

The Rehabilitation of Ontario's Abandoned Mines

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Abandoned Mines in Ontario

- About 16,400 mine features/hazards are located on more than 5,600 known abandoned mine sites within Ontario.
- Approximately 4,000 of these sites could potentially be hazardous to public health and safety, or to the environment.
- 30% to 40% of these sites have reverted to the Provincial Crown.

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Abandoned Mines in Ontario

Hazards range from sites containing a single unprotected, low rehabilitation cost mine shaft



Abandoned Mines in Ontario

.... to large sites that have greatly impacted on the surrounding area with AMD, metal leachates, etc. that can cost many millions of dollars to rehabilitate.

The Kam Kotia Mine site,
prior to rehabilitation



Ontario's *Mining Act* Requirements

- Before any Advanced Exploration or Mine Production project may proceed in Ontario, a certified Closure Plan must be filed, including sufficient Financial Assurance to rehabilitate the site.
- All owners of abandoned mine sites are required to “take all reasonable steps to progressively rehabilitate a site”.
- Owners of an abandoned mine site may also be ordered by the Director to conduct rehabilitation on, or submit a Closure Plan for, their site.

Costs

- It is currently estimated that it will cost about \$500 million to rehabilitate all abandoned mine sites within Ontario.
- Of this amount, it is estimated that it will cost \$200 million or more to rehabilitate all of the Crown held sites.

Ontario's Rehabilitation Program

- The Abandoned Mine Rehabilitation Program was established in 1999 as a four year, \$27 million Fund to rehabilitate Crown-held abandoned mine sites.
- The Fund was extended in 2003 for another four years, with an additional \$41 million.
- In March 2006, the Ontario Government's budget announced a further \$60 million (i.e. \$10 million per year).
- The Fund will now run until at least 2012.

Ontario's Rehabilitation Program

- To date, more than \$60 million has been spent on the rehabilitation of 75 of the highest priority, mainly Crown-held, abandoned mine sites located throughout the Province.
- This expenditure includes more than \$38 million that has been spent to date on the rehabilitation of the Kam Kotia Mine (KKM) site, which is located near Timmins.
- A further \$12.3 million for the next phase of rehabilitation on KKM has recently been awarded, to be completed by the winter of 2007/08.
- **It is now expected that it will cost approximately \$58 million to completely rehabilitate the KKM site.**

Kam Kotia Mine
Site – August 2005



Partnerships

MNDM has two partnership agreements in place that share the funding of certain rehabilitation under the Fund:

1. MNDM and the Ontario Mining Association:

- The Agreement allows for each party to equally share the cost of rehabilitation of various agreed to projects.
- One project has been completed to date.
- Both parties have recently agreed to conduct their next project at the Kam Kotia Mine site during the winter of 2006/07.

2. MNDM and PJV (formerly Kinross):

- The Agreement limits MNDM's rehabilitation responsibilities to a maximum of \$12.5 million on the former Hollinger and MacIntyre Mine sites.

New Legislation

- New legislation provisions are currently being considered to allow “Good Samaritan” companies and individuals to conduct abandoned mine rehabilitation on Crown-held mining-rights lands:
 - Proposed changes would allow companies to conduct the rehabilitation of abandoned mine hazards without incurring any historical responsibility under the Province’s environmental legislation, as long as all of the rehabilitative measures have been conducted according to all of the standards of the Mine Rehabilitation Code of Ontario.