

MINERALS RESEARCH, INC. – AIR QUALITY PERMIT

What is MRI?

Minerals Research, Inc. (MRI) operates an industrial facility in Cottonwood dedicated to recycling a historical copper smelter slag pile into abrasive blasting products, roofing materials, and construction aggregate.

Learn more: azdeg.gov/aqd/mri and mineralsresearch.com

Current Status of the Facility

Historically, MRI operated under the ADEQ Crushing and Screening General Permit (GP). In Sept. 2023, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) determined the facility does not qualify for this GP because the processed copper ore slag does not meet the federal definition of non-metallic minerals.

Currently, MRI is operating under a new permit application submitted on Oct. 31, 2023. ADEQ is now proposing to issue a Class II air quality permit to authorize continued operations with updated requirements.

Protecting Public Health and Air Quality

ADEQ uses rigorous air dispersion modeling—a computer simulation tracking how pollutants travel—to confirm facility emissions meet federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These health-based standards are designed to protect vulnerable groups, including children, older adults, and those with respiratory conditions.

Air dispersion modeling confirms that pollutant concentrations from facility operations will remain far below the NAAQS, ensuring the protection of public health.

Air Quality Permitting Process Overview for MRI



Core Air Quality Permit Requirements

- Emissions Standards and Operational Limitations
- Air Pollution Control Equipment Requirements
- Monitoring, Recordkeeping, and Compliance Reporting Requirements
- Emissions Control Performance Testing

Key Conditions in the MRI Draft Air Quality Permit

The Class II draft air quality permit introduces strict requirements to control emissions, including:

- **Dust Control Plan:** Chemical dust suppression on roadways to prevent dust from leaving the site.
- **Emission Limits:** Strict throughput and baghouse emission limits to safeguard public health.
- **Blasting Restrictions:** Blasting requires a 72-hour advance notice to ADEQ, is restricted to the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and is strictly prohibited during high wind periods (sustained winds > 25 mph).
- **Operational Accountability:** Rigorous monitoring, recordkeeping, compliance reporting, and performance testing for emissions control equipment.

Public Participation: Your Voice Matters

ADEQ encourages community involvement and will accept public comments on the draft air quality permit.

- **ADEQ will start the formal public participation process** by publishing an official public notice in The Daily Courier, The Verde Independent and on our website. This public notice seeks interested parties' input, includes the start and end date of the public comment period, and provides interested parties information about how to access and review the draft air quality permit and Technical Support Document.
- **Comment Period:** Sept. 29, 2026 – Nov. 30, 2026
- **How to Comment:** Submit comments beginning Sept. 29, 2026, via mail, email, SmartComment, or verbally at the public hearing.

Public Hearing Details

Date & Time	Location
Nov. 18, 2026 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Cottonwood Parks and Rec Event Hall 150 S 6th St., Cottonwood, AZ 86326

ADEQ will consider all substantive comments before making a final permitting decision and will provide a formal response to comments alongside the final permit action.

How to Stay Informed

Sign up to receive emails about community updates and public notices related to MRI:
bit.ly/MineralsResearchInc



Questions? Please contact:

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