

Meeting #17
April 2, 2014
MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Attendees

Community Working Group members present:

George Martin – JF Ranch
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch
Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association
Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail & Superior Copper Alliance
Pam Bennett - Queen Valley HOA
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Board
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum
Pam Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce

Community Working Group members not present:

Bill Vogler – LOST Trail & Superior Copper Alliance
Matt Nelson – Arizona Trail Association
Jeff Bunkelmann – Central Arizona College
Steven Byrd – Superior Junior-Senior High School
Dominic Perea – Superior Junior-Senior High School
Martin Navarrette – Superior Little League

Resolution Copper:

Vicky Peacey – senior manager of approvals, communities & environment
Melissa Rabago – community outreach coordinator
Frank Deal – tailings manager

Facilitator – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)

Sally Stewart

Guests:

No guests

Housekeeping

The group generally thought that the field trip was valuable. Some members said they would like to view the same areas but from different perspectives – for example, from an eagle’s perspective or a snail’s perspective or vantage point. A comment was also made that they’d like to have a better feel for “what won’t be there”.

In discussing a schedule for upcoming meetings, the group thought meetings twice a month would allow them more time to discuss the agenda topics. Wednesday night meetings were suggested as being preferable to Thursdays, since Thursday sometimes conflicts with Council, Planning Commission, and other meetings. Most members prefer to start at 5:30 PM.

Description of Upcoming NEPA Environmental Assessment for Tailings Site Characterization

Presenter: Vicky Peacey, Resolution Copper

Vicky Peacey shared two maps and explained what the maps detail.

She explained that the Forest Service will be conducting a NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) that will evaluate Resolution's plan to test the tailings site location, by drilling test wells and other site characterization activities. The scope of this assessment is just the tailings site proposed in the Mine Plan of Operations. The Forest Service is collecting data on the other potential sites as well. The baseline data collection covers 22 square miles. The assessment will include what is there today, the impacts of the testing, and an assessment of the cumulative impacts. Peacey reminded the group that a different tailings site may be chosen for analysis in the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

She believes the Forest Service is getting close to starting this EA, and that public scoping will occur in the coming months – maybe May or June. There will be a public comment period, then the comments will be compiled and responses made. This will take several months.

Peacey said the tailings site will not look like Miami, and she suggested that the group might like to take a field trip to San Manuel, which she said is more similar to what will be done in Superior.

Tailings Site Virtual Tour

Presenter: Frank Deal, Resolution Copper

Frank Deal showed the group an aerial simulation of the tailing site development through the years and showed specific areas as requested by the group. He said you will not be able to see the tailings site from the Arizona Trail for the first 20 years of operation. Residents at Hewitt Station will start to see tailings in two to three years. He does not believe that the tailings site will be seen from Superior. The tailings site will be re-vegetated as it is developed. Resolution will be required to use a native seed mix for this process.

Group Discussion on Tailings Site, NEPA, and Other Topics of Interest

Some members of the group expressed concern about road use or unauthorized use of the roads, vandalism, shooting and theft. After a discussion of travel management they decided to leave this topic for the NEPA process.

Public Comments

There were not public comments.

Final CWG Comments and Future Meeting Planning

Next Meeting 5:30 pm April 24, 2014

For the next meeting, the facilitators will develop a draft meeting schedule for the remainder of the year to reflect the group's desire to meet more frequently, and on Wednesday nights, including the topics of interest listed below.

For future meetings, the group wants to get the high school students back into regular attendance at the meetings, and suggested the following meeting topics:

- The group stressed that they really want the State Land Department to attend a meeting.
- The group would like to hear from the State Health Department about the cancer study in Superior.
- The group wants to talk again with the Arizona Department of Water Resources, inviting technical and regulatory compliance experts (rather than the government affairs person that spoke at earlier meeting).
- A future meeting should address enforcement topics such as third party monitoring and Arizona Game and Fish Department enforcement.
- The list of meeting topics discussed in December is still of interest.
- The group would like to explore topics related to reclamation, including historical areas like the smelter stack.
- They would like to learn more about air quality impacts, permitting, and enforcement.
- Cultural resources should be a meeting topic.
- The group would like to discuss and learn more about what is meant by NEPA connected actions.
- They would like to invite the "opposition" group (Concerned Citizens & Retired Miners Coalition) to come and talk with them.