soil and drains off the land into bodies of water.

Sample A small portion of the environment (water, soil, sludge/emulsion, air, biota, mineral) that is taken to a lab and analyzed to learn about the physical and/or chemical composition of that environment.



Mineralized sample contains gold, silver, pyrite and quartz.

Carclyn Reif/DIAND

Sampling A technique used to obtain a representative sample for the purpose of determining the physical and/or chemical characteristics of a particular environment.



Revegetation

is stabilizing the banks of the Borrow Pit. (Discovery Mine.)

Scarification (Soil) Seedbed preparation to make a site more amenable to plant growth.

Sediment Solid material, both mineral and organic, that has been moved by air, water, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface either above or below sea level.

Sediment Basin A reservoir for the confinement and retention of silt, gravel, rock, or other debris from a sediment-producing area.

Seepage (1) The slow flow of water into or from a soil. Seepage usually involves the lateral flow of water. (2) The emergence of water from the soil over an extensive area in contrast to a spring where it emerges from a local spot.

Settling Pond A natural or artificial water body used to contain wastewater where solids are removed before it is released to the natural environment.



The settling pond sits behind the Effluent Treatment Plant. (Giant Mine.)

Shutdown The temporary closure of an industrial facility, usually when economic conditions or operational requirements change. A shutdown may be:

(1) short-term - the company has every intention of restarting operations. A short-term shutdown will likely last a maximum of one year; or

(2) long-term - the company believes it will restart operations if conditions improve. Some salvaging of equipment may occur. Operating licences/leases may have to be changed.

Silt Tiny particles of sand and clay, between 0.05 mm and 0.002 mm in diameter, that can be picked up by air or water and deposited as sediment, usually at the bottom of lakes.



Silt along the shore of the Mackenzie River.

Silt Fence/Curtain A permeable fabric barrier installed to filter surface water runoff and used to trap sediment and prevent it from entering streams.

Soil Degradation Soil that is becoming more leached and weathered by processes such as wind and water erosion, salinity, organic matter depletion, acidification and compaction.

Soil Horizon (A Horizon/B Horizon/C Horizon) A layer of soil, or soil material, approximately parallel to the land surface distinguishable from adjacent layers by colour, structure, consistence, chemical, biological, and mineralogical composition.

Solubility The ability of a substance to dissolve in a liquid.

Spoil The overburden that is removed in order to gain access to the ore or mineral material in surface mining. This also refers to the debris or waste material from a mine.

Strip Mine A series of rows or strips where all material lying over the mineral/ore to be mined has been removed. Material from one strip is cast into the previous strip allowing for sequential reclamation.

Sump An underground catch basin in a mine where water accumulates before being pumped to the surface.

Suspended Solids Organic and inorganic particles including, sand, silt, clay particles and solids in waste water, that are suspended in and carried away by water.

Suspension When normal operations at a facility or site has stopped but the site is left in a safe and stable condition.

Sustainable Development

Industrial development that does not detract from the potential of the natural environment to ensure benefits for future generations.

Sustainability Development that conserves the ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources.

Tailings Material rejected from a mill after most of the recoverable valuable minerals have been extracted.



Russell Lake keeps tailings contained. (Tundra Mine.)

Tailings Pond A low lying depression used to confine tailings, the prime function of which is to allow enough time for heavy metals to settle out or for cyanide to be destroyed before water is discharged into the local watershed.

Threshold The point at which the total load of accumulated stress on the ecosystem exceeds the system's ability to accommodate change. This results in a fundamental shift in the system.

Till An unstratified, non-sorted deposit of gravel, boulders, sand and finer materials that has been transported by a glacier.



Under till-covered surfaces, freezing and thawing can result in polygonal lines on the tundra.

Topography The shape of the ground surface, such as hills, mountains, or plains. Steep topography indicates steep slopes or hilly land; flat topography indicates flat land with minor undulations and gentle slopes.



The topography of the NWT changes from region to region.

Toxic Describes a substance, dose or concentration that is harmful to living organisms.

Vertical Barrier (Grout Curtain/Slurry Wall)

A rigid structure placed at the perimeter of a contaminated site to reduce the movement of contaminated groundwater from the site or to limit the flow of uncontaminated groundwater through the site.

Waste Any substance that is useless or worthless.

Waste Rock All rock materials, except ore and tailings, that are produced as a result of mining operations.



Waste rock has been used to cover tailings. (Discovery Mine.)

Waste Treatment Any method, technique, or process designed to change the physical, chemical and/or biological character or composition of a substance. This also includes naturalization and stabilization.

Water Quality A measure of the condition of the water relative to a species' needs.

Water Quality Standards Fixed limits of certain chemical, physical and biological parameters in a water body. Standards may vary depending on use.

Watershed A region or area bordered by ridges of higher ground that drains into a particular watercourse or body of water.

Water Table The level below where the ground is saturated with water.

Wetland Any area of generally low, flat land, at, near or above the ground surface, which holds water during part of the year. Wetlands generally include swamps, sloughs, marshes and bogs.



The North's wetlands are productive, diverse habitats.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has drawn on the following sources and would like to acknowledge the contribution of:

Alberta Environment: *Glossary of Reclamation and Remediation Terms Used in Alberta*, 7th Edition, May 2002.

British Columbia Provincial Ministry of Energy and Mines Environment

Government of Canada Department of Transportation

Mining Life

The Northern Miner on-line

Published under the authority of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ottawa, 2004

www.inac-ainc.gc.ca
1-800-567-9604
TTY: 1-866-553-0554

QS-Y257-000-EE-A1
Catalogue: R2-393/2005E
ISBN: 0-662-39938-2

©Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada

Cette publication peut aussi être obtenue en français sous le titre: Glossaire de l'exploitation minière et de la gestion environnementale aux TN-O.

