One Size Does Not Fit All – EoR Legacy Design and Scalability

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#### Where are we?

#### A Declining Resource Base?

- A small professional community
  - Small niche skill group
- Inherent dearth of resources
  - Cyclic Industry with attrition during down markets
  - 1990s dot-coms
  - Deemphasis of engineering as a profession
    - Past declining enrollment
  - Current movement to State and Federal positions
- Ongoing Senior attrition (Father Time)
- Requires continues "on-the-job" training





#### **Copper Prices – Past 45 Years**



#### Figure 2-12 U.S. engineering enrollment, by level: 1989–2009





Engineering Workforce Commission, Engineering & Technology Enrollments (various years). See appendix tables 2-15 and 2-22.

Science and Engineering Indicators 2012



### **Current Trends**

- Changing state of the practice driven by
  - Improved understanding and tools
  - Recent failures have forced paradigm change
  - Building higher and larger
  - Corporate reputation and risk awareness
- Tailing renaissance ahead?
  - Reduced hydromet
  - Abundant deep sulfides
- Increasing mine life (+30 years)



## EoR Program Support – Current Minimums

- Operations
  - Qualified internal engineering support
  - Corporate commitment and investment
  - Increased operations investment
  - Tailing stewardship programs
- External 3rd party review
  - Increased investment
  - Stewardship teams
  - Guidance accountability
- External review boards
  - Qualified leadership



### **Tailing Stewardship – Typical Profile**

- Owner Team
  - Program Director, a "corporate champion"
  - Internal experienced civil engineers (geotechnical and water resources)
- External Review Team
  - EoR (design and/or operations) direct engagement
  - Multiple external supporting teams
  - Annual 3rd party Review
- Technical Review Board
  - 2 or more members from academia or private practice
  - Renowned experts in respective fields (geotechnical and water resource engineering, seismologist, etc.)
  - 5-year interval and major projects



#### **Strategy for EoR Teams**

- External professionals
  - Qualified senior professionals
  - Focus on geotechnical and operations experience
  - Internal training programs
  - Sustainability cycle
- Consider multiple EoR groups
  - Built-in peer review
  - Improved attrition planning
  - Resource base diversity
- Scalable
  - Start small; go big





# EoR Legacy Planning and Scalability

EoR requirements need to be sufficiently flexible to

- Accommodate all project sizes
  - Accommodate teams and multiple EoRs
- Account for project length
  - Attrition planning
- Maintain qualified personnel and expertise
- Continuing education of all stakeholders
- Utilize team approach to leverage resources

