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Normal Response

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**1. Please provide the following contact information**

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**1. Are cleanup goals used when remediating contaminated mining sites?**

Yes

In some cases the site will be subject to an operating licence with the regulatory agency, and this may have specific requirements relating to rehabilitation after closure that may not accord with national guidelines.

**2. Is site-specific risk assessment used to clean up mining sites?**

Yes

method outlined in Australia's National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (referred to as the NEPM). This is broadly in line with USEPA Superfund methods. <http://www.ephc.gov.au/contam>

**1. Are any Best Management Practices (BMP) or Best Available Technologies (BAT) implemented when treating mining waste, mine tailings and/or mine influenced waters?**

No

Generally only normal good practice procedures are applied for environmental management, unless the project is highly contentious

**1. Is mining waste being reused for beneficial purposes?**

No

Generally not.

**2. Are there any initiatives or practices to encourage locating alternative energy facilities at contaminated or active mining sites?**

Yes

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Local power supplies - solar is used where mains power is not available.

**3. Are reuse practices (such as carbon sequestration) and/or ecological revitalization activities implemented at contaminated mining sites (e.g., education centers, historical landmarks, commercial or industrial parks, wildlife refuge, etc.)?**

Yes

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Commencing to be used on a project specific basis - depends on what makes sense for the project and setting.

**1. Do you have a regulatory framework(s) or other programs in your country that addresses the cleanup of properties impacted by mining contamination?**

Yes

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Environmental agency (State EPA). The local planning authority will also be responsible for requiring an assessment and a formal statement that land proposed for development for a more sensitive use is suitable for that use. In such situations the planning authority will invoke the guidelines for assessment and remediation that are specified by the environmental agency (ie the NEPM previously referred to).

**2. What types of enforcement measures and/or programs are available to recover costs from mining companies that caused the contamination?**

Usually under state laws regarding pollution, which place the responsibility first with the polluter.

**3. Is cleanup and reclamation of mined land part of the mine permitting process?**

Yes

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Varies, but usually the requirement for rehabilitation and clean up of sites will be part of the approval process. refer to the State of Queensland for example:

[http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental\\_management/land/mining/index.html](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/land/mining/index.html)

**4. Is “designing for closure and post-closure” actively practiced?**

Yes

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Yes. refer [http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental\\_management/land/mining/index.html](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/land/mining/index.html)

**5. Is an Environmental Impact Analysis/Statement (EIA/EIS) performed for proposed mining operations?**

Yes

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will require an acceptable closure plan and financial provision made for rehabilitation

**1. What are the funding mechanisms used to cleanup abandoned mine/mining impacted areas?**

not well established. Will be carried out on a case by case basis, depending on the level of risk.

**2. How are these mechanisms funded (e.g., public or mining industry contributions)?**

Mining company that is the polluter will have first responsibility. If there is no polluter identified, then funding mechanisms are not well established. In some cases where the pollution is localised it can be the current land owner that becomes responsible.

**3. Are there any laws, regulations, and policies and practices setting the approach for environmental financial assurance for mine closure?**

Yes

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yes. refer to [http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental\\_management/land/mining/index.html](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/land/mining/index.html)

Key issue is to establish a reasonable quantum for the amount. Another issue is to establish what

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is to be done and the outcome that is required, which might not be clear when the approval for the mining is given. There has been an evolution in requirements, which are generally becoming more stringent.

**1. How does the local community participate in mine permitting, design/construction, financial responsibility calculations and the mine closure process?**

community is highly involved in the mine approvals process. This will include local indigenous peoples.

**2. Are there any regulations/programs that address/manage social impacts of mining and mine reclamation?**

Not sure