

# MINE BACKFILL WORKSHOP

March 4 - March 6, 2024 — Elko Convention Center, Elko, NV

## Workshop Overview

In today's tough economic climate, mine backfills play an increasing role in sustaining the viability of mining operations worldwide. Beyond the traditional roles of maximizing resource extraction, improving safety, and increasing productivity in otherwise difficult deposits, there is increasing pressure from local stakeholders and communities to reduce surface impacts and even eliminate surface tailings impoundments. Hence even high cost alternatives, such as paste fills, are now becoming mainstream. The capital for a modern backfill system may well run into the tens of millions of dollars.

The cost effective design of mine backfills is a complex process that must consider the available materials, the geomechanical requirements for the mine, the geotechnical properties of the fill, and a host of other mining and cost related factors. The life-of-mine costs for backfill can represent a significant part of the overall cost of the mining cycle, however, optimizing these costs requires an understanding of backfill engineering that goes beyond most university curriculums and minesite training. The workshop is designed to provide an "everything backfill" overview of backfill engineering primarily aimed at mining engineering and technical staff, and backfill operations personnel.

## Key Learnings

This workshop will provide a unique overview of the engineering of a backfill system from the mining perspective. Lectures include the geotechnical properties of minefills, the geomechanics of minefills, numerical modelling, backfill mix designs, backfill quality control, and backfill Instrumentation. Participants will gain a solid understand of the basics of backfill designs including industry standard design tools.

## Your Instructors

The workshop will be led by a number of recognized industry experts in mine backfills. The workshop attendees will benefit from the background and experience of the instructors, all of whom have a track record of success in the industry.

**Dr. David Stone, P.E.** is an internationally renowned expert in mine backfills with almost 40 years of consulting to metal mines worldwide. He is the President of MineFill Services and is based in Tucson, Arizona.

**Dr. Matt Helinski**, has a Ph.D. in backfill geomechanics and is renowned globally for his expertise in geotechnical modelling and barricade design. He is a Principal Backfill Engineer with MineFill Services and is based in Newcastle, Australia.

**Dave Liston** is a Senior Backfill Engineer with over 18 years experience in international mining operations/ projects and has extensive experience in all aspects of mine backfill systems. Dave is based in Brisbane, Australia.

This workshop is hosted by **MINEFILL SERVICES** a global provider of backfill engineering.



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## Who Should Attend

This workshop is designed for a range of professionals involved in mine backfilling, including:

- Mining and geotechnical engineers
- Rock mechanics engineers
- Tailings engineers
- Technical services professionals
- Project/Study managers
- Backfill plant operators
- Backfill technicians and QA/QC staff
- Metallurgists
- Environmental managers
- Permitting/Regulatory staff

## Date/Venue

This three day workshop is to be held on Monday, March 4 through Wednesday, March 6, 2024 in the Turquoise Room at the Elko Convention Center in Elko, Nevada. Ample accommodation is available in the Elko area.

Space will be limited and is being offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. The registration fee includes a printed workbook with all of the presentation materials, plus all lunches/tea/coffee breaks during the workshop.

## Registration and Fees

The workshop fee is US \$2,195 per delegate. Please download our Elko Workshop Attendee Registration Form from our web site at [www.minefill.com](http://www.minefill.com). For corporate invoicing, please indicate payment method and include a full billing address.

An optional paste plant tour may be possible on Thursday, March 7, 2024. The tour cost will be \$75 per person and includes transportation to and from the mine, plus a boxed lunch.

## Workshop Contact

Please direct all workshop enquiries to:  
Shelley McNaughton, Workshop Coordinator  
[workshop@minefill.com](mailto:workshop@minefill.com)

## Workshop Agenda

Module	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
0830-1000	Backfill Selection	Rock Mechanics	Backfill Quality Control	Site Visits
1000-1030	Break	Break	Break	
1030-1200	Rockfills Hydraulic Fills	Backfill Geomechanics	Paste Reticulation	
1200-1300	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1300-1430	Paste Fills	Binders Backfill Strengths	Paste Operations	
1430-1500	Break	Break	Break	
1500-1630	Geotechnical Properties	Mining Under Backfill	Open Session	
Evening	Free Evening	Hosted Bar	Free Evening	

### Disclaimers:

- \* The sponsor reserves the right to cancel the course if the registration is insufficient.
- \* Cancellations up to one month before the workshop are eligible for refunds. No-shows will be charged the full fee.
- \* The availability of the workshop presenters is not guaranteed and substitutions may be made.
- \* The workshop agenda is for information purposes only and may be modified prior to the workshop date.



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## HOW TO REACH US

**MineFill Services**  
[www.minefill.com](http://www.minefill.com)  
PO Box 725  
Bothell, Washington  
USA 98041

Tel: (425) 486-0992

e-mail: [workshop@minefill.com](mailto:workshop@minefill.com)