

Environmental Leadership



As the world's leading diamond mining company, De Beers is committed to the development of local policies and procedures to minimize the impact of mining on the natural landscape, and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the communities in which we operate. De Beers' commitment to best environmental management practices has been recognized in other areas where we operate. We recognize that conditions in Canada are unique and we will strive to attain a comparable level of achievement in our Canadian Environmental Management System (EMS). At the end of 2001, all of De Beers' Canadian exploration offices achieved ISO 14001 certification. This represents an important milestone in the company's environmental management program.

De Beers Canada, active in diamond exploration and mining, is committed to the concept of sustainable development, which requires balancing good stewardship of the natural environment with economic growth.

Accordingly, De Beers Canada Inc. will:

- Conduct all activities in compliance with applicable legislation, and other requirements, providing for the protection of the environment, employees and the public;
- Apply appropriate good management practices in the absence of legislation or where De Beers believes more stringent criteria than those required by law are needed to advance environmental protection and to minimize environmental risks;
- Integrate the management of environmental, social, cultural and economic issues into company business and planning;
- Protect the environment through the wise use of resources and prevention of adverse environmental impacts, including pollution prevention;
- Implement, maintain and improve appropriate management systems and programmes to achieve environmental objectives, and to continually improve environmental performance through a process of regular review;
- Ensure awareness among employees and contractors of this environmental policy, promote shared responsibility and accountability for environmental obligations, and provide the support and training necessary to achieve these objectives; and
- Communicate openly with governments, employees, local communities and the public to sustain mutual understanding of environmental, social and economic issues.

DeBeers also identifies more specific environmental policies concerning environmental management systems, resource mining, infrastructure, and impact management.

For more information, check out
www.debeerscanada.com