IMA  
COMMISSION ON NEW MINERALS, NOMENCLATURE AND  
CLASSIFICATION  
(CNMNC)  

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009 TO IUGS

(Prepared by the Secretary, Stuart Mills)

1. COMMISSION ON NEW MINERALS, NOMENCLATURE AND  
CLASSIFICATION

Officers
Chairman: Peter Williams (Sydney, Australia)  
Vice-Chairmen: Frédéric Hatert (Liège, Belgium); Marco Pasero (Pisa, Italy).  
Secretary: Stuart Mills (Vancouver, Canada)

2. OVERALL OBJECTIVES
This commission (CNMNC) was established in 1959 (under the former title of  
Commission on New Minerals and Mineral Names, or CNMMN) to deal with all  
nomenclature matters in mineralogy. Its main roles are to ensure that strict procedures  
are followed before new mineral species can be established and before redefinitions  
and changes to nomenclature can be applied. The CNMNC also coordinates the  
procedures for classification of minerals and groups.

3. ORGANISATION

Officers for 2009
Officers are listed above and the full membership of CNMNC is given in 8 (below).

Business meetings
The CNMNC holds its business meetings every two years, when its members  
participate in IMA General Meetings and Mineralogy & Museums Conferences, each  
of which are held every four years. The CNMNC last met in Golden, Colorado in  
September 2008. The next meeting will be during the IMA General Meeting in 2010.

Main activities
The CNMNC partitions its workload amongst the four officers. The Chairman  
presents the new mineral proposals, the Vice-Chairmen handle proposed changes to  
existing nomenclature (discreditations and redefinitions) and classification issues  
(including groups), and the Secretary coordinates the subcommittees created to  
examine the nomenclature of mineral groups. The 34 voting Members of the CNMNC  
represent national mineralogical organisations affiliated with the IMA. The members  
evaluate all nomenclature proposals (new minerals, changes in existing minerals,  
mineral groups) and cast their votes on a monthly basis for the new mineral proposals  
and as they come for the other proposals.

Financial support
The distribution of proposals and the subsequent rounds of comments and voting are carried out solely via the internet. The IMA covers the Chairman’s costs for office supplies, while the costs of Members’ emailing and internet time are borne by their respective institutions.

4. INVOLVEMENT WITH IMA AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Vice Chairman Frédéric Hatert is currently a member of the IMA-OC (Outreach Committee). In collaboration with Bob Downs, he is involved in the updating of the RUFF database of minerals.

5. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009

Activities
By December 08 2009, the CNMNC will have dealt with 91 new-mineral proposals, and most likely the number will end up being ~100 by the end of the year. 2009 has seen a substantial increase in the number of new mineral submissions as well as nomenclature proposals over previous years (70 new mineral proposals in 2008; 66 in 2007; 63 in 2006).

Members will also have deliberated on and approved seven proposals involving mineral nomenclature revisions and are currently deliberating on another. 2009 has also seen the approval of a mineral group hierarchy which has been debated on numerous occasions over the past decade. A proposal on the release of mineral names is currently being dealt with.

Seven CNMNC subcommittees were operational during 2009:
1. Pyrochlore (Chairman: Daniel Atencio, Brazil)
2. Tourmaline (Chairman: Milan Novák, Czech Republic)
3. Alunite (Chairman: Peter Bayliss, Australia)
4. Amphibole (Chairpersons, Frank Hawthorne, Canada and Roberta Oberti, Italy)
5. Lovozeroite (Chairman: Igor Pekov, Russia)
6. Apatite (Chairman: Marco Pasero, Italy)
7. Hydrotalcite (Chairman: Stuart Mills, Canada)

New members
The Commission added substantially to its membership through an approach by the Secretary to the Mineralogical Societies who were unrepresented. This resulted in new Members from Argentina, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. In many cases these are the first delegates on the CNMNC from these countries in CNMNC history.

Outreach
The ex-Chairman and current Secretary regularly participate in discussion on minerals and their nomenclature in the Message Board of the website www.mindat.org, a forum aimed at collectors and amateur mineralogists, but also used by professionals to discuss mineralogical issues.
Updated versions of the official IMA–CNMNC list of mineral names were uploaded onto the Commission’s website, as well as newer versions of valid unnamed minerals, invalid unnamed minerals, and references for unnamed minerals.

Also published on the CNMNC website was a complete list of all CNMNC decisions made in 2008, as well as monthly summaries of the most recent new minerals approved by the Commission.

**Technical meetings**
No technical meetings were held in 2009.

**Publications**
Several papers dealing with decisions of the CNMNC were submitted for publication in the scientific literature during the year:


The reports of the alunite and tourmaline committees are due to be published shortly.

**6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN 2008**

Generally the work of the Commission proceeded smoothly in 2009. However, the office-bearers continue to be concerned about the low participation rate of some Commission Members. This seems to be a continuing problem partly related to the heavy work load of the Commission. This problem was partly solved by recruiting new enthusiastic Members.

**7. WORKPLAN FOR 2010**

**Activities**
It is anticipated that the number of new mineral proposals, nomenclature revisions and discreditations will continue to be high. New subcommittees are being established to replace the ones that have completed their work and several are near completion. It continues to be a very active period in mineralogical sciences.

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