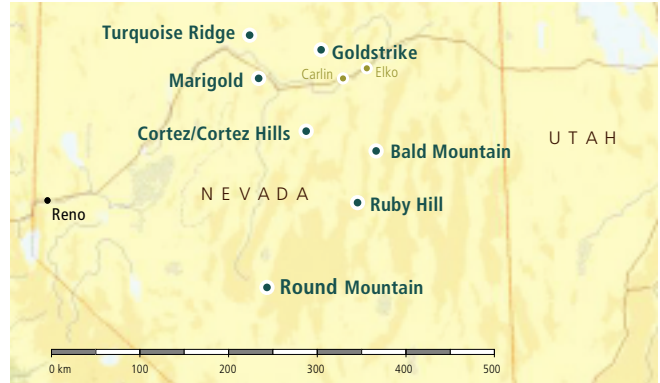


# Cortez Mine

## Responsibility Report



At Barrick's Cortez Mine, responsibility is our guiding principle. We work to:

- Generate productive, rewarding employment
- Provide a safe work environment
- Contribute to sustainable economic development
- Protect the environment

### Who Are We?

Cortez Gold Mine is located in Crescent Valley, Lander County, in northeastern Nevada, approximately 100 kilometers southwest of Elko, Nevada and 50 kilometers south of Carlin, Nevada. Cortez is a complex of several open pit mines, with attendant mill, tailing facilities, and several heap leach pads.

Cortez is the largest hard rock mine on public land in the United States and one of the oldest continuously operating gold mines in Nevada. Operations at the original Cortez Mine began in 1968. Barrick acquired the Cortez Mine in 2006 as a result of the Placer Dome acquisition.

The Cortez Hills advanced exploration project is located on the Cortez Mine property.

**Our Core Value:** At Cortez, as at all Barrick operations, we are guided by our commitment to responsible behavior. In practice, this translates into bringing long-term benefits to the communities where we operate, and fostering a culture of excellence and collaboration among our employees and contractors.

**Our Commitment:** Corporate Social Responsibility is the commitment of business to contribute to sustainable economic development – working with employees and contractors, their families, the local community and society at large to improve the quality of life, in ways that are both good for business and good for development. At Cortez, we are committed to making a positive difference in the communities in which we live and work.

# Environmental Responsibility

At Barrick's Cortez Mine, environmental stewardship is integrated in to the mining life cycle.

Respect for the environment is at the heart of our management approach to environmental protection and stewardship. Barrick's Corporate Social Responsibility Charter drives this approach. The environmental management system in place at Cortez helps us achieve our Charter goals of protection and stewardship, and performance indicators help us measure how well we have done.

We recognize that there may be significant impacts to the existing natural environment, both temporary and long-lasting, due to the presence of our mining operations. As a result, we use the precautionary approach throughout the life of the mine by first assessing potential impacts, then evaluating how to avoid, mitigate or control those impacts. Controls typically include putting into place multi-layers of environmental protection and robust environmental management systems that include advanced planning against possible future events.

Ongoing environmental monitoring provides Cortez with feedback on the effectiveness of its environmental controls. Our environmental specialists routinely monitor the land, air and water on, and adjacent to, the property. Monitoring results are reviewed, areas for improvement are identified and, as required, performance and site activities are adjusted to ensure environmental protection. As well, corporate environmental audits are conducted regularly, usually every two years, to review the effectiveness of the mine's environmental management system.

Environmental performance data tables are available on the Barrick website at [www.barrick.com](http://www.barrick.com).

**Materials Management:** Safe transport, storage and handling of fuels and chemicals are a priority at Cortez. Spill prevention measures, such as double-walled tanks, alarms and lined or bermed containment structures, minimize the risk to the environment from these materials. If accidental releases of fuels or chemical solutions occur, they should be safely contained and not



impact the environment nor leave the mine site. We are committed to effective clean-up and remediation should any spill escape containment.

**Solid Waste Management:** Cortez has developed a waste management program to ensure reuse, recycling and proper disposal of waste products. Efforts include the recovery of used oil, tires and batteries, and off-site, permitted disposal of hazardous wastes.

**Water Management:** Mining requires water for ore processing and dust suppression. The mine obtains water exclusively from pit dewatering. Specific water conservation activities at the site include the use of instrumentation to measure and control use, and the recycling of water through the mine's processing systems.

The dewatering water not used in production or for dust control is piped to 50 infiltration basins in nine separate locations in Crescent Valley, away from mining operations. Infiltration basins are located in porous materials where drainage back into the aquifer will occur most rapidly. These basins are designed and constructed to minimize the surface area of the basins relative to the infiltration surface area, thus minimizing evaporative losses. Ongoing evaluation of infiltration basins at Cortez has led to improved basin location and design so that they return more water to the aquifer from which they were drawn. Overall, less than one

## Environmental Responsibility



percent of dewatering water is lost to evaporation. In addition, approximately 6,000 gallons per minute of dewatering water is being utilized at a local ranch on a seasonal basis to support irrigated alfalfa production.

