

Cyprus Copperstone Gold Mine
Aquifer Protection Permit No. P-100229
Place ID 0756, LTF No. 77022
Significant Amendment

I. Introduction:

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) proposes to issue an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) for the subject facility that covers the life of the facility, including operational, closure, and post-closure periods unless suspended or revoked pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-9-A213. The requirements contained in this permit will allow the permittee to comply with the two key requirements of the Aquifer Protection Program: 1) meet Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS) at the Point of Compliance (POC); and 2) demonstrate Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT). BADCT's purpose is to employ engineering controls, processes, operating methods or other alternatives, including site-specific characteristics (i.e., the local subsurface geology), to reduce discharge of pollutants to the greatest degree achievable before they reach the aquifer or to prevent pollutants from reaching the aquifer.

II. Permittee & Facility Location:

Cyprus Copperstone Gold Corporation (CCGC)
Approximately 13 miles north of Quartzsite, and 4 miles west of Highway 95

III. Facility Description:

The Cyprus Copperstone Gold Mine was operated as an open pit gold mining and beneficiation facility that used heap leaching and carbon in pulp/carbon in liquor (CIP/CIL) technology for gold extraction and recovery permitted under Arizona Groundwater Protection Permit (GWQPP) No. G-0011-15. The following facilities at the site have been closed in accordance with Arizona Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) requirements: truck wash facility, heap leach pad, tailing impoundment, and passive wetland treatment system. The site is comprised of one remaining active facility, the Reclaim Solution Pond (RSP) that is subject to APP requirements.

IV. Amendment Description:

The purpose of this amendment is to update the closure and post-closure costs, and reduce the frequency of compliance groundwater monitoring from “quarterly” to “annually”. The reduction in monitoring frequency and the ability of the permittee to demonstrate that the changes will not affect the permittee’s ability to remain in compliance with Articles 1 and 2 makes this a significant amendment as per A.A.C. R18-9-A211(B)(4).

V. Regulatory Status

Currently, there are no open enforcement actions for this facility.

VI. Best Available Demonstrated Control Technology (BADCT):

The Tailings Impoundment and Heap Leach Pad were closed according to plans and specifications in the April 1993 *Cyprus Copperstone Gold Mine Closure Plan* and no further closure actions are required by this permit for these facilities or for the closed truck wash and passive wetlands

treatment system facilities. Post-closure groundwater monitoring shall be required until final APP closure. Draindown from the Heap Leach and Tailings facilities along with stormwater infiltration from these facilities are collected in a small sump at the base of the facility and piped to the adjacent lined RSP and allowed to evaporate.

VII. Compliance with Aquifer Water Quality Standards (AWQS):

Post-closure groundwater monitoring is required to be conducted on an annual basis at the point of compliance well MW-257 located south and downgradient of the RSP.