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YGS → Getty
Copper
FAXED

Ministry of Energy and Mines
Energy and Minerals Division
Geological Survey Branch

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FAX SHEET

Mineral Development Office

Date: Nov. 6/00 7:50am		Total Pages (incl. cover): 3
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→	ACTION:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In response to your request	
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	<input type="checkbox"/> For approval	
	<input type="checkbox"/> For comment	
→	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent	<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential

COMMENTS: Re: EAO Threshold Values

Cheers,
Tom.



cc. Managers
 Tom
 Note VGS → E
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REVISED FACT SHEET

Environmental Assessment Office

AMENDMENTS TO REVIEWABLE PROJECTS REGULATION

The *Reviewable Projects Regulation* under the *Environmental Assessment Act* sets threshold criteria for establishing the reviewability of projects under the EA process. In response to an independent evaluation of the EA process, amendments are proposed which will make the reviewability thresholds more impact-based and consistent across sectors. The evaluation report found that, in some cases, the thresholds are excessively stringent for the expected potential environmental impacts. As a result, some projects with few significant impacts are subjected to an unnecessarily rigorous and expensive review process rather than the agency (permit) review process already in place for similar types of developments. Projects no longer subject to EA review will undergo the normal agency (permit) review process.

The amendments will result in the following new reviewability thresholds:

Mining Projects

	Previous Threshold	New Threshold
Coal mines	100,000 tonnes per year	250,000 tonnes per year
Mineral mines	25,000 tonnes per year	75,000 tonnes per year
Industrial Mineral mines	25,000 tonnes per year	250,000 tonnes per year
Modifications to existing mines (except placer mines, and sand and gravel operations)	250 hectares disturbed or 35% increase in production	750 hectares disturbed or 50% increase in area disturbed

Oil and Gas Projects

	Previous Threshold	New Threshold
new pipelines	energy throughput (>16PJ)	graduated scale for pipelines over 40 km based on diameter and length of pipe
pipeline modifications		new threshold as for new pipelines; remove threshold relating to addition of new compressor or pumping facilities
*new natural gas process plants	production capacity of <2.817 mcmd and >2.0 tpd sulfur or >2.817 mcmd	>5.634 mcmd or >2.0 tpd sulfur
*natural gas process plant modification	an increase above >2.817 mcmd	an increase of >5.634 mcmd or > 2.0 tpd sulfur

* these amendments are in addition to the changes implemented in December 1997.

Nov. '98

- (i) the disturbance of 750 hectares or more of land not previously permitted for disturbance by mining activity, and
- (ii) the disturbance of an area of land not already permitted for disturbance that is 50 % or more of the area of land previously permitted for disturbance by mining activity at the facility.

Mineral mines

20. (1) The construction of a new facility constitutes a reviewable project for the purposes of the Act if
- (a) the facility is a mineral mine, and
 - (b) the facility has, or when the construction phase is completed will have, a production capacity of 75 000 tonnes or more of mineral ore per year.
- (2) The modification of an existing facility constitutes a reviewable project for the purposes of the Act if
- (a) the facility meets the criteria described in subsection (1) for a new facility, and
 - (b) the modification results in, or when construction of the modification is completed will result in, the lesser of
 - (i) the disturbance of 750 hectares or more of land not previously permitted for disturbance by mining activity, and
 - (ii) the disturbance of an area of land not already permitted for disturbance that is 50 % or more of the area of land previously permitted for disturbance by mining activity at the facility.

Sand and gravel operations

21. (1) The construction of a new facility constitutes a reviewable project for the purposes of the Act if
- (a) the facility is within SIC code 082 - Sand and Gravel Pits, and
 - (b) the facility has, or when the construction phase is completed will have, a production capacity of
 - (i) 500 000 tonnes or more of sand or gravel or both sand and gravel per year, or
 - (ii) 1 000 000 tonnes or more of sand or gravel or both sand and gravel over a period not exceeding 4 years.
- (2) The modification of an existing facility constitutes a reviewable project for the purposes of the Act if
- (a) the facility meets the criteria described in subsection (1) for a new facility, and