

2020 Award Winners

KGHM Robinson Mine **Lane City Waste Rock Facility**

Award Category **Legacy Waste Rock Reclamation**

Robinson is part of a district where mining dates back to the mid-1860s. Numerous predecessor operators on the property had employed various methods of extracting copper and other metals, in turn generating Waste Rock Facilities (WRF), such as the Lane City WRF, with the potential to negatively impact the environment. This feature was identified as a potential source of contamination to the alluvial groundwater and an adjacent creek.

Though not part of current reclamation obligations, KGHM Robinson initiated reclamation activity of this legacy mining feature by re-grading the west, north, and east side slopes of the WRF to 2.5:1; the re-graded surface was covered with limestone followed by seed application to establish vegetation.

A stormwater pond (SP-15) and rip-raps had to be constructed on the top surface and northern side slopes of the WRF to drain sediment away from the creek. The pond is designed to contain runoff generated by a 25-year, 24-hour storm event falling on the upstream catchment area. Previous test results from WRF surface samples indicated a potential to generate low pH runoff that could degrade waters of the State. Limestone, with its buffering capacity, was added to the WRF to significantly decrease the acid generating potential.

Today the Lane City WRF is capped with limestone, growth media and seeded. Stormwater from the WRF drains via a series of rip-rapped channels into stormwater sediment collection pond SP-15.



Hudbay Minerals / Mason Resources **Mason Exploration Project**

Award Category **Concurrent Exploration Reclamation**

The Mason Project, held by Hudbay Minerals through their subsidiary Mason Resources (US) Inc., is a copper exploration project located in Lyon County, west of the town of Yerington. The project is permitted to disturb up to 50 acres of public land and is a phased-bonded project, whereby a specific exploration phase (or sequence) may be bonded for in lieu of bonding for the entire permitted disturbance.

On July 30, 2019, inspectors from the Nevada Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District office conducted a bond release request site visit that resulted in the release of 10.2 acres of surface disturbance obligation due to completed reclamation. The reclamation consisted of earthwork on exploration roads and pads in addition to successful re-vegetation. Prior to this bond release the project reported a total disturbance of 24.5 acres. The release of 10.2 acres represents a 42% reduction of surface disturbance reclamation obligation at the project.

The implementation of concurrent reclamation is a best management practice that minimizes environmental impacts associated with a permitted surface disturbance activity.

