

Morenci Facts from FCX



Tailings Dust Management at Morenci

Freeport-McMoRan makes it a priority to minimize the environmental impact of our processes, manage our facilities in a responsible and sustainable way, respond quickly to environmental incidents and take steps to prevent them from happening.

Environmental Solutions

Freeport-McMoRan Morenci Inc. is dedicated to minimizing the environmental impacts of its Morenci facilities. Morenci takes reasonable precautions to prevent excessive amounts of particulate matter from becoming airborne and limit dust from our tailings impoundments.

Dust Control Initiatives

Freeport-McMoRan Morenci Inc. uses a variety of techniques and equipment to maintain dust control and our initiatives include the following practices:

- Manage tailings distribution to maximize the extent of wet or encrusted tailings surface
- Spray tailings roads and berms with water on a regular basis
- Cap tailings roads with native soil and restrict vehicle traffic and speed to reduce dust from unpaved roads
- Apply a dust suppressant on the tailings impoundment that tacks down loose particles and absorbs moisture from the air which helps reduce dust potential
- Crimp in straw to minimize erosion from wind and rain
- Monitor the tailings surface daily to identify potential problem areas and respond quickly to dust events

One of the most effective ways to minimize dust is to keep the tailings wet. However, this contrasts with managing dam stability and our efforts to conserve water throughout our operation. We will continue to experiment with alternative crusting and spraying technologies to minimize our use of water while effectively reducing dust generation.

Because of Morenci's persistent efforts, we have observed a significant reduction in those dust events, even under equally unfavorable weather conditions. We will continue to work towards eliminating unacceptable levels of dust from Morenci. Morenci employs an active management system to prevent dust from the tailings impoundment, spending upwards of \$2.5 million annually for dust control. Approximately 95 individuals are employed in tailings operations and dust control, managing more than 3,500 acres of tailings. For more information on Freeport-McMoRan, visit us at fcx.com or contact Sean Wenham at 928-865-7623.