



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Arizona Water Science Center
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John Korolsky
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Dear John,

We are now in year three of the joint funding agreement between Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold subsidiary Phelps Dodge Mining Co. (formerly Phelps Dodge Safford, Inc.) and the United States Geological Survey, Water Resources Discipline (USGS). Below is a summary of the progress made by the USGS in its oversight of the Dos Pobres/San Juan Mine Water Resources Mitigation Project during the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. This is followed by a list of the progress expected to be made on the project during fiscal year 2008. We would like to note that a project personnel change occurred in January of 2007. Nick Paretti replaced Bruce Gungle as project chief on the Dos Pobres/San Juan Mine Project. Bruce Gungle will continue to be actively involved in the project, but any further communications should be directed to Nick Paretti.

Copies of this letter are also being sent to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Arizona Department of Water Resources. It will also be made available to the public on the USGS Dos Pobres/San Juan Mine Water Resources Mitigation Project web site (<http://az.water.usgs.gov/projects/9671-BGJ/pubdocs.html>).

1. Progress made in Fiscal Year 2007

a. Water levels in 40 of the 41 wells drilled by Phelps-Dodge for monitoring [Groups 2 through 5 from p. 34 and 35 of the Dos Pobres/San Juan Project Clean Water Act Section 404 Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP), plus an additional well at the San Carlos Apache Reservation boundary in Pima Gap] were measured four times by Phelps-Dodge contractor Allen Pump of Thatcher, Arizona, using an electric tape. Well AP-3A remains obstructed. USGS personnel (Bruce Gungle and Nick Paretti) twice made side-by-side measurements with Allen Pump, once in March and September, 2007. The calibration of both the Allen Pump and the USGS electric tapes were checked at these times as well.

b. Water levels were measured monthly at the six Group 1 wells (p. 35 of the MMP) by Allen Pump. USGS personnel made side-by-side electric tape measurements with Allen Pump at the Group 1 wells, once in March and September, 2007. Pressure transducers deployed in these 6 wells logged measurements every 12 hours.

2. Plans for Fiscal Year 2008

a. USGS will continue to take water-level measurements twice yearly concurrent with the PDSI contractor's quarterly measurements (typically spring and fall).

b. The second round of water chemistry and stable isotope well and spring sampling will be completed early in FY 2008.

c. The USGS is working to update and upload all isotope, water chemistry, and field parameter data into the National Water Information System (NWIS).

d. All 2007 water level data will be uploaded into NWIS along with the continuous monitoring water level data collected at the Group 1 wells.

e. All data will be accessible from the USGS Dos Pobres/San Juan project webpage through the interactive well sites, which are directly linked to NWIS. In addition, the webpage interactive map will be converted to an interactive Google Map, where visitors should be able to more easily access and utilize data.

f. The USGS is working with Test America, Inc. (the water chemistry laboratory contracted by Phelps Dodge) to incorporate them into the USGS lab evaluation program. This will ensure that water chemistry data available to the public have undergone the proper quality assurance and quality control procedures.

Should you have any questions or comments with regard to this progress summary, please contact me at the address or phone number below.

Sincerely,



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cc: Ms. Cathy Wilson, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Mr. Frank Corkhill, Arizona Department of Water Resources
Ms. Marjorie Blain, United States Army Corps of Engineers