

GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT

ENSURING LAND, WATER, AND COMMUNITY PROTECTIONS

What is the Good Neighbor Agreement?

The Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA) is a legally binding contract between Stillwater Mining Company (SMC), Northern Plains Resource Council, Cottonwood Resource Council, and Stillwater Protective Association that provides the opportunity for community members to participate in mine decisions that may impact the local economy and environment. The GNA includes objectives to minimize mine related impacts to our land and water resources while allowing for responsible economic development of the East Boulder and Stillwater Mine operations.

The GNA and mine tailings

The GNA specifically addresses tailings and waste rock, and encourages implementation of best practices to minimize waste footprints and maximize safety of SMC's tailings storage facilities (TSFs). In 2015, SMC began planning for expansion of its TSFs at the Stillwater and East Boulder Mine sites. At Stillwater, SMC planned the expansion of the existing Hertzler TSF. At East Boulder, SMC planned the expansion of its existing TSF and the new Lewis Gulch TSF.

What are tailings?

Tailings are mine waste produced from the separation of a desired metal from ore. Tailings consist of sand/silt-sized particles and water containing chemicals used in mining, such as nitrates and potentially toxic metals. A tailings storage facility (TSF) is a structure built to store this waste material in perpetuity.



The East Boulder Mine TSF.

How the GNA is ensuring responsible mine waste management

Since the GNA was initiated in 2000, GNA community members and independent tailings experts have identified and advocated for Best Available Technology (BAT) and Best Available Practice (BAP) for tailings storage at the Stillwater and East Boulder mines.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

GNA - Good Neighbor Agreement
SMC - Stillwater Mining Company
TSF - Tailings Storage Facility
BAP - Best Available Practice
BAT - Best Available Technology

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Through the GNA, community members have taken the following steps to ensure the TSF expansions at both of SMC's mines meet criteria for a highly stable facility with the smallest footprint and longest life:

- We evaluated differing tailings methods including slurry, paste, filtered and commingled waste rock and tailings to recommend a safe and appropriate TSF design.
- Since 2000 we have continued to advocate for filtered/dry stack tailings disposal provided it can be proven to be technically and economically feasible.
- We analyzed sites to identify the most suitable locations for expanded TSFs with respect to stability, impacts to water resources, and aesthetic impacts to residents and wilderness areas.
- We ensured these expansions received expert review by an Independent Review Panel. This panel includes qualified professional engineers with experience in TSFs who reviewed and approved design documents and made recommendations for additional site improvements.
- GNA technical experts have been comprehensively involved in all aspects of the TSF design, and participate in/conduct inspections.

Per Good Neighbor Agreement recommendations, Stillwater Mining Company has implemented:

- State-of-the-art, satellite-linked survey monuments and inclinometers to measure ground movement, and piezometers for groundwater pore pressure monitoring, that provide real-time, continuous data.
- A manual for each Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) that describes how it is to be operated, monitored, and maintained to ensure a safe and stable condition.
- Coordination with local, county, and state emergency services to plan for and distribute information regarding the presence and risk of TSFs, and what to do in the highly unlikely event of a TSF failure.
- Bond funding for reclamation and closure of the TSFs by the relevant government agencies were the mine to go bankrupt.
- Planning at the design phase to ensure the best possible reclamation outcome to match the natural environment.
- Continual review of Best Available Technologies and Best Available Practices for TSFs.

These combined actions have led to a thorough technical design and review process for the new TSFs planned at Stillwater and East Boulder Mines. We believe this is one of the best processes for developing a TSF that, through the GNA, has involved stakeholder representatives, and we are proud of this work to protect our communities as we usher in a new era of mine development.

The Good Neighbor Agreement is premised on the belief that it is possible to protect our natural landscapes and rural quality of life while allowing responsible mineral development.

Even after two decades, the GNA continues to prove successful in protecting our local communities and rivers, providing an example of what is possible when everyday people come together and get creative.