

NPS Servicewide AML Database – FEATURE TYPES					
CODE	FEATURE	DESCRIPTION	Dimensions as Specified in Database		
			Dim_X	Dim_Y	Depth
AD	Adit	Horizontal (or near-horizontal) entrance to underground mine. No hoisting system was required to transport people and equipment or to extract ore. Easy to walk in and out.	width	height	horizontal distance into mine
SH	Shaft	Vertical (or near-vertical) entrance to underground mine. “Cage” hoisting system (mine elevator) was necessary to transport people and equipment and to extract ore. Climbing is required to get out.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	vertical distance down shaft
IN	Incline	Sloped entrance to underground mine, mined from the surface usually along the dip of a vein or stratigraphic horizon. Sometimes called “decline,” or “declined shaft.” Steep enough that rail-mounted skip hoist system was necessary to extract ore. Clambering is required to get out.	width	height	slope distance into mine
TU	Tunnel	Horizontal (or near-horizontal) underground mine passageway with openings to the surface at both ends.	width	height	horizontal distance through mine
OS	Open Stope	Linear opening mined from underground to the surface along the course of a vein or mineralized zone.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	Vertical/slope distance down into stope
GH	Glory Hole / subsidence feature	Broad opening mined and collapsed from underground – differentiated from “shaft” in that it is usually has irregular dimensions and there is no waste rock pile nearby, since it was not mined from the surface.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	vertical distance down glory hole
VR	Ventilation Raise	Vertical (or near-vertical) feature mined from underground to the surface to aid in mine ventilation. Looks identical to a shaft, but there is no waste rock pile nearby since it was not mined from the surface.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	vertical/slope distance into raise
PR	Prospect	Any feature, horizontal to vertical, less than 6 feet deep.	(use adit or shaft dimensions as appropriate)		
SM	Surface Mine	Hardrock or coal open pit, open cut, or strip mine; rock quarry, sand & gravel pit, cinder pit; trench, etc.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	vertical depth
HW	Highwall	Highwall that requires stabilization/mitigation, other than that associated with an open pit mine with steep pit walls on all sides – e.g., at portal of underground mine or along access road / bench, or steep wall on uphill side of surface cut.	width	height	-
OP	Ore Pile	Abandoned pile of high-grade mineralized rock that was set aside to be processed, but never made it to the mill. Includes “protore,” which is mid-grade material that is set aside awaiting better market conditions or processes that would make it economic to process in the future.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	height of pile

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WR	Waste Rock	(aka “spoil pile,” or “spoils.” Waste rock pile also called “dump.”) Unmineralized rock mined to expose and access an orebody. Can be “overburden” from pit mine that was stripped to get down to the ore zone, or barren rock mined underground to access a vein or other mineralized zone. Distinguishing characteristics are variable rock size, and waste rock is usually dumped as close to the mine as possible to minimize transportation costs.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	height of pile
TA	Tailings	At hardrock mine sites, tailings have been ground to a consistent sand or powder grain size to facilitate metal extraction. The potential for residual metals and processing chemicals, as well as fine grain size, make hardrock tailings highly susceptible to erosion and leaching of contaminants into the environment. At placer AML sites, this term refers to coarse rocks and boulders cast alongside stream channels that were dredged for gold or other commodities, whereas finer tailings were most likely washed downstream. Resulting landform is unnatural and difficult to revegetate.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	height of pile
TS	Topsoil Stockpile	Topsoil stripped from the area to be mined or used for other facilities (mill sites and other buildings), which was stockpiled for future use in reclamation phase of the operation.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	height of pile
BD	Building	e.g., mill, office, shop, dry (clothing/showering facility), residence, ...	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	height of building
ST	Structure	e.g., headframe, ore storage bin, ore chute, tippel, loadout, pad, foundation for equipment or building, etc.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	height of structure
EQ	Equipment	e.g., ore car, hoist, trommel, generator, compressor, pressure tank, storage tank, front-end loader, mucker, bulldozer, drill rig, etc.	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	height of equipment
RD	Road	Road / mine access bench	width	length	-
WI	Water Impoundment	Water impoundment other than flooded mine working	short horizontal dimension	long horizontal dimension	vertical distance to bottom
WE	Well	e.g., oil, gas, geothermal, water	diameter	-	length
HC	Hazmat Cache	Onsite hazardous materials cache that is not associated with another feature			
EC	Explosives Cache	Onsite explosives cache that is not associated with another feature (e.g., not a small adit that is used for an explosives magazine).			
OT	Other	Anything that does not fit above – include description in COMMENTS field.			
UN	Unknown	Use where records do not specify and current staff are not familiar with site. Please update next time site is inspected.			