Automation of the Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles

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The Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles is responsible for receiving applications for mineral and petroleum rights, and for issuing and registering licences and leases. In addition, documents affecting licences are registered by this office. The registry also receives statements of exploration expenditures and assessment reports that pertain to the renewal of licences and leases. Maps showing the disposition of lands under licence or lease are maintained and continually updated. The registry also maintains a system of Prospector Registration, including the issuance of prospector’s identification cards. Applications for underground gas storage rights and exploration-related activities are also processed through this office.

Staking Activity

The total area under exploration licence, including special licence, at the end of 2010 was approximately 262 673 hectares, down over 2009’s figure of 283 571 hectares. Staking levels for the first eight months of 2011 show an upward trend with approximately 306 476 hectares under licence at the end of August.

Registry Modernization

The Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles has utilized a paper-based system for the issuance, tracking, and management of mineral tenure. This system needs to be upgraded to more efficiently manage the mineral rights and permitting, provide more timely access to mineral rights information, and to ultimately enable clients to acquire and manage their mineral rights over the internet. Current plans are to convert the registry to the new system by fall 2012 and enable online access in the spring of 2013.

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