

Social Responsibility, Environment, Recycling

Thompson Creek has an excellent record of complying with environmental laws and regulations and is committed to carrying out its social responsibilities in this regard. In addition, at both mine sites the final reclamation obligation is largely pre-funded to ensure proper completion.

The Corporation has undertaken a number of initiatives at its operations to minimize disruption to the environment and production of waste materials.

LANGELOTH METALLURGICAL FACILITY

The Langeloth Metallurgical Facility is situated in a small Pennsylvania community where residents live within 3,000 feet of the facility. It is important to the facility and the community that residents coexist in a healthy environment. The facility has reclaimed significant portions of the property that were disturbed by previous activities. Management is cooperating with industry and regulatory agencies to study ground water migration in sub-surface abandoned coal mines that were not

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Servicing pollution control equipment at the Langeloth Metallurgical Facility

part of the facility but were located beneath the active plant area. It is additionally cooperating in a program to assist in the investigation and remedial action plan necessary to improve surface disturbances caused by previous, but abandoned, industrial activities.

The Langeloth complex has installed special equipment to reduce air pollution that is generated by the combustion process. Over 99% of the sulfur dioxide in the off-gas from the molybdenum roasters is converted to commercial 94% grade sulfuric acid. Langeloth produces over 65,000 tons of sulfuric acid annually, all of it sold to industrial customers. This excellent gas-cleaning process allows Langeloth to maintain a lower level of air emissions than is required by law.

Langeloth is also involved in an important industrial recycling program that makes use of metal-bearing feedstock that would otherwise be sent to landfill and lost as a benefit to society. In 1986, Langeloth began processing, in redesigned roasters, a selected range of metal-bearing materials, such as spent catalysts, filter cakes, and grindings. The roasted products are sold either directly to the steel industry or as a substitute for newly mined metals in a smelter.

ENDAKO MINE

The Endako Mine has taken the initiative to increase the efficiency of its sulfur dioxide scrubbing plant in order to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from its roasting operation. This approach uses water to remove sulfur dioxide from gases before they are released into the environment. The scrubber effluent is then neutralized by calcium carbonate in the tailings. As a result, sulfur dioxide off-gas emissions have been reduced 40% since 2003 and are now well below government standards. The mine's waste removal and recycling program minimizes the waste generated and stored at the mine site. About 80% of the water used in the mill is recycled for subsequent reuse. The mine also supplies more than 22,000 gallons per year of waste oil for an off-site oil recycling program.

Since 1990, the mine has conducted a series of monitoring studies that have shown that the mine has had minimal impact on wildlife and fish in the area. Reclamation of disturbed areas is ongoing. The mine's goal is the establishment of a sustainable ecosystem



Reclamation activities at the Endako Mine

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that supports wildlife after mine closure. Endako has demonstrated its involvement with the community through the establishment of a liaison committee that acts as a forum for information exchange regarding environmental issues.

THOMPSON CREEK MINE

Thompson Creek's commitment to meeting and exceeding regulatory requirements led the mine staff to initiate Idaho's first interagency task force (IATF), a working group comprised of mine personnel and regulatory agency officials, in order to create a more efficient process for interagency review and administration of the mining facility. Thompson Creek's commitment to utilize the IATF and the knowledge gained in that process resulted in state and federal agencies adopting the process throughout Idaho. As part of an ongoing evaluation of the environmental impact of mining practices in the late 1990s, the Thompson Creek Mine identified sulfide-bearing waste material as having a potential to generate low pH drainage. Mine officials subsequently developed a program to reduce this potential. The program consisted of identifying waste materials, recovering pyrite from mill tailings, and redesigning waste dump facilities to partition and encapsulate sulfide-bearing waste material in order to reduce the potential to impact surface water. In addition, a pyrite recovery plant was installed to remove the pyrite from the tailings to prevent reactive sulfide-bearing tailings from being deposited on the surface of the tailings facility.

In recognition of its environmental and reclamation efforts, the Thompson Creek Mine has received numerous state and national awards over the years, including: Outstanding Reclamation Award from the Idaho Conservation League; and Outstanding Mine Reclamation Award, Outstanding Environmental Coordinator Award, and Excellence in Annual Operations Award from the Idaho Department of Lands. In 2008, the mine was presented with the Bureau of Land Management's 2008 Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award.

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Water quality monitoring at the Thompson Creek Mine