November 27, 2014

Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs puts out Minerals Green Paper for Public Comment

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA) has put out for public comment a Green Paper on a Minerals Policy for Trinidad and Tobago.

The Green Paper is intended to serve as a guide for national discussion and debate in which all stakeholders are encouraged to participate and contribute.

The document seeks to outline a future direction for the Minerals sector and chart a course forward which will enable the sector to become more efficient, effective and operate within a comprehensive regulatory framework consistent with existing legislation.

The Minerals sector supports the construction sector and is an important component of the supply side of the economy. However one of the fundamental issues affecting the sector is scourge of illegal mining (quarrying), especially on State lands, which in many instances has resulted in detrimental impacts upon the environment and the quality of life of the citizens of this country.

A National Minerals Policy will ensure that the country is better able to harness optimal value from the use of its mineral resources. The overarching objectives of the policy will include:

- Efficient management of the minerals sector to extract optimal value for the benefit of the citizens and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;

- effective regulation of the sector and consistent enforcement of any required action in accordance with existing legislation;
• greater levels of competitiveness, transparency and accountability in the operations and regulation of the sector through enhanced minerals processing and value added product development;

• transformation of minerals sector operations in accordance with international operating standards and environmental best practices.

The Green Paper on a Minerals Policy for Trinidad and Tobago is currently available on the MEEA’s website, www.energy.gov.tt.

Persons desirous of providing comments on the Green Paper are invited and encouraged to send their comments on or before Monday 29th December, 2014 to:

Mr. Glenford Hector
Level 15
Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs
Tower C
#1 Wrightson Road
Port-of-Spain

Or via email at
ghector@energy.gov.tt

In addition the MEEA will be hosting at least three public consultations on the National Minerals Policy at various venues across the country. These venues and corresponding dates will be announced shortly via the Ministry’s website and the media.

For further information kindly contact:

Corporate Communications
Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs
info@energy.gov.tt
623-6708/624-6147