

research projects, e.g. projects from the physical technologies or oceanography. To that end, a first constitutive meeting took place in spring 2001.

But Canadian and German scientists are working together on projects even outside the networks. For instance, scientists from the ecotoxicology sections in the UFZ and in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Waterloo are sharing their specialist know-how to develop new analytical methods combining field-flow fractionation and solid-phase microextraction.

Since acid water from mines is a current, relevant problem both in Canada and in the opencast mining regions of eastern Germany, the UFZ's water research section is working together with the School of Geography and Geology at McMaster University in Hamilton to study the interactions between bacteria, nickel and iron in acid water and neutral water from mines. Sulphurous discharge from incineration gases exerts a comparably long-lasting effect on soil and vegetation in the industrial regions of both countries. Researchers from the Institut für Bodenkunde [Institute of Soil Science] at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich and from the Department of Physics & Astronomy and the Department of Geology & Geophysics at the University of Calgary are therefore examining the long-term environmental impact of industrial sulphur.

As a "new" groundwater pollutant, the fuel additive MTBE has already been studied intensively in Canada, whereas the problem has not yet become a focus of interest in Europe. Scientists in the UFZ project area "Industrie- und Bergbaufolgelandschaften" ("Land Contaminated by Industry and Mining") are profiting from the experiences of their Canadian colleagues and, together with the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Waterloo, are experimenting in the field to explore possibilities for accelerating MTBE's self-cleaning property.

Geology de la McMaster University, à Hamilton, les interactions entre bactéries, nickel et fer dans les eaux acides et dans les eaux neutres provenant des sites miniers.

Le soufre des gaz de combustions a, dans les régions industrielles des deux pays, des effets comparables à long terme sur le sol et la végétation. Des chercheurs de l'Institut für Bodenkunde (Institut de pédologie) de la Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität de Munich et du Department of Physics & Astronomy and Geology & Geophysics de la University of Calgary ont, donc, voulu connaître les effets à long terme des rejets industriels de soufre sur l'environnement.

« Nouveau » polluant des eaux souterraines, l'éther méthyltertiobutylique (MtBE), additif à l'essence, fait déjà l'objet de recherches intensives au Canada, mais pas en Europe. Les chercheurs du Projet de recherche Industrie- und Bergbaufolgelandschaften (Paysages d'anciens sites industriels et miniers) de l'UFZ tirent parti de l'expérience de leurs homologues canadiens en étudiant au Department of Earth Sciences de la University of Waterloo des moyens d'accélérer la biodégradation du MtBE.