



FOR RELEASE
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Yukon government improves inspection of quartz mining operations

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has formally assigned responsibility for water inspections at all quartz mining operations to the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. This brings the monitoring system for all mine sites in line with how inspections are already conducted for placer mining operations and the Minto Mine.

"The government is acting to ensure a seamless integration between water licence and quartz mining licence inspections to prevent gaps or overlaps, and to provide clarity and consistency," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Brad Cathers said. "This will enable government to increase the efficiency of monitoring and inspection programs, which allows us to do more inspections in more places."

The change will support the 'one mine-one inspector' concept that is part of the Yukon government's commitment to integrated resource management.

"Environment Yukon will continue to provide technical support to inspectors with respect to water licence enforcement," Minister of Environment Currie Dixon said. "We are committed to ensuring that all inspectors have the necessary training and resources to do their job, fulfill their legal obligations, and maintain the public's trust."

The transition of inspection duties for sites affected by this formal assignment will take place over the next few months. Making the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources responsible for all water inspections involving quartz mining operations complements the department's other responsibilities for compliance monitoring and enforcement.

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