

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MINERALS APPLICATIONS



Sustainable Development is a vital concept in managing natural resources on public lands. To clearly communicate to our employees and the public how we manage mineral resources, we published a bulletin, "Sustainable Development and Its Influence on Mining Operations on Federal Lands—A Conversation in Plain Language."

Since production of that document, our government participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002. At the close of the Summit, Secretary Powell of the United States, along with 192 other countries, adopted the Plan of Implementation, which substantially addresses mining, minerals, and metals. The sustainability principles expressed are universally applicable to minerals activities on lands

administered by the BLM and Forest Service. Moreover, these basic concepts of balancing environmental, social, and economic aspects, environmental stewardship, and stakeholder participation are ones we have embraced in our agencies.

Paragraph 46 of the Plan of Implementation states:

"Mining, minerals and metals are important to the economic and social development of many countries. Minerals are essential for modern living. Enhancing the contribution of mining, minerals and metals to sustainable development includes actions at all levels to:

(a) Support efforts to address the environmental, economic, health, and social impacts and benefits of mining, minerals and metals throughout their life cycle, including workers' health and safety, and use a range of partnerships,

furthering existing activities at the national and international levels among interested Governments, intergovernmental organizations, mining companies and workers and other stakeholders to promote transparency and accountability for sustainable mining and minerals development;

(b) Enhance the participation of stakeholders, including local and indigenous communities and women, to play an active role in minerals, metals and mining development throughout the life cycles of mining operations, including after closure for rehabilitation purposes, in accordance with national regulations and taking into account significant transboundary impacts;

(c) Foster sustainable mining practices through the provision of financial, technical and capacity-

building support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, for the mining and processing of minerals, including small-scale mining, and, where possible and appropriate, improve value-added processing, upgrade scientific and technological information and reclaim and rehabilitate degraded sites."

We heartily endorse the Plan of Implementation signed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. We will continue to implement the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, wherein Congress declared that the United States should have a strong domestic mining industry and reclaim those impacts created by mining related activities.

It is important that we consider paragraph 46 and the Mining and Minerals Policy Act in our planning and management decisions.



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