



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Coronado National Forest
Supervisor's Office

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File Code: 1950/2810

Date: August 2, 2011

Mr. C. H. Huckelberry
Pima County Administrator
130 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701-1317

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

This is in response to your July 6, 2011 letter requesting "unnamed documents cited in the ADEIS". My staff has reviewed your letter and the ADEIS, and found that there are no documents cited in the ADEIS locations that you reference. However, I asked my staff to review the record and provide you with references to documents that we feel are responsive to the sections of the ADEIS cited in your letter.

Enclosed on CD for your review are two reports: Rosemont Copper Project Updated Feasibility Study (Augusta Resource Corporation, 2009) and Draft Rosemont Copper Project Review of Alternatives Considered but Dismissed (SRK Environmental Consultants, December 16, 2009).

Underground mining is discussed in Rosemont Copper Project Updated Feasibility Study (Augusta Resource Corporation, 2009, volume 1 of 1). Refer specifically to pages 27 and 28. Additionally, in situ and high temperature/high pressure leaching recovery methods are discussed on pages 11 to 25 of Draft Rosemont Copper Project Review of Alternatives Considered but Dismissed (SRK Environmental Consultants, December 16, 2009).

Pit configuration is discussed in Rosemont Copper Project Updated Feasibility Study (Augusta Resource Corporation, 2009). Refer specifically to pages 61 to 67. The US Army Corps of Engineers, through the 404(b)(1) Alternatives Analysis, discusses pit configuration in detail. This report has not been made available at this time.

Twenty-year life of mine is discussed in Rosemont Copper Project Updated Feasibility Study (Augusta Resource Corporation, 2009) on pages 7, 12, 91, 104-108, and 117 and Draft Rosemont Copper Project Review of Alternatives Considered but Dismissed (SRK Environmental Consultants, December 16, 2009) pages 26-30. A related discussion of suspending mining during certain environmental conditions and the relationship to life of mine is discussed on pages 31 to 34 of the SRK report.

Forest Service statements affirming Rosemont's legal right to access mineral rights are based in law, regulation, and policy that I have previously explained and shared with you on several occasions. The Forest Service is not required to conduct mining claim validity exams before processing and approving proposed plans of operation on lands open to mineral entry (36 CFR 228, Subpart A and 30 USC §612(a)). Locators of lode claims are entitled to the exclusive right of possession of the surface (30 USC §26). Forest Service directives identify where a validity examination is appropriate. These situations include review of patent applications, proposed mining in withdrawn areas, and unauthorized occupancy, none of which apply in the Rosemont case.



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Thank you for your patience. Other pressing business caused a delay in this response. Also, thank you for facilitating the thoughtful and thorough review input on the pre-DEIS from several County departments. Input from Pima County and other cooperating agencies has been very helpful in producing a better document for public review.

Sincerely,



JIM UPCHURCH
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure: CD