



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

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C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator
Pima County Administrator's Office
130 W. Congress St.
Tucson, AZ 85701-1317

copy to:
1. Nicole
2. Dimin
3. Julian
Sji
2/14/13

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

This is in response to your January 31, 2013, letter regarding the Rosemont Copper Project pit depth and related concerns. My staff has reviewed numerous documents in addressing your questions and found consistency in the pit depth for all key technical studies done for the project analysis.

Although the digital files that your staff reviewed showed a pit depth to an elevation of 3,175 feet, this depth is not the planned construction depth. The projected pit bottom is at an elevation of 3,050 feet and this is the elevation used in the technical analyses for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) except for visual simulations. It is important to note that none of the visual simulations show the bottom of the pit from any of the Key Observation Points; therefore, regardless of whether the simulations used a value of 3,175 feet or 3,050 feet, there would be no difference in the visual effects.

All other technical analyses for the EIS including groundwater and geochemical modeling used a pit depth to an elevation of 3,050 feet; therefore, there is no discrepancy and the analysis remains valid. The geochemical modeling included testing of all sulfide mineralization, including occurrences of pyrite in the ore and in the waste rock. Dewatering of the pit and development of the cone of depression was based on the same pit bottom elevation and considered the fracturing and other geologic features to that depth.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention and providing me with an opportunity to verify the accuracy of the pertinent modeling.

Sincerely,

Karen Carter
For JIM UPCHURCH
Forest Supervisor

cc: Mindy S Vogel

