30.01.07

Denise Turnbull
Mining Registrar
Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines
Minerals and Energy Titles Division
GPO Box 3000
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Ms Turnbull


These leases were originally Coal leases 3 & 4, granted under the now rescinded Coal Act for the extraction of sedge peat.

When they became mineral leases the terms and conditions of the Coal Act were preserved for the life of these leases.

The main uses for the peat are in horticulture as potting soils and soil additives, or in the mining industry as wetland filters.

It presents as a surface deposit which is under water for most of the year and this restricts mining to about one month per year. Some years mining is impossible because of the seasonal conditions.

The primary concerns are the proper rehabilitation of the sites at which we mine, as it is a wetland environment. Over the years we have been able to achieve good outcomes under supervision of departmental officers from your department. There are current mine management plans which set out the procedures which we undertake.

Because of the nature of this reserve conventional exploration procedures were not necessary. Hand auger drilling was used to determine depth of the deposit in the early years – ¼ metre to 1 metre.
The Geo-chemical tests are really just horticultural soil tests. As most of wetland filters were supervised by the department all the reporting on this aspect was done within the department.

Prior to the implementation of the mine management plan our annual reports contained the volume of material that was extracted for the year. These were usually sent to the Senior Departmental Geologist.

If you require any further information on these leases please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Kerry Eupene
For Eupene, Sullivan and Stone