

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

WHY THIS TOPIC MATTERS TO EQUINOX GOLD

Our Company's activities are guided by many environmental laws, regulations and standards that govern the full life cycle of mining, from exploration to mining operations to end-of-mine closure and remediation. Since the mining sector receives continuous scrutiny of its environmental performance, mine operators face significant regulatory requirements around environmental protection and we must meet our stakeholders' high expectations. Our ability to maintain productive, uninterrupted business operations depends on cooperation with stakeholders, including the governing authorities that grant or control our permits, licenses and agreements.

Our Approach

We follow a formal Environment and Climate Change Policy that summarizes our expectations for our workforce and suppliers and our commitment to achieving excellence in environmental performance.

RELEVANT POLICIES

→ Environment and Climate Change Policy

We rigorously apply international standards and industry best practices to avoid, wherever possible, or mitigate the environmental impacts of our activities. To ensure we achieve compliance with all environmental requirements, we maintain an environmental management system (EMS) that establishes the standards that all Equinox Gold operations must satisfy. The EMS upholds

external and internal communication requirements set by organizations in which Equinox Gold is a member, including the Mining Association of Canada and the World Gold Council, and reflects international reporting frameworks including SASB and GRI. During 2024 the EMS will be updated to better conform with ISO 14001: 2015 to improve our environmental management practices.

Managing Environmental Permits and Licenses

Site teams track compliance with all environmental permits and licenses and work closely with mine planners to identify any additional permits that may be required to ensure continuity of operations. The teams also coordinate the efforts of internal departments and external consultants to conduct the studies required to understand potential environmental impacts and develop appropriate mitigations as part of the permit

application process. This proactive approach to permitting is intended to de-risk potential impacts to site operations by ensuring necessary permits are received in a timely manner. Site permitting teams also engage regularly with regulators and local communities in advance of, and during, the permitting process to ensure timely responses to requests for additional information as a means of streamlining the permitting process.



Emergency Response

Emergency response is managed under the Company's Corporate Crisis Management Plan, which outlines a crisis management framework including emergency communications. The corporate office and mines are aligned using the Incident Command System, which is a standardized international system that allows for proper communication and documentation of any incident. Each mine also has its own Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that outlines the appropriate response at a site level and includes documented levels for incident notification, to escalate issues across the organization as needed.

All our sites have completed risk assessments in order to understand the types of emergency events that may be encountered. Scenario specific response plans are developed (e.g., fire, cyanide spill) and included in the site-level ERPs, which outline actions to be taken during an emergency including community and local stakeholder communications. Sites perform emergency drills annually to simulate their response to different emergencies documented in the ERPs, and use the lessons learned from each exercise to improve operational readiness. Emergency response team members also receive training specific to their role to ensure they are adequately prepared.

Managing Environmental Incidents

We use detailed incident reporting, comprehensive investigations and a number of reporting databases to track our environmental risks and performance, so that trend analyses can be completed to highlight areas for improvement. All of our mining and exploration projects report, investigate and remediate environmental incidents in compliance with Equinox Gold's Incident Reporting Guidelines so we can respond to these events and develop new strategies and procedures to continually improve. We also publish the data through quarterly environmental performance updates on our website so our stakeholders can monitor our performance, and the Board ESG Committee receives quarterly reports on environmental performance.

We use a five-tier rating system that classifies incidents as 'low,' 'minor,' 'moderate,' 'major' or 'catastrophic.' Incidents classified as moderate or above are considered 'significant' and include:

- Cyanide spills outside of normal containment area
- Wildlife deaths due to cyanide
- Death of species with special protection status according to local jurisdiction
- Environment-related regulatory non-compliance that triggers regulatory reporting and fines
- Spills that trigger regulatory reporting and fines
- Confirmed abnormal monitoring results detecting cyanide outside of a cyanide facility, or a breach of permit conditions





Mine Closure

In recognition of the potential economic, social and environmental impacts our operations could have on local communities, Equinox Gold develops and maintains extensive mine closure plans for each of our sites to prepare for the future end of operations and transition to closure and remediation activities. These plans, which are often required by federal, state and local authorities before issuing mine operating permits and licenses, are carefully scrutinized by governing agencies to ensure the plans are adequate to meet our commitments when a mine closure occurs. All our mine closure plans have associated cost estimates that are updated at prescribed frequencies so the anticipated cost of closure can be included in our financial reporting as asset retirement obligations.

Depending on the jurisdiction, closure plans take into consideration a range of impacts such as direct and indirect job loss, the economic impact on local commerce, reduced taxation income for surrounding communities, and potential environmental risks at the closed mine site, including shuttered facilities, water quality issues, land contamination or subsidence, and

degradation of the surrounding ecosystem. Our mine closure plans include efforts to mitigate these risks throughout the mine's operating life. For example, we prioritize ongoing progressive reclamation during mine operations to reduce the amount of effort required during closure and to return the site to a more natural and stable state as soon as possible.

Mine closure planning also aims to ensure nearby communities develop other forms of income and employment opportunities. We make direct investments in sustainable community projects to reduce direct economic dependence on the mine operation and encourage economic diversification, including agriculture, tourism, renewable energy and small businesses. We also invest in crucial local infrastructure, such as schools, health facilities and roadways and provide training and support so the communities can maintain this infrastructure after the mine closes. See the [Community Engagement and Development](#) and [Biodiversity](#) sections of this report for examples of initiatives undertaken at our mines to preserve or restore environmental conditions and to support long-term sustainability for our host communities.

Accountability

All employees and contractors are required to follow our Environment and Climate Change Policy and record and report environmental incidents. The Company's Director of Environmental Affairs, based at our corporate office, has general responsibility for monitoring and collating incident reporting data from the mine sites and providing this information to the Company's Vice President Health, Safety and Environment. This information is reported quarterly to the Board ESG Committee and also published on our website.