

Mine Closure and Reclamation

As a requirement of the mine permitting process for the proposed Kings Mountain Mine, Albemarle will prepare a mine closure and reclamation plan. This plan details how the industry best practices are expected to be implemented for the closure and reclamation of all mine facilities and to reestablish land uses.

MINE CLOSURE

Mine closure is a formal process for transitioning an operating mine after ore grade material has been depleted and processed. Mine closure involves planning collaboratively and effectively using best industry practices throughout the mine life cycle (exploration, design, construction, operations, closure and post-closure) to ensure the future use is safe and environmentally protective. Currently, Albemarle is developing a Detailed Conceptual Closure Plan (DCCP) which addresses the main following items over a long-term period:

- Applicable state and federal regulations (e.g., protection of water resources)
- Social and community expectations (e.g., future land use, closure outcomes and goals)
- Technical knowledge base in areas such as water management (e.g., containment and mitigation)
- Rock and tailings management
- Monitoring maintenance plans for vegetative covers, water management including quantity and quality, and geotechnical stability are designed to measure closure plan success
- Closure capital expenditure and operating costs that address the environmental, technical and social aspects

MINE RECLAMATION

Mine reclamation is the process of modifying land that has been mined to an ecologically functional and/or economically usable state. During mine reclamation, Albemarle intends to minimize adverse environmental effects of surface mining and return the disturbed

areas to a beneficial end use. The planning of mine reclamation activities begins before the permitting of the mine and continues throughout its operational life. The actual process of reclamation can occur progressively while the mine is still operating, however, a substantial part occurs once mining is completed.

Ensuring Accountability for Reclamation and Closure Performance

As part of the mine permitting process, Albemarle is required by law to secure and file a bond with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. In addition, as the project nears operational status, Albemarle plans to establish a funding mechanism for closure, such as an escrow account.



Mine Reclamation: Former mine sites, such as this, are reclaimed once mining activity is completed to return the site into a beneficial end use.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY ON FUTURE LAND USE

Mine closure is a significant part of the mine life cycle for the surrounding community. The social costs of mine closure consider the health and well-being of people and the level of dependence communities have on mining. To understand desires for end-land use, Albemarle is engaging with the Kings Mountain community to gather input and explore options as plans are developed. We also expect to revisit those plans as our technical and social knowledge base matures to confirm the plan is appropriate for stakeholders.

Mine Closure Safety

Safety plays a critical role in mine closure. A closed mine site must be made reasonably safe from risks to humans and wildlife. Steep or unstable slopes, pit lakes and industrial buildings all present potential risks. If a specific project area cannot be made reasonably safe, controls to prevent inadvertent entry may need to be installed.

Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance Standards

As part of Albemarle's commitment to responsible mining, Albemarle is developing the mine consistent with the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance's (IRMA) Standard for Responsible Mining. Globally, the IRMA Standard is the most comprehensive and rigorous certification standard for assurance of responsible mining practices.



Cardio Hill: Cardio Hill, now part of a popular recreational trail in Kings Mountain, was created as rocks were stockpiled by the mine's previous operations. Today part of the site offers well-established trails for biking and hiking. Albemarle is seeking input for future site enhancements as a part of the mine reclamation and closure planning.



To date, Albemarle has hosted four workshops to solicit ideas for beneficial uses for the mine site post-closure. *Some suggestions include the creation of outdoor recreational and entertainment areas and naturescaping.*

Further information is available in Spanish upon request or at albemarlekingsmountain.com

For more information or to provide community feedback on the project:

Email: kmcommunity@albemarle.com | Phone: 704-734-2775 | Website: albemarlekingsmountain.com

Mail or In-person: 129 West Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Albemarle leads the world in transforming essential resources into critical ingredients for mobility, energy, connectivity and health. We partner to pioneer new ways to move, power, connect and protect with people and planet in mind, enabling a more resilient world. Our global headquarters is approximately 35 miles from Kings Mountain in Charlotte, NC.

