

## Copper World Air Quality Permit Fact Sheet

### What is the Copper World Project?

The Copper World Project is a proposed new open-pit copper ore mining and processing operation by Copper World, Inc., a subsidiary of Hudbay Minerals, Inc., located approximately 28 miles southeast of Tucson, Arizona, in the Santa Rita Mountains. The Copper World Project consists of open-pit mining operations, sulfuric acid leaching, sulfide ore concentration, recovery of precious metals, solvent extraction and electrowinning, copper concentrate dewatering and shipment, tailings storage and management, and a sulfuric acid plant.

Learn more about the Copper World Project:  
[azdeq.gov/aqd/copperworld](https://azdeq.gov/aqd/copperworld)

### Air Quality Permit Background

On August 2, 2022, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) asserted air quality jurisdiction for the Copper World Project from the Pima Department of Environmental Quality. This action was taken to be consistent with ADEQ's assertion of jurisdiction over the previously permitted Rosemont Copper Project in August 2012 and to provide regulatory certainty to Copper World, Inc. due to the overlap in property between the Copper World Project and Rosemont Copper Project. Following the assertion of jurisdiction, ADEQ oversees all air quality permitting, compliance, and enforcement for the Copper World Project.

The purpose of ADEQ's air quality permitting program is to develop permits for industrial facilities that ensure operation of the facility is protective of

public health and the environment. The Copper World Project's proposed air quality permit implements federal, state, and local air quality regulations with legally-enforceable requirements established through ADEQ's New Source Review program to ensure that emissions from the operation of the Copper World Project do not result in air quality exceeding the federal health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in areas that are accessible to the public.

### Proposed Air Quality Permit Components

ADEQ proposes to issue a Class II Minor New Source air quality permit for the Copper World Project, which authorizes the construction and operation of the project. The proposed air quality permit for the Copper World Project includes, but is not limited to, the following requirements:

- Emissions Standards and Operational Limitations
- Air Pollution Control Equipment Requirements
- Monitoring, Recordkeeping, and Compliance Reporting Requirements
- Emissions Performance Testing
- Dust Control Plan
- Tailings Dust Management Plan
- Public Access Restriction Plan
- Ambient Air Quality and Meteorological Monitoring
- Routine Unannounced Inspections
- Unannounced Air Quality Complaint Inspections

## Permit Type

A Class II air quality permit application for the Copper World Project was submitted to ADEQ on October 21, 2022. Subsequent information requests were provided to Copper World, Inc. to address application deficiencies identified during the technical review process and assist with development of the proposed draft permit and technical support document.

## Permitting Process — Formal Public Participation

The 60-day public participation period for the Copper World Project’s proposed air quality permit began on July 15, 2024, and ADEQ will accept comments through September 15, 2024. Comments may be submitted by mail or email, through SmartComment, or verbally at the public hearing taking place at Corona Foothills Middle School on September 10, 2024. Comments received after the final date of the public participation period may not be addressed in ADEQ’s formal response to comments. ADEQ will consider all substantive comments received during the public participation period prior to making a final permitting decision. A formal response to comments will be provided to commenters with the agency’s final action of the permit.

In addition to the formal public participation activities, ADEQ presented the draft permit and technical support document to Pima County Department of Environmental Quality and Tohono O’odham, Pascua Yaqui, and Hopi Tribal Nations to provide them with an early opportunity to review and provide input prior to the start of the formal public participation period. ADEQ is also hosting a community meeting on August 14, 2024, to provide information and informally answer questions related to the proposed Copper World Project air quality permit.

An overview of ADEQ’s air quality permitting process for the Copper World Project is as follows:



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