



Sandy Ridge – Decommissioning and closure

The proposed Sandy Ridge Facility is currently expected to have a 25 year operational life. During this period up to 7.3 million tonnes (Mt) of kaolin ore would have been mined and up to 2.5 Mt of hazardous waste may have been permanently isolated. As the geology of the site is extensive, there is a possibility the operational licence could be extended into future years.

Once operations have concluded, closure, rehabilitation and decommissioning would proceed in accordance with a Mine Closure Plan and Waste Facility Decommissioning Closure Plan. The phases of management for closure of the proposed Sandy Ridge Facility are shown in the figure below.

After filling and capping of a waste disposal cell, the cap would be monitored for subsidence for a period of 10 years. Following this, and confirmation no problems are found, topsoil

would be respread and seeded and vegetation monitoring would be conducted for a further 10 years. Tellus would conduct radiation and groundwater monitoring during operations and post-closure. The purpose of the monitoring programs would be to confirm that the Sandy Ridge Facility is performing as it is designed to, and to ensure that any environmental impacts if they were to occur are identified at an early stage before they can cause any permanent damage to the environment.

Once Tellus have demonstrated the Facility is performing as expected, and permanent waste isolation has been achieved, the site would enter the Institutional Control Period. This means control of the site would be returned to the WA Government. Totem warning markers, like those in the above image, would be erected to prevent public access.

