



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 have completed the third (FY 2008) year of the joint funding agreement between Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold (FMCG) 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, 2008. This is followed by a list of the progress expected to be made on the project during fiscal year 2009.

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 2008

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 FMCG contractor Allen Pump of Thatcher, Arizona, using an electric tape. Well AP-3A remains obstructed. USGS personnel (Bruce Gungle and Nick Paretti) made side-by-side measurements with Allen Pump in March and October, 2008. The calibration of both the Allen Pump and the USGS electric tapes was 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 in March and October, 2008. Pressure transducers deployed in these 6 wells logged measurements every 12 hours.

c. It has recently come to our attention that there have been some problems with the contractor's procedure for collecting the pressure transducer data. We will work with the contractor in FY09 to improve their protocol. The earlier data were processed and corrected to the greatest extent possible.

d. Most 2008 (exceptions are November and December) water level and continuous transducer data were loaded into Ground Water Site Inventory (GWSI) and Automated Data Processing System (ADAPS) data bases and are accessible from the USGS Dos Pobres/San Juan project webpage through the interactive well sites; these are directly linked to National Water Information System (NWIS).

e. The USGS is continuing to work with Test America, Inc. (FMCG's contracted water chemistry laboratory) to keep them enrolled in the USGS lab evaluation program, as a measure to ensure the proper quality assurance and quality control.

2. Plans for Fiscal Year 2009

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

b. The continuous transducer data will be collated monthly at the LBF group wells. The USGS will work with the contractor to implement a new data collection protocol for collecting continuous pressure-transducer data.

c. Once received, all isotope, water chemistry, and field parameter data will be entered into NWIS.

d. All remaining 2008 and new 2009 water level and continuous monitoring water-level data collected at the Group 1 wells will be loaded into NWIS.

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