

#### Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Mining Act Public Meeting - Tyrone Mine Closeout Plan

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August 5, 2020







# Background

- Education
  - B.Sc. Mining Engineering
  - M.Sc. Engineering Management
  - Graduate Specialty Certificates: Construction Management and Occupational Safety
- Work
  - 16 years in mining industry
    - ~5 years with Mine Engineering
      - Mine Planning: day to day operations to life of mine
      - o Geomechanics
    - 11+ years with Reclamation/Environmental
      - Quality Control / Quality Assurance
      - Compliance
      - Project and Construction Management
      - Permitting
      - Closure Design
      - Financial Assurance Estimating



#### **Tyrone Mine Location Map**

#### What is a Closeout Plan?



- Mines regulated by the Mining Act must have an approved Closeout Plan
- The Closeout Plan = Reclamation Plan; describes activities to stabilize/safeguard the mine site to protect human life and the environment
- Mining Act reclamation standard
  - Reclaim to a "self-sustaining ecosystem" or another approved "postmining land use"
- Includes costs estimate used to determine financial assurance amount
- Mine operator is required to prepare the plan and submit it to the Agencies for review/approval

#### **Revision 09-1 History**



- Updated application submitted on July 15, 2013
- Updates Closeout Plan to comply with the Copper Mine Rule
- Tyrone has addressed comments from agencies and the public
- Workgroup was established in August 2018 to resolve comments on costestimating methodology
  - Workgroup was comprised of MMD, NMED, GRIP, FMI representatives
- Submitted cost estimate for closure on April 29, 2020

## **2020 Reclamation Plan - Earthwork**



- Regrading and stormwater controls
- Approved cover material placement
- Revegetation with native plants
- Long-term monitoring and maintenance
  - Vegetation and erosion
- Stormwater controls
  - Minimum design: peak flow from 100 year return interval storm event
    - 100 year storm = 1% chance storm will occur in any given year
      - Infrequent event
      - Example: ~3.9 inches of rain over 24 hours
    - Standard engineering practice and required by regulation
    - Very high standard and exceeds New Mexico design requirements for closure of landfills and highway design
  - Precipitation event is regularly updated by NOAA based on all current data including climate change

#### Waiver Area



- Mining Act allows for a waiver "from the requirement of achieving a postmining land use or self-sustaining ecosystem" of open-pit areas of an existing mine
- Requires showing that achieving the "self-sustaining ecosystem" requirement is not technically feasible, would be extraordinarily costly, or would be environmentally unsound
- Originally MMD granted a waiver for Tyrone's open-pit mine in 2004
- This permit revision would renew the waiver

#### **Earthwork Reclamation Areas**







Industrial Use

#### **Closeout Plan – Water Treatment**



- During mine operation, impacted water is retained within the mine and recycled into operations
- After closeout Tyrone will continue to collect and retain all water within the mine that does not meet standards
- Mine water not meeting standards will be treated prior to release or reuse with a combination of technologies including:
  - Membrane filtration (similar to reverse osmosis)
  - Lime neutralization process
  - Evaporation
- Water Treatment
  - 100 years Tyrone: ~\$326M proposed

# 2020 Reclamation Plan – Other Elements

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- Site Safety Management
- Monitoring well abandonment / installation
- Building demolition
- Fencing

## **Financial Assurance Cost Estimate**



- Cost estimate based on
  - Approved CCP scope of work
  - Workgroup negotiations
- Cost estimate calculated as
  - Approximately \$431,072,000 nominal total
  - Approximately \$176,326,000 present value
    - Amount that has to be invested to for the state to have \$431M to cover the reclamation earthwork and water treatment costs
- Financial Assurance
  - Financial Assurance instrument(s) in accordance with applicable regulations will be proposed once the cost estimate is approved

## **Financial Assurance Instruments**



- Current Instruments at Tyrone (as allowed by New Mexico law)
  - Surety Bond
  - Trust Fund
  - Letter of Credit
  - Collateral
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Guarantee
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  - Allowed by other municipal and federal programs
  - New Mexico has NEVER had a default of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Guarantee by a mining company
  - Guarantor must demonstrate financial soundness
    - Reoccurring demonstration
    - Investment grade rating
    - Adequate assets/net worth

Net worth = assets - liabilities

## **Reclaimed to Wildlife Habitat**





#### Award Winning Reclamation

- •State Agencies
- •Wildlife Habitat Council



#### **Response to Specific Comments**

- Financial Assurance
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Guarantee and Collateral
  - 100 years of maintenance and water treatment
    - Reduction of O&M
  - Disposition of treated water (beneficial use)
- Impacts to local residents during operations
- Stormwater design 100 year return interval storm event

#### NOAA Assessment on Impacts of Climate Change for 100 year Storm Event







