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Mine closure and reclamation planning —

Part 2: Guidance

*Planification de la fermeture et de la restauration des mines —
Partie 2: Recommandations*



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents shall be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 82, *Mining*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Mine closure and reclamation management*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 21785 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document provides guidance for mine closure and reclamation planning applicable to both new and operating mines. The overarching objective is to promote consistency and quality in planning for mine closure and reclamation internationally. ISO 21795-1 provides requirements for the same material.

The intended audience are those with responsibility for, or an interest in, planning for mine closure and reclamation. This includes mine planners and designers, mine operators, regulators, environmental assessors, communities, indigenous peoples, and financial stakeholders, amongst others.

Mine planning, design and operations must be fully integrated with the closure and reclamation process. Early, continual and comprehensive mine closure and reclamation planning is essential for all new and operating mines because it:

- leads to the highest degree of environmental and social success, usually at a lower cost than if mine closure and reclamation planning is not done from the beginning of the mining project;
- reduces risks and liabilities throughout the mine's operational life and on closure;
- allows for stakeholder involvement throughout, so that relevant knowledge and understanding are brought into the planning process;
- allows for devoting more attention to sustainable development activities identifying socio-economic opportunities for the various closure phases;
- helps build trust with governments, stakeholders and international communities;
- provides additional planning time to understand the complexity of the biophysical characteristics and socio-economic context of each mine site;
- provides for continual improvement and updating of closure and reclamation plans;
- allows companies to better integrate closure and reclamation activities with operations;
- provides time to identify, research and develop new technologies for mine closure strategies and mine closure treatments that increase robustness and resilience of mine closure and reclamation; and
- allows companies to better provision for and schedule closure and reclamation funding.

There are many leading practices and guidance documents related to mine closure and reclamation planning available in various jurisdictions and used by many mining companies and stakeholders. This document captures the intent of such guidance documents so that it can be applied globally.