

Estimates Committee 2014
Questions Taken On Notice

(10/06/2014 to 19/06/2014)

Date: 17/06/2014

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Details of NT legacy mine sites

From: Mr Gerry McCarthy to Hon Willem Westra van Holthe
Department of Mines and Energy

8-4

Question:

Minister, can you please provide the details of all Northern Territory mine sites considered by the Department of Mines and Energy to be legacy mine sites, detailing the name of the site, location, area of land affected, key environmental and management issues for each site and key remediation measures required at each site?

Answer:

Answered On: 08/07/2014

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 17 June 2014 **Output:** 5.1

Subject: Details of NT Legacy Mine Sites

From: Mr Gerry McCarthy

To: Hon Willem Westra van Holthe MLA

Agency: Department of Mines and Energy

Number: 8.4

Question: Minister, can you please provide the details of all Northern Territory mine sites considered by the Department of Mines and Energy to be legacy mine sites, detailing the name of the site, location, area of land affected, key environmental and management issues for each site and key remediation measures required at each site?

Answer:

Legacy issues are more complex than identifying a site as a legacy site. Almost all of the Northern Territory's mining related legacy issues are located on sites that currently have an authorised operator. Many of these are on active mining operations. One definition in this context is a site that has mining related disturbances on it that were not created by the current authorised operator and for which the Territory does not hold a 100% security.

Most significant legacy sites have their origins in the period between 1980 and 2005, with operations that commenced under the previous *Mining Act* and prior to the introduction of the *Mining Management Act 2001*. Under the previous Act, security bonds were calculated prior to commencement of the operation and could not be increased during the life of the operation to reflect changes in scope or expansions. In 2005, the Department of Mines and Energy (DME) implemented a policy of requiring securities equivalent to 100% of the estimated cost of remediation of the site to significantly reduce the risk of further legacy sites being created. The current policy results in securities that are dynamic, in that they can increase or decrease on a regular basis in order to reflect the current status of an operation and manage the Territory's exposure to risk.

The following information is a list of sites that have some legacy component to them. The abbreviation AMD applies to Acidic and Metalliferous Drainage where drainage is either acidic and/or metal laden and/or saline, all of which can have adverse impacts on the receiving environment. This list may not be totally complete as it is based on DME staff knowledge of sites gained over time. It is a priority task of the newly formed Legacy Mines Unit within DME to undertake a comprehensive Territory-wide assessment of legacy sites. This will include greater detail of the impacts, areas impacted and potential legacy strategies.

Site	Operator	Currently Active	Commodity	Legacy Components
Pine Creek goldfields sites	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	Residual AMD from Waste Rock Dumps (WRD). Ongoing requirement for water management.
Cosmo Howley	Crocodile Gold	Yes	Au	AMD from WRDs and old Tailings Dam. Ongoing requirement for water management. Open Pit water quality.
Union Reef	Crocodile Gold	Yes	Au	AMD potential from WRDs. Ongoing requirement for water management. Open Pit water quality.
Brocks Creek	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	Tailings Dam potential AMD from WRDs. Open Pit water quality.
Goodall	None	No	Au	AMD from WRDs and old Tailings Dam. Ongoing requirement for water management. Open Pit water quality.
Fountain Head	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	Potential AMD from WRDs. Erosion of alluvial residues. Ongoing requirement for water management. Open Pit water quality.
Woolwonga	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	AMD from WRDs. Ongoing requirement for water management. Open Pit water quality.
Zappopan	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	AMD from stockpile areas. Open Pit water quality.
Iron Blow	Crocodile Gold	Yes	Au	AMD from WRD. Open Pit water quality.
Mount Bonney	Crocodile Gold	No	Au/Ag	AMD from WRDs and old Tailings Dam. Erosion. Open Pit water quality.
Golden Dyke	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	AMD from WRD. Erosion. Open Pit water quality.
Moline	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	AMD from WRDs. Ongoing requirement for water management. Open Pits water quality. Radioactive tailings buried on site.
Mt Todd	Vista Gold	No	Au	AMD from WRD, Tailings Dam and Heap Leach Pile. Stability of Tailings Dam. Water quality in Open Pit. Ongoing requirement for water management.
North Point	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	AMD from WRD. Erosion. Open Pit water quality.
Tom's Gully	Primary Gold	No	Au	AMD from WRDs and Tailings Dams. Stability of Tailings Dam. Water quality in Open Pit. Ongoing requirement for water management.

Site	Operator	Currently Active	Commodity	Legacy Components
Rustlers Roost	Primary Gold	No	Au	AMD from Heap Leach Pads. Erosion.
Quest 29	Primary Gold	No	Au	AMD from WRDs. Erosion. Open Pit water quality.
Mt Diamond	None	No	Cu	AMD from WRDs.
Redbank	Redbank Copper	No	Cu	AMD from WRD, stockpiles and Tailings Dam. Water quality in Open Pit. Ongoing requirement for water management.
Rum Jungle	None	No	U/Cu	AMD from WRDs. Currently being managed under a National Partnership Agreement with the Commonwealth Government.
Maud Creek	Crocodile Gold	No	Au	Potential AMD from WRD. Erosion.
Hatches Creek	Arunta Resources	No	W	Potential AMD from WRDs. Public safety of open workings.
Warrego	Emmerson AARD Metals	No	Au/Cu/Bi	AMD from Tailings Dams and WRDs. Structural stability of Tailings Dams. Severe site contamination.
Orlando	Emmerson	No	Au	AMD from WRD. Erosion.
White Devil	Emmerson	No	Au	AMD from WRD and stockpile areas.
Gecko	Emmerson	No	Cu	AMD from WRD and stockpile areas. Subsidence instability.
Peko	Savage/Sitzler	No	Au	AMD from Tailings Dam. Severe site contamination. Dust dispersal of tailings towards town.
Nobles Nob	Emerson	No	Au	AMD from Tailings Dams. Erosion of Tailings Dams. Dispersal of tailings off site. AMD from WRDs. Erosion.
Appel Holdings	None	No	Au	AMD from tailings leaching ponds. Surface water contaminated and running off site. Public safety.
Chariot/Malbec	Emmerson	No	Au	Potential AMD from WRDs. Stability of WRDs. Public safety of open pits.
TC8	Emmerson	No	Au	Potential AMD from Tailings Dam. Structural failure of Tailings Dam. Dispersal of tailings off site.
Tennant Creek Region	Various	No	Au	Mainly public safety issues relating to open workings.
White Range	Intermin	No	Au	Potential AMD from WRDs and Tailings Dam. Stability of Tailings Dam. Impacts on Heritage Sites.

Site	Operator	Currently Active	Commodity	Legacy Components
TMJV Sites	Tanami Gold	No	Au	<p>This site includes a large number of Open Pits, WRDs and a 75 ha Tailings Dam and earlier tailings storages.</p> <p>Potential AMD from WRDs and Tailings Dam. Stability of Tailings Dam and storages. Erosion. Water quality in open pits.</p>
