

July 20, 2013 Meeting & Field Trip

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members:

George Martin – JF Ranch

Lynn Martin – JF Ranch

Pam Bennett – Queen Valley HOA president

Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail (Pickett Post to tunnel)

Bill Vogler – LOST Trail

Roy Chavez – Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners Association

Pam Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce

Facilitator - Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):

Debra Duerr

Resolution Copper:

Vicky Peacey - senior manager of approvals, communities & environment

Frank Deal – tailings manager

Safety Training

Attendees watched a safety training video, and were asked to sign an affidavit stating that they had done so. Cards will be issued to allow these individuals access to certain areas of Resolution facilities during the next year, based on this.

Introduction to Tour

Presenter: Vicky Peacey

The group reviewed graphics that provided an overview of the proposed mine facilities and mining process. This mine is expected to produce about 120,000 tons of ore per day, compared to older mines that produced 3 to 6 tons per day, largely due to vast increases in the design and use of robotics in the mining process. Material that is 30% ore from the underground mine is transported via conveyors to a concentrator, where it

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is dewatered and loaded on rail cars to a processing facility. Here, about 4% of the material is extracted as copper ore and 96% is waste material, or tailings. Group members suggested that the mining industry, and Resolution in particular, should sponsor educational and training programs for the community to train potential mine employees in these new technologies.

Water for processing will come from the Central Arizona Project and will average 12,000 acre feet (af) per year, up to a maximum of 16,000. Peacey mentioned that water use for mines has decreased significantly over the years due to the ability to reuse and recycle. About 1,800 af will be recycled in this process. Water use is regulated by the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Several members said that water issues are a big concern to many in the community.

Mine Tour

The group was taken to a lookout point above Oak Flat Campground where they could view informational displays about the planned mine and the locations of the ore deposit and pad expansion. Discussion included the topics of the land exchange proposal, timeframes for mining of this deposit, location and impacts in relation to Apache Leap, future Forest Service access and maintenance issues, trails access, recreational and other mitigation, NEPA and some members' experience with Environmental Assessments for grazing in other locations, the NEPA process for Carlotta Mine as a comparison, and the role of the Community Working Group in these issues in the future.

We then visited other locations of proposed processing facilities and viewed some historic mining sites and facilities. As a lifelong resident and former miner, Mr. Chavez was able to provide much information about the use and history of the area, buildings, and former mine operations.

Some of the ideas and suggestions the group mentioned during the tour as possible community mitigation measures included:

- Supporting a technical/vocational school in the San Carlos community
- Supporting technical / vocational education in the Superior community
- Replace Oak Flat Campground with a Resolution-owned/maintained campground
- Resolution pays Forest Service to build and maintain recreational access roads
- Provide alternative access to replace the Lost Trail sections affected by mining
- Preserve some of the old/historic buildings and facilities on the mine property as a museum

Tailings Site Discussion

Presenter: Frank Deal & Vicky Peacey

After returning to the office, an aerial photo was displayed that had a number of potential tailings site concepts outlined on it. These included sites that were previously evaluated and discarded east of Superior as well as a parcel of State Trust Land closer to Florence Junction (referred to as “far west”) and several sites along the southern boundary of the Tonto National Forest between Queen Valley and Superior. Resolution showed visual simulations of what tailings piles at several of these sites would look like from key viewpoints. The group discussed attributes of the various sites and asked questions about the viability of some other areas, and discussed possible impacts on the town of Superior and other residential areas. They asked if Resolution had a preference among the sites. Resolution noted that the “far west” site might be the optimal choice but described difficulties in trying to obtain the land from the State. From the others, Resolution suggested one location that would have engineering advantages as well as potential screening from the Superior community and other sensitive locations; the closest residential community would be Hewitt Station Road.

A member asked Resolution to include an evaluation of an additional site southeast of Superior at Rawhide Canyon, east of Devil’s Canyon. They agreed to do this. Peacey will include all these alternatives on maps for group members, which they can pick up later in the week.

The group asked how long it would be before the tailings started to become visible to outlying areas, and Deal said it would be at least 7 years before a tailings pond was needed and many more before the pile would be visible. This prompted several members to suggest that we seek some younger community representatives to join the CWG, since they would have a greater stake in the long-term effects.

The group agreed that the NEPA process should be started as soon as possible, to address community perceptions that Resolution is trying to avoid environmental regulations. They said they were willing to work to come to agreement on a site to include in the mine plan of operations, which would trigger the environmental assessment by the Forest Service. This discussion will take place at the next two CWG meetings. The next meeting is on July 31. Debra Duerr asked the group if they would be able to reschedule the August 14 meeting to the day before, August 13, to allow Resolution to hold their community forum on tailings on August 14, and they agreed.