

Mining

Mining operations extract metallic and non-metallic mineral deposits from the earth.¹ The BC Ministry of Energy and Mines regulates mining in the province.

There are six main phases in the development of a mine:

- Geoscience surveys
- Exploration
- Discovery
- Development (feasibility studies and capital investment)
- Production (extraction, milling and processing activities)
- Reclamation (returning the land to a productive state) during operation and/or after the mine is closed.²

Mining Sites Adjacent to PNCIMA

In the watersheds draining into PNCIMA there are three types of mining industries:

- coal mining for bituminous coal, sedimentary kaolin clay and fireclay;

In 2010, seven mines were producing in the watersheds that flow into PNCIMA

- mining that targets precious metals (gold and silver) and base metals (copper, zinc, lead and cadmium); and

- industrial mining for slag, silica, limestone, granite, dimension stone and building stone.³

Operational mines, selected major exploration projects, proposed mine developments and abandoned mine sites are depicted on the accompanying map.

In 2010 there were seven producing mines (see table for details), at least 30 exploration projects (one coal, 29 metal) and two proposed metal mining developments within the watersheds that flow into PNCIMA.^{1,4}

Material presented is drawn from the following literature reviews, which include primary references:
 1 Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands. 2011. Exploration and mining in British Columbia 2010. Government of BC: Victoria, 126 pp. <http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/PublicationsCatalogue/ExplorationinBC/Documents/2010/BCEx-Mining2010.pdf> (Accessed March 2011).
 2 BC Ministry of Energy. 2007. Energy and petroleum: six essential phases of mining. <http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Pages/SixEssentialPhasesofMining.aspx> (Accessed March 2009).
 3 MacConnachie, S.; Hillier, J.; Butterfield, S. 2007. Marine Use Analysis of the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area. Can. Tech. Rep. Fish. Aquat. Sci. 2677. 188pp.
 4 Grieve, D., Madu, B., Northcote, B., Wojdak, P., Fredericks, J., Meredith-Jones, S. and Desjardins, P. 2011. Operating mines and selected major exploration projects in British Columbia 2010. BC Ministry of Forests, Mines and Lands. <http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/PublicationsCatalogue/OpenFiles/2011/Documents/OF2011-1/OF2011-1.pdf> (Accessed March 2011).

Active producing mines in the watersheds that flow into PNCIMA^{1,4}

Mine	Location	Description
Myra Falls	Southwest of Campbell River	Metal mine (zinc, copper, gold, silver)
Quinsam	18 km west of Campbell River	Thermal coal
Benson Lake	Northern Vancouver Island	Industrial minerals (white marble)
Orca	Near Port McNeill, northern Vancouver Island	Industrial minerals (sand, gravel)
PEM 100 (Apple Bay)	Northern Vancouver Island	Industrial minerals (chalky geyserite)
Sentinel Stone	Northern BC mainland	Industrial minerals
C1	Northern BC mainland	Industrial minerals



*BHP mine site, Quatsino Sound
Photo: Steve Diggon*

