FAQs

HAZELWOOD MINE

MINE REHABILITATION

What rehabilitation work is being undertaken in the Mine over the 2018/19 Earthworks Season?

The Mine and its surrounds will be a hive of activity until the end of April 2019. Mine rehabilitation activities include the construction of a number of surcharges on and at the toe of the Mine batters, along with the continued reprofiling of the Eastfield Eastern Batters.

Where is the surcharge work being done?

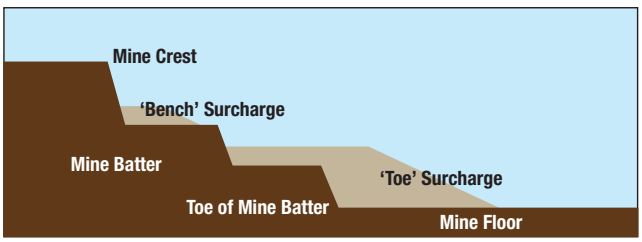
There are two surcharge projects to be undertaken in the Mine during this Earthworks Season. These projects are located at the Westfield Southern Batters and the Eastfield Northern Batters.

The Eastfield Northern Batters surcharge project consists of five individual surcharges placed on the Mine batter called 'Bench' surcharges and a surcharge located at the base of the Mine batter called a 'Toe' surcharge. The Westfield Southern Batters Surcharge Project consists of three 'Bench' surcharges.

What is the difference between a Bench and a Toe surcharge?

A Bench surcharge is a compacted clay structure which is strategically placed on the Mine batter benches or 'levels'. A Toe surcharge is also a compacted clay layer, however it is placed at the intersection of the toe of the Mine batter and the Mine floor.

The diagram below shows an example of a Bench and Toe Surcharge.



Why are the surcharges required?

Surcharge provides additional geotechnical support to the Mine batters during the Mine lake filling process. The surcharge is designed to prevent Mine batter movement.

What is involved in reprofiling the Eastfield Eastern Batters?

The Eastfield Eastern Batters is the area which has been progressively reprofiled and rehabilitated over the past two years. In this Earthworks Season, we will be continuing this work, extending the reprofiled area towards the Morwell township. This work is above the water level of the proposed lake where reprofiling is carried out at a 3:1 gradient. When the coal reprofiling is completed, the newly shaped batter is covered with overburden, topsoiled and finally seeded, leaving green slopes visible from the Princes Freeway.

Where does all the clay and topsoil come from for the projects?

We estimate that between 1.5 and 2 million cubic metres of clay will be needed for the surcharge projects. This material will be taken from the Northfield and Westfield areas of the Mine. In these areas, topsoil will be stripped to access the clay underneath. This clay is then excavated and loaded into trucks which haul the material to the specified surcharges. Once the clay excavation is completed, the topsoil is replaced and the area rehabilitated. The clay and topsoil required for the reprofiling works is all available on site.

How is all this work undertaken?

ENGIE Hazelwood Technical Services has designed and planned all the Mine surcharge projects and the reprofiling/rehabilitation projects. The Technical Services team has been working diligently over the past two years, developing designs, commissioning completed geotechnical assessments and having these designs and assessments reviewed by independent external consultants along with coordinating a large array of external specialists. All of this work has now led to the formal approval from the mining regulator, Earth Resources Regulation, to progress each of the projects in the field.

The field work will involve the use of in-house resources, along with external contractors, who will operate overburden removal fleets consisting of 25-30 tonne dumps trucks, excavators and auxiliary equipment such as water carts, graders, dozers and rollers, along with a large contingent of reprofiling/rehabilitation mobile equipment.