

ERDENES SILVER RESOURCE SALKHIT MINE CLOSURE PLAN PILOT

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LANDFORM DESIGN WORK PROGRESS

The multidisciplinary landform design team had three working sessions in November. The landform design manager presented updated designs at each meeting, based on the analysed input from the previous meetings. The updated designs were discussed amongst the team, and further recommendations made. The landform design manager reviewed and analysed all feedback and reflected it, as appropriate, in the landform designs. The results are a feasibility level design of the major landforms at closure: waste rock dumps 1 and 2, the end pit lake (former mine pit), tailing pond, and processing (concentrator) plant. The landform designs incorporate community feedback and are aligned with the Salkhit mine closure goals, with the view to reclaiming the disturbed sites closer to the natural ecosystem conditions and supporting traditional land use.

These landform design concepts applied to Salkhit Mine Closure Plan Pilot Project are relatively new to Mongolia and it is the first mine closure plan to be written by the multi-disciplinary team of national consultants, which incorporates international best practice and meet the requirements of the Mongolian “Regulation on Rehabilitation and Closure of Mines and Concentration Plants”.

The landform design aims to achieve the following five objectives:

- Landforms are geotechnically stable
- Physical features on the landscape do not cause public safety or environmental issues
- Chemical properties on the landscape do not cause public safety or environmental issues
- Surface and ground water quality meet the standards
- Economically feasible

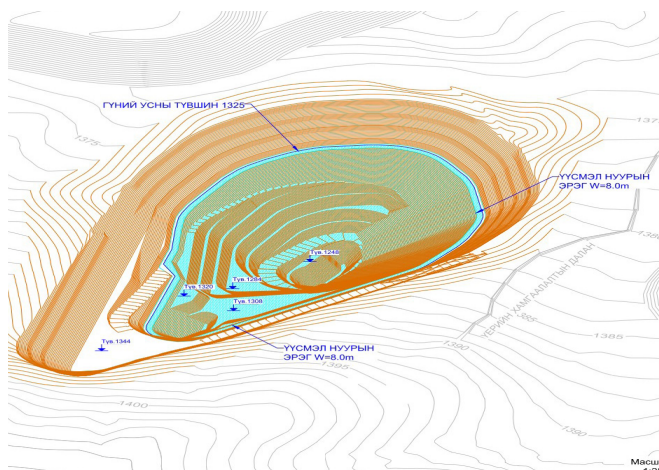


Figure 1. Isometric view of the open pit landform design.



Figure 2. Landform design working session No. 6 was held on Nov 15, 2022

NEXT STEPS

The next steps in the landform design work include: finalization of the draft landform designs by the landform design manager, internal review by ESR LLC, followed by presentation of the designs to the key stakeholder group and the community. At this stage, the planning team will explain how community feedback was incorporated and why the designs were chosen as the best options to achieve the goals and objectives. Based on feedback from stakeholders and community, there may be minor design changes.

The landform design team will proceed to the next step which is to develop a detailed engineered designs for each landform and generate data required for closure cost estimation and reclamation work.

NOVEMBER KEY STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Key stakeholder meetings are organized regularly to share updates, plan for the next steps, and to receive support and feedback from stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement is an important part of the Salkhit mine closure plan pilot project and is necessary to communicate the key technical issues, uncertainty, real risks, and available opportunities to all stakeholders, including regulators and the community.



Figure 3. Key stakeholder was held on Nov 22, 2022

The regular stakeholder meeting was held on November 22 to present and discuss the results of the regulatory review of mine closure, landform design process and the projected climate change impacts in Salkhit mine site. During the meeting, Bayarbat D, the Board Director and CFO from Erdenes Mongol LLC emphasized that *“We place a great value on the implementation of the Salkhit closure plan development, and capacity building of company’s technical staff being part of the Planning Team for its further knowledge transfer. As the parent company, we are keen to learn from the project’s progress and outcomes to replicate it for the other 20 subsidiaries of the Erdenes Mongol LLC. Now, It requires that the Board shall approve each Annual Business Plan and Budget. The closure plan implementation can be integrated into this business plan to ensure its sustainability”.*

CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS

In November, the final capacity-building sessions were delivered to the planning team members to provide information on international best practices and leading-edge management approaches for the mine closure plan development.

Post Closure Monitoring Capacity Building Sessions were held on November 1 & 8. The planning team learned about the purpose of closure monitoring and how it differs from annual environmental monitoring, and the closure monitoring framework, including criteria and indicators. Also, they were introduced to the use of the indicator sheet for closure monitoring and the overall design elements of closure monitoring program.

Adaptive Management Monitoring Capacity Building Session was held on November 15. The planning team developed an understanding of the concept of adaptive management and how to apply adaptive management at the mine closure stage. The importance of applying an adaptive management approach to achieve the closure goals was emphasized. They were also introduced to the process and principles of adaptive management through group exercises on vegetation monitoring and water monitoring at closure.

MERIT PRESENTS SALKHIT MINE CLOSURE PLAN PILOT STAKEHOLDER WORK AT 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON MINING, MINERALS, METALS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

In early November, Jennifer Adams, MERIT Country Director, attended the 18th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development in Geneva, Switzerland. She presented “Capacity-building in Mine Closure Planning – a pilot with the Government of Mongolia” during the session on integrating social and community considerations in mine closure and post-mining transition. Key messages included:

- Capacity building is included throughout the pilot and incorporated into each project task to inform, educate, and provide relevant experience to stakeholders.
- Stakeholder engagement processes need to be reasonable and within the capacity and resources of the mining companies conducting the work
- When planned and delivered well, community engagement has the potential to engage many community members. Soliciting meaningful feedback from community members for careful consideration and potential incorporation into closure planning incentivizes participation.

Delegates and attendees were particularly interested in the mine closure regulatory work MERIT is supporting in Mongolia, and the stakeholder and community engagement work.

A summary report of the event can be found at:

<https://enb.iisd.org/igf-agm-2022-mining-minerals-metals-summary>.



Figure 4. Jennifer Adams, MERIT Country Director, at the 8th Annual General Meeting (AGF) of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development. (Image source: IISD)

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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