



# The “Tailings-First” Strategy: Turning Liabilities into Profit Centers

In 2026, the industry has reached a tipping point: **tailings are no longer “waste” – they are your most accessible ore body.** With primary grades declining and copper and gold prices hitting historic highs, the economics of reprocessing have flipped.

While underground mining can cost upwards of **USD150/tonne**, tailings reprocessing often sits at a fraction of that (**USD2–5/tonne**) because the material is already mined, crushed, and ready to feed. The challenge isn't the access; it's the *variability*.

## The VBKOM Bottom Line

The secret to a “Tailings-First” project isn't just the recovery – it's the **geometallurgical modeling**. By treating your tailings facility with the same rigor as a virgin deposit, we use predictive modeling to map leach kinetics and mineral variability block-by-block.

This approach transforms a “reclamation liability” into a high-margin revenue stream, significantly boosting your project's NPV while simultaneously meeting GISTM safety and closure requirements. **Don't just manage your waste; model it for profit.**



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