

ore in a static or semistatic condition either by gravity through an open pile, or by flooding a confined ore pile. It does not include the natural dissolution of uranium by ground waters, the incidental leaching of uranium by mine drainage, nor the rehabilitation of aquifers and the monitoring of these aquifers.

(f) "Mill" is a preparation facility within which the metal ore is cleaned, concentrated, or otherwise processed before it is shipped to the customer, refiner, smelter, or manufacturer. A mill includes all ancillary operations and structures necessary to clean, concentrate, or otherwise process metal ore, such as ore and gangue storage areas and loading facilities.

(g) "Mine" is an active mining area, including all land and property placed under, or above the surface of such land, used in or resulting from the work of extracting metal ore or minerals from their natural deposits by any means or method, including secondary recovery of metal ore from refuse or other storage piles, wastes, or rock dumps and mill tailings derived from the mining, cleaning, or concentration of metal ores.

(h) "Mine drainage" means any water drained, pumped, or siphoned from a mine.

(i) "Ten (10)-year, 24-hour precipitation event" is the maximum 24-hour precipitation event with a probable recurrence interval of once in 10 years as established by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, or equivalent regional or rainfall probability information.

(j) "U" (Uranium) is measured by the procedure discussed in 40 CFR 141.25(b)(2), or an equivalent method.

**Subpart M—Gold Placer Mine Subcategory**

SOURCE: 53 FR 18788, May 24, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 440.140 Applicability; description of the gold placer mine subcategory.**

(a) The provisions of this subpart M are applicable to discharges from—

(1) Mines and dredges that produce gold or gold bearing ores from placer deposits; and

(2) The beneficiation processes which use gravity separation methods for recovering gold from placer deposits.

(b) The provisions of this subpart M are not applicable to any mines or beneficiation processes which process less than 1500 cubic yards (cu yd) of ore per year, or to dredges which process less than 50,000 cu yd of ore per year, or to dredges located in open waters (*i.e.*, open bays, marine waters, or major rivers).

**§ 440.141 Specialized definitions and provisions.**

For the purpose of this subpart M, the general definitions, abbreviations, methods of analysis, and general provisions set forth in 40 CFR part 401 shall apply except as superseded by those below. The general provisions and definitions set forth in 40 CFR part 440, subpart L, shall not apply to this subpart.

(a) *Specialized definitions.* The following specialized definitions apply to this subpart only.

(1) "Beneficiation area" means the area of land used to stockpile ore immediately before the beneficiation process, the area of land used for the beneficiation process, the area of land used to stockpile the tailings immediately after the beneficiation process, and the area of land from the stockpiled tailings to the treatment system (*e.g.*, holding pond or settling pond, and the area of the treatment system).

(2) "Beneficiation process" means the dressing or processing of gold bearing ores for the purpose of—

(i) Regulating the size of, or recovering, the ore or product,

(ii) Removing unwanted constituents from the ore, and

(iii) Improving the quality, purity, or assay grade of a desired product.

(3) "Drainage water" means incidental surface waters from diverse sources such as rainfall, snow melt or permafrost melt.

(4) "Dredge" means a self-contained combination of an elevating excavator (*e.g.*, bucket line dredge), the beneficiation or gold-concentrating