

**NOTICE OF 45-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
VERDE CENTRAL MINE
VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM SITE
COMBINED COMMENT PERIOD FOR
SITE CHARACTERIZATION REPORT/RISK ASSESSMENT AND
REQUEST FOR NO FURTHER ACTION DETERMINATION**

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 49-181(A), Freeport Minerals Corporation (FMC) is requesting a No Further Action (NFA) determination from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for portions of the property located 0.7 mile southwest of Jerome on State Highway 89A in Arizona. The “Site” is known as the Verde Central Mine Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Site. The Site is a small inactive historical copper mine that operated for a short duration from 1928 to 1930. It is comprised of the following features: a mine rock stockpile, miscellaneous residual mine materials from milling operations, and the foundation of a former mill.

The Site is currently managed under the ADEQ VRP (Site Code 508483-00). FMC sampled exposed mine rock, tailing, and mill wastes resulting from historical mining and analyzed the samples for metals and select organic compounds to assess whether the material poses an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. Also, FMC sampled and analyzed surface water in Hull Canyon Wash when it was flowing. Several metals were identified as contaminants of potential concern by comparing the analytical results to conservative benchmark screening levels assuming the land would be used for residential and nonresidential purposes and as ecological habitat. Regulatory closure of the Site is based on a risk evaluation for the intended future property use. Institutional controls will be placed on the property to prevent uses that would pose an unacceptable risk to human health. Access to the Site will be limited by a locked gate, fencing, and No Trespassing signs. A Declaration of Environmental Use Restriction (DEUR) will be recorded for the property to prohibit residential and recreational use of those portions of the property where historical mining remnants exist, or approximately 6.7 acres of the Site.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 49-176(A)(3), 49-176(B), 49-181(C)(1) and 49-181(C)(2), ADEQ requires a public comment period for the following reports:

- The April 17, 2020 *Site Characterization Report (SCR)*, inclusive of the associated *Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA)* and *Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA)*, and
- The June 2020 *Conditional No Further Action Report*.

These reports are available online at <http://www.azdeq.gov/notices>, and at the ADEQ Records Center, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ (602) 771-4380, or (800) 234-5677, ext. 602-771- 4380; please call for hours of operation and to schedule an appointment.

PARTIES WISHING TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS regarding either report may do so to ADEQ, Attention: Joey Pace, Voluntary Remediation Program, 1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007 or pace.joey@azdeq.gov; or Attention: Jennifer Laggan, Freeport Minerals Corporation, 333 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85004 or jlaggan@fmi.com and reference this listing. Comments must be postmarked or received by ADEQ or by **August 17, 2020**.

Dated this 28th day of June 2020.

ADEQ will take reasonable measures to provide access to department services to individuals with limited ability to speak, write, or understand English and/or to those with disabilities. Requests for language interpretation services or for disability accommodations must be made at least 48 hours in advance by contacting: 7-1-1 for TDD; (602) 771-2215 for Disability Accessibility; or Ian Bingham, Title VI Nondiscrimination Coordinator at (602) 771-4322 or bingham.ian@azdeq.gov.

ADEQ tomará medidas razonables para proveer acceso a los servicios del departamento para personas con capacidad limitada para hablar, escribir o entender Inglés y / o para las personas con discapacidad. Las solicitudes de servicios de interpretación del lenguaje o de alojamiento de discapacidad deben hacerse por lo menos 48 horas de antelación poniéndose en contacto con Ian Bingham, Title VI Nondiscrimination Coordinator al (602) 771-4322 o bingham.ian@azdeq.gov.