

MRAB ORPHAN MINE DISCHARGE TASK FORCE RESOLUTIONS

TECHNOLOGY:

- **DEP prepare and issue an RFP for the demonstration of new or improved technology related to mine pool water. Categories to be considered include, but are not limited to:**
 - **In-situ treatment**
 - **In-situ abatement**
 - **Ex-situ treatment**
 - **Infiltration reduction**
 - **Economical metals recovery**

- **DEP to invest in modern Geotechnology, such as airborne geophysics, to map underground mine pools where existing mine maps are insufficient to determine mine extents and where there is a need to determine the underground extent of a given mine pool.**

- **DEP to develop a database to track the on-going status of existing or potential surface mine or mine pool discharges. This will include discharges currently being treated by public and private parties, discharges that are not being treated or discharges that are likely to occur as mine pools fill. Emphasis and priority is to be placed on those discharges that have the potential for recycling and reuse (i.e. high volume) and those that have the potential for third party treatment or abatement using waste or co-product materials. The database should include information such as location, elevation, flow and chemistry of the discharge. Where appropriate, mine maps indicating the extent of mining and mine pool levels will be included. This information to be prepared in a GIS format suitable for distribution.**

- **DEP to articulate its strategy for anticipating and addressing mine pool discharges that may occur**

- **DEP to coordinate the assimilation of mine discharge data with other federal, state and local agencies.**

- **DEP assemble a database of waste materials or co-products that may be beneficial in the treatment or abatement of mine discharges.**

OUTREACH:

- **DEP to form partnerships with other state and local agencies as well as the mining industry to assist in the marketing of mine pool discharges where the opportunity exists for recycling and reuse.**

-

- **DEP develop a public relations plan to inform the public and, where appropriate, seek input. The plan should address available media approaches, target audiences and message development.**

FINANCIAL:

- **DEP assemble a database on orphan and abandoned mines and estimate cost of treatment of same.**
- **DEP to seek partnerships with other state, local, and federal agencies and the private sector to secure adequate funding for demonstration projects.**
- **DEP to partner with DCED and conduct a market study on a market based approach to mine water treatment and sale of cleaned water.**
- **DEP to study revenue sources to subsidize water treatment where market users need assistance to ensure treatment.**
- **DEP to partner with local government, non-profits, and authorities in ownership at treatment plants for economic development.**
- **Request DEP to properly fund and staff the effort needed to carry out these recommendations.**

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE:

- **DEP to prepare a legal opinion to evaluate impediments to the use of alternative criteria, including best professional judgment standards for manganese on a case by case basis, to allow passive treatment where a higher manganese limit could be feasibly attained without compromising the use of surface waters, aquatic life or human health.**
- **DEP to request legal opinions on ownership of mine water, access rights and liability issues.**
- **DEP evaluate, solicit and develop a pilot project on mine discharge effluent trading.**
- **DEP should promote and assist agriculture and energy industries in taking advantage of carbon, effluent trading or other credit trading opportunities that could enhance incentives for projects that reduce the risk from or magnitude of mine pool discharges.**
- **DEP promote federal legislation to establish Good Samaritan protection in federal regulations.**