

Tyrone Facts from FCX

Reclamation at Tyrone Tailings and Rock Stockpiles

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Since 2004, old tailings impoundments and rock stockpiles have been undergoing major changes at the Tyrone Mine.

- Tailings covering about 2,400 acres at Tyrone have now been reclaimed – completing one of the largest mine reclamation projects in the United States. In addition, large rock stockpiles around the perimeter of the mine are being reclaimed.
- The tailings project is the first to be completed. Tailings are the sandy residual from extracting copper-bearing minerals from ore. Tailings were produced from 1969 until 1992, and this material was deposited within six large impoundments north of the mine.
- Reclamation activities at Tyrone are mandated by requirements of the New Mexico Environment Department and the NM Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department's Mining & Minerals Division.
- As a first step in the tailings reclamation process, earthmoving equipment graded side slopes on the impoundments and prepared them for capping with soil and the development of storm water diversions. Diversions are critical to ensure soil capping is not washed off, cutting into the underlying tailings. Finally, the entire area was reseeded with native grasses and shrubs, with a post-mining land use as wildlife habitat.
- Today, native grasses can be seen growing on areas that were once barren, white-colored tailings.
- In addition, Tyrone is undertaking the reclamation of rock stockpiles, chiefly around the south and east perimeter of the operation. Also, the company has removed old mining facilities including mineral processing plants, shops and other structures that are not needed for current copper production.



Tailings Impoundment Before Reclamation

What is the purpose of reclamation?

Tailings impoundments and rock stockpiles may contain sulfide minerals that can react with storm water runoff to potentially impact surface and groundwater. Capping these sites with soil, promoting vegetation growth and managing storm water runoff will help to protect surface and ground waters for future generations.



Tailings Impoundment After Reclamation