

Surface Disposal of Tailings

David A. Landriault
Golder Paste Technology Ltd. (Golder PasteTec)

Revolutionize is a strong word but is one of a few suitable for describing how the surface disposal of tailings is being affected by paste technology. Although the concept of using smaller particles to suspend and transport larger ones (paste technology) was originally applied to backfill applications, the recent success of the first 'true' paste surface disposal operation at Barrick's Bulyanhulu Mine is a reflection of the state-of-the-art of tailings disposal and a sign of things to come. Golder PasteTec has seen a shift in our core business from true mining/backfill applications to combination backfill/surface disposal designs and more recently to stand-alone surface disposal operations, not necessarily in the mining sector.

The primary drivers for the expanding trend toward surface paste disposal are reduced risk and impact, lower impoundment costs, improved water management and simplified rehabilitation. Three surface paste disposal projects (Barrick's Bulyanhulu, PPL's Colstrip and a Nickel Laterite Project) are described in the following presentation with several new projects addressed in the development and design stage.

David Landriault
President
Golder Paste Technology Ltd. (Golder PasteTec)
662 Falconbridge Road
Sudbury, ON, P3A 4S4
Tel: 705 524-5533
Fax: 705 524-9636
Email: dlandriault@golder.com