New EU Mine Waste Legislation

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Background

Initiative from the Commission and the European Parliament:

- Expansion of the Seveso Directive (Chemical accidents)
- New Mine Waste Directive
- BAT-document for mine waste management
- Classification of certain mine wastes as "Hazardous Waste"
Background

Industry approach:
Co-operate and contribute

Key issues

- Holistic approach
- High level of environment protection
- Cost-efficient solutions
- Flexibility (site specific solutions, new developments)
- Framework regulation – not technical details
Mine Waste Directive 1(2)

- General requirements (Waste Management Plan)
- Accident prevention, information
- Content of application and permit
- Permitting procedure, public participation
- Classification of waste facilities
- Construction and management
- Closure and after-closure
- Protection of water and soil
Mine Waste Directive 2(2)

- Monitoring
- Financial guarantees, environmental liability
- Inventory of closed sites
- Information exchange (member states)
- Annex I "Major-accident prevention"
- Annex II "Waste Characterization"
- Annex III "Classification of waste facilities"

Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for Management of Tailings and Waste-Rock in Mining Activities

Published July 2004

http://eippcb.jrc.es
BREF-note - The Process

- Reference Document, not legally binding
- Developed by the IPPC-bureau in Seville, supported by a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group (TWG)
- Information gathering, not political process
- European Mining Industry actively involved
- Regularly updated
BREF-note - The Document

1. General Information (40 p)
2. Common processes (50 p)
3. Applied processes and techniques (206 p)
4. Techniques to consider in the determination of BAT (125 p)
5. Best Available Techniques (10 p)
6. Emerging techniques (4 p)
7. Concluding remarks (10 p)
Proposed New Working Group within CEN/TC 292 ”Characterization of Waste”

Title:
Waste from the extractive industry

Scope:
“to develop European Standards for the characterisation of waste from the extractive industry covering methodology, sampling, testing and analysis primarily to support the coming Directive on Management of waste from the extractive industry taking into account existing work and documents”
Schematic methodology for characterisation

Samples collection and preparation

- Physical/geotechnical characterisation
- Geochemical characterisation

Chemical-mineralogical analysis

- Sulphidic tailings
- Non sulphidic tailings

Sulphidic tailings

- Acid Base Accounting tests (Modified ABA)

Comparison with BC guidelines

- NP/MAP<1: Potentially acid generating
  - Kinetic testing
- 1<NP/MAP<4: Zone of uncertainty
- NP/MAP>4: Non acid generating

Non sulphidic tailings

- Metals leachability

- Short term extraction test (e.g. TCLP, DIN 38414 S4)
- Column test (e.g. NEN 7343)

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