



Remedial activities

West Plant site, Superior, Arizona

Smelter-Affected Soil Remediation Efforts Soon Underway

Resolution Copper Mining LLC (RCML) is pleased to report that they are working with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) to conduct remediation of smelter-affected soils in the West Plant Site near Superior, Arizona.

Site Background

The historic smelter stack, built by Magma Copper Company, began operating in 1924 and continued operating until 1972. Historic emissions as well as other mineral processing operations (for example, crushing or concentration) at the site, settled onto surrounding soil.

Site Characterization

Site characterization activities were conducted under the regulatory authority of the ADEQ VRP to understand the nature and extent of contamination related to smelter emissions, and to identify the constituents of concern (COCs) in the soil. COCs are constituents that have the potential to cause adverse health effects for people who have consistent and routine exposure to the affected soil. The results indicated that the COCs for the smelter-affected soil are arsenic, copper, and lead.

Site-specific soil remediation levels were developed for the three COCs in accordance with Arizona Administrative Code (AAC) R18-

7-206, and were approved by the ADEQ VRP.

Remedial Action

RCML developed a Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) that was submitted to the ADEQ VRP for review. Under this plan, smelter-affected soil will be excavated and transported to Tailings Pond 6, located at the north end of the West Plant Site. There, the affected soil will be used as mass grading fill as part of reclamation efforts. Tailings Pond 6 will be closed with cover material as part of the Aquifer Protection Permit requirements. Construction work will be performed with local contractors.

The soil remaining after excavation will be tested to ensure that the concentrations of COCs are below the cleanup levels. Once that excavation and testing are complete, the remaining soil will be revegetated.

Dust control measures will be used during the remedial activities, and dust monitoring will be conducted throughout the remediation to minimize on-site dust levels, and to minimize the potential for dust to travel off-site. Stormwater will also be managed to prevent soils from moving off-site.

FACT SHEET March 2016

For technical questions, please contact:

Joey Pace
Project Manager
Voluntary Remediation Program
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-4818
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For other questions or to be placed on the site mailing list, please contact:

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Public Comment Period:

Parties wishing to submit written comments regarding the RAWP, may write to the contacts provided above.

Comments must be postmarked or received by RCML no later than 5 p.m. on May 6, 2016.

Documents are available for public review at:

<http://resolutioncopper.com/environment/vrp>
and
<https://azdeq.gov/environment/waste/cleanup/vrp.html>

Si desea esta información en Español, por favor llame al (602) 771-4189 ó sin tarifa al (800) 234-5677 y marque el número 2 para Español.

Site Name

Schedule

Remediation is expected to begin in April 2016 and continue through January 2017.

How Can You Be Involved?

You are invited to review and submit written comments on the RAWP during the public comment period listed in the sidebar.

The public is encouraged to participate in this process.