



**Response:**

As stated above, we would like to be able to choose the initial and subsequent Phases dependent on market needs. Also as stated above, we will submit the appropriate bond amount for a Phase prior to our initiating mining in a specified Phase. We request the DRMs calculate bonds for all individual Phases so we will know our responsibility. However, we left Table 6.4.12 as if both backfilling and grading will occur for bond purposes. We may request a reanalysis of a bonded Phase if it is evident backfilling will not be needed.

- 6) Under the Grading/Backfilling task, please provide the approximate height and linear length of the proposed active highwall and the approximate volume of material required to backfill the highwall slope to 3H:1V for Phase 3.

**Response:**

We revised page 17, section 3.1.5 (1) and (2) to clarify the site will be mined, creating a working face of 3H:1V slopes at the end of each active mining day. Therefore, we anticipate very little backfilling or grading will be needed.

- 7) Please provide the approximate haul distance from the topsoil and overburden stockpiles to the pit when undergoing reclamation in Phase 3.

**Response:**

- We do not expect to have overburden stockpiles.
- For all Phases, a ten foot area adjacent a pit boundary will be used for PGM stockpiling. The haul distance for PGM is Phase specific and can be determined from the Mine Plan Map, C-2. Specific side of a Phase have been designated as PGM storage areas.

- 8) Please add a task for ripping compacted areas (e.g., pit floor, roads, stockpiling areas, processing areas, equipment storage areas), including the approximate acreage to be ripped for Phase 3.

**Response:**

We revised page 64, Exhibit L, Table 6.4.12, Reclamation Cost Information to reflect the task for ripping compacted areas for all phases. However, given the nature of the subsoil, simple discing may only be what is necessary.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to revise the Amendment Application.

We also request an extension to the decision date until December 12, 2025 in order for the revisions to be analyzed by the DRMS and any additional responses from us.

H. B. Humphries

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