

The guiding principles and objectives from the 2001 Workshop will underpin terms of reference for activities of the national advisory committee throughout its duration.

NOAMI Guiding Principles

1. Remediation of orphaned/abandoned mine sites must be based on concern for public health and safety, respect for ecological integrity, and sustainable development
2. All work currently on-going with respect to inventory building and remediation must continue to be based on sound science and good communication among all parties
3. Work toward eliminating future abandonments must continue, including the tightening of regulatory approaches
4. The “polluter pays” principle must be implemented
5. Targeted end-use and reclamation standards must be acceptable to local communities
6. There must be transparency and disclosure in all decision-making processes
7. All endeavours must encompass the notion of fairness
8. Although the objective must be comprehensive reclamation of all sites, the approach must be cost-effective and based on an acceptable method of prioritizing sites (for each jurisdiction).

NOAMI Objectives

A national multi-stakeholder advisory committee be formed and funded to address the following issues/initiatives:

1. Develop capacity for a national inventory of active, closed and orphaned/abandoned mine sites based on compatible inventories in each province and territory, and including an acceptable system for categorization and priority ranking
2. To reach agreement upon definitions and terminology as applied to orphaned/abandoned mine sites
3. Develop a plan to foster community involvement in decision-making about closure and reclamation standards, and to ensure that targeted end-use and reclamation standards are acceptable to local communities
4. Evaluate the efficacy of various approaches, including voluntary rehabilitation legislation, permit blocking, non-compliance registries, and allocative liability versus joint-and-several liability
5. Evaluate models and mechanisms to pay for the remediation of orphaned/abandoned sites, including insurance options and contingency funds
6. Develop a plan for shared responsibility and stewardship when ownership cannot be established
7. Develop a plan to foster transparency and disclosure in all process
8. Engage other relevant federal, provincial and territorial departments and ministries
9. Secure appropriate funding for the above, at a level to be determined by IGWG and other stakeholders, to ensure delivery of the Initiative.