

ERDENES SILVER RESOURCE SALKHIT MINE CLOSURE PLAN PILOT

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SALKHIT MINE CLOSURE PLAN PILOT PRESENTED AT MAJOR CANADIAN RECLAMATION CONFERENCE

Rachel Noble-Pattinson, the senior environmental consultant with CPP Environmental, attended and presented the Salkhit MCP work at the RE3 (Reclaim, Restore, Rewild) Conference organized by the Canadian Land Reclamation Association and Society for Ecological Restoration. Held in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, from June 12-16, 2023, the conference was attended by academics, consultants, and industries working in the reclamation and ecological restoration of varied industries and environments. Attendees presented and debated the latest developments for reclaiming, restoring, or rewilding diverse ecosystems, and promoted the understanding and science-based management of such ecosystems and varied land uses (<https://re3-quebec.org/en>).

Rachel presented a summary of the Salkhit Mine Closure Plan Pilot under the topic "Mongolia: Setting New Standards in Mine Closure" during the Mining and Mining Impacts session. Her presentation focused on the importance of capacity building, the successes of stakeholder and community engagement, and the integration of international mine closure best practices. The presentation was one of the only international projects at the conference, and audience members asked questions on the mining industry in Mongolia in general, and on the community engagement sessions.

Rachel would like to thank co-authors Erdenechimeg Regjiibuu (MERIT) and Ankh-Amgalan Ganbat (ESR LLC) for their contributions. Raising awareness at international conferences of MERIT's the mine closure capacity-building work builds international awareness of Mongolia's efforts to modernize mine life cycle management and regulation.



Figure 1: Rachel Noble-Pattinson, the senior environmental consultant with CPP Environmental, attended and presented the Salkhit MCP work at the RE3 (Reclaim, Restore, Rewild) Conference in Quebec city, Canada

"OPEN HOUSE" COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION: SALKHIT MINE CLOSURE PLAN PILOT PROJECT

The third community engagement session of the Salkhit Mine Closure Plan (MCP) took place on June 13 and 14, 2023, in Mandalgobi City, the capital of Dundgovi Province. Organized by the MERIT project in collaboration with Erdenes Silver Resource LLC and the Governor's Office of Dundgovi Province, this event aimed to actively engage and inform the local residents about the Salkhit Mine Closure Plan. During the two-day community engagement session, 150 registered citizens received individualized information from each consultant team, fostering a high-quality exchange of information within 15-30 minute meetings. Approximately 1200 citizens attended the event over the two days, accessing publicly presented information such as MCP presentations and videos. This significant turnout reflects strong community interest in the Salkhit Mine Closure Plan

Objective: Empowering Communities for a Sustainable Future

The primary objective of the event was to raise awareness among the residents of Dundgovi Province regarding the Salkhit Mine Closure Plan and its associated rehabilitation efforts. By engaging the local communities, the project aimed to enhance their capacity to actively participate in closure activities, enabling them to monitor the implementation of closure management and understand the application and enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.



Figure 2: The environmental consultant team is providing information to Aimag residents during the Open House event.

Information Booths: Sharing Insights and Addressing Concerns

The event featured information booths where a team of national consultants and specialists provided detailed information to the citizens. These booths served as a platform for sharing insights on various topics related to the mine closure, including:

1. Technical reclamation and Landform design of the Salkhit Silver Mine
2. Biological rehabilitation plan for the Salkhit mine.
3. Socio-economic transition plan during the closure.
4. Climate change adaptation plan.
5. Closure and rehabilitation cost estimates.
6. Regulatory requirements of the mine closure

The team actively engaged in open discussions with the communities, addressing their queries and concerns. This interactive exchange of information fostered a collaborative environment, ensuring that the residents had a voice in shaping the future of the Salkhit mine closure.

UPCOMING HANDOVER CONFERENCE

The Salkhit Silver Mine Closure Plan pilot was a multi-stakeholder collaboration conducted over twenty-one months. A conference has been organized for the 3rd and 4th of July, 2023 to handover the Salkhit Silver and Gold Mine's Closure Plan to Erdenes Silver Resources, the Ministry of Mining and Heavy Industry (MMHI), and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) and to share the experience with industry stakeholders.

The first day of the conference will be the official handover of the Salkhit Silver and Gold Mine's Mine Closure Plan and all the responsibilities that it entails to Erdenes Silver Resources LLC. The regulators, MMHI and MET will support the implementation of mine closure and share best practices with the sector. The second day of the conference will consist of presentations and discussions to build an understanding of the implementation of a mine closure plan. The opportunities and challenges have been documented in an implementation report with recommendations to support key stakeholders to plan, implement and provide oversight on mine closure planning. The planning team will discuss their experience in their areas of expertise in implementing a mine closure plan and will be available to answer questions.

The pilot was designed to set a standard for mine closure planning. The pilot's outcome is a mine closure plan that sets an expectation for other mines and signifies a more balanced and sustainable approach to the mining business in Mongolia

CONTACT INFORMATION

Merit aims to provide engaging and relevant content on the Salkhit mine closure plan project. We value our stakeholders feedback and would like to hear from you on how we can improve our newsletter.

For more information about the Pilot, please contact
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