

## Bingham Canyon Mine North Wall Slide Q&A

### April 11, 2013

---

**Q: How was the slide area identified and how often does movement occur?**

A: Pit wall movement is infrequent, but something we monitor for daily. Using sophisticated monitoring equipment, our highly trained geotechnical experts determined a slide would occur on the northeast wall of the Bingham Canyon Mine. We proactively relocated workers, equipment and facilities away from the area well in advance of the slide.

**Q: What measures were taken to ensure safety of the employees?**

A: Our first priority is employee safety. Mine leaders initially took immediate action by directing employees to work in safe areas, limiting access to the area of concern, relocating facilities and rerouting roads. In addition to the safety of employees, actions to relocate the Bingham Canyon Mine Visitors Center were taken, ensuring the safety of those visiting the mine in the future as well. As a precaution, employees were evacuated from all areas of the mine immediately following the slide.

**Q: Does the slide pose a threat to the public?**

A: Kennecott experts are confident that the movement was contained within the mine and will not impact the public. The slide did produce some nominal visible dust due to rock and dirt movement.

**Q: How did you monitor the movement prior to the slide?**

A: We used real-time data received through our radar monitoring systems to anticipate areas that showed movement. We used this data for short-term and long-term mine planning and to maintain a safe and efficient operation before and after the slide. Mine monitoring systems are capable of monitoring and analyzing thousands of data points that capture slope movement trends. Mine employees were also trained to competently observe and make slope stability determinations in areas that affected their work.

**Q: What caused the instability and are there likely to be more slides?**

A: Many factors, such as gravity and geologic conditions including rain, snow melt, freezing and thawing, and runoff can all affect the slopes to cause areas of movement. Once anticipated, we put contingency plans in place for any slides that occur. We do not expect further sliding of the northeast wall at this time, but will continue to monitor.

**Q: What kind of impact will the slide have on mine operation and production?**

A: We proactively took steps to modify our operation to ensure minimal impact to our business. Once the concern was identified, mine leaders acted immediately to move employees, equipment, facilities and reroute roads to maintain safe production, including:

- Closing the Bingham Canyon Mine Visitors Center
- Moving the mine monitoring control building
- Closing and rerouting the access road to the area
- Moving power and water sources

Our experts will evaluate the extent of the movement over the next coming days and ascertain the degree of impact to production. Contingency plans are in place to manage mine operations in the short and long term according to the impact.