

The BCPMA Annual General Meeting was held on Oct 21, 2017 in Kamloops.
Attendees were from the:

Atlin region, Victoria placer miners assoc, Cariboo placer miners assoc, Kootney region, Salmon Arm club and the Vernon placer miners assoc.

1. Again there was discussion about how judges are ruling on placer mining infractions. In some cases the court judges are making a ruling based on civil law rather than mining law. The court judges need to be made aware that there are two distinct different laws. The chief gold commissioner seems to be somewhat non-committal about this problem.
2. The Atlin region is experiencing problems with not getting NOW permits approved. When the NOW paperwork goes to First Nations for consultation, the FN's is mixing in historical land disturbance with current proposed disturbance. They should be only looking at the current proposed disturbance in any NOW application.
3. There was a little discussion about claim jumpers and illegal mining activity. It was only noted that if you witness this happening, just take photos, record a description of the vehicle(s), date, time, number of people, etc. and report it to the Ministry of Mines.
4. The 2017 wild fires impacted a number of miners because they were not able to access their claims. Those affected miners will most likely get an extension to do work on their claims and file the required work report. These miners must request the extension as it is not automatic.
5. There was discussion about claim status when a claim is under dispute. A suggestion was made to freeze a claim as soon as a dispute starts so the claim owner cannot transfer ownership during the dispute process. As it stands now, the ownership could be transferred which could result in the owner not losing his claim.

We are going to see two new additions soon relating to machine mining operations.

1. Supervisor Certification (**read Ministry presentation**).

The online version you will have to log onto the Open School BC site & after the landing page you will be directed to their secure payment page. Once started, the test can be open for a maximum of 30 days & will be an open book test. The test will be based on 200 questions & will be changed on each test which will have 100 different questions. To pass there will need to be an 80% or better grade to pass. There will be no prerequisite or requirements for being the Supervisor.

The cost will be \$100 & the money will be used to cover the costs of designing & implementing the Supervisor ticket. EMPR will not receive any of the money. The Supervisors ticket will be good for 5 years. The ticket can be used on any mining site in BC. i.e. if the person goes from placer to open pit, sand & gravel,

or a coal site. After passing the test there will be an instant certification & a wallet sized card can be printed as well as a wall certificate.

2. New Bonding fees. The ministry has realized that many projects were under bonded. If the owner of a mine site did not do their required reclamation, clean up, etc, the Government would contract out the work and end up paying far more than what they had for a bond. In a number of cases the reclamation and clean up was never done, even by the Government. The government acknowledged that their own inspectors are to blame, in some cases, as an insufficient number of inspections were done to keep tabs on the mine sites.

To address this problem the Ministry of Mines has come up with a Bond Calculator which is Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that the client will fill in and a total bond amount is calculated. The calculator lists fees for a wide variety of equipment, camp buildings, mileage to the mine site, area of disturbance and so on. *The charge associated with each item is what the ministry believes will cost the government should they have to contract out the reclamation and clean up.*

(Read Ministry presentation)

How much will the bonds increase? Short answer...SIGNIFICANTLY!

The president of the Cariboo Mining Association did a test run of the bond calculator based on a small mom and pop placer operation. Prior to the bond calculator, the bond would likely have been \$5,000. Using the bond calculator, the new bond is \$35,000.

Quote: I cannot understand the logic behind these increases and believe that if these bonding levels are increased to this level a whole new style of placer mining without any permits will become rampant as it will be the only way miners will be able to mine. What small scale operator has an extra \$100,000 or has even enough collateral in their home to fund a bank draft or performance bond. This will kill the Placer Industry and drive it underground!