

- **By: Pitcher**

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"It seems some mining companies are created more equal than others," was the miffed response of a senior London resources executive after discovering that his competitors had sight of the Mining Minerals Sustainable Development draft final report long before he did. That is just one complaint among many ahead of the release of the final report in late April.

A key contributor to the report says the draft is nothing more than underwhelming. "It has cost \$8 million to produce a socio-economics 101 paper. They could have spent \$1 million, done a better job, and completed it in half the time."

Criticism is focused on misattribution of key statements, some of which are so grievous they threaten relationships between contributors and producers, along with errors of fact, unsupported conclusions, hyper partisan interpretations and the promotion of new agencies instead of engaging existing ones with a surfeit of capacity.

While the purpose of the review period is to correct errors and fine tune the results, the contributor is pessimistic. He says the overall poor quality makes the repair job immense, if not impossible, which has undermined the credibility and legitimacy of the work, some of it highly valued in other circumstances.

The London executive is said to be "considering his funding options" although it's rather late in the day since the project concludes in May after the Global Mining Initiative conference in Toronto. Nevertheless, any split in the industry on the final findings and proposals can hardly help the cause.

Further criticism is being levelled against the sheer size of the report which is only available via the Internet (don't bother without a high speed connection). Printing the tome is another obstacle and not for profit groups are apparently bitter at the prospect of spending a whole year's peripheral's budget to get something in hand.

A cynic of the process says the end result confirms his worst suspicions about an employment manufacturing scheme, especially since the rather abundant tap gets turned off mid-year. There won't be any work extensions of the London exec has his way.