The **SAG** (semi-autogenous grinding) **mill** crushes and grinds the ore. The SAG mill has a large cylindrical drum that rotates. Ore, steel balls (5 in or 12.7 cm) and water are put into the SAG mill. As the drum turns, the ore and steel balls hit each other and the sides of the drum, causing the ore to break down into smaller pieces.

This ground ore-water mix is called the slurry, and it passes through to the trommel (the back of the SAG mill). The trommel contains a screen that catches ore that is larger than ¼ inch (6 mm). These pieces will go through the SAG mill again. The slurry gets collected in the SAG mill pump discharge box.