

DEPARTMENT	OPERATING AREA
Environmental	Morenci
DOCUMENT NO.	DOCUMENT TITLE
BMP 208	Rocky and Gold Gulch Basin Stormwater

WHAT IS ROCKY GULCH?

Rocky Gulch is a tributary of the San Francisco River that is located on the Northeastern side of the mining district. In the mid 90's, Freeport-McMoRan Morenci Inc. (Morenci) built a concrete dam and pumping system to capture stormwater from the Rocky Gulch Stockpile and return it to the active mining operations. The Rocky Gulch Dam is designed to capture stormwater runoff from a 100-year 24-hour plus storm event. Rocky Gulch is accessed through the mine via the King/Placer and Rocky Gulch Stockpiles.

WHAT IS GOLD GULCH?

Gold Gulch is a tributary of Eagle Creek that is located on the West side of the mining district. Several stormwater containment structures are located in the Gold Gulch drainage basin. They include lined earthen dams in Pinkard, East and West Gold Gulch a concrete dam and pumping system in main Gold Gulch and a lined pond and pumping system at the Highway Relocation Stormwater Pond. Each containment system is designed to capture stormwater runoff from a 100-year 24-hour plus storm event. Gold Gulch is accessed via Highway 191 and the Producer Stockpile.

WHAT ARE MORENCI'S REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH FACILITY?

Morenci maintains these facilities as zero discharge points, meaning no solution are permitted to top the spillway and discharge to the downstream gulches. In order to maintain capacity, each facility must be pumped out as soon as practicable or necessary after each major rain event. Additionally, Morenci is required to conduct inspections of each facility on a periodic basis. The following table summarizes the inspection frequency, regulatory driver, and responsible department and inspection requirements for both facilities.

TABLE 1: Inspection Requirements for Rocky and Gold Gulch and East Gold Gulch				
Frequency	Regulatory Driver	Facility(s)	Responsibility	Operational Requirement
Daily	FMMI Best Practice	Highway Relocation Stormwater Pond	Leaching	Inspect each facility once per shift or as necessary.
	APP	Gold Gulch Dam Rocky Gulch Dam	Environmental Services	Ensure that there is at least 2 feet of freeboard
Quarterly	MSGP	Pinkard West Gold Gulch	Environmental Services	Routine Facility Inspection & Visual Assessment
Quarterly	APP	All	Environmental Services	Routine Facility Inspection & Visual Assessment

APP – Aquifer Protection Permit

MSGP – Multi-Sector General Permit (Stormwater)

WHAT DO I DO IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THE GOLD GULCH DAM, HIGHWAY RELOCATION STORMWATER POND OR ROCKY GULCH DAM?

The **Maintenance Services (MS) Division** has overall responsibility for ensuring that each facility is functioning properly, this includes instrumentation, electrical and mechanical. In the event that either facility is not working or is working inappropriately contact the MS Division at the Powerhouse at extensions 6434 or 6433. The MS Division will prioritize the work at each facility to ensure that they are in adequate operating condition. Additionally, the **Mine Division** will provide support as necessary at each facility (i.e. maintaining access during storm events, providing equipment on an as needed basis, and/or providing electrical support).

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

All personnel shall receive training or at the least have access to this BMP.

QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP?

Contact your Environmental Representative or Environmental Services at (928) 865-6000

Revision Date	Revision No.	Revision Description	Reviewer	Final Approver
4/9/2021	0	Original Document		
6/13/2023	1	Updated to current template	KRK	KRK
6/2/2025	2	Updated Table 1	SS	DG