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Industry body welcomes Alaska, BC water protection pact

JOHANNESBURG (miningweekly.com) – The Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC) has welcomed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and cooperation between the US state of Alaska and the Canadian province of British Columbia to protect their shared waterways.

The MoU, which was signed on Wednesday, provided a framework for future collaboration and included a commitment to establish a bilateral working group on the protection of transboundary waters.

“This MoU builds on the already-strong relationship between British Columbia and Alaska and the natural ties between neighbours.

“We applaud and support the leadership of both governments on defining how each government can best represent the interests of its citizens on transboundary affairs and support responsible mineral exploration and development,” commented AME BC chairperson David McLelland.

AME BC president and CEO Gavin Dirom added that the interests of all Alaskans and British Columbians were best served by discussing matters such as mine development and environmental stewardship regionally and locally, rather than in a national or international context.

“The agreement builds on the role that province and state officials already have in being mutually involved, where appropriate and efficient, in respective environmental assessments and permitting processes,” he noted.