

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Reclamation Symposium?

The British Columbia Mine Reclamation is an annual gathering of people interested in mine reclamation. The Symposium which is a casual event is held in a different location each year and involves tours to mine sites, short courses and presentations on different aspects of reclamation. The 2010 Symposium in Courtenay on Vancouver Island will be the 34th time the event has been held and is a joint endeavour with the Canadian Land Reclamation Association this year.

Who organizes the Symposium?

The Reclamation Symposium is organized by the Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR). The Committee originated in the early 1970's in response to a need in British Columbia mining for greater government-industry communication in the area of environmental protection and reclamation. Membership on the Committee is drawn from industry, provincial and federal government agencies, exploration and mining associations, and universities and colleges.

Who attends the Symposium?

The Symposium is attended by a wide range of people with interests in many aspects of mine reclamation and environmental protection, including:

- Reclamation practitioners from the different mining operations in BC and elsewhere
- Consultants involved in the reclamation field
- Provincial and federal regulators from several ministries and departments
- First Nations and community members interested in learning more about mine reclamation
- Academics involved in mine development, reclamation and closure
- Suppliers of reclamation related goods and services, and
- Students

What happens at a Symposium?

The Symposium normally begins on a Monday with an optional short course or tour. For example, this year (2010) there will be a tour to Mount Washington to view reclamation at this closed operation. On Monday evening there is a wine and cheese reception that gives everyone an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

On the Tuesday (2010) there is an all day tour to Port Hardy to visit the Island Copper mine site and view the reclamation and other environmental activities. A bag lunch will be provided. The tour will stop for dinner on the way back to Courtenay.

Technical sessions are held on Wednesday and Thursday with presentations given on many different aspects of reclamation related activities including planning, operational considerations, vegetation monitoring and water quality.

Each year there is a small trade fair with a number of suppliers and consultants providing information on their products and services.

An Awards Banquet is held Wednesday evening where awards for best reclamation performance in the previous year are presented in a number of categories.

How do I register for the Symposium?

Registration forms and instructions can be downloaded at www.trcr.bc.ca/events.htm.

What does the registration fee include?

The registration fee includes the Tuesday tour of a mining or reclamation project, including a bag lunch and dinner after the tour, all of the paper and poster sessions and one ticket to the Banquet on Wednesday night. You can purchase extra tickets for the banquet.

Is financial assistance available?

First Nation and community members actively participating in the review of reclamation for a proposed, operating or closed mine are invited to apply for free registration to the British Columbia Mine Reclamation Symposium.

Attendance at the symposium is a great opportunity to:

- gain an appreciation of the materials, methods and different approaches used in mine reclamation,
- gain an appreciation of the advancements in practices, techniques and standards that apply to the understanding and prediction of mine related impacts,
- learn about the different types of work conducted during all phases of mine life and differences between the various mines types,
- meet practitioners and,
- see examples of successful work.

Free registration will allow participation in all short courses, field trips, sponsored social events and the technical paper sessions.

Persons wishing to apply should send an e-mail indicating their name, affiliation and contact information and briefly describing the nature of their participation in the review of reclamation at a proposed, operating or closed mine to Bill Price of the TRCR at bprice@nrca.gc.ca.