

**IMA**  
**Commission in New Minerals, Nomenclature and**  
**Classification**  
**(CNMNC)**  
**Annual Report for 2008 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 (Liege, Belgium); Marco Pasero (Pisa, Italy).

Secretary: Stuart Mills (Vancouver, Canada)

On September 1, 2008 Ernst A. J. Burke and William D. Birch retired from the Commission and a few weeks later Stanislav [Filatov](#) retired due to ill health.

**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.

**3. ORGANISATION**

**Officers for 2008**

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 prepares the new-mineral proposals, the vice-chairmen handle proposed changes to existing nomenclature (discreditations and redefinitions) and classification issues, and the secretary coordinates the subcommittees created to examine the nomenclature of mineral groups. Arrangements currently under discussion may result in some changes to the way the work is apportioned. The 28 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 via the internet, so postage costs have largely been eliminated. 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).

## **5. CHIEF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2008**

### **Activities**

By November 13 2008, the CNMNC will have dealt with 64 new-mineral proposals, which will most likely end up being ~70 and a slight increase on previous years (66 proposals in 2007; 63 proposals in 2006, 64 proposals in 2005; 59 in 2004). Members will also have deliberated on and approved five proposals involving mineral nomenclature revisions and are currently deliberating on a new proposal to extend historical naming and the suffix rule. The approval of revisions to the dominant-constituent rule was also a milestone of the year.

Seven CNMNC subcommittees were functioning during 2008:

1. Pyrochlore (Chairman: Daniel Atencio, Brazil – new Chairman)
2. Tourmaline (Chairman: Milan Novák, Czech Republic)
3. Alunite (Chairman: Peter Bayliss, Australia)
4. Amphibole (Chairpersons, Frank Hawthorne and Roberta Oberti, Canada)
5. Aenigmatite (Chairman: Ed Grew, USA)
6. Lovozerite (Chairman: Igor Pekov, Russia)
7. Apatite (Chairman: Marco Pasero, Italy)

The aenigmatite subcommittee finalised their report in 2008 and it is currently in press. Final drafts of both the tourmaline and lovozerite subcommittee reports have been prepared and are due to be voted on shortly. The amphibole report is expected to be sent to members in the New Year.

### **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](http://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 2007, as well as monthly summaries of the most recent new minerals approved by the Commission.

### **Technical meetings**

No technical meetings were held in 2008.

### **Publications**

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

Moelo, Y. et al. 2008: Sulfosalt Systematics: a Review. Report of the Sulfosalt Subcommittee of the IMA Commission on Ore Mineralogy. *European Journal of Mineralogy*, 20, 7–49.

Burke, E. A. J. 2008: Tidying up mineral names: an IMA-CNMNC scheme for suffixes, hyphens and diacritical marks. *Mineralogical Record*, 39, 131–135.

Hatert, F. and Burke, E. A.J. 2008: The IMA–CNMNC dominant-constituent rule revisited and extended. *Canadian Mineralogist*, 46, 717–728.

## **6. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN 2008**

Generally the work of the Commission proceeded smoothly in 2008. However, the office-bearers continue to be concerned about the low participation rate for some commission members. This seems to be an ongoing problem partly related to the heavy work load of the Commission.

The transition of office bearers in the Commission went smoothly as a few months overlap was initiated by the Chairman and Secretary.

In September (after the M&M6 conference), the issue of the CNMNC's role in nomenclature revisions came to the forefront via the MSA-Talk email-based forum. For some time, concern has been expressed, especially by some members of the Commission, over the loss of historical mineral names. This problem came to light recently when two different draft reports proposed to discredit historical mineral names that recognised prominent mineralogists in favour of suffix-based names. After lengthy discussions before and during the M&M6 conference, a proposal to extend historical priority and establish the “suffix synonym rule” was distributed to members for voting in October. The results will be known at the end of November 2008.

## **7. WORKPLAN FOR 2009**

### **Activities**

It is anticipated that the number of new mineral proposals, nomenclature revisions and discreditations will rise slightly in 2009. This is mostly due to the current subcommittees nearing completion. It is hoped that most if not all of the subcommittees will have submitted a draft report, or their final reports will have been voted on, by the end of 2009.

## **8. OFFICERS AND NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Officers**

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