



Copper Queen Branch
36 West Highway 92
Bisbee, Arizona 85603

Fernando J. Alday
Senior Environmental Engineer
520.432.6206
falday@fmi.com

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL # 7016 2140 0000 2046 3183

Return Receipt Requested

February 20, 2018

Mr. David Lelsz
Water Quality Compliance Section
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

**Re: Request to Postpone Action Level Report
Mitigation Order on Consent No. P-121-07**

Dear Mr. Lelsz:

Freeport Minerals Corporation, Copper Queen Branch (CQB) would like to thank Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) for meeting with us on February 2, 2018. As we discussed, CQB requests postponement of the submittal of the action level report described in Section 4.4 of the Mitigation Plan¹.

The action level report is to contain recommendations for sentinel well locations and sulfate action level based on in-situ measurements of plume movement and concentration trends at wells installed for the expanded groundwater monitoring program (EGMP). However, EGMP data collected from 2015 through 2017 do not show evidence of plume migration or increasing concentrations of sulfate. Thus, there is insufficient information at this time on which to base recommendations. As described in Section 4.4 of the Mitigation Plan, CQB is to provide an alternate schedule for the action level report if monitoring results are inconclusive.

Additional time is needed for continued monitoring because the plume migrates slowly. The sentinel well and action level recommendations are a contingency planning action of the Mitigation Plan. Other contingency planning actions have been completed according to the schedule in the Mitigation Plan, including installation and baseline monitoring of the EGMP

¹ Clear Creek Associates. 2015. Mitigation Plan for Sulfate with Respect to Drinking Water Supplies, Mitigation Order on Consent Docket No. P-121-07. March 6, 2015.

wells, completion of the water supply study, and submittal of a preliminary design and implementation schedule for a potential alternate water supply. Additionally, CQB purchased property adjacent to the Arizona Water Company wellfield for use for development of an alternate water supply, if needed.

CQB respectfully requests that the April 1, 2018 submittal date for the action level report be postponed until adequate plume data can be collected. Groundwater monitoring at the front of the plume is ongoing and the data are reported annually to ADEQ pursuant to the Mitigation Plan. CQB recommends postponing the action level report until April 1, 2021 at which time the adequacy of the data will be evaluated again. In the interim, the Mitigation Plan temporary sulfate action level of 150 milligrams per liter for the Arizona Water Company drinking water supply is in place while the needed data are collected.

On February 9, 2018 CQB met with Arizona Water Company to review monitoring results and discuss postponement of the action level report. Arizona Water Company was in agreement with the proposed submittal date of April 1, 2021. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (520) 432-6206 or our project manager Stuart Brown at (602) 366-8303.

Sincerely,



Fernando Alday
Senior Environmental Engineer
Copper Queen Branch

cc: Dave Dunaway/ADEQ
Brad Vance/ADEQ
Stuart Brown/Freeport-McMoRan Corporation
Robert Quintanar/Freeport Minerals Corporation, Copper Queen Branch
Sheila Deely/Freeport-McMoRan Corporation
Jim Norris/Clear Creek Associates