**Cyanide Management:** Cyanide is used at Cortez as an effective agent for freeing gold from ore. The Cyanide Code was developed by an international multi-stakeholder group to establish safe and responsible cyanide management standards for the manufacture, transport, use and disposal of cyanide. Barrick, as a member of the multi-stakeholder group, committed to certify its mines which use cyanide as Cyanide Code compliant. Cortez achieved Code certification in 2008.

**Energy Management:** Energy at the Cortez Mine is obtained from purchased electricity and also from the burning of fossil fuels. With power being one of our largest on-site costs, good business dictates that we strive to maximize energy efficiencies, and we are currently engaged in several energy efficiency optimization efforts. Because greenhouse gas emissions are related to both direct and indirect energy use, energy efficiency efforts, which result in decreased energy consumption and/or increased energy efficiencies, will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Barrick completed construction of the Western 102 Power Generating Station near Reno late in 2005, and the station has the potential to supply some of the energy needs of the Cortez mine. The natural gas generators provide clean power, both to the public power grid and to Barrick, providing Nevada with a new power generation source.

**Mercury Air Emissions Management:** Barrick uses state-of-the-art air emissions controls equipment and supports the development of regulatory programs based on sound science. Our Cortez operation is in compliance with the Nevada Mercury Emissions Control Program and continues to participate and support this important program.

**Wildlife and Habitat Stewardship:** Cortez has developed a number of stewardship programs to protect animals from the hazards of mining activities, and to mitigate impacts to habitat around the mine site. For example, our processing ponds are tempting stopovers for migratory waterfowl in this arid region. In order to prevent birds from using the ponds, hollow black plastic balls, about the size of a softball, are placed on the processing ponds. These 'bird balls' float on the surface, covering the pond entirely and camouflaging it from waterfowl.

**Land Status:** Land disturbance is an unavoidable consequence of mining. Through careful planning, we aim to keep to a minimum the area affected by mining activities. During operations, when disturbed land is no longer required for the mining process, it is reclaimed by re-contouring and re-vegetating the area.

# Health and Safety Responsibility

The health and safety of our employees and contractors is the top priority at Cortez Mine.



We are committed to eliminating or controlling workplace hazards for the protection of our workers. We believe that everyone is responsible for workplace safety. Health and safety training programs are in place for managers, employees and contractors at Cortez. These programs provide all employees and contractors with a clear understanding of their rights, responsibilities and accountabilities in creating and maintaining a safe workplace for all.

The Barrick Safety and Health System was introduced to Cortez in 2006 during the integration of the former Placer Dome sites. The Safety System consists of eight elements

which are being phased in over time throughout the Company. The key to the success of the system is a commitment to leadership and a common vision of workplace safety. Courageous Leadership training for all personnel began in 2006. The results from Courageous Leadership training continue to build as new workers are oriented into the system and refresher courses designed to sustain the momentum continue to roll out.

Occupational health and wellness entails identifying, controlling and monitoring workplace health hazards and exposures. Cortez's occupational health programs ensure that exposures are characterized and controlled within acceptable limits, and that emerging health protection standards are considered whenever applicable.

Emergency response training is provided regularly to the Emergency Response Team and other workers. It includes mine rescue, hazardous materials handling, fire-fighting, crisis management and incident command training. Emergency response drills assist mine employees, and the Emergency Response Team, to assess their readiness to respond to an actual emergency.

Health & Safety performance data tables are available on the Barrick website at [www.barrick.com](http://www.barrick.com).

# Social Responsibility

Social responsibility at Cortez involves sharing the benefits of mining with our neighbors and our employees.

At Barrick, we are committed to making a positive difference to the communities in which we work. We recognize that responsible mining creates opportunities to generate greater value for shareholders, while at the same time fostering sustainable development in the communities and countries where we operate. Our Corporate Social Responsibility Charter defines Barrick's overall commitment to the communities where we operate, and to society as a whole. We developed Community Engagement and Sustainable Development Guidelines in 2006 to explain in more detail the principles, standards and approaches to be applied to communities under the Charter. The Guidelines are now providing direction for community interaction and engagement at Cortez. It is our guiding principle to share the benefits of mining with local communities.

Community performance data tables are available on the Barrick website at [www.barrick.com](http://www.barrick.com).

**Our Communities:** The mine supports sustainable development programs for the communities around the mine. We are located in a rural area of Nevada that encompasses two small communities, Elko and Carlin. Currently, the mine is participating in the Elko Economic Diversification Committee (Elko is the largest of the two communities). Although mine closure is many years away, Cortez supports the Committee's programs to develop alternative economic drivers for this area. As



another aspect of our sustainable development program, we preferentially purchase from local and regional businesses as often as possible.

**Our Employees:** Each employee acts as an ambassador for the Company. Therefore, recruiting, motivating and retaining the best people are critical success factors for our operation. We do this by offering our employees educational opportunities, skills development, attractive salaries and culturally targeted benefits. We respect and value the men and women who work for us at Cortez, and are committed to fair employment practices, and a workplace in which all individuals are treated with dignity and respect and are free from harassment and discrimination. Good salaries and a comprehensive benefits package are provided to all employees.