



## **FEE ADJUSTMENTS TO MINERAL SURFACE LEASES**

### **Questions and Answers**

**Q: If a mining company surrendered a portion of the Crown resource land surface lease area, would Saskatchewan Environment adjust the lease fees mid-year?**

**A:** Yes. If the mining company has reclaimed a previously developed area and wishes to surrender it, or wishes to surrender an area that had never been developed, the company is required to submit a written request to the Shield EcoRegion Regional Land Manager (RLM), identifying the area to be surrendered. Before an adjustment will be made to the lease fees, the RLM will arrange for an inspection of the land to confirm that the land to be surrendered has been satisfactorily reclaimed or was never developed. If the existing lease allows for a partial surrender, the mining company is responsible for costs associated with obtaining a legal survey of the area to be surrendered.

**Q: What if the existing mineral surface lease does not allow for a partial surrender?**

**A:** An adjustment is still possible if the mining company surrenders the existing lease, in exchange for a new lease. In this instance the mining company is responsible for obtaining a legal survey of the entire area to be covered under the new lease rather than just the area to be removed.

**Q: When would the adjusted fee take effect?**

**A:** If the inspecting officer determines that the area has been satisfactorily reclaimed or confirms that the area was never developed, the adjusted lease fee would take effect on the first day of the month following the date of a satisfactory inspection.

**Q: Can an adjustment be made at any time of the year?**

**A:** No. While the mining company may submit a request to the RLM at any time during the year, inspections of land will not occur during the winter months due to snow cover (approximately mid November to mid March), nor will inspections occur when heavy vegetation growth has occurred (approximately June to mid September).

**Q: What fees will be charged to the mining company for the adjustment?**

**A:** In addition to the applicable administration fee, Saskatchewan Environment may also charge for the inspection(s) of the site, which is calculated using government rates for travel. However, if the company agrees to have the inspection of the revised lease area completed concurrently with other scheduled inspections in the area, the inspection fees may be waived. The mining company is responsible for all legal survey costs.