

## **The Difference Between Closure and Reclamation**

Closure and Reclamation are two different regulatory programs that are often confused. Both programs are administered by the Nevada Division for Environmental Protection for mining facilities and are both focused on eliminating environmental impacts at the end of the life of the facility. It also applies to the end of the life of a particular component of the mine, while the rest of the facility remains active. For example, a tailings impoundment may have reached the end of its operating life and the mining company wants to build a new one. The mining and processing is going to continue, but the old tailings impoundment must go into final closure.

Permanent closure is the removal, mitigation, or chemical stabilization of all of the sources of pollutants at the mining facility.

Reclamation includes activities, such as regrading and revegetating, to return the mine site to a productive post-mining land use. It also includes activities such as process fluid stabilization, interim fluid management, and managing mine-impacted water, which overlap with permanent closure requirements. Each mine facility must comply with the requirements of both programs.