

# FIVE YEARS OF PLANT COMMUNITY ESTABLISHMENT ON INTERIM RECLAMATION ON MOLYBDENUM TAILING<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** Chevron Mining Inc. owns and operates the Questa Tailing Facility, near the Village of Questa, New Mexico. The facility receives molybdenum tailing from the Questa Mine, located 9 miles east of the tailings facility. Interim reclamation has been implemented on four areas within the facility. These four areas represent reclamation activities ranging in age from 1980 to 2004. Sampling was conducted for five consecutive years in these areas to evaluate re-established plant communities and to discern if the depth of soil cover material had any effect on plant community composition. The components of the plant communities sampled included; total plant cover, perennial plant cover, shrub density, and species diversity. The results of the plant community study were analyzed to determine the relationships, if any, of plant community components and soil cover depths. In most years there is little or no relationship of plant composition and soil cover depths.

**Additional Key Words:** Tailings basin revegetation, cover soil depth, and reclamation.

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