

# **ACTIVITIES OF MINES ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT FOR YEAR 2022**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Mines Environmental Compliance Department has the mandate of enforcing compliance in Mineral Resource Development in Nigeria. To achieve this, the department carries out the following activities:

- Co-ordination of the activities of State Mineral Resources and Environmental Management Committee (MIREMCO).
- Review of all Plans, Studies and Reports submitted by Mineral Title Holders.
- Community Development Agreement (CDA) Issues.
- Joint review of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Mining Projects in collaboration with Federal Ministry of Environment.
- Review of Environmental Protection & Rehabilitation Program (EPRP)
- Coordination of Environmental Protection & Rehabilitation Fund (EPRF).
- Reclamation of abandoned mine sites programme.
- Reviews of mines closure/decommissioning plans.
- Field Monitoring and Environmental Auditing
- Review of Annual Reclamation Statements and
- Review of Fuel Storage Plans by Mineral Title Holders

## **2.0 RECLAMATION OF ABANDONED MINES**

Reclamations of some high risk abandoned mines, which were captured in the 2022 capital project were executed. The summary of the reclamation projects successfully conducted in the year under review are as follows:

- i. One (1) site at Ihietutu community in Ishiagu LGA of Ebonyi State
- ii. One (1) site at Idoka Town in Obokun LGA, Osun State
- iii. One (1) site at Akamkpa, Cross River State
- iv. One (1) site at Jos South LGA, Plateau State
- v. One (1) site at Tawa, Toro LGA, Bauchi State
- vi. One (1) site at Tudu Uku, Karu LGA, Nassarawa State

### **3.0 REVALIDATION OF THE INVENTORY OF ABANDONED MINE SITES**

Revalidation exercise aimed at updating the already existing inventory of abandoned mine sites has been awarded for Year 2022 (but yet to be executed) to cover the six geopolitical zones as follows:

- i. South-South/ South West Zones
- ii North Central/ South East Zones
- iii. North East/ North West Zones

So far about 975 sites out of 1,500 sites have been revalidated.

### **4.0 PURCHASE OF FIELD MONITORING EQUIPMENT**

To further ensure compliance by Mineral Title Holders, field monitoring equipment were purchased which will be distributed to the State Officers to further equip them for compliance monitoring and enforcement in the field. For year 2022, the following equipment were procured:

- 5 (Nos.) Portable Gas Detector
- 5 (Nos.) Air Quality Monitor Accurate Tester for CO
- 5 (Nos.) Personal Gas Detector Alert (NO<sub>2</sub>)

### **5.0 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT (CDA)**

The availability of the CDA guidelines to operators has led to increased numbers of approvals. During the period under review 21 CDAs were approved, making it a total of 231 so far from inception. This has improved the relationship between Mining operators and their respective host communities resulting in reduced conflicts and youth's restiveness.

### **6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME (EPRP)**

During the period under review, 55 Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation Programme (EPRP) Reports were approved, making it a total of 405 approved from inception. This has helped as a tool to monitor compliance with environmental regulations in the sector.

## **7.0 FUEL STORAGE PLAN (FSP)**

Plan is in progress to produce the guidelines for the Fuel Storage Plan (FSP). This will facilitate compliance by Mineral Title Holders (MTHs) to the requirement on FSP. A total of Eight (8) FSPs were approved in the year under review bringing the total number of approved FSP from inception to 30.

## **8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESSES**

During the Year 2022, the Department in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment participated in the following Critical aspects of EIA Process.

- a. 11 Site Verification Exercises.
- b. 3 Impacts Mitigation Monitoring (IMM).
- c. 9 Panel Review Exercises.

## **9.0 STATE MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (MIREMCO)**

In order to fast-track development of the nation's mineral resources in line with the present government agenda on diversification of economy, the Ministry has facilitated the reactivation of the MIREMCO. This includes:

- a. Mobilization of 16 States with funding in year 2022 which is expected to boost their performance.
- b. Sensitization Programme for Mineral Title Holders and general public facilitated by MIREMCO in various States of the Federation.
- c. Regular meetings and submission of reports of activities by MIREMCO in the 33 active States.
- d. Resolution of several conflicts between Mineral Title Holders and Host Communities.

## **10.0 FIELD INSPECTION REPORTS BY FIELD OFFICERS**

During the period under review, there was improvement in the number of monthly Reports of activities rendered by State Officers from the Thirty-Six States and FCT covered by MEC officers due to increased synergy, procurement and distribution of field equipment which boosted staff efficiency.

