

#### State Government Considerations for AML Cleanups

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## DRMS



Mission: Undertake reclamation aimed at reducing hazardous situations associated with past mining activities.



# Abandoned Mine Lands/Inactive Mines/Legacy Mines

•Operated prior to 1977 (coal) or prior to 1980 (non-coal).

- Not bonded with State for reclamation.
- •No broad State level regulatory framework for AML sites.
  - Clean Water Act, CERCLA, RCRA, State Engineer, possibly others.
- Inactive Mine Reclamation Program
  - Not regulatory.
  - Design and Implement cleanup projects.





# Considerations for Project Implementation

- **1**. Adequate Characterization
- 2. Appropriate Remedy Selection
- 3. Expectations/Achievability
- 4. Risk
- 5. Partnerships
- 6. Operations and Maintenance





## Adequate Characterization

- Watershed scale Site scale
- Adequate, not excessiveCost vs Benefit
- Define the problem
- Prioritize sources
- Background?









### Appropriate Remedy

- Proven BMP
- Pragmatic
- Cost effective
- Low O&M
- Address the identified problem
- Effectiveness of addressing the problem



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# Expectations/Achievability

- Set reasonable expectations based on:
  - Characterization results
  - Remedy selection
- Establish appropriate metrics
- Function of funding
  - Biggest bang for the buck



- Reduce three pounds per day zinc entering stream from Saints John tailings
- Restore wetlands
- Consolidate, cap and revegetate tailings





## Risk

Authority for implementation (CERCLA?).

Non-point Source vs Point Source Discharge.

- •Uncontrolled release potential.
- Downstream users.
- Likelihood of success.





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## Partnerships

- Cooperative landowners
- Leverage funding
- Involve local stakeholders
- Utilize various expertise
- Diversify project ownership





## **Operations and Maintenance**

- Who's responsible?
- Operations requirements?
- Maintenance needs? **\$**\$\$
- Long term monitoring?



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#### Sts. John Mine Reclamation







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#### **BEFORE RECLAMATION**

#### AFTER RECLAMATION





#### Thank You.

#### Questions?





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