

Additional Sheet
2023 Annual Report
Fountain Pit
M-1982-155
Schmidt Construction Company
Anniversary Date: December 31

Status in Past Year: The new wash plant was fully installed and is operational now. The three basins for water and sediment are working well with no noticeable leakage from the containment berms.

Mining proceeded to near the east edge of the disturbed area as well as to portions of the southern edge of the disturbed area immediately north of where the east-west powerline was located. However, the powerline has now been removed which opens the pathway for mining to proceed to the south. A new powerline was constructed that comes from the east of the wash plant. Thus as the processing facilities move southward in the future the power line to the plants will follow and will not block the southward progress of the mining.

Stripped soil and overburden has not quite reached the former powerline location but is just north of there. In the next year stripping and mining will likely cross the former powerline location on the eastern end and will fully enter the 22+ acres of designated future mining area shown on the map. About 0.2 acres of that area has been stripped on the east end. Portions of the road that went along the powerline are still in place but is a rugged path as it has experienced some minor disturbances with a safety berm between the stripped areas to the north and the roadway to the south.

The disturbed area boundary was slightly adjusted in some areas, especially on the south side. Elsewhere there were other adjustments as the line of that unit was a bit too far into undisturbed land in some places. The changes are barely noticeable but accumulated to reduce the numerical value of the disturbed acreage by a little bit. Thus in the values on the map it appears there was a reduction in disturbance when that is actually not the case. It is just the way all the changes worked out to alter the boundary location. The boundary moved southward a little bit which, by itself, amounts to an increase in acreage. In other words, the disturbance boundary is more precise than it was last year.

About 3 acres of the area mined in the last year has now been buried under a deep backfilled shelf along the east side of the operation. Overburden from the south end was used to construct the shelf. This is actually a reclamation procedure done to prepare the east edge of the pit for sloping and reclamation in the future. The effective mining area does not include this backfilled area because the mined area there has been deeply buried under the overburden backfill which altered the effective status of that land from mined to backfilled. However the map unit for the 6.7 acres of mining in the last year still includes that area because it was mined even though its status subsequently changed to a reclamation category.

In total the TR3 plan is being followed in the mining and reclamation plans now.