## **11.0 REDEPLOYMENT**

To strengthen the Department, four (4) staff were redeployed from State Offices to Headquarter, One Staff was redeployed from Headquarter to Kaduna State while Two (2) other Staff were reshuffled from one state to another.

## **12.0 SENSITIZATION WORKSHOPS/ TOWNHALL MEETINGS**

- a. Sensitization Workshop/Town Hall Meeting on Environmental Obligations of Mineral Title Holders - Kogi and Lagos States.
- b. Sensitization of MTH and Relevant Stakeholders on Climate Change and Mining [6<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2022] covering the following states:
  - i. Kogi State
  - ii. Edo State
  - iii. Ebonyi State
  - iv. Bauchi State
  - iv. Gombe State
  - vii. Ogun State
  - viii. Kaduna State
- c. Sensitization programme for Mineral Title Holders and Relevant Stakeholders on '*Environmental Degradation and Pollution Resulting from Mining Activities*':
  - i. Gombe
  - ii. Bauchi
  - iii. Kaduna
  - iv. Kano
  - v. Kogi
  - vi. Nasarawa
  - vii. Ebonyi
  - viii. Abia
  - ix. Ogun
  - x. Oyo
  - xi. Cross-River
  - xii. Edo States

## **13.0 CAPACITY BUILDING/TRAINING PROGRAMMES:**

The following capacity building programmes were carried out in the Department:

- a. Professional Training on Environmental Health and Safety Management in Quarry Operations. [QMS Consult Nig., Ltd.] 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> August, 2022
- b. Environmental Monitoring in Mines and Quarries. [Ecosphere Consulting Nig. Ltd.] 29<sup>th</sup> August – 2<sup>nd</sup> September

- c. Environmental Pollution in Mines and Quarries. [Ecosphere Consulting Nig. Ltd.] 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2022
- d. Some staff participated in the project management and monitoring and evaluation training organized by MinDiver for MMSD staff

**14. Other workshops and conferences participated by the Department include:**

- Staff of the department attended a Two-Day workshop on the development of implementation framework for land degradation neutrality (LDN) and bridging of policy
- Attended Project Launch of Nigeria's Long-Term Strategies and Inception Meeting for the Development of Nigeria's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan organized by the Federal Ministry of Environment
- Attended the Presentation of the Digital Innovation in Federal Government Category for the year 2022 Award Won by the Nigeria Mining Cadaster Office (MCO)
- Participated in a One-Day High Government-Business Roundtable Dialogue on preparation for Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15)
- Attended a round table discussion on the Mining Sector and Internalizing of Regional Mining Policy Frameworks in Mineral Sector Policies of Nigeria, which took place in Stratton Hotel, Bola Ige Close, Asokoro, Abuja
- Attended the Maiden Edition of the Nigerian-African Natural Resource and Energy Investment Submit (NAFNIS)
- Attended Climate Parliament Nigeria Network Two-Day Technical Capacity Building Workshop on the Climate Change Act 2021
- Participated in the discussion and review of Concept for the Synchronization of MINDIVER Grievance Redress Mechanism (M-GRM) with Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (MMSD) Existing Conflict Resolution Mechanism and Development \Framework for Grievance Resolution and Conflict Management in the Mining

- Attended a One–Day Stakeholders ‘Workshop on the Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement Towards Meeting the Nigeria’s NDC and Net Zero Emission’ at Sandralia Hotel, Jabi
- Attended a Two-day Workshop on Strengthening of the Legal and Institutional Infrastructure for Sound Management of Chemicals in Nigeria. Organized by Federal Ministry of Environment in conjunction with UNITA
- Attended a Strategic Partnership Meeting organized by African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development held at Havilah Towers and Gold Suites, Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State

## **15.0 DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS**

As a tradition to keep staff of the Department abreast of various activities in all the units and sections of the Department, meetings were held with all the staff of the Department where issues and ideas were addressed to move the Department forward. Zoom meetings were also held from the Headquarters for Zonal and State officers of the Department. The breakdown is as follows:

- 7 Departmental meetings with Headquarter Staff
- 3 Zoom meetings with MEC Zonal Coordinators
- 2 Zoom Meetings with MIREMCO Chairmen
- 1 Joint briefing at Keffi involving both Headquarter and Zonal/ State Officers