MineResearch

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"Appropriate Technology for Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners"

January 12, 2009

Head, UNEP Chemicals Branch, DTIE 11-13, chemin des Anémones CH-1219 Châtelaine Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Sir or Madam:

For the past year, I have informally participated in UNEP's Global Mercury Partnership, bringing my expertise in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) operations and communities to the Partnership's teleconferences. At this point now, however, I would like to formalize this relationship and register my commitment to the Partnership's goals to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury.

My expertise in ASGM is founded in my training as a mining engineer (MASc), and in my work as a consultant for institutions attempting to reduce ASGM mercury releases. For 3 years, I served as an Expert for UNIDO's Global Mercury Project in Africa. I have been a Research Associate at UBC's Norman Keevil Institute of Mining Engineering where I continue to focus on ASGM mercury releases during cyanidation of amalgamation tailings.

I believe that my technical and practical experience with ASGMs will help the Global Mercury Partnership bridge its desire to support the development of progressive mercury policy with the realities facing ASM communities. Resolving the problem of ASGM mercury use must be based on a recognition of the importance of mining as a source of livelihood and health for miners and their families.

Sincerely,

Stephen Metcalf

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