

**Response Type:**

Normal Response

**Collector:**2011 ICCL Link  
(Web Link)

Edit

Response Delete

**Custom Value:***empty***IP Address:**

194.217.96.40

**Response Started:**

Monday, September 19, 2011 6:47:21 AM

**Response Modified:**

Monday, September 19, 2011 7:05:42 AM

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

Name: - Richard Boyleq

Organization: - HCA

Country: - England

Email Address: - richard.boyle@hca.gsx.gov.uk

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

Yes

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

Yes

This can vary, but as long as the methodology is fully outlined with all assumptions etc stated, then the regulator can gather a view on if they agree overall, in principal with some amendments or totally disagree. Discussion can be entered into the alter the RA to suit all parties. This, in general, is a very succesful mechanism, but can be sometimes be timeconsuming and can have parties at what can seem like standoff. Early and then regular contact can avoid this though.

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

Yes

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

Yes

Minimisation of wastes to landfill is quite standard practice in UK and is endorsed by UK government legislation. Costs are also very high. with Landfill Tax rising annually at a very

---

high rate, so it is economic sense. Beneficial purposes can vary widely. A framework (CL:AIRE Code of Practice v2) for transferring materials for beneficial uses between sites is now being adopted that should result in more widespread reuse.

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

Yes

---

In theory, high feed-in tariffs as implemented by UK government could be used to make solar and wind very cost effective, but I have not heard of this happening on mining sites. Several mines are now actively pumped for methane to convert this into power to feed into the National Power Grid

**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

**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

---

Clean up responsibility varies. Under the Con Land Regime, if the polluter can be identified then they could be made to do the works. Alternatively, if they cannot be found, then the LA or EA may take the lead through state funded works. If the site is to be redeveloped under the Planning Regime, then the developer would pay and may be forced through Planning Obligations to clean up more than just the area of land they are developing. Alternatively, The Coal Authority is responsible for coal based clean up liabilities if there is an impact under their responsibility.

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

Only the Con Land Regime has direct powers to do this.

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

Yes

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

No

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

Yes

---

Standard rules would be applied in any permit issues to clean back to at least "baseline", which is pretty much what was there beforehand. If the permit was shown to be breached, then clean up could go further.

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

---

The Coal Authority has funds to cover coal related mining costs, but doesn't often look at contamination issues. Apart from that, it would only be what could be identified and won on a site specific basis, for example the Con Land Regime Capital Grants. The only other money is the Coalfields Programme, which was set up to regenerate old mining areas after the closure of the pits. This has generated many new houses, jobs in offices and other workspaces and public open space. In addition, there is the Mine Stabilisation Programme dealing with significant stability issues. These programmes are coming to an end though.

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

All are Public.

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

No

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

I don't know if they have to be actively considered, although with the Coalfields and Mine Stabilisation Programmes they were.

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

There isn't much new mining in the UK, so not sure of this.