

Renaissance Arlington Capital View ♦ October 6, 2011 ♦ www.MiningWorkshop.org



Innovative Approaches to Mining Site Remediation and Reuse Workshop

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ICCL international committee on contaminated land

Engaging Communities in Remediation and Reuse Decisions

Co Molenaar, Moderator

Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment,
The Netherlands

Presentations

- ◆ Introducing Mandatory Public Participation in Site Assessment and Remediation Projects
 - Mpho Tshitangoni, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa
- ◆ Socioeconomic Perspective on Mining
 - Ron Rimelman, NovaGold
- ◆ Integrating Water and Waste Programs to Cleanup Watersheds
 - Kathryn Hernandez, US EPA Region 8
- ◆ Community Renewal Programs
 - T. Allan Comp, US Department of the Interior
- ◆ Realizing Social and Economic Opportunities through the Remediation of Contaminated Sites
 - Lou Spagnuolo, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Canada
- ◆ From Moresnet to Mars: How Umicore Deals with Old Mine Concessions
 - Lucia Buvé, Umicore

Common Theme

- ◆ We believe we can learn from the people most interested in our projects and use their knowledge to improve project development plans (Ron Rimelman, NovaGold)

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Challenges

- ◆ Determining the extent to which public participation is necessary
- ◆ Acquiring skills to know and understand local languages
- ◆ Lack of trust with regulatory agencies
- ◆ Accurate identification of problem is sometimes assumed or overlooked (jumping to conclusions)
- ◆ Easy to say you must engage the public but be aware of the process and time
- ◆ Participation of the public is an open process and the endpoint is not known

Challenges (continued)

- ◆ Criteria: Open process, transparent, trust, skill, engage early, local facilitator, listen
- ◆ Good organization in relation to scale of the land
- ◆ Getting more people involved - building capacity and awareness
- ◆ Accept that there is no time limit for public participation
- ◆ Managing expectations while building trust

Future Opportunities

- ◆ You can never start public participation early enough
- ◆ Use the knowledge of the local community
- ◆ Provide communities with the information they need to make informed decisions
- ◆ Use people from the local community to gain **trust**
- ◆ Do not be afraid to engage the public in the open process
- ◆ Getting more people involved – building capacity
- ◆ Define the problem together, not just the solution
- ◆ Information sharing and learning from colleagues