



## Key Terms

**Ore** - rock containing sufficient quantities of metals or other minerals that make it valuable for mining

The ore at the Faro Mine Complex contained valuable quantities of lead, zinc, gold and silver. During 29 years of operation, over 70 million tonnes of ore was removed from the ground and processed.



There is approximately 10 tonnes of waste rock per Canadian at the Faro Mine Complex.  
(Photo: Yukon government/Archbould Photography)

**Waste Rock** - rock of little economic value that must be removed to access the ore

At the Faro Mine, for every one tonne of ore mined, four tonnes of waste rock had to be removed. This resulted in nearly 320 million tonnes of waste rock during 29 years of operation.

**Milling** - the process used to separate metals from ore

The first stage of the milling process involves crushing and grinding the ore into sand-sized particles. The ground-up ore is then processed in flotation cells. This flotation process uses both chemicals and air to separate the metal-containing minerals from the crushed-up ore and produces a concentrate. At the Faro Mine, the metal concentrates were transported to a smelter outside of the Yukon for further processing.



Flotation cells are used in the milling process.  
(Photo: Yukon government)



The mill at the Faro Mine Complex. (Photo: Yukon government/Archbould Photography)

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# Faro Mine Closure **FACT SHEET** #3

**Tailings** - the waste material left after metals have been removed from ore by the milling process

There are over 70 million tonnes of fine sand-like tailings at the Faro Mine Complex. Approximately 55 million tonnes of tailings were placed in the Rose Creek valley. The rest were put into the Faro Pit in the 1990s.

**Diversion** - an artificial channel that changes the natural course of a creek or stream

There are three major diversions at the Faro Mine Complex:

1. Faro Creek Diversion is a rock-lined ditch that allows Faro Creek to flow around the edge of Faro Pit.
2. Vangorda Creek Diversion is a metal half-pipe that allows Vangorda Creek to flow around the edge of Vangorda Pit.
3. Rose Creek Diversion is a 5 km long channel that diverts Rose Creek around the tailings storage area.

(Photos: Yukon government)



1. Faro Creek Diversion.



Tailings are fine sand-like materials. (Photo: Yukon government)



2. Vangorda Creek Diversion.



3. Rose Creek Diversion.

**Pit** - a large hole created when ore and waste rock is removed from the ground

The Faro Mine Complex contains three pits: Faro, Vangorda and Grum. The Faro Pit is the oldest and largest, covering an area of approximately one square kilometre.



View of the Faro Pit. The oldest and largest pit at the Faro Mine Complex. (Photo: Yukon government/Archbould Photography)