6.0 OTHER PRINCIPAL RECLAMATION AREAS

6.1 Leach Facility

Based on the current mine plan, up to 50 million tons of oxide ore will be leached by solvent extraction/electrowinning processes. The leach pad and associated ponds, comprising approximately 111 acres and 8 acres, respectively, are located within the footprint of the waste rock storage area.

The leach pad will consist of a 60 mil Low-Linear Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) liner placed on a Geosynthetic-Clay liner (GCL). There will be two process ponds (Raffinate and Pregnant Leach Solution) and one stormwater pond associated with the leaching operations. The Raffinate and Pregnant Leach Solution (PLS) ponds will be double-lined with an 80 mil High-Density Polyethelyne (HDPE) liner on top and 60 mil LLDPE liner on the bottom. The 60 mil LLDPE liner will be placed on top of a GCL liner. The stormwater pond will consist of a single 80 mil HDPE liner placed on GCL.

Based on the current mine plan, the leach grade ore delivery to the pad ceases by Year 6. By Year 10, leaching operations will have ceased, drain-down of the pad will have been completed, and the process and stormwater ponds closed. At this point, waste rock will begin to cover the former pond area as well as part of the heap pad (see Figure 9). As time progresses, the former heap leach pad will be covered by up to 50 feet of waste rock.

The ponds will be decommissioned based on the guidelines provided in ADEQ's BADCT Guidance Manual. After residual solutions are evaporated or processed, the pond liners will be buried in-place following inspection of the subgrade soils. Because the process ponds are double lined, with an underlying GCL, excavation and treatment of subsurface soils is not anticipated.

Based on preliminary geochemical characterization data, the majority of waste rock material placed on top of the spent heap leach pad will have a high neutralization potential. Placing this material over the spent ore will further reduce any potential issues related to acid rock drainage. Additionally, due to the thickness of waste rock placed over the spent ore, flux through the pile from meteoric waters is not anticipated. The final surface of the Ridge will be graded to provide positive drainage above the spent ore material.

6.2 Open Pit

During operations, Augusta plans to encourage plant growth on the upper benches of the open pit. Approximately 49 acres of the pit area will be affected by this plan out of a total pit disturbance, including buffer, of 950 acres. These 49 acres are potentially visible above the Rosemont Ridge from Highway 83. Soil capping and seeding of these benches will take place approximately in Year 7 of the operation, before mining restricts access. In addition to the existing perimeter security fence, the open pit will be bermed or additional fence installed to restrict access. Signage will be also be clearly posted around the pit perimeter. No other additional reclamation or closure activities are planned for the pit area.

6.3 Plant Site and Ancillary Facilities Demolition

Operating facilities at the Rosemont site will be demolished at closure. All areas will be investigated for contaminants and any soils, reagents, fuels, etc. will be disposed of off-site. Current plans call for demolishing all above-grade structures and recontouring building pads to

achieve positive drainage. Subgrade materials such as foundations will be buried in-place and capped. Figure 32 provides a plan view of the plant facilities subject to demolition. Facility demolition costs have been estimated by Brandenburg Contracting and are discussed in Section 13.0. Figure 33 shows a potential plant site regrading plan.

6.4 Access Road Removal

In general, access roads into the Rosemont property will remain after closure. Road removal within the former plant site area is assumed to be included in the bulk plant site regrading plan shown in Figure 33. A road will be maintained through the plant site in order to access Rosemont Ridge. Roads will also remain on top and around the toe of Rosemont Ridge for post-closure monitoring activities, including access to potential cattle grazing areas. Access requirements will be finalized during the EIS process, as will final reclamation requirements.