

### Meeting #11

November 4, 2013 Meeting

### MEETING SUMMARY

#### Meeting Attendees

##### *Community Working Group members present:*

Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail & Superior Copper Alliance  
Bill Vogler – LOST Trail & Superior Copper Alliance  
Pam Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce  
Fred Gaudet for Matt Nelson – Arizona Trail Association  
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley HOA  
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum  
Martin Navarrette - Superior Little League  
Jeff Bunkelmann – Central Arizona College  
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Board (new member)  
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board  
Roy Chavez – Retired Miners & Concerned Citizens

##### *Community Working Group members not present:*

Lynn Heglie – Superior business  
George Martin – JF Ranch  
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch

##### *Resolution Copper:*

Vicky Peacey - senior manager of approvals, communities & environment  
Melissa Rabago – community outreach coordinator  
Frank Deal – project engineer  
Rich Heig – process engineer  
Ian Edgar – general manager, studies

##### *Guests:*

Dominic Pereja - Superior Junior/Senior High School  
Steven Byrd - Superior Junior/Senior High School  
Mila Besich Lira – Town of Superior Councilwoman  
Henry Munoz  
John Delgado  
Two (2) other visitors declined to identify themselves

##### *Facilitators - Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA):*

Matt Ortega  
Debra Duerr

### Housekeeping

Debra Duerr opened the meeting and asked everyone present to introduce themselves; there were five guests present. Pam Bennett commented about the first meeting of Queen Valley Homeowners Association board and passed on to the group that the board is looking forward to hosting an informational meeting with Resolution representatives on November 13. Roy Chavez expressed concerns that Mr. Dunham of ADWR was unable to answer a couple of questions at the last meeting, and also emphasized the seriousness of the Shaft 10 situation by telling the group about the death of a 35 year old miner as a result of his work there.

### Presentation of Resolution Copper Project Proposed Mine Plan of Operations

Presenter: Vicky Peacey

Peacey introduced three Resolution staff experts who are present to answer questions. She stated that the mine plan is written at the eighth-grade level so it can be easily understood. Baseline data, environmental protection measures and a reclamation and closure plan are required. She continued by displaying a drawing showing how the ore would be mined and processed, how tailings would be produced and disposed of, and how resource product (such as copper concentrate and molybdenum) would be handled. She noted that as much water as possible is conserved through recovery technology.

Peacey described the surface footprint of the project including proposed shaft construction and potential subsidence impacts. She described mine processes in greater detail, such as how raw ore would be crushed and processed to greater degrees to produce copper concentrate in the form of slurry. Various maps were displayed including a computer-generated image of the finished mine facility with the Town of Superior in the background.

Regarding best management practices for tailings, Peacey said that in the past mine tailings consisted of a number of materials including pyrite or iron sulfide. Water and air combine with pyrite produces a weak sulfuric acid that can leach metal. Resolution's process will separate the pyrite from the tailings, which produces a smaller mass that has far less corrosive/acidic material. Also, the placement of different tailings piles that have less and more acidic content allows for a natural covering, over time of the more acidic piles. Finally, the proposed siting of the tailings provides natural geological barriers to tailings seepage into the sub-surface; this is further supported by groundwater monitoring wells surrounding the site.

## Community Working Group

Peacey explained that mine plan of operation also has extensive and comprehensive closure requirements for land reclamation designed to blend in with the natural terrain, including landform and vegetation.

Plan requirements for infrastructure and water maximize mine process recovery and using renewable water resources from banked groundwater supplies.

### Group Discussion on Mine Plan

The group's comments and questions included:

- Where will the pumping wells be located?
  - A map of the fresh water delivery system was shown.
- How often will concentrate be transported?
  - Twice per day
- Does the Tonto National Forest need to approve the plan?
  - Yes
- Will these maps be made available to the group?
  - Peacey said these would be placed on Resolution's website in a matter of weeks, after the plan is filed with the Forest Service.
- What fuel will the loader vehicles use?
  - They will use a combination of electric and natural gas and will be manually controlled.
- What is the percentage of copper in the concentrate?
  - 28%
- When will the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) occur?
  - After the Forest Service determines that the General Plan of Operations (GPO) is sufficient to start the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, there will be a 45-day public scoping period. We don't know how long the studies and development of alternatives will take; as an example, the Rosemont EIS took 7 years. There is generally a year or so between the Draft and Final EIS. A variety of agencies are involved in this process.

- Is Rosemount an open pit mine?
  - Yes
- Will molybdenum trucking going through town?
  - Trucks will avoid going through town by using Forest Service roads.
- Will the federal legislative language about the land exchange change anytime soon?
  - There will most likely not be any changes in the near future, since Congress is dealing with many other issues.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Final CWG Comments and Next Meeting Agenda**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 14, when we will have a guest from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, and possibly one from Pinal County, to talk about water quality and air quality. Mr. Edgar expressed concerns about having several public meetings during that week, and the potential impact on both CWG members and Resolution staff. We are hoping to be able to have an Arizona State Land Department representative attending the December 12 meeting.

Future meeting topics that were previously suggested include:

- Water quality & air quality issues
  - ADEQ representatives will be invited to discuss
- Cultural resources
- What's the next step and timeline for a tailings site selected for the mine plan?
- Public health issues – particularly BHP and community cancer issues
- State Lands issues