

# Development of International Standards for Mine Reclamation<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** In 2012, the International Standards Organization (ISO) reactivated Technical Committee (TC) 82 – Mining, which deals with development of standards for many aspects of mining machinery, processes and safety. In the USA, participation in the ISO standards process is formally administered by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) which subsequently formed Technical Advisory Group (TAG) 82 to manage appropriate input and advice on new mining standards. The activities of TAG 82 are managed under contract by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), but all formal votes on new ISO standard proposals are placed by ANSI. In 2014, a new proposal for the development of standards for mine reclamation was promoted by South Korea and accepted by TC 82 with South Korea as the lead country (Secretariat). This activity is managed by Subcommittee (SC) 7 and various working groups (WG) that are authorized over time. To date, SC-7 has reviewed and accepted proposals to form two working groups, Mine Reclamation Terminology (WG-1; Lead – South Korea) and Mine Reclamation Management Planning (WG-2; Lead - Canada). Other proposals for standards for abandoned mine land reclamation and mine water monitoring are being considered. The overall ISO standard development process requires input from all interested and affected stakeholders and advances via consensus from all voting countries along a sequential five-step review and approval process. The two WGs described above are currently in the initial phase of standard development. Development and adoption of any international reclamation standards raises issues of (a) neutrality with respect to existing national/state regulations, (b) applicability to highly variable and site-specific climatic/geologic/mining/socio-political conditions, (c) avoidance of specifying technologies, and (d) potential effects on innovation and development of new reclamation technologies and strategies. Compliance with any adopted final ISO standards is voluntary.

**Additional Keywords:** ISO Standard, Mine Planning, Mining Terminology, Abandoned Mined Lands.

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