



Geotechnical Design for Sublevel Open Stopping

Ernesto Villaescusa

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The first comprehensive work on one of the most important underground mining methods worldwide, **Geotechnical Design for Sublevel Open Stopping** presents topics according to the conventional sublevel stopping process used by most mining houses, in which a sublevel stopping geometry is chosen for a particular mining method, equipment availability, and work force experience. Summarizing state-of-the-art practices encountered during his 25+ years of experience at industry-leading underground mines, the author:

- Covers the design and operation of sublevel open stopping, including variants such as bench stopping
- Discusses increases in sublevel spacing due to advances in the drilling of longer and accurate production holes, as well as advances in explosive types, charges, and initiation systems
- Considers improvements in slot rising through vertical crater retreat, inverse drop rise, and raise boring
- Devotes a chapter to rock mass characterization, since increases in sublevel spacing have meant that larger, unsupported stope walls must stand without collapsing
- Describes methodologies to design optimum open spans and pillars, rock reinforcement of development access and stope walls, and fill masses to support the resulting stope voids
- Reviews the sequencing of stopping blocks to minimize *in situ* stress concentrations
- Examines dilution control action plans and techniques to back-analyze and optimize stope wall performance

Featuring numerous case studies from the world-renowned Mount Isa Mines and examples from underground mines in Western Australia, **Geotechnical Design for Sublevel Open Stopping** is both a practical reference for industry and a specialized textbook for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate mining studies.

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